

[LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 496, January 14, 1977]

TO: The Secretary of Labor
The Secretary of Public Works
The Secretary of Public Highways
The Secretary of Natural Resources
The Secretary of Local Government and Community Development
The Secretary of Agriculture
President, Philippine National Bank Administrator, National Grains Authority
All heads of local governments concerned

WHEREAS, the Philippine sugar industry is severely-affected by the present slump in the world price of sugar;

WHEREAS, this slump has resulted in cutbacks in the local sugar production causing massive lay-offs of sugar workers;

WHEREAS, the dislocation rate of sugar workers is expected to be as much as 30% at the end of the present milling season;

WHEREFORE, be it ordered as it is hereby ordered that emergency measures be immediately initiated and carried out, jointly or separately to provide all possible assistance and relief to affected sugar workers and their families; Provided, that any project or program undertaken shall satisfy the following criteria: (1) priority to the most distressed workers and planters, (2) with immediate impact, and (3) with maximum employment content;

To ensure effective coordination of the efforts of the various agencies participating in the amelioration of the sugar workers affected by the economic crisis, there is hereby created an Inter-Agency Task Force—Sugar Workers, which shall be composed of the following:

Secretary Bias F. Ople Department of Labor	Chairman
Secretary Baltazar Aquino Department of Public Highways	Member
Secretary Arturo Tanco Department of Agriculture	Member
Secretary Alfredo Juinio Department of Public Works	Member
Secretary Jose Leido Department of Natural Resources	Member
Administrator Jesus Tanchanco National Grains Authority	Member
President Panfilo Domingo Philippine National Bank	Member

To assist the Task Force, the Rural Workers Office of the Department of Labor is hereby constituted as the Task Force Secretariat.