

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1378, May 17, 1978]

CREATING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT IN LIEU OF THE CABINET COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to carry out a concerted attack on the problems of mass poverty, unemployment, underemployment, and social justice;

WHEREAS, to provide the proper perspectives to such problems, there is a need for greater emphasis on the integrated area development of the countryside;

WHEREAS, integrated area development must be undertaken to marshal cooperative activity towards the creation of a just and humane society;

WHEREAS, integrated area development must seek its roots in a people working in commission with each other;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent and compelling need to develop among government planners and decision makers a common policy orientation that can serve as a guide for the formulation of programs and projects geared towards integrated area development;

WHEREAS, the task of development calls for a shift from the traditional broad and piecemeal approach to a systematic and coordinated implementation of projects aimed at the countryside;

WHEREAS, it now becomes essential that these activities and projects in the countryside be properly integrated, priorities be established, and a central planning and implementing body charged with the development of an integrated plan of action for integrated rural development be created;

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:

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the state to promote and support the improvement, growth and development of the countryside through integrated area development consistent with the principle of self-help and self-reliance.

SECTION 2. *Creation of the National Council on Integrated Area Development.* To pursue the abovementioned policy, there is hereby created a National Council on Integrated Area Development hereinafter referred to as the Council which shall be composed of the following: The President of the Philippines as Chairman, and the Secretary of Agriculture as Vice-Chairman. The members of the Council are: the Secretary of Local Government and Community Development, the Secretary of Agrarian Reform, the Secretary of National Defense, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Public Highways, the Secretary of Public Works, the Secretary of Finance, the Director-General of the NEDA and the Budget Commissioner.

The Council shall function within the framework of the National Economic and Development Authority, and as such is within the administrative supervision of the

same.

The Vice-Chairman shall concurrently by the Chief Executive Officer of the Council and is hereby empowered to convene the Council as often as he may deem necessary.

The members of the Council shall receive a reasonable amount of per diem as the Council may provide for every meeting actually attended by them.

SECTION 3. *Powers and Functions of the Council.* The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Institutionalize the implementing mechanism for integrated area development through formal planning, monitoring and budgetary controls;
- b. Formulate an integrated framework plan to guide the development of depressed areas;
- c. Rationalize the participation of the rural people through their local governments in development planning and implementation;
- d. Initiate small-scale, high-impact integrated projects utilizing existing indigenous resources;
- e. Mobilize efficiently multi-sectoral resources and properly channel these into integrated rural development projects.

SECTION 4. *Powers and Functions of the Vice-Chairman as Chief Executive Officer.* The Vice-Chairman as Chief Executive Officer shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. to approve an integrated plan of action for integrated area development primarily for depressed areas;
- b. to establish a system of priorities for integrated area development and provide the basic criteria for selecting project areas;
- c. to arrange and/or negotiate for funding from local and/or foreign financing agencies and institutions subject to the approval of the Council;
- d. to approve requests of the implementing departments and agencies for budget releases for projects in accordance with the integrated plan of action, budgets and work program approved by the Council; *Provided*-that such approval shall be subject to availability of funds in accordance with the existing budgetary policies, laws, rules and regulations which shall be approved by the Council;
- e. to enter into contracts of any kind to enable it to carry out its purposes and functions under this Decree subject to the approval of the Council;
- f. to avail of the expertise of any particular employee, technician or group of persons in any bureau, office or department of the Government whose services are deemed necessary for the attainment of the goals of the Council;
- g. to formulate, adopt and implement guidelines and standards for an efficient system of reporting and evaluation;
- h. to promote fuller local participation in planning, management and program execution;
- i. to establish the appropriate organizational set-up to implement the integrated plan of action;
- j. to conduct, when appropriate, seminars, public hearings and/or conferences on significant issues pertaining to integrated area development;
- k. to promulgate and adopt administrative rules and regulations for the effective management of the Council's activities;