

[**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 347, June 27, 1997**]

PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE TO OVERSEE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL ENGINEERING COMMITMENTS AND OTHER RELATED PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCES OF PANGASINAN AND BENGUET IN THE COURSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SAN ROQUE MULTI-PURPOSE DAM PROJECT

WHEREAS, the accelerated pace of development in the Northern Luzon Quadrangle Area makes imperative the implementation of major infrastructure projects that will address the peoples' needs for basic services such as power, irrigation, and flood control facilities;

WHEREAS, in response to these needs, the Government through the Department of Energy and the National Power Corporation have proposed construction of the San Roque Multi-Purpose Dam Project (SRMDP) in San Manuel and San Nicolas, Pangasinan, and Itogon, Benguet through a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) scheme;

WHEREAS, the SRMDP is expected to generate 345 megawatts of reliable hydropower, irrigate about 87,000 hectares of farmlands and reduce by 50% the perennial inundation of at least 16 towns in Pangasinan and Tarlac;

WHEREAS, to soften the impact on communities that will be affected by the SRMDP's construction, the Government had initiated a host of institutional, infrastructural and program-specific responses with due regard for just and adequate compensation, suitable relocation and livelihood opportunities and preservation of history, culture and traditions particularly that of the Ibaloi tribe in Benguet;

WHEREAS, in the conduct of the advocacy program for the social acceptance of the SRMDP, the participation and cooperation of a large number of government agencies and local government units were solicited to make the campaign holistic and comprehensive;

WHEREAS, with the start of the construction of the project this year, the Presidential Task Force on the SRMDP, created pursuant to Memorandum Order No. 334, series of 1996, shall cease to exist;

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a new body to oversee and ensure the successful completion of the various programs and projects committed by the line agencies and the LGUs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following: