

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 217, June 17, 2003]

CREATING THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE DIWALWAL

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2, Article XII of the Philippine Constitution, all minerals and other natural resources are owned by the State and that the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources shall be under the full control and supervision of the State;

WHEREAS, an area of particular concern for the government is the Diwalwal Mineral reservation area in Monkayo, Province of Compostela Valley, where activities of thousands of informal miners, conducting operations without the required permits from the DENR and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau for many years, have resulted in massive ecological degradation of the area and its immediate environs;

WHEREAS, the DENR had issued Department Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2002-18 last August 12, 2002 declaring an Emergency Situation in the Diwalwal Gold Rush Area; ordered the stoppage of all mining operations therein; and provided for Interim Guidelines to address the critical environmental and social consequences resulting therefrom;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President had in the meantime issued Proclamation No. 297 last November 25, 2002 excluding an area consisting of 8, 100 hectares to exclude the Diwalwal mining areas and the Mabatas area from the coverage of Proclamation No. 369 dated February 27, 1931; declaring the same as a Mineral Reservation and an Environmentally Critical Area; and providing that mining operations in that Mineral Reservation may be undertaken either by the DENR directly or through a qualified contractor;

WHEREAS, despite the direct intervention in the mining activities at Diwalwal by the DENR and the NRDC, the critical environmental and socio-economic concerns had not been sufficiently addressed and the related problems continue to fester;

WHEREAS, the CPP/NPA had turned Diwalwal into its main source of funds running into millions of pesos annually to finance its insurgency activities nationwide, thus creating serious internal security concerns;

WHEREAS, the urgent need to formulate specifically focused policies and coordinate the implementation of measures thereof by all concerned government agencies to address all vital concerns of the government and rationalizing all mining activities in the area has attained extreme urgency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. *Creation of National Task Force (NTF) Diwalwal.* National Task Force

(NTF) Diwalwal is hereby constituted to be composed of the following:

Secretary of National Defense	Head
Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources	Assistant Head
Secretary of Social Welfare and Development	Member
Secretary of Health	Member
Secretary of Labor and Employment	Member
Secretary of Justice	Member
Secretary of the Interior and Local Government	Member
Director General, National Economic and Development Authority	Member
Press Secretary	Member
Presidential Adviser on Media Affairs	Member
Solicitor General	Member
Commissioner, Bureau of Internal Revenue	Member

SEC. 2. *Functions and Responsibilities of the NTF Diwalwal.* The NTF Diwalwal shall:

- a. Formulate a comprehensive plan of action in order to create an environment conducive to lasting peace and sustainable peace and sustainable development in Diwalwal and its environs;
- b. Recommend policies and programs recommendations to ensure the coordination, integration, and acceleration of government efforts and enhance the effective and immediate implementation of government's plan of action in Diwalwal;
- c. Develop and implement a Public Information Program to generate awareness on the situation among target audiences that would enhance public confidence on efforts of government in Diwalwal.
- d. Provide a mechanism for the immediate and adequate resolution of all issues and concerns affecting the rehabilitation and development of Diwalwal; and
- e. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of various programs and projects by individual departments and agencies.

SEC. 3. *The National Task Force (NTF) Diwalwal Instrumentalities.*

- a. The NTF Diwalwal shall have Directorates headed by undersecretaries / deputy heads of concerned department/agencies to address the following concerns:
 1. Peace & Order and Security
 2. Socio-Economic Safety Nets
 3. Legal
 4. Political
 5. Information
 6. Mining and Environment
- b. An Interagency Technical Working Group (IATWG) shall be organized to provide technical assistance to the NTF Diwalwal
- c. The Operation Center (OPCEN). The OPCEN of NTF Diwalwal, shall provide operational, administrative, and secretariat support to the NTF Diwalwal.