

# **[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 180, November 23, 1999 ]**

## **AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 155 ABOLISHING THE COUNCIL FOR INVESTMENTS IN TRADE, INDUSTRY, TOURISM, AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES AND REFOCUSING AND STRENGTHENING THE INVESTMENT ONE-STOP ACTION CENTER AND CREATING THE POSITION OF INVESTMENT OMBUDSMAN**

WHEREAS, a more intensive generation of investments from local and foreign investors is needed to sustain development efforts;

WHEREAS, there is a need to entrench new policies with new administrative procedures at the implementation level to provide assistance to current and potential investors and to enhance the coordination and complementation efforts of government to promote investments;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 136, s. 1987, created a Council for Investments in Trade, Industry, Tourism, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation, Communications and Services to coordinate investment development efforts of the government and to promote the country as an attractive investment area in identified sectors;

WHEREAS, EO 136 further created an Investment One-Stop Action Center (OSAC) under the Board of Investments to provide assistance to local and foreign investors by providing information, advice, and guidance on pertinent laws and procedures relative to doing business in the Philippines and to accept and act on applications for investments;

WHEREAS , pursuant to the Cabinet agreement on 18 August 1992, investment promotion units were established in key government offices to assist OSAC in their respective areas;

WHEREAS , the President has continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President pursuant to Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987);

WHEREAS , under Section 77 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 8745 or FY 1999 General Appropriations Act, the President may direct changes in the organization and key positions in any department, bureau or agency; and

WHEREAS , there is a need to refocus and strengthen the OSAC in order to be more responsive to the needs of investors in view of the highly competitive global environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do

hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. ABOLISHING THE COUNCIL FOR INVESTMENTS. The Council for Investments in Trade, Industry, Tourism, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Transportation, Communications and Services, created pursuant to EO 136 s. 1987, is hereby abolished and its budget and plantilla of personnel is hereby transferred to the Board of Investments..

SECTION 2. CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE INVESTMENT OMBUDSMAN. There is hereby created an Office of the Investment Ombudsman which shall be under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Board of Investments. It shall be headed by an Investment Ombudsman who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the BOI Chairman.

The Investment Ombudsman shall be designated as a Special Deputy of the Ombudsman.

The Investment Ombudsman shall be assisted by a Director for the Complaints and Action Center for Investments and a Director for the Quick Response One-Stop Action Center for Investments, both of whom shall also be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the BOI Chairman.

The Office of the Investment Ombudsman shall have a full-time staff complement for the services directly supportive to the performance of its functions.

SECTION 3. RENAMING AND REFOCUSING THE OSAC. The Investment One-Stop Action Center of the Board of Investments, created pursuant to EO 136, s. 1987 shall be transferred from the Board of Investments and hereby re-named Quick Response One-Stop Action Center for Investments (QROSACI) and shall be under the Office of the Investment Ombudsman.

SECTION 4. FUNCTIONS OF THE QROSACI. The QROSACI shall serve as clearing house for potential investors and undertake due diligence on the capabilities of potential investors. In this regard, the QROSACI shall undertake the following functions to assist investors with the desired credentials:

- a. Provide advise, guidance and information on various laws, rules and regulations governing investments and the conduct of business in the Philippines, including incentives that can be availed of;
- b. Facilitate the processing of all investment-related requirements by concerned agencies including local government units (e.g., licenses and permits, importation, taxation, etc., by ensuring that all frontline agencies perform their tasks within prescribed standards and parameters;
- c. Coordinate closely with the Investment Facilitation Specialists which shall be part of a network providing current and prospective investors with answers to technical and legal inquiries and fast action on the approval of investment-related permits and licenses.
- d. Improve time and quality standards for processing of investment-related papers in government agencies; and
- e. Coordinate with private sector organizations, the heads of which may be invited to constitute an Advisory Council which shall provide information, advice and