

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 496, January 14, 1977]

TO: The Secretary of Labor
The Secretary of Public Works
The Secretary of Public Highways
The Secretary of Natural Resources
The Secretary of Local Government and Community Development
The Secretary of Agriculture
President, Philippine National Bank Administrator, National Grains Authority
All heads of local governments concerned

WHEREAS, the Philippine sugar industry is severely-affected by the present slump in the world price of sugar;

WHEREAS, this slump has resulted in cutbacks in the local sugar production causing massive lay-offs of sugar workers;

WHEREAS, the dislocation rate of sugar workers is expected to be as much as 30% at the end of the present milling season;

WHEREFORE, be it ordered as it is hereby ordered that emergency measures be immediately initiated and carried out, jointly or separately to provide all possible assistance and relief to affected sugar workers and their families; Provided, that any project or program undertaken shall satisfy the following criteria: (1) priority to the most distressed workers and planters, (2) with immediate impact, and (3) with maximum employment content;

To ensure effective coordination of the efforts of the various agencies participating in the amelioration of the sugar workers affected by the economic crisis, there is hereby created an Inter-Agency Task Force—Sugar Workers, which shall be composed of the following:

Secretary Bias F. Ople	Chairman
Department of Labor	
Secretary Baltazar Aquino	Member
Department of Public Highways	
Secretary Arturo Tanco	Member
Department of Agriculture	
Secretary Alfredo Juinio	Member
Department of Public Works	
Secretary Jose Leido	Member
Department of Natural Resources	
Administrator Jesus Tanchanco	Member
National Grains Authority	
President Panfilo Domingo	Member
Philippine National Bank	

To assist the Task Force, the Rural Workers Office of the Department of Labor is hereby constituted as the Task Force Secretariat.