

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 155, November  
08, 1994 ]**

**CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INTEGRATED AREA DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM IN CONNECTION WITH MALITUBOG-MARIDAGAO  
IRRIGATION PROJECT AND ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS**

WHEREAS, the Government's vision of Philippines 2000 aims to provide all localities with opportunities for self-development and widen their access to productive resources;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes that delivery of basic services should be undertaken in coordination with and among government instrumentalities and agencies and other concerned/affected sectors;

WHEREAS, the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation Project (MMIP) is intended to bring development to Carmen, North Cotabato and its adjacent areas;

WHEREAS, the MMIP which will benefit thousands of families, may also displace or adversely affect a number of others whose legitimate concerns or grievances must be adequately addressed;

WHEREAS, certain groups may be deliberately; exploiting the situation to provoke or promote an armed conflict along religious beliefs and derail the ongoing peace process with the Southern Philippines Autonomous Group/MNLF;

WHEREAS, there is a need to address problems, among which are poverty, lawlessness, injustice and under-development of the area, from a wholistic point of view;

WHEREAS, to enable the government to undertake measures to promote the accelerated socio-economic development of Carmen and its adjacent areas, there is a need to create a body that shall formulate and implement short and medium-term plans for the areas covered herein as well as certain policy, planning and implementation issues.

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

Section 1. Creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force. There is hereby created an Inter-Agency Task Force (hereinafter referred to as "Task Force") which is hereby designated as Task Force MALMAR, to undertake an integrated development and security/law enforcement operations to facilitate the normalization of the peace and order condition and the socio-economic development of Carmen, Aleosan, Pikit and Kabacan, all of Cotabato, Pagalungan in Maguindanao, and other areas in the vicinity that may be subsequently included in the area of responsibility of the Task Force.

Sec. 2. Composition. The Task Force shall be headed by the Secretary of National Defense as Chairman, with the Secretary of Agriculture as Co-Chairman. Its members shall be composed of the Presidential Assistant for Mindanao; the Administrator, National Irrigation Administration (NIA); the Governors of ARMM, North Cotabato and Maguindanao; and senior representatives of the Secretaries/Heads of the following agencies with at least the rank of Director IV or equivalent:

- a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- b. Department of Agrarian Reform;
- c. Department of Public Works and Highways;
- d. Department of Interior and Local Government;
- e. Department of Energy;
- f. Department of Education, Culture and Sports;
- g. Department of Trade and Industry;
- h. Department of Social Welfare and Development;
- i. Department of Health;
- j. Department of Justice;
- k. Department of Transportation and Communication;
- l. National Economic Development Authority;
- m. Presidential Management Staff;
- n. Philippine Information Agency;
- o. Armed Forces of the Philippines (GHQ); and
- p. Philippine National Police (National Headquarters).

Concerned local government executives, religious and community leaders, as may be determined by the Task Force, may be designated as ex-officio members, consultants, and/or advisers.

The Task Force is hereby authorized to call upon any department, bureau, office, agency, or instrumentality of the government, including government owned and controlled corporations, for such assistance as may be needed in the discharge of its functions.

Sec. 3. Functions. The Task Force shall have the following powers, functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a. Plan and implement an integrated multi-agency area development program in coordination with the local Peace and Order Councils and the Regional Development Council in the affected areas with the cooperation and support of the legislators, local government executives, religious and civic leaders, NGOs and POs;
- b. Adopt a process of maximum consultation with concerned agencies and communities to ensure that their needs, concerns and ideas are considered in the formulation of the socio-economic development program and the corresponding projects to be undertaken;
- c. Recommend and coordinate the adoption or adjustment/modification of existing/planned national and local agency programs/projects in the area;
- d. Formulate and supervise the implementation of an integrated and well-coordinated security and peace and order plan for the