

## **LEGAL MANDATES**

The Regional Development Council was created by virtue of Letter of Implementation (LOI) No. 22 issued by President Ferdinand E. Marcos on December 31, 1972 pursuant to the implementation of the Integrated Reorganization Plan of 1972. The Regional Development Council (RDC) was then given the primary task of coordinating the development planning and policy-making in the region.

Over the years, the RDC, or the Council, evolved to become the highest planning and policy-making body in the region. Its mandate is provided in Article X, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which states that: "The President shall provide for RDCs or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-government organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region."

Subsequent Executive Orders issued by the President providing for the reorganization of the RDCs:

### **MALACAÑANG MANILA**

#### **EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308**

#### **PROVIDING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS**

WHEREAS, Article X Section 14, of the 1987 Constitution states that: "The President shall provide for Regional Development Councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region";

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize and strengthen further the Regional Development Councils now existing in all the administrative regions of the country in order to make them more effective instruments for regional development, consistent with the aforesaid constitutional mandate.

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State that socio-economic development programs and activities of government be undertaken with the extensive and active participation and support from, and coordination of, various government agencies, as well as private sector institutions, at the national, regional and local levels.

**SECTION 2. Reorganization of the Regional Development Council.** To carry out the aforesaid policy, the Regional Development Council, hereafter referred to as the Council, is hereby reorganized and strengthened. The Council shall be the primary institution in the region which shall set the direction of economic and social development of the region and through which regional development efforts shall be coordinated.

a. **Composition of the Council.** The Council shall be composed of the following members:

- (i) All provincial Governors, and Mayors of chartered cities and of the regional center in each region;
- (ii) The Regional Directors of agencies represented in the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board: Provided, That each Department or Agency shall be represented by only one Regional Director thereof; and
- (iii) Representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations who shall not be more than one-fourth of the members of the fully constituted Council and who shall be selected by the ex-officio members of the Council in accordance with the Rules and Regulations to be prescribed under Section 9 of this Executive Order.

b. Functions of the Council. The Council shall have the following functions:

- (i) Coordinate the formulation of long-term, medium-term and annual socio-economic development plans and policies at the regional and subregional levels;
- (ii) Coordinate the formulation of the medium-term and annual public investment programs at the regional and subregional levels;
- (iii) Undertake the appraisal and prioritization of the region's socio-economic development programs and projects, consistent with the standards and policies developed by the NEDA;
- (iv) Promote and monitor the inflow and allocation of private investment capital in the regions, consistent with development objectives, strategies and policies adopted;
- (v) Coordinate the implementation of programs and projects in the region which involve several agencies in their implementation; and
- (vi) Monitor, evaluate and formulate recommendations on the implementation of development plans and programs in the region.

To carry out its functions, the Council shall be responsible for (1) approving the Regional Development Plan, the Multi-year Regional Development Investment Program and the Regional Annual Investment Program; (2) reviewing and endorsing to the national government the regional budget proposals of government agencies; and (3) ensuring the consistency of local development plans with the regional plan priorities, through coordination with the Provincial Development Councils and the Municipal Development Councils.

The Council shall meet as often as may be necessary but not less than once every quarter. It may, by resolution, create an Executive Committee to look after the day-to-day activities of the Council.

The Council shall report to the President through the NEDA Board.

c. Sectoral Committees. To assist the Council in the performance of its functions, it shall create various Sectorial Committees with private sector and government membership whose functions shall include the following: (i) collating and analyzing sectoral information and statistics in the preparation of the annual regional development report; (ii) assisting the Council in the translation of national development goals and policies into specific sectoral objectives; and (iii) coordinating all sectoral planning and programming activities of local governments and sectoral line agencies in the region.

SECTION 3. Regional Consultative Assembly. To strengthen further coordinative and consultative efforts in the region, there is hereby created in every region a Regional Consultative Assembly hereafter referred to as the Assembly to serve as a deliberative and consultative body to advise, assist, support and cooperate with the Council in discharging its functions.

a. Membership in the Assembly. The Assembly shall be composed of the members of the Regional Development Council and its sectoral committees; heads of other national government agencies in the region; and upon invitation of the Council, representatives of non-government organizations, sectarian organizations and the academe in the region nominated by the said entities.

