

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 122-A, January 30, 1987]

CREATING THE OFFICE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

RECALLING that the reorganization of the government is mandated expressly in Article II, Section 1 (a), and Article III of the Freedom Constitution;

HAVING IN MIND that, pursuant to Executive Order No. 5 (1986), it is directed that necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional structures of the government, its agencies and instrumentalities be effected in order to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services;

CONSIDERING that the reconciliatory thrust of the government is designed to achieve political stability and hasten the emergence of a truly democratic egalitarian and service-oriented system of government;

AFFIRMING that adequate representation of the Muslim Filipinos in the policy-making councils of the Government will strengthen national unity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the sovereign will of the Filipino People and the Freedom Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Title. This Executive Order shall otherwise be known as the Act creating the Office on Muslim Affairs.

SECTION 2. Office on Muslim Affairs. The Office on Muslim Affairs, hereinafter referred to as Office, is hereby created in accordance with the provisions of this Executive Order and subject to the supervision and control of the President.

SECTION 3. Delegation of Policy. It is henceforth the policy of the State to ensure the rights and well-being of Muslim Filipinos with due regard to their beliefs, customs, traditions and institutions, as well as to further ensure their contribution to national goals and aspirations and to make them active participants in nation-building.

SECTION 4. Mandate. The Office shall preserve and develop the culture, traditions, institutions and well-being of Muslim Filipinos, in conformity with the country's laws and in consonance with national unity and development.

SECTION. 5. Powers and Functions. To accomplish its mandate, the Office shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Provide advice and assistance to the President in the formulation, coordination, implementation and monitoring of

policies, plans, programs, and projects affecting Muslim communities; when so authorized, represent the President on matters concerning Muslim Communities; serve as a link between the President and public or private agencies, internal or external, involved in such programs and projects; and recommend such affirmative actions as may be necessary for their efficient and effective implementation;

- (b) Undertake and coordinate development programs and projects for the advancement of Muslim Communities, including designing, implementing, and maintaining settlements of Muslim Communities;
- (c) Act as the primary government agency through which Muslim Filipinos can seek government assistance and redress; service as the medium through which such assistance may be extended to Muslim Filipinos; for this purpose, the Office is hereby authorized to give grants-in-aid out of its appropriations or other appropriate funds to cooperating government agencies for such programs or projects which are for the development of Muslim Communities; provide services including legal assistance, medical aid, relief and other forms of assistance for the socio-economic upliftment of Muslim Communities;
- (d) Enter, subject to existing laws, policies and guidelines, into such contracts, agreements or arrangements with government or private agencies or entities as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Office, including obtaining loans from lending institutions, subject to the approval of the President, which shall finance its implementation of the provisions of this Executive Order;
- (e) In accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations then in force, and subject to guidelines provided by the President, promote and enhance the development of domestic trade and commerce among the members of the Muslim communities; or promote and facilitate the establishment by members of the Muslim Communities of venture and investments in cooperation or coordination with existing public enterprises, corporations or private entities; or subject to prior approval of the President, initiate and/or organize, in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations then in force, enterprises based on the principles of Islamic business and finance consisted with existing policies and guidelines for the benefit and welfare of the regions of autonomy;
- (f) Accepts grants, donations, gifts, funds and/or properties in whatever form and from whatever source, in coordination with the appropriate agency, for the benefit of Muslim Filipinos, and administer the same in accordance with the terms thereof, or in the absence of any condition, in such manner consistent with the interest of Muslim Filipinos as

well as existing laws.

- (g) Undertake studies, establish and maintain ethnographic research centers and museums on the culture and institutions of Muslim Filipinos for policy formulation and program implementation, and for the purpose of preserving their historical heritage;
- (h) Certify, whenever appropriate, membership of persons in Muslim Communities for purposes of establishing qualifications for specific requirements of government and private agencies or for benefits as may be provided by law;
- (i) Initiate, subject to the approval of the President, eminent domain proceedings in pursuance of the aims and purposes of this Executive Order;
- (j) Acquire, lease or own such property or assets in whatever form a may be necessary, and sell or otherwise dispose of the same, and serve as the custodian or administrator of such lands or areas and other properties or assets the President may reserve for the benefit of Muslim Communities;
- (k) Conduct inspections or surveys, jointly with other appropriate agencies, and issue necessary certifications prior to the grant of any license, lease or permit for the exploitation of natural resources affecting the interests of Muslim Communities or areas occupied by them; and, in case of conflicts, recommend to the President appropriate action under the circumstances;
- (l) Provide legal and technical services for the survey, adjudication, titling and development of Muslim ancestral lands as well as settlements proclaimed by the government for the Muslim Filipinos;
- (m) Initiate, plan, integrate, execute, implement, coordinate, manage, supervise and administer all aspects and phases of programs, projects and activities relevant to the annual hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca , Saudi Arabia;
- (n) Coordinate with and obtain assistance, support and cooperation, from other offices, including the private sector to ensure the success of every such pilgrimage to Mecca , Saudi Arabia;
- (o) Conduct a continuing study on, and submit to the President recommendations for, improving and modernizing the system employed to ensure the success of every such pilgrimage to Mecca , Saudi Arabia;
- (p) Prescribe rules and regulations, on the administration, supervision and orderly conduct of such pilgrimage to Mecca