

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1768, January 12, 1981]

ESTABLISHING AGRO-FOREST RESERVES WITHIN THE AGUSAN VALLEY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONWIDE COCONUT REPLANTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State, as enunciated in PD No. 705 and PD No. 1153, to vigorously undertake a forest renewal program;

WHEREAS, it is also the declared policy of the State under PD No. 1468 to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut industry, and pursuant to that policy, PD No. 1468 requires the Philippine Coconut authority ("PCA") to, among others, formulate and implement a nationwide replanting program using precocious high-yielding hybrid seednuts, which program may include the planting of new areas;

WHEREAS, the PCA has formulated a nationwide coconut replanting program and has recommended the inclusion in said program of the planting of hybrid coconut in sizeable, contiguous new areas;

WHEREAS, the PCA has identified that among the new areas suitable for the planting of the hybrid seednuts are the logged-over, denuded and inadequately stocked forest lands, particularly in the Agusan Valley;

WHEREAS, the planting of coconut trees in forest lands shall support the national forest renewal program and encourage public participation in agro-forest activities;

WHEREAS, the establishment of large scale coconut plantations logged-over, denuded and inadequately stocked forest lands shall create employment opportunities in support of the socio-economic and resettlement programs of the Government;

WHEREAS, such overriding national interest requires, therefore, that existing timber license agreements be reviewed so that logged-over, denuded and inadequately stocked forest lands within timber concessions may be established as agro-forest reserves and opened as new areas for the planting of hybrid coconuts and other suitable agricultural crops, tree crops, and forest plants;

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the owners of landed estates which were acquired by the Government thru voluntary agreement or thru expropriation proceedings, who were to be compensated for such lands under Republic Act No. 926 but have not received the full compensation agreed upon, be permitted to avail of the benefits under this Decree;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President/Prime Minister of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby order and decree:

SECTION 1. In the exercise of the Presidential prerogative *provided* by Article XVII, Sec. 12 of the Constitution, as enforced through Section 20 of PD No. 705, the Revised Forestry Code, as amended, and finding the exercise of said presidential prerogative to be required by the national interest, I do hereby withdraw the