

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 288, September 22, 2000]

**EXTENDING THE TERM OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 161
"PROCLAIMING A SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT
IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES, AND ESTABLISHING
THEREFORE THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES COUNCIL FOR PEACE
AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY"**

WHEREAS, the Regular Elections for the Elective Officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is again postponed in order to allow the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) an opportunity to complete the implementation of Phase 1 of the 1996 GRP-MNLF Peace Agreement;

WHEREAS, such postponement of the ARMM elections to the second Monday of May 2001 accords the government an opportunity to ensure the passage of the amendatory law of RA 6734, the Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao;

WHEREAS, this has also opened an opportunity for SPCPD to spearhead the integration, synchronization and accelerated implementation of peace and development programs and projects in the SZOPAD, in include the ARMM provinces.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENDING THE EFFECTIVITY OF EO 161 s. 1999. The terms of the Special Zone of Peace and Development (SZOPAD), the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD) and the Consultative Assembly (CA) are hereby extended to May 2001 corresponding to the period covered by the postponement of ARMM Elections.

SECTION 2. CONTINUITY OF ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The organization, functions and responsibilities of SPCPD and CA, as provided for in EO 371 shall continue to be in force and effect during the period covered by this Executive Order.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL ROLE OF SPCPD WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS. With respect to peace and development concerned in SZOPAD, the SPCPD shall, pursuant to the 1996 Final Peace Agreement, undertake the following additional tasks:

- a) Directly supervise offices and projects located in the Special Zone of Peace and Development particularly the Southern Philippines Development Authority (SPDA), the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA) and the National Commission on