

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 8, July 22, 1998]

CREATING A PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME COMMISSION AND A PRESIDENTIAL ANTI-ORGANIZED CRIME TASK FORCE, TO INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE CRIMINAL ELEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, organized syndicated crimes continue to undermine the ongoing anti-crime campaign, thereby greatly affecting the peace and order situation that contribute to the worsening economic condition;

WHEREAS, a sustained, relentless and dedicated campaign to minimize organized and syndicated crimes as well as to neutralize their protectors in government are among the priorities of the administration;

WHEREAS, the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the President with the continuing authority to reorganize the Office of the President and to transfer functions from one department or agency to another;

WHEREAS, the creation of a Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force especially tasked to investigate and prosecute all criminal syndicates and their protectors is imperative to bring about focus and substantive results in the campaign against criminality and corrupt practices;

WHEREAS, there is a need to identify and effectively prosecute criminal groups and their protectors in government through efficient intelligence and counter-intelligence efforts;

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:

SECTION 1 ORGANIZATION. There is hereby created a Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission, and a Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force under the Office of the President.

SEC. 2. COMPOSITION AND LEADERSHIP. The Task Force shall be composed of selected PNP/AFP members and representatives from other branches of the government. It shall be headed by a qualified senior law enforcement officer to be appointed by the President. He shall be assisted by a Deputy Chief for Operations, a Deputy Chief for Administration and a Functional Staff in the implementation of policies within their respective functional areas. The Functional Staff shall be composed of the Administrative/Logistics Division, Operations Division, Technical Division and the Legal and Investigation Division.

SEC. 3. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. The Task Force shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Prepare and implement a fast track anti-crime and anti-graft and corruption action agenda and adopt appropriate measures to ensure an effective and efficient anti-crime drive;
- b) Conduct intelligence and counter-intelligence operations to identify government officials and employees, crime syndicates and their cohorts who are involved in criminal activities;
- c) Cause or direct the immediate arrest, investigation and speedy prosecution of crime syndicates, government officials and employees and their cohorts, with due regard to constitutional processes;
- d) Refer the case/s at hand, as the Task Force may deem proper and necessary, to the Department of Justice, and/or other appropriate law enforcement agencies for investigation or prosecution, as the case may be;
- e) Follow up the progress of on-going investigation and prosecution of cases taken cognizance of by the Task Force;
- f) Recommend the passage of appropriate anti-crime issuances and legislations;
- g) Select and recruit personnel from within the PNP, the AFP and other law enforcement agencies for assignment to the Task Force subject to the conformity of the agency concerned;
- h) Enlist the assistance of any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the Government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations, in the anti-crime and anti-graft and corruption drive, which may include the use of their respective personnel, facilities and resources for a more resolute prevention, detection and investigation of crimes and prosecution of their perpetrators;
- i) Subject to existing laws, grant monetary rewards or incentives to informants giving vital information leading to the successful prosecution of criminal offenders and corrupt government officials;
- j) Coordinate with the Witness Protection Security and Benefits Program Committee of the Department of Justice to evaluate and assess witnesses who may qualify under the provisions of Republic Act No. 6981, otherwise known as the Witness Protection and Benefit Act;
- k) Subject to the approval of the President, authorized access to documents, installations and facilities in pursuit of specific crime investigation over government agencies and government owned or controlled corporations; and
- l) Recruit civilian personnel and enlist their services for intelligence gathering efforts.

SEC. 4. OFFENSES COVERED. The Task Force shall have the authority to take cognizance of the following crimes:

- a) Those committed by the organized/syndicated crime groups, including but not limited to gunrunning, illegal logging, robbery/hold-up, kidnapping for ransom, white slavery, illegal recruitment, carnapping, smuggling, piracy, drug trafficking, falsification of land titles and other government forms, large scale swindling, film piracy, counterfeiting and bank frauds;