

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 163, May 05, 1987]

**DECLARING THE EFFECTIVITY OF THE CREATION OF THE
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE
1987 CONSTITUTION, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR THE
OPERATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution has been ratified by the people;

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution has created an independent office called the Commission on Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent necessity to constitute the Commission on Human Rights to give effect to the State policy that "the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Commission on Human Rights as provided for under Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution is hereby declared to be now in existence.

SECTION 2. (a) The Commission on Human Rights shall be composed of a Chairman and four Members who must be natural-born citizens of the Philippines and, at the time of their appointment, at least thirty five years of age, and must not have been candidates for any elective position in the elections immediately preceding their appointment. However, a majority thereof shall be members of the Philippine Bar.

(b) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Human Rights shall not, during their tenure, hold any other office or employment. Neither shall they engage in the practice of any profession or in the active management or control of any business which in any way be affected by the functions of their office, nor shall they be financially interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract with, or in any franchise or privilege granted by the government, any of its subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries.

(c) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Human Rights shall be appointed by the President for a term of seven years without reappointment. Appointment to any vacancy shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

(d) The Chairman and the Members of the Commission on Human Rights shall receive the same salary as the Chairman and Members, respectively, of the Constitutional Commissions, which shall not be decreased during their term of office.