

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 137, September 29, 2000 ]**

**PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS, TO BE CALLED "TASK FORCE TIBAY BAGA", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall promote and protect the general well-being of the citizenry;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 mandated for the devolution of the delivery of the health services and facilities as one of the basic functions and responsibilities of all local government units (LGUs) at all levels;

**WHEREAS**, surveys say that sixteen (16) million Filipinos are infected with tuberculosis (TB) and six hundred thousand TB cases are actively spreading the disease;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines ranks third (3<sup>rd</sup>) in the Western Pacific Region and ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) worldwide in relation to the prevalence of TB cases, and is one of the twenty-two (22) countries, which belongs to the World Health Organization (WHO) watchlist;

**WHEREAS**, this government envisions the Philippines as a tuberculosis-free country by the year 2004;

**WHEREAS**, this vision will only be realized through a comprehensive and integrated strategy in detecting, treating and preventing the said disease;

**NOW THEREFORE, I JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby order:

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State that full and integrated delivery and development of health care services throughout the country must be promoted, encouraged and ensured, especially for the poor and marginalized sectors of society. Towards this end, the State shall provide for the participation and active involvement and collaboration of all local government units (LGUs) together with the stakeholders, particularly with the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) with the main objective of eradicating tuberculosis by the year 2004.

**Section 2. Organization of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention of Tuberculosis.** The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention of Tuberculosis, hereinafter referred to as the Task Force Tibay Baga, is hereby constituted to serve as the overall coordinating body to oversee and ensure adherence by all LGUs and