

[PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 461, May 17, 1974]

REORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTO TWO DEPARTMENTS, NAMELY: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CHAPTER 1, PART VIII OF THE INTEGRATED REORGANIZATION PLAN.

WHEREAS, it is a primary objective of the Government to conserve, revitalize and develop the country's national wealth and manage its utilization for the continued well-being of present and future generations;

WHEREAS, progressively increasing demands for food, agricultural raw materials, mineral, aquatic, and forest products, are being felt throughout the world and predicted to intensify in the immediate future:

WHEREAS, within the Philippines itself, the demands of a growing population exert tremendous pressure on the country's existing food and natural resources;

WHEREAS, in the light of growing domestic and world demands for basic commodities, there is a pressing need to continuously assess the status of all existing food and natural resources of the Philippines with the view to maximizing their utilization, programming their exploitation and, whenever possible, providing for their replacement;

WHEREAS, the development of agriculture and the management of natural resources involve two separate broad and complex programs which are presently being planned and implemented by only one organization; and

WHEREAS, the attainment as soon as possible of the national goal of increased production and self-sufficiency in basic foods and the completion of an up-dated inventory and assessment of the nation's natural resources for the purpose of ensuring conservation, optimal utilization, programmed exploitation and replacement whenever possible can best be achieved if these objectives are prosecuted by two separate departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby adopt this amendment to Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan as part of the law of the land.

SECTION 1. Presidential Decree No. 1, dated September 24, 1972, relative to Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan is hereby amended by reorganizing the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources into two Departments, namely: (a) Department of Agriculture and (b) Department of Natural Resources.

SEC. 2. The Department of Agriculture shall be composed of the Department Proper which shall include the Office of the Secretary, the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, the Administrative Service, the Computer Service Center, and the Agrarian Reform Unit. The Bureaus under the supervision and control of the Department are the (1) Bureau of Soils, (2) Bureau of Plant Industry, (3) Bureau of Animal Industry, (4) Bureau of Agricultural Extension, and (5) Bureau of Agricultural

Economics. The following government-owned and controlled corporations are attached to the Department:

(a) National Grains Authority, (b) Philippine Tobacco Administration, (c) Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, (d) Philippine Coconut Authority, (e) Coconut Investment Company, and (f) Philippine Cotton Corporation. The Fertilizer Industry Authority, National Food and Agricultural Council and the National Meat Inspection Commission are placed under the administrative supervision of the Department. The Philippine Council for Agricultural Research shall be attached to the National Science Development Board.

SEC. 3. The organization and functions of the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, and the Administrative Services shall be in accordance with Articles III, IV, V, Chapter I, Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan.

SEC. 4. The Computer Service shall be responsible for providing the Department and the Bureaus under it, including the corporations and other agencies attached to it with economical, efficient, and effective services relating to electronic data processing.

SEC. 5. The Agrarian Reform Unit shall be responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Office of the Secretary in coordinating the work of the Department on extension service and soil surveys and classification with that of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

SEC. 6. The organizations and functions of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Bureau of Agricultural Extension, and Bureau of Agricultural Economics shall be provided in Paragraphs 7 and 8, Article II and in Article IV, VIII, and IX, respectively, of Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan and in Letter of Implementation No. 9, dated November 1, 1972.

SEC. 7. There is created a Bureau of Plant Industry which shall be responsible for conducting research on agricultural crops; production of improved seeds and plant materials; protection of agricultural crops from pests and diseases; development and improvement of farm equipment, structures, and practices, and such other functions as may be provided by law. The Bureau of Plant Industry shall have, in addition to a Planning and Management Staff and an Administrative Division, the following divisions: (a) Laboratory Services Division, (b) Research Division, (c) Production Division, (d) Farm Development Division which is renamed Agricultural Engineering Division, and (e) Crop Protection Division. The functions of these divisions shall be as provided in Paragraph 2, Article III, Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan and in Letter of Implementation No. 9, except that the Laboratory Services Division and the Research Division shall not have the functions on production of soil inoculants and soil research, respectively.

SEC. 8. There is created a Bureau of Soils which shall be responsible for the assessment, development and conservation of existing and potential soil resources of the Philippines; conducting research on different aspects of soil utilization, management, and conservation; and such other functions as may be provided by law. The Bureau of Soils shall have, in addition to a Planning and Management Staff and an Administrative Division, the following divisions:

- a. Laboratory Services Division which shall provide technical supervision in the effective operation and maintenance of the Bureau's soil laboratories, including

the maintenance of precision laboratory equipment; prescribe standards in the physical and/or chemical analysis of soils for researches and farmlands as the bases for formulation of fertilizer and lime recommendation and for soil characterization; prepare the program for the production and distribution of soil inoculants; coordinate with the Soil Research Division in the study of new and effective methods of analysis and with Soil Fertility Division in updating soil correlation values and fertilizer requirements of crops; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

- b. Soil Conservation Division which shall formulate policies, standards and measures for soil and water conservation and utilization; develop a program of field demonstrations on soil and water land-use program for agriculture areas on the control of soil erosion, floods, and siltation; exercise technical supervision over all soil and water conservation stations of the Bureaus; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.
- c. Soil Fertility Division which shall develop plans and procedures for field studies and surveys on soil fertility; prescribe procedures and techniques on the use of fertilizers, soil amendments and fertility maintenance practices compile and analyze results of field fertilizer and fertility maintenance practices; compile and analyze results of field fertilizer and fertility maintenance studies for purpose of preparing and issuing periodic soil fertility status and fertilizer recommendations for major economic crops; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.
- d. Soil Research Division which shall design a program of researches on soil chemistry, soil physics, soil biology and mineral nutrition as they relate to agricultural and non-agricultural application; provide standards and establish criteria for research on soil utilization, conservation and soil, water, and plant relationship; exercise technical supervision in the operation of the Bureau's research stations; maintain liason with other research institutions in both government and private sectors, including foreign institutions; provide technical assistance to other agencies in conducting training programs on soil research and other related subjects; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.
- e. Soil Surveys Division which shall prepare the plans and programs on basic soil surveys at all levels of generalization throughout the Philippines to provide sufficient soil resources data needed by the government and the private sector; interpret basic soil survey data to provide information on land classification, land capability and land-use; provide standards and guidelines in the conduct of soil surveys and other related activities; consolidate, review, and summarize reports on soil surveys for dissemination; prepare and maintain thematic maps, charts, tables, photo mosaics, diagrams and other related materials; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

SEC. 9. The Department of Natural Resources shall be composed of the Department Proper which shall include the Office of the Secretary, the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, and the Administrative Service. In addition, there are created in the Department Proper a Legal Service, Computer Service Unit and an Agrarian Reform Unit. The bureaus under the supervision and control of the Department are: (a) Bureau of Forest Development, (b) Bureau of Lands, (c) Bureau of Fisheries, which is renamed Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and (d) Bureau of Mines. The following agencies are attached to the Department: (a) Presidential Committee on Wood Industries Development, (b) National Committee