

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 331, May 15, 1996 ]**

**EXTENDING THE COORDINATIVE AND MANAGEMENT ROLE AND  
FUNCTION OF THE SOUTH COTABATO/SARANGANI/GENERAL  
SANTOS CITY (SOCSARGEN) AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
OFFICE**

WHEREAS, the SOCSARGEN Area Development Project Office has demonstrated its effectiveness in integrating and accelerating the implementation of major development activities of the national government, and ensuring the participation of the local government units and private sector as mandated by Executive Order No. 474 dated 12 August 1991 and as amended by Executive Order No. 480 dated 16 September 1991;

WHEREAS, the experience and success of the SOCSARGEN Area Development Project Board in integrating infrastructure development with private sector-led growth and sustainable use of environment and natural resources, and in actively promoting intra-regional economic ties in the BIMP-EAGA Region have made the SOCSARGEN Area Development Project a frontrunner and model for the Mindanao 2000 Agenda;

WHEREAS, there is a need to sustain these initiatives and to champion growth with equity by expanding the scope of the SOCSARGEN Area Development Project to include programs and policies that address the basic social needs of marginalized sectors in support of the national social reform and food security agenda and all other local and national projects that require integration and coordination at the sub-regional level;

NOW, THEREFORE, I FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The provision on the establishment of the South Cotabato/Sarangani/General Santos City-Area Development Project Office in Section 1 of Executive Order No. 474 series of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 1. SOSKSARGEN Area Development Project Office. There is hereby established the South Cotabato/Sultan Kudarat/Sarangani/General Santos City-Area Development Project Office, hereinafter referred to as the ADP Office as a Special Project under the Department of Agriculture for integrating, coordinating, supervising, directing and formulating policies and guidelines for the implementation of major project undertakings in SOSKSARGEN. The ADP Office shall be composed of a Project Management Unit (PMU) which shall hold office in General Santos City.

SECTION 2. The composition of the Project Board under Section 2 of Executive Order No. 474 is hereby reconstituted as follows:

- a. The Secretary of Agriculture — Chairman
- b. The Regional Director National Economic and Development Authority — Vice Chairman
- c. The Provincial Governor of South Cotabato — Member
- d. The Provincial Governor of Sarangani — Member
- e. The Mayor of General Santos City — Member
- f. The Provincial Governor of Sultan Kudarat — Member
- g. Representatives from Government Agencies Involved in the Project (DA, DTI, DILG, DOTC, DPWH, DENR, DOH, DECS) — Member
- h. One representative each of the Non-Government Organizations of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani Province and General Santos City — Member
- i. One representative each of the Chamber of Commerce or Business Community of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani Province and General Santos City — Member

The powers and functions of the Board under Sec. 2 of Executive Order No. 474 are henceforth amended as follows:

- a. Formulate policies and guidelines and establish development goals within the context of the Area Growth Plan and the role of SOSKSARGEN in the Mindanao 2000 Development Plan, supportive of social reform policy, food, security agenda and other local and national thrusts;
- b. Advocate, supervise, facilitate, orchestrate and provide overall direction in the planning, timely implementation and monitoring of all project components and development activities
- c. Pool existing resources and encourage the support and participation of government and non-government institutions by creating Task Forces, councils or appropriate bodies to expedite implementation of major development projects;
- d. Review and endorse to the Regional Development Council Region XI, for approval the multi-year and annual plans and investment programs under the project;
- e. Review and endorse, through the RDC, to the Department of Budget and Management, the annual budget for the Project, including that for the operations of the ADP Office;
- f. Review and confirm the organization of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the appointment of its Project Director;