

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1634, August 21, 1979]

PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL MANDATORY EMERGENCY LIVING ALLOWANCE FOR WAGE EARNERS

WHEREAS, representatives of workers, employers and the Government met at a National Tripartite Conference at Puerto Azul, Ternate, Cavite, on August 16 and 17, 1979, for the purpose of considering measures for the protection of wages, promotion of employment and industrial peace, ensuring economic viability and growth in the face of the global energy crisis;

WHEREAS, the Conference recommended immediate restoration of the purchasing power of the effective minimum wage as of April 1979, with provision for exemption from or deferment of compliance in the case of temporarily distressed enterprises;

WHEREAS, in addition to the current efforts of the Government to hold, down prices, especially those of prime commodities, it is urgently necessary to act immediately on the recommendation of the Conference in order to provide timely and adequate relief for the working masses in the face of rising costs of living;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President and Prime Minister, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby order and decree:

SECTION 1. All private employers shall pay their employees whose wage or salary is not more than P1,500.00 a month, a monthly additional mandatory emergency living allowance of P60.00 effective September 1, 1979 and another P30.00 a month effective January 1, 1980, except those engaged in the following:

- a. Cottage industries, handicrafts, and shellcrafts;
- b. Small and medium scale enterprises established after the promulgation of this Decree shall be exempt for a period of two years from start-up operations;
- c. Retail and service enterprises outside Metropolitan Manila and cities with a population of not more than 150,000; in the case of retail and service enterprises in Metropolitan Manila and cities with a population of more than 150,000, those employing not more than 15 workers;
- d. Non-plantation agriculture and plantations or agricultural enterprises with an area of not more than 24 hectares in a locality or employing not more than 20 workers; with respect to the sugar industry, LOI 829 shall be maintained until further action by the President.
- e. Labor-intensive and export-oriented enterprises engaged in the manufacture of garments, footwear, furniture, as well as leather and electronics products, until December 31, 1979; provided employers who have the ability to pay as determined by the Minister of Labor shall pay.
- f. Private hospitals outside Metropolitan Manila and in the case of private hospitals in Metropolitan Manila, those with a bed capacity of not more than 100;
- g. Private educational institutions until allowed to adjust tuition fees; and
- h. Employers who have given increases in wages and/or allowances of at least P60.00 a month on or after August 1, 1979, whether granted unilaterally or