

[**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 326, April 11, 1997**]

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE 1997 PHILIPPINE LIVELIHOOD AND SME WORLD CONGRESS

WHEREAS, the 1997 Livelihood and SME World Congress, a private sector initiative in partnership with the government and with His Excellency President Fidel V. Ramos, as Honorary Chairman, will be convened with three main project components:

1. The National Pre-Congress to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center on April 17 and 18, 1997;
2. The World Congress to be held at the World Trade Center on June 10 and 11, 1997; and
3. The SME Expo at Nayong Pilipino, for a three month period, starting April 7, 1997, to showcase Philippine regional/provincial products, daily technology and entrepreneurship training programs, daily fora on obtaining financing and business matching, involving international and local businessmen.

WHEREAS, the Congress envisions the accelerated development of small (which includes micro and cottage industries) and medium enterprises nationwide;

WHEREAS, the entire Executive Branch, consisting of the various Departments and their attached agencies, is a major convenor of the '97 Livelihood and SME World Congress;

WHEREAS, the participation of all Departments and attached agencies is necessary considering that the specific doable action programs that will be drawn up contain important measures recommended for each region and each province of the nation, including the seventeen (17) municipalities and cities of Metro Manila;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby authorize the participation of the entire Executive Branch in the aforementioned activities of the '97 Livelihood and SME World Congress, with funding authorized to be charged against their budgets, subject to government rules and regulations. Participation is encouraged most especially among the members of the 17 Provincial Small and Medium Enterprise Development (SMED) Councils and officials directly involved in the development and operations of livelihood and small medium enterprises in their communities.

This Order shall take effect immediately.