

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 248, May 29, 1995]

PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS AND NEW RATES OF ALLOWANCES FOR OFFICIAL LOCAL AND FOREIGN TRAVELS OF GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, the existing rules and regulations and authorized rates of allowances for official local and foreign travels of government personnel become unrealistic and no longer responsive to their reasonable needs;

WHEREAS, present circumstances warrant a review of the existing rules and regulations and rates of travel allowances governing official travel here and abroad of government personnel;

WHEREAS, to provide government personnel on official travel here and abroad with fairly reasonable means within the financial capability of the government to enable them to travel in a manner befitting their representative capacity, it is necessary to further modify and adjust existing rules and regulations and authorized allowances thereon;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 79 of Presidential Decree No. 1177, dated July 30, 1977, and Section 72, Chapter 7, Book VI of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the Administrative Code of 1987, the rates of travel allowances may be changed from time to time as may be determined by the President upon recommendation of the Travel Rates Committee therein created consisting of the Secretary of Budget and Management as Chairman, Commission on Audit, on their representatives, as members;

WHEREAS, the Travel Rates Committee in accordance with its mandate has submitted to the President recommendations to modify and adjust existing rules and regulations and authorized allowances for local and foreign travels.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Coverage - This Executive Order shall govern official local and foreign travels of government personnel, both national and local, including personnel of government-owned and/or controlled corporations and government financial institutions.

SECTION 2. Nature of Travel - Travels and assignments under this Executive Order shall cover only those which are urgent and extremely necessary, will involved the minimum expenditure and are beneficial to the agency concerned and/or the country.

SECTION 3. Category of Travel and the Governing Rules and Regulations - Official Local Travel shall be governed by TITLE I, Official Travel Abroad by TITLE II, and the Miscellaneous Provisions in TITLE III.

Title I.
Official Local Travel of Government Personnel

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Executive Order, the following terms shall be construed to mean:

- a) Permanent Official Station - the office or regular place of work of the officer or employee concerned.
- b) Travel Allowance - the authorized amount which shall cover the daily subsistence and incidental expenses while on official travel.
- c) Hotel Room/Lodging Rate - The daily hotel room rate including prescribed taxes and service charges.

SECTION 5. Approval of Travel - Official local travel for seven (7) calendar days and below shall be approved by the head of office/bureau or their equivalent. Travel that will last for more than seven (7) calendar days but not more than one (1) calendar month shall be approved by the Department Secretary or his equivalent. Travel that will last for more than one (1) calendar month shall be approved by the President of the Philippines or official duly authorized by him.

For purposes of this Order, approval of travel of officials and employees of government-owned and/or controlled corporations and financial institutions that will last for not more than one (1) calendar month shall be subject to the policies, rules and regulations that will be adopted by their respective governing Boards, and by the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government in the case of officials and employees of local government units.

SECTION 6. Allowable Travel Expenses - The travel expenses of government personnel regardless of rank and position shall be in amount of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) per day divided into two (2) components: a) Travel Allowance of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) which will cover the cost of meal, in land transportation and other incidental expenses; and b) Hotel Room/Lodging Rate at One Hundred Pesos (P100.00).

Claims for reimbursement of actual travel expenses in excess of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) above-prescribed for travel allowance and hotel room/lodging rate may be allowed upon certification by the head of agency concerned as absolutely necessary in the performance of an assignment and presentation of bills and receipts; *Provided*, That, for this purpose, certification or affidavit of loss shall not be considered as appropriate replacement for the required hotel room/lodging bills and receipts.

Full travel expenses shall be allowed only in cases of absence from the permanent official station for one (1) full day. In cases where such absence is for less than a full day the travel allowance shall be divided as follows:

- a) When leaving the permanent official station before 12:00 noon shall be allowed the full amount of the travel expenses.
- b) When leaving the permanent official station after 12:00 noon shall be allowed only one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the amount of the travel allowance, and full amount for Hotel Room Lodging Rate.

c) When returning to the permanent official station before 12:00 noon shall be allowed one-half (1/2) of the amount of the travel allowance only.

d) When returning to the permanent official station after 12:00 noon shall be allowed the full amount of the travel allowance only.

