

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 317, November 09, 2000 ]**

**PRESCRIBING A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RELATIVES AND CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

WHEREAS, the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet are duty bound to follow the highest standard of ethics in public service.

WHEREAS, the duty of the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet extends also to those related to them by consanguinity, affinity, intimacy or close personal relations, who must conduct themselves in a manner which would not cast doubt on the integrity and impartiality of the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet.

WHEREAS, there is a need to remove whatever public perception that relatives and close personal relations of the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet are or may be taking undue advantage of such relationship to obtain unwarranted advantage and benefits from the government.

WHEREAS, even without deliberately capitalizing, exploiting or taking advantage of their family or close personal relations with the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet in engaging in certain transactions, the proximity of relatives and close personal relations to the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet may create a wrong perception that such relations are or have been abused by them.

WHEREAS, there is a need to lay down a Code of Conduct for relatives and close personal relations of the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet to ensure that existing laws in place cannot and will not be circumvented and that undue influence will not be exerted nor undue advantage taken by these people as a result of their closeness with the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, hereby direct and order, as follows:

SECTION 1. Definition of Terms. As used in this Executive Order, the term:

(a) "Relative" refers to any and all persons related to the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, and shall include any offspring of the President, Vice President and Members of the Cabinet and the parent of such offspring, as well as those related to the latter within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity.