

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 188, May 10, 1973]

CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CENTER IN NEW YORK AND THE PHILIPPINE CENTER MANAGEMENT BOARD

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to consolidate, integrate and coordinate all the activities in the New York Area of all Philippine Government offices and agencies which have hitherto been dispersed and separate from each other, thereby entailing unnecessary expense and duplication of functions; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the human and material resources of the Philippines, it is the objective of the New Society, among other things, to nurture and promote Philippine Culture, to encourage foreign tourists to visit the Philippines, to expand the foreign market for Philippine products, to provide efficient and comprehensive public service domestically and abroad, and, in general, to enhance the image of the Philippines;

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 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 decree and order as follows:

SECTION 1. There shall be incorporated in New York City a Philippine Center Management Board, hereinafter called the Board, which shall, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, acquire by purchase or by any other appropriate means a building on Fifth Avenue, New York City, New York, U.S.A., which shall house within its premises all the offices and agencies in New York of the Philippine Government. Such building shall be called "The Philippine Center in New York," hereinafter called the "Center," and shall serve the purposes stated in the second preambular paragraph.

SEC. 2. The Board shall have the following composition and functions:

A. Composition —

- (1) Chairman — The Philippine Consul General In New York
- (2) Vice Chairman — The Vice President and Manager, Philippine National Bank, New York Branch, who shall also be Treasurer of the Board.

Members:

- (3) A representative, not below the rank of Foreign Service Officer, Class II, from the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations
- (4) The Philippine Commercial or Trade Promotion Representative in New York
- (5) The head of the Philippine Airlines in New York
- {6) The representative in New York of the Commission on Tourism
- (7) The representative in New York of the Auditor General
- (8) The Legal Counsel of the Philippine National Bank, New York Branch
- (9) The Philippine Center Business Manager who shall also be Secretary of the Board.

B. Functions —

(1) The Board shall be responsible to the President of the Philippines for the overall operation, maintenance and management of the Center in accordance with this Decree and sound business practices.

(2) The Board shall meet at least once a year to prepare and submit to the President of the Philippines, not later than the 31st day of December of each year, its annual report on the operations, financial position and achievements of the Center.

(3) The Board shall, in accordance with its procedures, decide and implement policies dealing with the operations of the Center, It may incur relevant expenditures not exceeding ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), provided that any single expenditure exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) shall have the prior approval of the Board. All expenditures in excess of \$10,000.00 shall have the prior approval of the President of the Philippines. "Approval of the Board" means a simple majority of the entire composition of the Board.

(4) The Board shall recommend to the President of the Philippines, for his approval, the hiring of the services of a professional firm in New York specializing in building maintenance and janitorial services.

(5) The Board shall approve lease contracts for the rentals stipulated in Section 5 All lease contracts shall be signed by the Chairman of the Board. All lease payments shall be payable to the "Philippine Center Management Board" and such payments shall be promptly deposited in the Philippine National Bank for credit to the tuna provided in section 3.

(6) The Board shall adopt the most practical and effective arrangements for the security or personnel and the premises.

(7) The Board shall have such other functions consistent with the objectives of this Decree.

SEC. 3. The funds for the purchase, renovation, maintenance and administration of the Center shall be advanced by the Philippine National Bank from its own resources or from such other financing arrangements as its Board of Directors may approve. Such advance(s) shall be liquidated from the income of the Center. This fund shall be called "The Center Fund."

SEC. 4. All real properties in New York owned by the Philippine Government shall be sold by the Philippine Consul General New York, with the Vice President and Manager of the Philippine National Bank, New York Branch, at the most advantageous prices and all the proceeds thereof shall be transferred to and become part of the Center Fund.

SEC. 5. All Philippine Government offices or agencies and private firms using the Center, except the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Permanent Mission to the United Nations, shall pay rent to the Philippine Center Management Board, the rate of which rent shall be based primarily on the prevailing monthly or annual rate per square foot in other buildings with comparable facilities within a two-block radius of the Center.

SEC. 6. The Board shall appoint a Philippine Center Business Manager, hereinafter called "the Manager," who shall be responsible to the Board for the effective and prompt implementation of its policies and decisions.