

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 156, October 07, 1999]

CREATING A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO REVIEW, INVESTIGATE, AND GATHER EVIDENCE NECESSARY TO SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTE IRREGULARITIES COMMITTED AT THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE, BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES OR AGENCIES UNDER OR ATTACHED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

WHEREAS, there are prevalent reports and public perception of graft and corruption principally in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs;

WHEREAS, there are on-going investigations in the One-Stop-Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center which require the full support and assistance of the various agencies of the government;

WHEREAS, graft and corruption deprive the public coffers of much needed revenue, demoralize the government work force and undermine public confidence in the government;

WHEREAS, this administration is committed to fight graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to form an inter-agency task force with the sole purpose of addressing graft and corruption committed in agencies under or attached to the Department of Finance and the prosecution of erring government personnel and their accomplices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

Section 1. Creation. There is hereby created a Special Task Force Against Irregularities Committed in Agencies Attached to or under the Department of Finance under the immediate control of and reporting directly to the President.

Sec. 2. Composition. The Task Force shall be composed of the Executive Secretary, Undersecretary of Finance Solomon S. Cua, Undersecretary of Justice Antonio M. Llorente, Executive Director Alberto Salanga of the One-Stop-Shop Tax Credit, Department of Finance and Gen. Panfilo Lacson, Chief of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force.

Sec. 3. Assistance from Other Government Agencies. All government offices, agencies and instrumentalities, particularly the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Bureau of Customs, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, the Philippine National Police, the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Garment and Textile Export Board are hereby directed to assist the Task Force and shall