

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 926, April 28, 1976]

MODIFYING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR THE BICOL RIVER BASIN PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, it is a policy of the Government to promote the integrated development of agriculture, natural resources, infrastructure and social services in underdeveloped regions to solidify the economic and social structure of our society;

WHEREAS, Presidential Decree No. 805 reconstituted the Cabinet Coordinating Committee on Integrated Rural Development Projects constituted under Letter of Instructions No. 99;

WHEREAS, an integrated rural development program has been adopted for the Bicol River Basin;

WHEREAS, the success of the program requires that the management and planning of the basin area be comprehensive, decentralized, and framed within regional and national plans;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to enhance the organizational framework and systems capability for planning and monitoring of this integrated multi-project area development program:

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* The Bicol River Basin Development Program, initiated pursuant to Executive Order No. 412 dated May 17, 1973, hereinafter referred to as the Program, is hereby declared an integrated area development program of the national government under the supervision and direction of the Cabinet Coordinating Committee on Integrated Rural Development Projects of the National Economic and Development Authority and the following policies are adopted for the effective implementation thereof: (a) to integrate national and local government programs and projects within its jurisdiction; and (b) to decentralize the planning and implementation of rural development projects.

SEC. 2. *Cabinet Committee Coordinator for the Program.* The Secretary of Public Works, Transportation and Communications shall be the Cabinet Committee Coordinator for the Program and shall act for the Chairman of the Cabinet Committee in all administrative matters, in accordance with the broad policies and guidelines established by the Cabinet Committee. As Cabinet Committee Coordinator, he shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Oversee the coordination of the planning and implementation of the Program;
- b. Review the Program's consolidated plans, budgets and work programs and recommend approval by the Cabinet Committee;
- c. Arrange and or negotiate with local and foreign financial institutions, subject to approval by the Cabinet Committee for the funding of rural development projects in the Basin:

- d. Approve requests of the implementing departments and agencies for budget releases for projects in accordance with the consolidated plans, budget and work programs approved by the Cabinet Committee; *Provided*, That such approval, shall be subject to the availability of funds in accordance with the existing budgetary policy, laws, rules and regulations which shall be secured from the President.
- e. Appoint the Program Director and heads of major organizational subdivisions of the Program Office;
- f. Bring to the attention of the Cabinet Committee matters that require its urgent consideration;
- g. Call upon any department, bureau, office, instrumentality or any political subdivision of the Government for such assistance that may be needed in achieving the objectives of the Program; and
- h. Exercise such other related powers as may be delegated by the Cabinet Committee.

SEC. 3. *Creation and Domicile of the Bicol River Basin Development Program Office.*

There is hereby created a Bicol River Basin Development Program Office, hereinafter referred to as the Program Office, which shall be under the supervision of the Cabinet Committee, through the Cabinet Committee Coordinator, for the purpose of coordinating the planning and implementation of the projects by the implementing departments and agencies at the national and provincial levels. The Program Office shall have its principal office in Camarines Sur. It shall also have a Manila Liaison Office for the purpose of facilitating supportive actions at the national level and such sub-offices as may be necessary in any municipality or city within the Program area.

Unless otherwise decreed, the jurisdiction of the Program Office shall encompass the Bicol River Basin area covering the municipalities of Del Gallego, Ragay, Lupi, Sipocot, Libmanan, Cabusao, Pasacao, Pamplona, San Fernando, Milaor, Minalabac, Gainza, Camaligan, Canaman, Magaro, Bombon, Calabanga, Tinambac, Goa, San Jose, Lagonoy, Sangay, Tigaon, Ocampo, Pili, Bula, Baao, Buhi, Nabua, Balatan, Bato, and the cities of Naga and Iriga in the province of Camarines Sur, and the municipalities of Libon, Polangui, Oas, Ligao, Pio Duran, Guinobatan, Tiwi, Malinao, Tabaco, Camalig, Daraga, and the City of Legaspi in the province of Albay, and such other areas as the Cabinet Committee may hereinafter decide to incorporate.

SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions of the Program Office.* The Program Office shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

- a. Serve as a coordinating center for inter-agency planning and management of Bicol River Basin projects;
- b. Identify rural development projects in the Bicol River Basin for inclusion in the integrated rural development program as authorized by the Cabinet Committee;
- c. Prepare feasibility studies for identified projects for the Bicol River Basin as authorized by the Cabinet Committee;
- d. Monitor and evaluate the progress and effects of project implementation in the Bicol River Basin;
- e. Maintain a continuous feedback system with national agencies involved in Bicol River Basin projects;
- f. Promote and encourage private enterprises and government agencies and instrumentalities to plan, develop and implement projects necessary or conducive to the accelerated development of the Bicol River Basin area;

- g. Apply for, receive and accept grants and donations of funds, equipment, materials and service needed by the Program from sources within and outside the Philippines; *Provided*, That funds received herein shall be exempt from the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 711;
- h. Call on the appropriate department, bureau, office, agency or other government instrumentality for assistance in the discharge of its duties; and
- i. Perform such other related functions as may be necessary to attain the objectives of this Decree.

SEC. 5. *Appointment, Tenure Of Office, Qualifications and Compensation of the Program Director.* The Program Office shall be headed by a Program Director who shall be appointed by the Cabinet Committee Coordinator.

The appointee to the position of Program Director shall possess the following qualifications: (a) a natural-born citizen of the Philippines; (b) at least thirty (30) years of age, and (c) of proven record of executive competence in the field of public administration and/or infrastructure projects and/or in the management of agricultural, industrial or commercial enterprises.

The Program Director shall receive an annual compensation to be fixed by the Cabinet Committee but not exceeding P48,000 per annum and such allowances received by other officials of comparable rank.

SEC. 6. *Powers and Functions of the Program Director.* The Program Director shall exercise the following powers and functions:

- a. Execute and administer the policies and decisions of the Cabinet Committee;
- b. Directly coordinate the activities of all implementing departments and agencies in the planning and implementation of the projects;
- c. Submit periodic financial and work accomplishment reports relating to project implementation to the Cabinet Committee, the Budget Commission and other Agencies concerned through the Cabinet Committee Coordinator;
- d. Consolidate, for the approval of the Cabinet Committee Coordinator, requests for budget releases of projects of the implementing departments and agencies in accordance with consolidated plans, budgets and work programs approved by the Cabinet Committee;
- e. Collect and consolidate all project accounts under the Program maintained by the implementing departments and agencies;
- f. Organize and manage the Program Office and adopt administrative rules and procedures for its internal management;
- g. Call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, instrumentality or any political subdivision of the Government to assist in the planning and implementation of the Program;
- h. Enter into contracts with private or public entities in connection with the functions of the Program Office, subject to the approval of the Cabinet Committee Coordinator; and
- i. Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Cabinet Committee Coordinator.

SEC. 7. *Staff Appointments.* In accordance with the staffing pattern to be approved by the President, the Program Director shall appoint the other personnel of the Program Office and define their duties and responsibilities: *Provided*, That all technical and professional positions shall be exempt from the rules and regulations