

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 315, March 30, 1996]

DEVOLVING TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO CERTAIN POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER ITS PROGRAMS IN THE REGION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, Section I, Art. XV of Republic Act No. 6734 provides that the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) shall establish, maintain, and support a complete and integral system of quality education and adopt an educational framework that is meaningful, relevant, and responsive to the needs, ideals, and aspirations of the people in the Region;

WHEREAS, the powers and functions pertaining to higher education of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports (DECS) devolved to the Autonomous Region pursuant to Executive Order No. 459, series of 1991, have been repealed upon the enactment of Republic Act No. 7722 effectuating the creation of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) as an independent and separate agency specifically charged to administer, supervise, and promote higher education as well as degree-granting programs in all higher educational institutions in the country;

WHEREAS, the Oversight Committee created pursuant to RA 6734 deemed it imperative that in view of RA 7722, there is need to redevolve and/or devolve certain powers and functions of the CHED to the ARG;

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 order:

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. Pursuant to the Constitution and Republic Act No. 6734, it has been the declared policy of the National Government to ensure the full and expeditious devolution of powers and functions necessary for the governance of the ARG of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Section 2. Transfer of Powers and Functions. Subject to national policies, the powers and functions devolved to DECS-ARMM pertaining to higher education stipulated in Executive Order 459 which were transferred to the CHED by virtue of RA 7722 are hereby redevolved to the ARG. Specifically, such transfer of functions shall include, among others:

- a. All programs and projects of the Commission, whether locally-funded or foreign-assisted, in the ARMM earmarked for or to be implemented in the region, including scholarships and grants, shall be transferred to the ARG including its corresponding budgets and assets.
- b. The ARG shall avail of the Higher Education Development Fund (HEDF), established under Section 10 of RA 7722, based on CHED-approved projects and