

[**PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1515, June 11, 1978**]

VESTING THE JURISDICTION AND CONTROL OVER WATERSHED RESERVATIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, under Section 5 of Presidential Decree No. 705, the Bureau of Forest Development is vested with authority and jurisdiction over all forest lands including watershed reservations;

WHEREAS, watershed areas are critical and essential not only to the life-span of hydroelectric dams and other water-oriented projects of the government but also to its flood control and other environmental or ecological programs;

WHEREAS, in view of the foregoing reasons and in order to curtail the continuing destruction, denudation and appropriation of watershed areas by private parties, it is imperative that inalienable and non-disposable character be better assured, and to this end, more stringent measures adopted for their better protection, development, management and rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, under Presidential Decree No. 1206 the Ministry of Energy has been mandated to formulate and implement the government's policies, plans and programs on the development of energy resources of all kinds; and

WHEREAS, in pursuance of its aforesated functions the Ministry of Energy will be in a better position to afford the desired protection, development, management and rehabilitation of watershed areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order and decree the following:

SECTION 1. Any provision of existing law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Ministry of Energy shall have jurisdiction, control and regulation over all watershed areas and reservations proclaimed or hereafter proclaimed as such by the President of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. The Ministry of Energy may exercise its powers, functions and responsibilities over watershed areas and reservations through the National Power Corporation (NPC) or such other government agencies or instrumentalities as are attached to or otherwise placed under the Ministry of Energy. The NPC or any other such designated government agency shall be responsible for the management, protection, development and rehabilitation of watershed areas, including but not limited to the following:

1. Identification of watershed areas which require immediate rehabilitation and development;
2. Preparation of plans and programs for the maximum utilization of watershed resources;
3. Formulation and/or implementation of measures to prevent denudation of watershed cover;