No portion of the actual cost of travel expenses allowed to Department Secretaries, Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and their equivalent, and other government officials shall cover the expenses of any of the staff accompanying said officials in the travel, otherwise, such staff shall not be allowed any of the allowances herein authorized.

The Department/Agency Head concerned or his equivalent shall determine the mode and class of transportation and the kind of hotel/lodging/pension houses to be taken which in all cases shall be the most advantageous to the government from the standpoint of economy and efficiency. Only the ordinary public conveyance or customary modes of transportation shall be used, except in meritorious cases and justified by prevailing circumstances.

Officials and employees whose permanent official station is within the Metropolitan Manila Area shall not be allowed the travel expenses herein authorized for their travel/assignment to places within the Metropolitan Manila Area. The same restriction shall also apply to those in cities and municipalities outside the Metropolitan Manila Area when assigned to places within the city or municipality wherein their permanent official station is located.

Claims for payment of travel expenses for official travel/assignment to places within the fifty (50) kilometers radius from the last city or municipality covered by the Metropolitan Manila Area in the case of those whose permanent official station is in the Metropolitan Manila Area, or the city or municipality wherein their permanent official station located in the case of those outside the Metropolitan Manila Area, shall be allowed only upon presentation of proof, duly supported by bills or invoices with official receipts of expenses incurred, that they stayed in the place of their assignment for the whole duration of their official travel. If they commute daily from the place of their assignment to the place of their residence or permanent official station, they shall be allowed only the reimbursement of actual fare at the prevailing rates of the authorized mode of transportation from the permanent official station to the destination or place of work and back, and a reasonable cost of actual meal allowance, but in no case shall exceed the Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) travel allowance herein authorized.

Title II.

Official Travel Abroad of Government Personnel

SECTION 7. Nature of Travel - Travels and assignments under this Executive Order shall cover only those which are urgent and extremely necessary, will involve the minimum expenditure and are expected to bring immediate benefit to the country, and shall refer only to those under the category of conferences, special missions, and other non-study trips such as those undertaken for the following purposes:

a) To attend conferences or seminars sponsored by foreign governments or international government organizations to which the Philippine Government is committed or invited to send representatives or participants;

- b) To attend conferences or seminars sponsored by private organizations, whether international or not, invitations to which have been sent through their respective governments to the Philippine Government;
- c) To conduct examinations or investigations of Philippine Government agencies or affairs;
- d) To undertake any other official mission which cannot be assigned to any other Philippine government official or officials already abroad;
- e) To participate in short courses in certain areas of specialization arranged directly by government agencies with foreign institutions of learning;
- f) To attend training seminars as component of contracts of foreign suppliers, with or without government funding; and
- g) To attend training courses funded from loans secured from foreign sources.

SECTION 8. Approval of the President - All official travels abroad of Department Secretaries, Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, heads, senior assistant heads and assistant heads of government-owned and/or controlled corporations and financial institutions, and heads of local government units like Provincial Governors and Mayors of highly urbanized cities or independent component cities, and other officials of equivalent rank whose nature of travel falls under the categories prescribed in this Order shall be subject to the prior approval of the President of the Philippines. All other positions concerned shall be with prior approval of their respective Department Secretaries and their equivalent; *Provided, That*, travel that will last for more than one (1) calendar month shall also be subject to the approval of the President of the Philippines.

For this purpose, official foreign travel that will last for one (1) calendar month and below of other officials and employees of government-owned and/or controlled corporations and financial institutions shall be approved by the Department Secretaries or their equivalent to which such government-owned/controlled corporations and financial institutions are attached, and by the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government in the case of other officials and employees of local government units.

Prior clearance from the Office of the President shall also be required for foreign trips of delegations or groups of two or more persons regardless of the rank of participants.

SECTION 9. Pre-Departure Expenses - Officials and employees authorized to travel abroad shall be entitled to One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) commutable pre-departure allowance to cover miscellaneous/incidental expenses, such as taxi fare, passport photographs, immunization, visa fees, tips, portage, and airport terminal fees.

SECTION 10. Transportation - In case officials and employees authorized to travel abroad are not provided with transportation by the host country or sponsoring organization or agency, they shall be allowed official transportation which shall be of the economy class unless otherwise specified in the travel authority and approved by the President.