The Assembly may meet as often as necessary but not less than once a semester.

b. Functions of the Assembly. The Assembly shall have the following functions:

(i) Serve as a forum for crystalizing ideas, suggestions and recommendations for regional development including priorities for development plans, programs and activities;

(ii) Provide indicators of various sectoral requirements for development within the region for purposes of guiding the Council in coming out with draft development plans, programs and projects;

(iii) Give advice on proposed regional development plans, investment programs and regional budget proposals; and

(iv) Provide assistance and support to approved regional development plans, programs and projects, and in generating congressional support for proposed annual budgets to carry out approved programs and projects.

SECTION 4. Chairmanship of the Council. The Council shall nominate three members, at least one each from the government and the private sector, for the Chairmanship of the Council to the President who shall appoint the Chairman of the Council. The Regional Director of the NEDA Secretariat shall be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Council shall be the ex-officio Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Assembly.

SECTION 5. Non-applicability to the Autonomous Regions. This Executive Order shall not apply to the autonomous regions in Muslim Mindanao and in the Cordilleras.

SECTION 5. Functions, Powers and Responsibilities of the Council Chairman. The Chairman shall have the following functions, powers, and responsibilities:

(a) Preside over the meetings of the Council and the Assembly; request any agency, individual member of the Council, sectoral committee or any instrumentality attached to the Council to perform other functions as the Chairman may deem necessary;

(b) Accept, in behalf of the Council, donations, contributions, grants, bequests or gifts in cash or in kind from foreign governments, international offices, private entities, or any individual for purposes relevant to coordinating and planning function in regional development;

(c) Call the attention of implementing agencies to implementation problems with the end in view of instituting corrective measures;

- (d) Supervise the monitoring of the implementation of major development programs, projects and activities;
- (e) When called upon, represent the region in Cabinet meeting and budget review activities at the national level;
- (f) Direct the formulation of a comprehensive regional development plan and preparation of a system of investment programming priorities for the region;
- (g) Submit to the President through the NEDA Board regional plans, regional investment programs, annual development reports and other documents on the region as approved by the Council;
- (h) Create ad hoc committees as may be required;
- (i) Direct and supervise all activities of the Council; and
- (j) Perform other functions and duties as may be directed by the President.

SECTION 7. Planning and Budgeting Measures. The strengthen the role of the Council in regional planning and budgeting, the Development Budget Coordination Committee of the NEDA Board shall modify the process of budget preparation and issue guidelines that would provide greater autonomy to the Council in its programs and projects consistent with regional, provincial and municipal development plans and with national priorities.

SECTION 8. Technical Staff of the Council. The Regional Office of the NEDA Secretariat shall serve as the principal technical staff of the Council and the assembly in the respective regions. In addition, the Council and the Assembly may request the regional offices of the various agencies of the national government to provide such technical support as may be required for the effective discharge of the duties of the Council and the Assembly.

SECTION 9. Implementing Authority. The NEDA Board is hereby authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 5th day of November, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-seven.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) CATALINO MACARAIG, JR.  
Acting Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 318**

**AMENDING SECTIONS 2 (a-i) AND 3 (a) OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, “PROVIDING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS.”**

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for a wider membership of the Regional Consultative Assemblies to make these more effective as deliberative and consultative bodies to advise, assist, support and cooperate with the Regional Development Councils in discharging their functions.

