

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1415, June 09, 1978**]

DEFINING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL, ADJUSTING THE COMPENSATION OF PERSONNEL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, government-owned or controlled corporations including their subsidiaries have consistently expanded their activities and multiplied in number through the years, with total resources reaching billions of pesos;

WHEREAS, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, as the principal law office of government-owned or controlled corporations, plays an important role in safeguarding the legal interests of and in the successful discharge of the functions, duties and responsibilities of government-owned or controlled corporations including their subsidiaries;

WHEREAS, the increase in number and broadening of fields or scope of activities of government-owned or controlled corporations have resulted in corresponding increase in volume, complexity and importance of the work of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to integrate and strengthen the existing legal provision affecting the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, to make them more responsive to the legal assistance needed by government-owned or controlled corporations;

WHEREAS, increase in personnel and adjustments in their compensation, are necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel as the principal law office of all government-owned or controlled corporations.

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

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL

SECTION 1. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel shall be the principal law office of all government-owned or controlled corporations including their subsidiaries, except as may otherwise be provided by their respective charters or authorized by the President without exception, including their subsidiaries.

SEC. 2. The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel shall be headed by the Government Corporate Counsel whose rank, qualifications for appointment, emoluments and privileges, without prejudice to special orders of the President relative thereto, shall be the same as those of an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals. He shall be assisted by six (6) Assistant Government Corporate Counsels shall have the same rank, qualifications for appointment, emoluments and privileges of Judges of Courts of First Instance. In case of disability of the Government Corporate Counsel to perform the duties of, or in case of vacancy in the office, one of the six (6) Assistant Government Corporate Counsel shall be designated by the Secretary of Justice to temporarily perform the functions of said Office. The