

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 421, March 21, 1974]

INTEGRATION OF THE CITY/MUNICIPAL POLICE FORCES, JAILS AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE GREATER MANILA AREA

WHEREAS, the fact that the seat of the National Government is within the Greater Manila Area makes it an important hub of governmental, economic, commercial, industrial, as well as diplomatic, tourists and other related but varied activities, which requires the conglomeration of large number of people, including foreigners;

WHEREAS, the proximity of centers of population, and the facility of means of transportation, aided by the existence of separate, independent police forces and facilities whose jurisdictions are restricted by political/territorial boundaries renders the Greater Manila Area a virtual haven for criminal elements, who pose a constant danger to the public safety, peace, order and tranquility of the inhabitants therein;

WHEREAS, such danger can be prevented, contained and eliminated only through a system of effective law enforcement unhampered by political/territorial considerations or the lack of unity and coordination, not to mention the real or apparent rivalries, conflicts, jealousies and indifference among the city/municipal police forces operating in said area; and

WHEREAS, effective law enforcement can be attained only by integrating into and constituting as one unit the said police forces as well as the other facilities directly or indirectly connected with public safety and the maintenance of peace and order, particularly the city/municipal jails for the reformation/correction of offenders and fire departments for the prevention of conflagration that cause economic and social dislocations within the Greater Manila Area, in order that the same may be cohesively organized, better coordinated and effectively directed;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, in my capacity as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pursuant to Proclamations No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, and No. 1104, dated January 17, 1973, and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, do hereby order and decree, as follows:

SECTION 1. *Integration of City/Municipal Police Forces, jails and Fire Departments in the Greater Manila Area.* — All laws to the contrary notwithstanding, the police forces, jails and fire departments of the Cities of Manila, Quezon, Caloocan and Pasay; and of the Municipalities of Las Pirias, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, Marikina, Pasig, Pateros, Taguig, Navotas and Malabon of the Province of Rizal; and of the Municipality of Valenzuela of the Province of Bulacan, as they are presently organized and constituted, are hereby integrated into a unit to be known as "Metropolitan Police Force," which shall be headed by the Commanding General, Philippine Constabulary Metropolitan Command (PC METROCOM).

SEC. 2. *Jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police.* — The Metropolitan Police Force shall be responsible for the public safety and discharge the functions of the maintenance of peace, law and order within the territorial limits of the cities and municipalities mentioned in the preceding Section 1. As such it shall have the power to prevent