

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE No. 995, September 10, 1976]

CREATING THE BATASAN BAYAN, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND POWERS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

WHEREAS, under Article XVII of the Constitution, there is provided an interim National Assembly to exist and act as the temporary legislative body until the establishment of the regular National Assembly;

WHEREAS, while the President is empowered, under the Constitution, to initially convene the interim National Assembly, the people in the referenda of July 27, 1973 and February 17, 1975, have mandated against the convening of the same;

WHEREAS, the people through their respective Barangays and Sanggunians have expressed their desire for the creation of a legislative advisory body to assist the President in the exercise of his legislative functions pending the establishment of a Legislative Assembly;

WHEREAS, it is now most opportune to accomplish the people's mandate by the organization of this body and at the same time initially give meaning to the establishment of a parliamentary system of government as adopted under the Constitution.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby decree:

SECTION 1. Creation. There is hereby created a Legislative Advisory Council which shall hereinafter be known as the Batasan Bayan.

SECTION 2. Composition of Membership. The Batasan Bayan shall be composed of the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the members of the Cabinet, including officials with the rank of Cabinet Members, the members of the Lupong Tagapagpaganap, as determined under P.D. No. 925 (Organizing the Pampook na Katipunan ng mga Sanggunian) and such other members as may, from time to time, be appointed by the President.

SECTION 3. Term of Office. The members of the Batasan Bayan shall hold office while they are the members of the Lupong Tagapagpaganap or the Cabinet or at the pleasure of the President, if from the private sector.

SECTION 4. Functions. The Batasan Bayan shall function as an advisory body to the President on legislative matters. As such powers and functions shall consist of but not limited to:

- (a) Assisting and advising the President of his lawmaking functions;
- (b) Providing a forum for the citizenry, through the herein designated representatives, to ventilate their views on national issues, as well as their opinions on the manner of administering the affairs of the government;
- (c) Providing a forum for the rationalization, unification, and clarification on the policies and programs of the Executive Branch of Government;