

# **[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 178, November 23, 1999 ]**

## **CREATING THE NATIONAL POLICE TASK FORCE ON PROFESSIONAL SQUATTERS AND SQUATTING SYNDICATES**

WHEREAS, Sec. 27 of R.A. 7279 or the "Urban Development and Housing Act" (UDHA) provides that all local government units, in cooperation with the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) and PCUP-accredited urban poor organization in the area, shall adopt measures to identify and effectively stall the nefarious and illegal activities of professional squatters and squatting syndicates;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 129 dated 15 October 1993 entitled "Establishing an Institutional Mechanism to Curtail the Activities of Professional Squatting Syndicates and Professional Squatters and Intensifying the Drive Against Them" created the National Committee Against Squatting Syndicates and Professional Squatters to serve as an oversight, coordinative and recommendatory body relative to the implementation of the UDHA provisions on squatting syndicates and professional squatters;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 129 dated 15 October 1993 likewise created the Local Committee Against Squatting Syndicates and Professional Squatters to serve as the implementing arm of the National Committee Against Squatting Syndicates and Professional Squatters at the local levels;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 159 dated 12 October 1999 declared mass housing as the centerpiece program of the Estrada Administration and directed the fasttracked implementation of mass housing projects which will address the housing needs of the poor;

WHEREAS, the proliferation of professional squatters and squatting syndicates in urban centers nationwide hamper the effective implementation of the government's mass housing programs; and,

WHEREAS, there is need to strengthen the capability of local government units to effectively curtail the operations of professional squatters and squatting syndicates.

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 order:

SECTION 1. CREATION OF THE NATIONAL POLICE TASK FORCE TO APPREHEND SQUATTING SYNDICATES AND PROFESSIONAL SQUATTERS. There is hereby created a National Police Task Force on Squatting Syndicates and Professional Squatters hereinafter referred to as the "Task Force," to vigorously pursue the apprehension and prosecution of professional squatters and squatting syndicates nationwide.