

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 980, August 18, 1976]

CONVERTING THE BUREAU OF FARM MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM INTO A BUREAU OF LAND TENURE IMPROVEMENT.

WHEREAS, the Department of Agrarian Reform has been created and mandated by law to implement state policies and decrees on agrarian reform;

WHEREAS, agrarian reform has been made the cornerstone of reforms in the New Society, and under Presidential Decree Nos. 2 and 27, the government was set into motion to overhaul the system of land tenure in order to fully emancipate the tenant-farmers from their bondage;

WHEREAS, to effectively carry this out, there is a need to increase the capability of the Department of Agrarian Reform in developing and implementing plans and programs on the various aspects of land tenure improvement; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Presidential Decree No. 27 has spawned complex problems the solutions of which would require greater concentration of efforts and resources. This can be achieved by reorienting the functions of the Department's personnel at the field level.

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. *Creation of the Bureau of Land Tenure Improvement.*—The Bureau of Farm Management in the Department of Agrarian Reform is hereby converted into the Bureau of Land Tenure Improvement, to be headed by a Director who may be assisted by an Assistant Director.

SEC. 2. *Functions.*—The Bureau shall be responsible for providing staff services for the development of policies, plans and programs, and standard operating procedures on land-tiller-landowner identification, tenurial security and leasehold arrangements, land transactions leading to the transfer of land ownership to tenant-farmers including related records, land valuation and landowners compensation, land tenure research, and joint projects with other government offices and private institutions to be established in tenanted areas and landed estates that will improve land tenure and land use; for establishing and operating a monitoring and information system on land tenure improvement, and for performing such other functions that the Secretary may assign pertaining to land tenure improvement.

SEC. 3. *Functional Divisions.*—The Bureau shall have the following divisions:

- a. Land Transactions Division shall be responsible for developing programs for the identification and maintenance of a current inventory of tillers, landowners, landholdings including crops and production thereon; and for all transactions involving tenurial security, leasehold arrangements, land transfers and change in land use. It shall be responsible for developing standards for the valuation of lands acquired by the government under the agrarian reform program and the payment