

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 243, July 24, 1987]

DECLARING THE EFFECTIVITY OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1987 CONSTITUTION.

WHEREAS, the 1987 Constitution has created an independent Office of the Ombudsman.

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

SECTION 1. The Office of the Ombudsman as provided for under Section 5, Article XI, of the 1987 Constitution is hereby declared to be now in existence.

SEC. 2. The Office of the Ombudsman shall be composed of the Ombudsman to be known as Tanodbayan, one overall Deputy and at least one Deputy each for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. A separate Deputy for the Military establishment may likewise be appointed.

SEC. 3. The officials and employees of the Office of the Ombudsman, other than the Deputies, shall be appointed by the Ombudsman according to the Civil Service Law.

SEC. 4. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall be natural-born citizens of the Philippines, and at the time of their appointment, at least forty years old, of recognized probity and independence, and members of the Philippine Bar, and must not have been candidates for any elective office in the immediately preceding election. The Ombudsman must have for ten years or more been a judge or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines.

During their tenure, they shall be subject to the same disqualifications and prohibitions as provided for in Section 2 of Article IX-A of the Constitution.

SEC. 5. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall be appointed by the President from a list of at least six nominees prepared by the Judicial and Bar Council, and from a list of three nominees for every vacancy thereafter. Such appointments shall require no confirmation. All vacancies shall be filled within three months after they occur.

SEC. 6. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall have the rank of Chairman and Members, respectively, of the Constitutional Commissions, and they shall receive the same salary, which shall not be decreased during their term of office.

SEC. 7. The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall serve for a term of seven years without reappointment. They shall not be qualified to run for any office in the election immediately succeeding their cessation from office.

SEC. 8. The Ombudsman and his Deputies, as protectors of the people, shall act