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. Section 2 (a-i) of Executive Order No. 308 providing for the reorganization of the Regional Development Councils is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(i) All provincial Governors and Mayors of chartered cities; Mayors of municipalities designated as Provincial Capital of provinces where there are no chartered cities; and Mayors of the regional center in each region;”

SECTION 2. Section 3 (a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. Regional Consultative Assembly. To strengthen further coordinative and consultative efforts in the region, there is hereby created in every region a Regional Consultative Assembly herein referred to as the Assembly to serve as a deliberative and consultative body to advise, assist, support and cooperate with the Council in discharging its functions.

a. Membership in the Assembly. The Assembly shall be composed of the members of the House of Representatives of the Philippine Congress representing the provinces and districts of the region when authorized by Resolution of the House; members of the Regional Development Council and its sectoral committees; heads of other national government agencies in the region; and upon invitation of the Council, representatives of non-government organizations, sectarian organizations and the academe in the region nominated by the said entities.

The Assembly may meet as often as necessary but not less than once a semester.”

SECTION 3. Section 4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Chairmanship of the Council. The Council shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be appointed by the President. The President shall appoint a **Co-Chairman to** exercise such functions as the President may designate, provided that the co-chairman comes from the private sector if the chairman is from the public sector or vice-versa. The Regional Director of the NEDA Secretariat shall be Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council shall be the ex-officio Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively, of the Assembly.”

SECTION 4. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 12th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-eight.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) CATALINO MACARAIG, JR.  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 366**

**FURTHER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER  
NO. 318, BOTH SERIES OF 1988, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for a responsive forum at the regional level for the meaningful participation of the concerned members of Congress and local officials in the selection, prioritization, and allocation of funds for projects under the infrastructure program which require national government appropriations;

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Executive Order No. 308, as amended by Executive Order No. 318, both Series of 1988, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 3. Regional Development Assembly. There is hereby created in every region of the country a Regional Development Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the RDA, whose composition, functions, and operations are as follows:

a. Composition. The RDA shall be composed of (i) all Provincial Governors and City Mayors in the region; (ii) all Congressmen from the region and Senators who opt to join the particular RDA when so authorized by their respective Chambers; (iii) the Chairman of the Regional Development Council of the region, hereinafter referred to as the RDC; and (iv) two RDC member-representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations to be nominated by the RDC. The RDA shall be headed by a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman to be elected by and from among the members. The RDC Secretariat shall also serve as the RDA Secretariat.

b. Functions. The RDA shall serve as a forum for the review and validation of the annual and multi-year infrastructure programs for the region which require appropriation of national government funds, as recommended by the RDC. Based on a consensus, the RDA shall endorse these regional programs for inclusion in the national infrastructure programs and budgets to be submitted to the Congress for appropriation of funds.

c. Sessions. The RDA shall hold at least two sessions each year to deliberate on the infrastructure program for the following year. The first session shall be held not later than 15 April of the year to review, validate, and endorse the RDC-recommended apportionment of the regional block allocations or budgetary ceilings for the following across subregional units and/or project categories. The second session shall be held not later than 15 July of the year to review, validate, and endorse the RDC-recommended list of projects to be undertaken in the following year, together with their respective implementation and funding schedules, within the set ceilings. The RDA may hold additional sessions as it deems necessary to discuss the annual and multi-year infrastructure programs requiring appropriation of national government funds.

d. Hearing and Consultations. The RDA shall hold extensive public hearings and consultations before its sessions in order to coordinate the various concerns and build up consensus on program and project priorities.

e. Proceedings. The Regional Director of the infrastructure agency concerned shall make the technical presentation to the RDA of the infrastructure program allocations and project lists and schedules, recommended by the RDC. During the RDA sessions, maximum participation of the members of the RDC shall be encouraged. All the RDA sessions shall be held in public.”

SECTION 2. The RDC shall prepare and recommend, not later than 30 March of each year, the subregional and/or project category apportionments of the regional block allocations or budgetary ceilings for infrastructure projects for the following year. It shall also prepare and recommend, not later than 30 June of each year, the lists and schedules of infrastructure projects to be undertaken in the following year within the set ceilings. The RDC shall submit the programs endorsed by the RDA to the Committee on Infrastructure of the National Economic and Development Authority Board, through the infrastructure departments concerned and copy furnished the Department of Budget and Management, for inclusion in the national infrastructure programs and budgets to be submitted to the Congress for appropriation of funds. The preparation of the infrastructure program shall be guided by the consensus reached in the RDA, and take into account the proposals and recommendations of the RDA participants.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority Secretariat shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Executive Order.

