

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 967, June 30, 1984 ]**

**RENAMING THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AS THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD, TRANSFERRING TO IT CERTAIN AGENCIES ENGAGED IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, under the New Republic, national development shall be pursued with renewed dedication and greater determination through more efficient, effective and economical government;

WHEREAS, agricultural production, particularly that subsector concerned with the supply of food, has become even more critical for both domestic food requirements and the export of agricultural commodities, in the light of recent economic developments;

WHEREAS, the policies and programs concerned with food production and agricultural crops must be more closely coordinated in order to promote effective performance among the implementing agencies involved;

WHEREAS, certain of these agencies should be placed directly under an integrated ministry in order that primary authority and responsibility for the major food production programs may be properly identified; and

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, the President is empowered to undertake such organizational and related improvements as may be appropriate in the light of changing circumstances and new developments;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the authority vested in me by Presidential Decree No. 1416 as amended, do hereby order and ordain:

SECTION 1. It shall be the policy of the State to promote the production of agricultural crops, livestock, poultry and fisheries through the efficient utilization of existing resources, reliance upon private enterprise and the encouragement of agri-business ventures, with the end in view of achieving self-sufficiency in domestic food requirements and of expanding and diversifying agricultural produce for export. It shall also be the policy to improve the real incomes of farmers and other agricultural workers through increased productivity and more efficient systems of pricing, marketing, land management, and other incentives.

SECTION 2. The Ministry of Agriculture is renamed the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, herein after referred to as the Ministry. The Minister of Agriculture is likewise renamed the Minister of Agriculture and Food, hereinafter referred to as the Minister. The Ministry shall be the entity primarily responsible for the attainment of the policies and goals set forth in Section 1 above, through the formulation and

implementation of appropriate programs and projects and the provision of suitable services.

SECTION 3. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is transferred from the Ministry of Natural Resources, converted into a staff Bureau and placed under the supervision and control of the Ministry, together with its functions and applicable appropriations, records, equipment, property, facilities and such personnel as may be necessary. The Minister is hereby authorized to integrate the regional offices and other field units of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources into the ministry-wide regional offices of the Ministry. The position of Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is authorized to be created in each of the regional offices of the Ministry.

The positions of Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director and of the Bureau of fisheries and Aquatic Resources are hereby abolished: Provided, however, That the incumbents thereof shall have priority for appointment to the positions of Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources which are herein created; and Provided, further, That those who are not so appointed may be accommodated in specialized senior technical positions to be provided in the supplemental staffing pattern of the ministry-wide regional offices of the Ministry at not less than the same salary rate they are now actually receiving.

SECTION 4. The Fishery Industry Development Council in the Ministry of Natural Resources is abolished, and its functions and applicable appropriations, records, equipments, property and such personnel as may be necessary are transferred to the appropriate units in the Ministry as determined by the Minister.

The National Board on the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department Programs, Budget and Operations is transferred to and placed under the administrative supervision of the Ministry. The Minister of Agriculture and Food shall be the Chairman of the Board in lieu of the Minister of Natural Resources.

SECTION 5. All other functions and activities in the Ministry of Natural Resources directly related to the development and regulation of fisheries and aquatic resources shall likewise be transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, including applicable appropriations, records, equipments, property, facilities and such personnel as may be necessary.

SECTION 6. The issuance of forests land grazing lease agreements by the Bureau of Forest Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources shall be subject to the prior concurrence of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food which shall be exercised as appropriate through its regional offices in accordance with guidelines duly be promulgated by the Ministry upon the recommendation of the Director of Animal Industry.

SECTION 7. The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority is transferred from the Ministry of Natural Resources and attached to the Ministry, which shall include such subsidiaries as it may have. The Minister of Agriculture and Food shall be the ex-officio Chairman of the governing board: Provided, that the Minister of Natural Resources shall remain a member thereof.

SECTION 8. The Minister of Agriculture and Food shall be an ex-officio member of