

# [ PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 420, March 20, 1974 ]

## CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RACING COMMISSION

**WHEREAS**, horse racing should be given the impetus for development so as to fully take advantage of its revenue-earning and employment-giving aspects;

**WHEREAS**, the continued growth of horse racing will inevitably result in the development of related industries which at present are nonexistent and/or not fully exploited;

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to restore integrity to the sport to make it compatible with the ideals of sports development under the New Society;

**WHEREAS**, horse racing as one of the oldest and universally popular diversions of man has become highly specialized and sophisticated so as to necessitate more attention of the Government; and

**WHEREAS**, it is imperative that a specialized body be created which shall have a thorough and closer supervision and control of all aspects of the sport in order to insure public benefit;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers in me vested by the Constitution as Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pursuant to Proclamation No. 1081, dated September 21, 1972, as amended by Proclamation No. 1104, dated January 17, 1973, and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, as amended, in order to effect the desired and necessary changes and reforms in the social and economic structure of our society, do hereby order and decree and make as part of the law of the land the following:

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** — It is the declared policy to promote and direct the accelerated development and continued growth of horse racing not only in pursuance of the sports development program but also in order to insure the full exploitation of the sport as a source of revenue and employment.

**SEC. 2. Creation of the Philippine Racing Commission.** — For the purpose of carrying out the above declared policy, there is hereby created a Philippine Racing Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, which shall be directly under the administrative supervision of the Office of the President of the Philippines.

**SEC. 3. Aims and Objectives.** — The Commission shall have the following aims and objectives:

- a. To promote, insure and maintain efficient and unbiased operation of racing, exclusive of the supervision of betting therein;
- b. To raise public confidence in the sport and to minimize infraction of the rules of racing; and
- c. To improve the breed of Philippine horses and to prevent illegal importation of racehorses.

**SEC. 4. Membership of the Commission.** — The Commission shall be composed of a chairman and four members to be appointed by the President of the Philippines,

upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, Inc.

**SEC. 5. *Term of Office.*** — The term of office of the commissioners shall be four (4) years: *Provided*, That no vacancy shall be filled except for the unexpired portion of any term: *And provided, further*, That any member of the Commission whose term of office has expired shall remain in office until his successor shall have been duly appointed and qualified. The Chairman and members of the Commission may be suspended or removed by the President of the Philippines.

**SEC. 6. *Meetings and Quorum.*** — The Commission shall meet regularly once a week and as often as the exigencies of the service may demand, upon the call of the Chairman or upon the request of two (2) members of the Commission. The vote of at least three (3) members shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, resolution or decision of the Commission.

**SEC. 7. *Allowances and Per Diems.*** — The Chairman of the Commission shall receive a monthly commutable allowance of one thousand pesos (P1,000) and a per diem not to exceed three hundred pesos (P300) for each meeting actually attended by him: *Provided*, That such allowance and per diems shall not exceed two thousand two hundred pesos (P2,200) during any one (1) month.

The other members of the Commission shall receive a monthly commutable allowance of eight hundred pesos (P800) and a per diem not to exceed two hundred pesos (P200) for each meeting actually attended by them: *Provided*, That such allowance and per diems shall not exceed one thousand six hundred pesos (P1,600) during any one (1) month for each member.

**SEC. 8. *Jurisdiction, Powers and Functions.*** — Generally, the Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction and control over every aspect of the conduct of horse racing, including the framing and scheduling of races, the construction; and safety of racetracks, the allocation of prizes, and the security of racing.

The functions of the Games and Amusements Board with respect to horse racing, except those related to the supervision and regulation of getting in horse racing as provided for in Sections 6, 11, 15, 18, and 24 of Republic Act No. 309, as amended, are hereby transferred to the Commission.

The Games and Amusements Board shall continue to supervise jai alai, boxing and wrestling activities as provided in existing applicable laws.

**SEC. 9. *Specific Powers.*** — Specifically, the Commission shall have the power:

- a. To enforce all laws, decrees and executive orders relating to horse racing that are not expressly or impliedly repealed or modified by this Decree, including all such existing rules and regulations until otherwise modified or amended by the Commission;
- b. To prescribe additional rules and regulations not otherwise inconsistent with this Decree;
- c. To register racehorses, horse owners and associations or federations thereof; and to regulate the construction of racetracks and to grant permit for the holding of races;
- d. To issue, suspend or revoke permits and licenses and to impose or collect fees for the issuance of such licenses and permits to persons required to obtain the