SECTION 4. As a transitory provision for the 1990 infrastructure program, the deadlines set in Sections 1(c) and 2 hereof may be changed by the President of the Philippines, upon recommendation of the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority Secretariat.

SECTION 5. All orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations, or portions thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 8th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty Nine.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) CATALINO MACARAIG, JR.  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 347**

**FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 2(a-i) OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, AS AMENDED,  
“PROVIDING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS”**

WHEREAS, to give local government units greater participation in the deliberations of the Regional Development Councils to make it more effective, there is a need to expand its membership;

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. Section 2(a-i) of Executive Order No. 308, as amended, providing for the reorganization of the Regional Development Councils is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“(i) All provincial Governors and Mayors of chartered cities; Mayors of municipalities designated as Provincial Capitals of the provinces where there are no chartered cities; Presidents of the Provincial League of Mayors and Mayors of the regional center in each region;”

SECTION 2. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 2nd day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and eighty-nine.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) CATALINO MACARAIG, JR.  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 455**

**FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 3(a), OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, AS AMENDED, SERIES  
OF 1987**

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

SECTION 1. Section 3(a) of Executive Order No. 308, as amended, series of 1987, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“a. Composition. The RDA shall be composed of (i) all Provincial Governors and City Mayors in the region; (ii) all Congressmen and Senators from the region without prejudice however to their participation in RDAs other than those of their respective Regions; (iii) the Chairman of the Regional Development Council (RDC) of the region; and (iv) two RDC member-representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations to be nominated by the RDC. The RDA shall be headed by a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman to be elected by and from among the members. The RDC Secretariat shall also serve the RDA Secretariat.”

SEC. 2. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-one.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) OSCAR M. ORBOS  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG**  
**Manila**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 505**

**FURTHER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308 (S. 1987), AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDERS NOS. 318 (S. 1988), 347 AND 366 (S. 1989) AND 455 (S. 1991), PROVIDING FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS**

WHEREAS, there is a need to reorganize the Regional Development Councils now existing in all the administrative regions of the country to make them more responsive to the increased autonomy provided by the 1991 Local Government Code to local government units;

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: Section 2 of Executive Order No. 308 (S. 1987), as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“a. Composition of the Council, the Council shall be composed of the following members:

(i) All provincial governors and city mayors; mayors of municipalities designated as provincial capitals; presidents of the provincial league of mayors and mayors of the regional center of each region;

(ii) The regional directors of agencies represented in the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board and the regional directors of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Department of Social Welfare and Development; Provided, that each department or agency shall be represented by only one regional director thereof; and provided, further, that those agencies whose regional offices are phased-out shall be represented by the head of their regional field offices consistent with the provisions of the implementing rules and regulations of the 1991 Local Government Code;

(iii) All Congressmen from the region and Senators or their authorized representatives who may opt to join a particular RDC; and

(iv) Representatives of the private sector and non-government organizations based in the region who shall comprise one-fourth of the members of the fully constituted Council. The selection and tenure of representatives of the private sector and non-government organizations shall be governed by NEDA Board Resolution No. 6 dated 4 April 1990.

b. Functions of the Council. The Council shall have the following functions:

(i) Integrate approved development plans of provinces, highly-urbanized cities, component cities and regional line agencies into the Regional Development Plan for submission to the NEDA, in accordance with existing laws;

(ii) Coordinate the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of regional long-term, medium-term and annual socio-economic development plans and investment programs;

