

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 185, March 10, 2003]

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO EXERCISE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION OVER THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution provides that the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices and shall ensure that the laws be faithfully executed;

WHEREAS, the National Labor Relations Commission [NLRC] which was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 442, otherwise known as the "*Labor Code of the Philippines*" is an agency under the Executive Department and was originally envisaged as being an integral part of the Department (then Ministry) of Labor and Employment [DOLE] under the administrative supervision of the Secretary of Labor and Employment ["Secretary of Labor"];

WHEREAS, upon the issuance of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "*Revised Administrative Code of 1987*" (the "Administrative Code"), the NLRC, by virtue of Section 25, Chapter 6, Title VII, Book IV thereof, became an agency attached to the DOLE for policy and program coordination and administrative supervision;

WHEREAS, Article 213 of the Labor Code and Section 25, Chapter 6, Title VII, Book IV of the Administrative Code were amended by Republic Act No. 6715 approved on March 2, 1989, which provides that the NLRC shall be attached to the DOLE for program and policy coordination only and transferred administrative supervision over the NLRC, all its regional branches and personnel to the NLRC Chairman;

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article III of the Constitution guarantees the right of all persons to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Labor, after evaluating the NLRC's performance record in the last five (5) years, including the rate of disposition of pending cases before it, has informed the President that there is a need to expedite the disposition of labor cases pending before the NLRC and all its regional and sub-regional branches or provincial extension units and initiate potent measures to prevent graft and corruption therein so as to reform its systems and personnel, as well as infuse the organization with a sense of public service in consonance with the imperative of change for the greater interest of the people;

WHEREAS, after consultations with the relevant sectors, the Secretary of Labor has recommended that the President, pursuant to her powers under the Constitution and existing laws, authorize the Secretary of Labor to exercise administrative supervision over the NLRC and all its regional and sub-regional branches or