

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1365, May 01, 1978]

CREATING THE "RURAL WORKERS OFFICE" IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State under the New Society to protect, promote and develop the welfare of rural workers;

WHEREAS, rural workers especially the landless, belong to the forgotten species of the labor force which have not been sufficiently covered by the industrial benefit package and agricultural support mechanisms espoused by government agencies;

WHEREAS, rural workers urgently need special assistance to raise their capability for self-development and to link them up vitally with the mainstream of progress and growth; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to establish an Office designed especially for such purposes;

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. There is hereby created in the Department of Labor a Rural Workers Office, hereinafter referred to as the "Office", which shall be under the direct supervision and control of the Secretary of Labor and shall be headed by an Executive Director assisted by a Deputy Executive Director.

SEC. 2. The Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon recommendation of the Secretary of Labor.

SEC. 3. The Office shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. To exercise general supervision and control over the social amelioration program in the sugar industry and all such programs as may be established under the succeeding paragraph;
- b. To determine and recommend social amelioration programs for the rural workers; which programs shall include the amount of fees and charges, the mode of collection and disposition, subject to the approval by the President;
- c. To initiate, undertake, arrange or authorize research projects to identify and study socio-economic problems of rural workers and propose solution thereto;
- d. To process and evaluate proposed socio-economic projects for rural workers under the social amelioration program, for approval by the Secretary of Labor;
- e. To supervise, regulate and audit implementation of approved socio-economic projects for rural workers and their families and to monitor the progress of these projects;
- f. To engage in income and employment generating projects provided that they are geared towards rural workers' organization and training for self-reliance and self-development;
- g. To enter into agreements for the development of rural employment, provisions of skills and placement facilities for rural workers in coordination with appropriate institutions including international agencies;