- (iii) Undertake the appraisal and prioritization of nationally-funded programs and projects in the region, consistent with the standards and policies developed by NEDA;
- (iv) Promote and monitor the inflow and allocation of private investment capital in the regions, consistent with development objectives, strategies, and policies adopted;
- (v) Review and approve the annual and multi-year regional infrastructure programs and other sectoral programs which require appropriation of national government funds;
- (vi) Review and recommend to the national government the allocation of agency regional budgetary ceilings among the provinces and cities in the region and endorse regional budget proposals of government agencies in accordance with the guidelines as may be issued by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee of the NEDA Board;
- (vii) Coordinate the implementation of programs and projects in the region which involve several agencies and local government units in their implementation;
- (viii) Monitor local development plans and programs through the Local Development Councils;
- (ix) Assist local government units, when so required, in the preparation of local development plans and programs and in fulfilling requirements for evaluation of local government unit projects to be requested for official development assistance (ODA) grant financing.

#### c. Executive Committee

The Council shall create an Executive Committee to act for and on its behalf when the RDC is not in session. The Executive Committee shall comprise one-fourth of the total membership of the fully constituted Council, the membership to be determined by the Council, provided that all Sectoral Committee Chairman, created under section 1.d of this Executive Order, shall automatically become members of the Executive committee. The Chairman, Co-Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the RDC shall also serve as the officers of the Executive Committee.

#### d. Sectoral Committees

To assist, the RDC in the performance of its functions, the Council shall create Sectoral Committees to handle social, economic and infrastructure development and development administration whose composition shall be determined by the Council. The functions of these Sectoral Committees shall include the following:

- (i) Integrating sectoral information and statistics in the preparation of the annual regional development report;
- (ii) Assisting the Council in the translation of national development goals into specific regional sectoral objectives; and
- (iii) Integrating sectoral plans and programs of local government units into regional sectoral plans and programs coordinate all sectoral planning and programming activities of sectoral line agencies in the regions.

#### e. Sessions

The RDC shall meet as often as necessary but no less than once every quarter. It shall also adopt a rule on constituting quorum.”

SEC. 2. The Regional Development Assembly created under Executive Order No. 366 (S. 1989), which replaced the Regional Consultative Assembly created under Executive Orders Nos. 308 (S. 1987) and 318 (S. 1988) is hereby abolished.

SEC. 3. Section 8 of Executive Order No. 308, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Technical Staff of the Council. The Regional Office of the NEDA Secretariat shall serve as the principal technical staff of the Council and its Executive Committee. In addition, the Council and the Executive Committee may request the regional offices of the various agencies of the national government to provide such technical support as may be required for the effective discharge of the functions of the Council.”

SEC. 4. Repealing Clause. All orders, issuances, circulars, rules and regulations, or portions thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. Implementing Authority. The NEDA Board is hereby authorized to promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Executive Order.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. The Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 12th day of February, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and ninety-two

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. AQUINO  
By the President:

(Sgd.) FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 325**

**REORGANIZATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS [REPEALING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 308, SERIES OF 1987, AS AMENDED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER NOS. 318, (S. OF 1988), 347 (S. OF 1989), 366 (S. OF 1989), 455 (S. OF 1991) AND 505 (S. 1992)]**

WHEREAS, Articles X, Section 14 of the Constitution provides that the President shall create regional development councils (RDCs) and other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions;

WHEREAS, the purposes for the creation of the RDCs are administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the local government units therein and to accelerate the socio-economic development of the regions;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State that socio-economic development programs and activities of government be undertaken with the extensive and active participation and support from, and coordination of, various government agencies, as well as private sector institutions at the national, regional and local levels;

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide for a responsive forum at the regions for the meaningful participation and support from the concerned members of the House of Representatives;

WHEREAS, there is a need to reorganize and strengthen the RDCs to make them more effective institutions in the regions responsible for ensuring sustainable, participatory and equitable development;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby repeal EO 308 s. 1987, as amended, and order to wit :

SECTION 1. *Regular Members.* The following shall be the regular RDC members:

- a. all provincial governors;
- b. all city mayors;
- c. mayors of municipalities designated as provincial capitals;
- d. all presidents of the provincial league of mayors;
- e. the mayors of the municipality designated as the regional center;
- f. the regional directors of agencies represented in the National Economic and Development Authority Board (NEDA, DAR, DA, DBM, DENR, DOF, DFA, DOH, DILG, DOLE, DPWH, DOST, DTI, DOTC, BSP) and the regional directors of DECS, DSWD, and DOT; provided that each agency shall be represented by only one regional director; *and*

g. private sector representatives (PSRs) who shall comprise one-fourth of the members of the fully-constituted council.

