

## **[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 32, April 12, 1947 ]**

### **RECONSTITUTING THE COMMITTEE CREATED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 103, DATED SEPTEMBER 18, 1939, AS AMENDED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS NOS. 128 AND 144, DATED JUNE 7, 1940 AND JULY 2, 1941, RESPECTIVELY**

WHEREAS, the records of the Committee created by Administrative Order No. 103, dated September 18, 1939, as amended by Administrative Orders Nos. 128 and 144, dated June 7, 1940 and July 2, 1941, respectively, to investigate the matter of the use of rivers and the obstruction and pollution of streams, as well as the report of its findings, have been lost and are not now available;

WHEREAS, the closing or partial obstruction of many streams in the Philippines and their conversion into fishponds give rise to numerous controversies and complaints;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MANUEL ROXAS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby reconstitute the Committee created by Administrative Order No. 103, as amended, and appoint the following to carry out the purposes enumerated in the three aforementioned Administrative Orders:

The Secretary of Justice, Chairman  
The Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, and  
The Secretary of Public Works and Communications, Members.

In the fulfillment of their duties, the members of the Committee may appoint their respective representatives who are authorized to take testimony or evidence with all the incidental powers provided for in Section 580 of the Revised Administrative Code.

The Committee shall investigate and report on the following:

- (1) The status of all the rivers and streams in the Philippines, in order to determine whether they are of private or of public ownership;
- (2) The claims of private parties to any of them, attaching to the report copies of the pertinent papers, documents, contracts and memoranda of the decisions of the competent courts or the laws applicable thereto;
- (3) The value or importance of said rivers or streams for the conservation of the natural resources, indicating which of them are navigable, floatable or convenient for public use;
- (4) The advisability of opening any of them, if closed, for river control purposes and for navigation or for fishing;