

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 255, June 15, 2000]

**ADDRESSING RURAL POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH
THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

WHEREAS, rural poverty in the Philippines continues to rise despite government efforts to alleviate poverty;

WHEREAS, the El Niño and other climate-related occurrences created more adverse impact on the poorest sectors of society than the Asian financial crisis;

WHEREAS, the farmers and fisherfolk sectors are among the poorest sectors in Philippine society faced with a bleak future due to the degradation of their surrounding environment;

WHEREAS, appropriate support services must be delivered to the poor at the community level to arrest rising rural poverty and increasing natural resource depletion;

WHEREAS, the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) is mandated by law, R.A. 8425, to monitor the implementation of the government's poverty eradication program, particularly those concerned with enhancing the capability of the poor to uplift their own conditions through better management of natural resources;

WHEREAS, the NAPC is specifically mandated to provide financial and non-financial incentives to local government units with counterpart resources for the implementation of social reform and poverty alleviation programs [sec. 7(7), R.A. 8425];

WHEREAS, the NAPC advocates for and promotes tripartite efforts of the government, civil society and business towards poverty eradication, especially through local governance;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the establishment of a network of community-based enterprises to address rural poverty through the conservation, protection and development of natural resources.

SECTION 1. Network . The NAPC shall lay the groundwork for the establishment of a network of local government units with community-based enterprises implementing sustainable resource management projects at the barangay level, through the provision of a standard set of services for coastal and upland communities.

SECTION 2. Local Development Plans . The participating local government units (LGUs) shall submit local development plans using the sustainable integrated area development (SIAD) framework for the localization of Philippine Agenda 21, in accordance with Memorandum Order No. 47, s. 1999, with a resolution for