

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 70, June 17, 1999 ]**

**PRESCRIBING ECONOMY MEASURES IN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS BY LIMITING THE FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

WHEREAS, personal services cost is the biggest component of the National Government budget;

WHEREAS, the faster pace of annual personal services growth relative to that of the total budget results in a negative growth in the level of capital spending by the government;

WHEREAS, there is a need to impose limitations on the filling of vacant positions in government to contain the growth of personal services as a component of the budget, and provide greater flexibility in the reallocation of public resources into more productive uses for the economy;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to maintain a lean and productive work force by optimizing the services of existing government operations by limiting the filling of vacant positions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the adoption of economy measures in government operations by limiting the filling of vacant positions.

*SECTION 1. Coverage.* — The provisions stipulated herein shall apply to all positions in all departments and agencies in the Executive Branch, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations and State Universities and Colleges.

*Sec 2. Limitations on the Filling of Vacant Positions.* — Filling of positions in the Executive Branch shall be allowed only if the positions involved are any of the following:

- (a) Positions in agencies with fiscal autonomy as provided for in the Constitution;
- (b) Teaching and allied teaching positions in schools and educational institutions;
- (c) Medical and allied medical positions in hospitals;
- (d) Uniformed positions in the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the Philippine Coast Guard;
- (e) Positions in newly created, streamlined or reorganized agencies as authorized by