

[MEMORANDUM ORDER No. 283, April 01, 2008]

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CLEAR THE MWSS WATERWAYS (INCLUDING SEWERAGE) AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS OF INFORMAL SETTLERS IN ORDER TO ENSURE EFFICIENT AND UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF CLEAN WATER TO RESIDENTS OF METRO MANILA

WHEREAS, the Government has laid out a Ten-Point Agenda to decongest Metro Manila and improve the water supply and distribution system for the Local Government Units (LGUs) experiencing extreme water shortage;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to strengthen the implementation of urban development projects by the local government units by abating the influx of informal settlers and formation of informal settlements particularly in the waterways and MWSS right-of-ways to prevent continuous degradation of the water environment;

WHEREAS, it is necessary not only to clear the MWSS waterways/right-of-way of obstruction but also to relocate Informal Settler Families (ISF) to final relocation sites, which may be funded from existing ODA housing projects executed by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and existing project funds of the MWSS.

SECTION 1. The MWSS, as the main water supply planning and regulatory agency of the government, shall oversee the implementation, development and upgrading of water supply projects. The MWSS shall identify alternative sources of funds and defray the cost of housing development including the possible transfer of its properties intended as relocation sites to recipient local government units or MHA pursuant to Article 5, Section 21 of the Urban Development Act of 1992 (R.A. No. 7279). The MWSS is also hereby directed to work closely with the HUDCC and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the utilization of proclaimed areas (particularly the Lungsod Silangan New Town Reservation and Freedom Valley Resettlement site) as relocation sites for the affected ISF of water projects.

SECTION 2. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in coordination with concerned LGUs and the National Housing Authority (NHA) are hereby directed to clear the MWSS waterways and right-of-ways of informal settlers and relocate them. Furthermore, the aforementioned agencies including MWSS are hereby directed to call for "Waterways Protection and Preservation Summit" to formulate an action plan on how these agencies should collaborate and share its resources to clear and protect these waterways of obstructions including informal dwellers occupying watershed areas in Rizal, Quezon, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, and other neighboring