

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 252, July 25, 1987]

**FURTHER AMENDING ARTICLES 213, 214 AND 215 OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, there is a need to strengthen further the labor dispute settlement machinery to prevent undue delays as well as to ensure the just and efficient resolution of labor cases;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Articles 213, 214 and 215 Presidential Decree No. 442, as amended, are hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Art. 213. National Labor Relations Commission. There shall be a National Labor Relations Commission in the Department of Labor and Employment, composed of the Secretary of Labor and Employment as Chairman and fifteen (15) Commissioners. In the absence of the Secretary of Labor and Employment, his duly authorized Undersecretary shall act as Chairman.

The Commission may sit en banc or in five (5) divisions, each composed of three (3) members. It shall determine by rules approved by the Chairman, the cases it shall decide en banc and those which a division shall decide. The decision of a division shall have the force and effect of a decision of the Commission.

The Presiding Commissioner of the First Division shall act as the Vice-Chairman of the Commission. An Executive Director, assisted by a Deputy Executive Director, shall exercise the administrative functions of the Commission."

"Art. 214. Headquarters, Branches and Provincial Extension Units. The Commission shall have its main office in Metropolitan Manila and shall establish as many regional branches as there are regional offices of the Department of Labor and Employment, sub-regional branches or provincial extension units. There shall be one hundred fifty (150) labor arbiters for the effective and efficient operation of the Commission. Each regional branch shall be headed by an Executive Labor Arbiter."

"Art. 215. Appointment and Qualifications. The Commissioners shall have at least five (5) years experience in handling labor management relations and the Executive Labor Arbiters and Labor Arbiters shall have two (2) years experience in the same field. In addition, the Commissioner, Executive Labor Arbiters and Labor Arbiters shall be members of the Bar.