

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1298, February 02, 1978]

IMPLEMENTING THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Government to accelerate the physical, economic and social growth of underdeveloped areas to achieve a more equitable distribution of developmental benefits;

WHEREAS, integrated rural infrastructure projects for Abra, Kalinga-Apayao, Bohol, Antique, Aklan, and Capiz have been adopted under the supervision of the Cabinet Coordinating Committee on Integrated Rural Development Projects organized under Letter of Instruction No. 99 and reconstituted under Presidential Decree No. 805;

WHEREAS, there is a need to create a machinery that will effectively implement those projects;

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

SECTION 1. *Rural Infrastructure Project Office.* There is hereby created a Rural Infrastructure Project Office, hereinafter referred to as the Project Office, in the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications, which shall supervise and coordinate the planning and implementation of rural infrastructure projects, hereinafter called the Project, in the provinces of Abra, Kalinga-Apayao, Bohol, Antique, Aklan and Capiz, and such other provinces as may be designated by the Cabinet Coordinating Committee for Integrated Rural Development Projects.

SECTION 2. *Cabinet Coordinator for the Project.* The Secretary of Public Works, Transportation and Communications shall, in behalf of the Cabinet Coordinating Committee for Integrated Rural Development Projects, be the Cabinet Coordinator for the Project. In accordance with the policies and guidelines set by the Cabinet Coordinating Committee, he shall be responsible for the overall administration of the Project, including the supervision and coordination of plans, work programs, budgets, and implementation activities of the Project by the Project Office and all other agencies concerned.

SECTION 3. *Project Director.* The Project Office shall be headed by a Project Director who shall be appointed by the Cabinet Coordinator for the Project and shall serve until the satisfactory completion of the Project, unless sooner terminated from office for cause by the Cabinet Coordinator. The Project Director must be a natural-born Filipino citizen, of legal age and good moral character, and with a proven record of competence in management and implementation of infrastructure and related projects.

Pursuant to relevant guidelines issued by the Cabinet Coordinator, the Project Director shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Directly coordinate and supervise, for the Cabinet Coordinator, the activities of the implementing agencies in the planning and execution of the Project;
- b. Review and integrate the plans, programs, and budget proposals for the Project for consideration of the Cabinet Coordinator, and forward the same to