SEC. 2. *Selection of PSRs.* The selection of private sector representatives to the RDC shall be done in accordance with the guidelines approved by the NEDA Board.

SEC. 3. *Special Members.* The RDC, subject to the concurrence of majority of its regular members, may designate special non-voting members of the Council.

SEC. 4. *Functions of the RDC.* The RDC shall have the following functions:

a. Coordinate the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of short and long-term regional development plans and investment programs, regional physical framework plan and special development plans, including the formulation of policy recommendations;

b. Integrate approved development plans of provinces and cities, line agencies, state universities and colleges, government owned and controlled corporations and special development authorities in the region into the regional development plan;

c. Review, prioritize, and endorse to the national government the annual and multi-year sectoral investment programs of the region for funding and implementation;

d. Review and endorse to the national government the annual budgets of agency regional offices, state colleges and universities and special development authorities;

e. Promote and direct the inflow and allocation of private investments in the region to support regional development objectives, policies and strategies;

f. Review and endorse national plans, programs and projects proposed for implementation in the regions;

g. As required by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC), review and endorse projects of national government agencies that have impact on the region and projects of LGUs in the region requiring national government financial exposure which may come in the form of guarantees, national government budget appropriations or subsidies, among others;

h. Initiate and coordinate the development, funding and implementation of regional and special development projects such as those involving several agencies or LGUs;

i. Coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of development projects undertaken by government agencies, local government units, state colleges and universities, government-owned and/or -controlled corporations and special development authorities in the region; and

j. Perform other related functions and activities as may be necessary to promote and sustain the socio-economic development of the regions.

SEC. 5. *RDC Officials.* The RDC shall be jointly headed by a Chairman and Co-Chairman appointed by the President. The NEDA Regional Director shall be the ex-officio Vice-Chairman of the RDC. The NEDA Assistant Regional Director shall be the Secretary of the RDC.

SEC. 6. *Executive Committee.* The Council shall create an Executive Committee to act on matters that require immediate attention for and on behalf of the RDC when it is not in session. The Executive Committee shall comprise one-fourth of the total membership of the fully-constituted Council, the membership to be determined by the Council, provided that all sectoral committee chairmen created under Section 7 of this Executive Order, shall automatically become members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman, Co-Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the RDC shall also serve as the officers of the Executive Committee.

SEC. 7. *Sectoral Committees.* To assist the RDC in the performance of its functions, the Council shall create sectoral committees to handle social, economic, infrastructure, and development administration concerns whose composition shall be determined by the Council. The sectoral committees shall perform functions analogous to and supportive of the functions of the Regional Development Council. They shall review and endorse matters pertaining to their respective sectors to the RDC Executive Committee and/or the RDC Full Council.

SEC. 8. *Advisory Committee.* To further strengthen the coordinative and consultative mechanism in the regions, there is hereby created an Advisory Committee to advise, assist and support the Council in discharging its functions. It shall be composed of the members of the House of Representatives representing the provinces and districts of the region who shall signify their intention to become members thereof in writing, and members of the Council's Executive Committee.

The Chairman, Co-Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the Council shall also serve as the officers of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee may meet as often as necessary but not less than once a semester.

SEC. 9. *Affiliate Committees.* The various committees and councils organized to carry out national and agency programs are considered to be under the umbrella of the RDC. Their role shall be to assist the RDC coordinate, monitor and evaluate their respective specific concerns. In general, secretariat functions to these bodies shall be provided by the lead agency that organized the council/committee.

SEC. 10. *Meetings.* The RDC Full Council shall meet at least once every quarter. It may adopt its own rules on constituting quorum.

