

# [ LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 683, March 30, 1978 ]

## ESTABLISHING BASIC POLICIES FOR THE WATER SUPPLY SECTOR

WHEREAS, drinking water is a basic requirement to sustain life;

WHEREAS, only about 40 percent of the population of the Philippines is presently served with public water supply systems;

WHEREAS, it is a primary concern of the Government in promoting the welfare of the people to hasten the availability of water supply services in the whole country, with special attention to the rural areas;

WHEREAS, the approved Philippine Development Plan for 1978-1987, therefore, aims to increase the public water supply coverage to about 85 percent of the total Philippine population within ten years;

WHEREAS, there is a need to restructure the water supply sector so that gaps and overlaps in responsibility will be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to establish<sup>1</sup> certain basic policies to attain these objectives in the most efficient manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the constitution, do hereby order the implementation of the following basic policies for the water supply sector;

- (1) The attainment of complete coverage of water supply services for the whole country is a declared policy of the State shall be effected primarily through:
  - (a) The rationalization of the organizational structure for the water supply sector;
  - (b) The formation of water districts, associations, cooperatives or corporations for the construction, operation and maintenance of water supply systems in preference to systems directly operated and managed by local governments; and
  - (c) The encouragement of self-help and self-reliant water supply projects.
- (2) Agencies involved in water supply shall strive to attain financial independence, thereby minimizing Government subsidy, by increasing their own internal revenue generation capabilities and by providing services within the cost repayment capabilities of the beneficiaries.
- (3) The levels of water supply service to be developed shall vary according to technical, economic, organizational and financial considerations,, These levels of service are as follows:

Level I — Point sources (such as rain collectors, wells and springs); generally for rural areas where houses are scattered too thinly to justify a distribution system.

Level II— Communal faucet systems; generally for rural areas