

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 191, May 11, 1973]

ABOLISHING THE MASS MEDIA COUNCIL CREATED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 36, AND CREATING IN ITS STEAD THE MEDIA ADVISORY COUNCIL, PRESCRIBING RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ENABLE THE NEW BODY TO DISCHARGE ITS FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY

WHEREAS, it is the objective of Government to help in the sound development of the mass media to the end that they would become an effective instrument in the attainment of social change;

WHEREAS, the various sectors of mass media have shown full appreciation of the fact that their failure to institute self-regulatory measures that would regulate corruption and abuse in the media resulted, as it could only result, in Government having to intervene in order to ensure that private rights and public welfare are safeguarded; and

WHEREAS, the same sectors of mass media, fully aware and cognizant of the reasons for the measures that have been instituted since September, 1972, concerning the operation of mass media, have shown willingness to institute a system of self-regulation and internal discipline within their ranks to the end that no part of media may ever again consciously or unconsciously, engage or take part in any conspiracy against the Government, or any of its duly constituted authorities;

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, and General Order No. 1, dated September 22, 1972, as amended, do hereby order and decree the amendment of Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 36, as follows:

"The creation of a Media Advisory Council, headed by the President of the National Press Club as chairman, with a recognized civic leader to be appointed by the President as co-chairman, and one representative each from the Manila Overseas Press Club, print, radio and television and such others as the President of the Philippines may designate s members.

"The Media Advisory Council shall have the duty of passing upon application of mass media for permission to operate, so that no newspaper, magazine, periodical, or publication of any kind, radio, television and telecommunications facility, station, or network may so operate without first obtaining a Certificate of Authority to Operate from the Media Advisory Council: Provided, however, That said Certificate of Authority shall not become valid and effective until approved by the President of the Philippines. Such Certificate of Authority shall be in force for six (6) months, renewable after six (6) months thereafter, unless otherwise terminated earlier.

"Any publication existing at the time of this Decree with a Certificate until the expiration of its existing permit.