

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS NO. 519, March 22, 1977]

RELATIVE TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL ROADS

TO: The Secretary of Public Highways
 The Secretary of Finance
 The Secretary of Local Government and Community
 Development
 The Acting Commissioner of the Budget
 All Heads of Local Government Units

WHEREAS, the proper maintenance of the country's highways and roads is essential to national economic development;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to adopt a more efficient system of allocating and releasing funds to improve and accelerate the execution of the road maintenance program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, hereby direct the following:

1. Local government units are authorized to spend local funds for road and bridge maintenance prior to the release of National Government aid: PROVIDED, That such expenditures are duly certified to and reported to the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Highways.
2. The national aid for local roads maintenance shall be understood to cover the maintenance of local bridges on local roads.
3. Local government units shall use the approved EMK as basis for funds programming for the local counterpart in local roads maintenance. For this purpose, the Department of Finance in coordination with the Department of Public Highways, shall notify at the appropriate time, local governments of the EMK figure they should use for the incoming budget year.
4. The Department of Public Highways may release in the first quarter of the calendar year the full national government contribution to local road maintenance pertaining to the Quarter, even pending the certification as to the appropriation of local counterpart funds by the Treasurer of the local government unit concerned.
5. The Department of Finance shall monitor actual expenditures of local government units for local road maintenance, which shall be made the basis for releases of national roads and bridge maintenance aid by the Department of Public Highways subsequent to the first quarter release
6. Local government units which are financially distressed and which cannot establish all or part of the local counterpart fund for the maintenance of local roads may, upon certification by the Department of Finance to this effect, be entitled to the full release of the national aid for local road maintenance. For this purpose, the Department of Finance shall prepare annually a list of depressed local government units which are unable to establish local counterpart maintenance funds, which list shall be reviewed periodically and