

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 424, March 28, 1974**]

CREATING A NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL, RECONSTITUTING ITS MEMBERSHIP, VESTING THE SAME WITH POWERS TO COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

WHEREAS, the social and economic progress of the country is highly dependent on the proper development, control and utilization of its total water resources;

WHEREAS, as the country progresses and the population increases, there will develop, as has been experienced, keener competition and conflict of interest among water users; and

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for a well-integrated and coordinated planning and prosecution of projects, including an expanded effort in the continuing task of water resources survey and appraisal, in order to achieve an orderly and scientific development as well as optimum utilization and control of our water resources to meet the present and future water needs of the country;

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

SECTION 1. The Water Resources Committee under Article XI, Chapter 1, Part X of the Integrated Reorganization Plan shall be renamed National Water Resources Council, hereinafter called the Council, and attached to the Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications (DPWTC).

SEC. 2. The Council shall have the following Functions, duties, and powers:

A. Regulatory and Executory:

- a. Coordinate and integrate, on a sound and logical basis, water resources development activities of the country within the context of national plans and policies for social and economic development;
- b. Determine, adjudicate, and grant water rights amending, for this purpose, Act No. 2152, and other laws relating to the appropriation and utilization of surface ground water;
- c. Formulate and promulgate:
 1. General criteria, methods, and standards for basic data collection, project investigation, formulation, planning and design, and feasibility evaluation; and
 2. Rules and regulations for the exploitation and optimum utilization of water resources, including the imposition on water appropriators of such fees or charges as may be deemed necessary by the Council for water resources development;
- d. Review and approve water resources development plans and programs of any agency within the context of the overall national plans and program;
- e. Undertake river basin survey, inventory and appraisal of water and related resources and develop comprehensive basinwide plans of storage and control