SEC. 11. *Appointment of Chairman/Co-Chairman.* In line with the government's thrust on decentralization, the RDC shall nominate at least two (2) local chief executives who are ex-officio members and two (2) private sector representatives from whom the President shall select and appoint the RDC Chairman and Co-Chairman, provided, that if the Chairman is from the government sector, the Co-Chairman shall be selected from the private sector (and vice-versa). Regional Directors of national government agencies in the region shall not be included in the selection of nominees for Chairman and Co-Chairman.

SEC. 12. *Functions/Powers and Responsibilities of the Chairman/Co-Chairman.* The Chairman/Co-Chairman shall have the following functions, powers and responsibilities:

- a. Preside over the meetings of the Council;
- b. Direct members of the Council, affiliate committees and regional line agencies to perform tasks the RDC may deem necessary;
- c. Accept, in behalf of the Council, donations, contributions, grants, bequests or gifts;

- d. Represent the region in Cabinet meetings and other activities at the national level;
- e. Submit to the President through the NEDA Board regional plans, regional investment programs, annual development reports and other documents on the region as approved by the Council; and
- f. Perform other functions and duties as may be directed by the President.

SEC. 13. *RDC Secretariat.* The NEDA Regional Office shall be the Secretariat of the RDC. The NEDA Regional Director shall manage the technical, administrative and financial operations of the RDC and shall be accountable for the funds and properties of the RDC.

SEC. 14. *Term of Office.* The RDC Chairman, Co-Chairman and private sector representatives shall serve in the Council for a fixed term of three years coinciding with the regular term of local elective officials.

SEC. 15. *Funding.* Funds necessary for RDC operations, project monitoring and evaluation, and implementation of special projects shall be included in the annual general appropriations bill submitted to Congress, subject to the usual auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 16. *Non-Applicability.* This Executive Order shall not apply to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera Administrative Region.

SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules.* The NEDA Board is hereby directed to prepare and adopt detailed guidelines to implement the specific provisions of this Executive Order.

SEC. 18. *Transitory Provision.* The existing private sector representatives shall continue to serve the Council until the expiry of their term. The selection of the new set of private sector representatives shall then be guided by Section 2 of this Executive Order.

SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* All previous issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 20. *Effectivity.* This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Manila, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Six.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS  
By the President:

(Sgd.) RUBEN D. TORRES  
Executive Secretary

**MALACAÑANG  
MANILA**

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 384**

**FURTHER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 325, SERIES OF 1996 AND FOR THIS  
PURPOSE INSTITUTIONALIZING LABOR SECTOR REPRESENTATION IN THE REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS**

WHEREAS, Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution provides that the President shall create regional development councils (RDCs) and other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 325 provides for the organization structure of RDCs;

WHEREAS, the Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution affirms labor as a primary social and economic force;

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 3 also assures the rights of workers to participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting their rights and benefits as may be provided by law;

WHEREAS, consistent with the principles of participation decision-making and empowerment, there is a need to ensure the representation of labor in the RDCs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, hereby amend Executive Order No. 325, Series of 1996, particularly Section 1 thereof, as follows:

“Section 1. Regular Members. The following shall be the regular RDC members:

- a. all provincial governors;
- b. all city mayors;
- c. mayors of municipalities designated as provincial capitals;
- d. all presidents of the provincial league of mayors;
- e. the mayor of the municipality designated as the regional center;
- f. the regional directors of agencies represented in the National Economic and Development Authority Board (NEDA, DAR, DBM, DENR, DOF, DFA, DOH, DILG, DOLE, DPWH, DOST, DTI, DOTC, BSP) and the regional director of DECS, DSWD and;
- g. private sector representatives (PSRs), AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LABOR SECTOR, who shall comprise one-fourth of the members of the fully constituted council.”

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 7th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Six.

(Sgd.) FIDEL V. RAMOS

By the President:

(Sgd.) RUBEN D. TORRES

Executive Secretary