

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 642, July 24, 2007 ]**

**AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 474, SERIES OF 1998, TO  
DESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AS THE  
PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the first phase of the Mindanao Rural Development Program (MRDP-1) supported by the Government of the Philippines through an adaptable program loan from the World Bank was concluded I 2004;

WHEREAS, MRDP-1 implementation in 32 municipalities of North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur, Compostela Valley and Maguindanao in Mindanao through better-targeted and sustainable agriculture and fisheries-related rural development and marine biodiversity conservation projects triggered improvements in incomes and food security of participating households and enhanced the institutional, technical, management and financial capabilities of the local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the learning-by-doing approach adopted in MRDP-1 provided an operational model on how a national sectoral agency like the Department of Agriculture (DA) can facilitate the devolution of functions and responsibilities to the LGUs;

WHEREAS, the DA, as the lead national government agency of MRDP is responsible for coordinating the preparations for the next phases of the program;

WHEREAS, the expanded geographic coverage of the next phase of the program under MRDP-2 and the coordination of activities streamlined into the DA's regional field units requires clear accountabilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Lead Agency. The MRDP's Program Management Board is hereby abolished and its responsibilities transferred to the DA.

For this purpose the DA shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Provide policy directions to guide the planning and implementation of Program activities;
- b. Provide overall direction in harmonizing functions of collaborating national agencies;
- c. Mobilize existing resources of, and encourage the support and participation of National Government Agencies, LGUs and National Government Institutions;
- d. Approve the organizational structure and staffing requirements of the Program Support Office (PSO) and Regional Program Coordination Office (RPCO);
- e. Review and endorse the annual budget of the MRDP-2;

- f. Review and take appropriate action on operational and administrative matters;
- g. Reorganize the PSO and RPCO;
- h. Perform such other functions and responsibilities as the President may direct.

The Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division of the DA (SPCMAD) shall serve as the technical and administrative secretariat of the DA for the implementation of the MRDP. The SPCMAC shall have the following functions in its implementation:

- a. Provide pre-implementation assistance to the PSO in setting up the RPCOs;
- b. Coordinate with the RPCOs through the PSO in the preparation of initial global and annual work and financial plans, and facilitate the approval of such plans and their inclusion in the annual budget of the DA;
- c. Conduct operational monitoring of the Program and coordinate the dissemination of physical and financial progress reports and other information requirements to NEDA, DBM, DOF, the World Bank and other stakeholders;
- d. Review and analyze the projects' physical and financial progress reports, audit and technical reports and other study/activity reports and subsequently prepare recommendations to the DA management;
- e. Coordinate with the funding agency and other offices on the various implementations of the project; and
- f. Perform such other functions as the Secretary of DA may direct.

SEC. 2. DA Regional Field Office (DA-RFU). The DA-RFU in the six (6) regions of Mindanao shall serve as the regional counterpart of the DA. For the MRDP it shall have the following functions:

- a. Ensure that policy directions are carried out in the planning and implementation of MRDP-2 activities within the region;
- b. Ensure overall direction toward the harmonization of project roles and responsibilities of collaborating regional offices;
- c. Mobilize existing resources of, and encourage the support and participation of LGUs, People's Organizations and non-government organizations;
- d. Review and recommend appropriate actions to resolve operational and administrative issues that cannot be solved at the lower levels of the overall implementation structure;
- e. Review the progress of implementation and of project activities and provide guidance to improve Project performance; and
- f. Endorse annual regional work and financial plan to the Undersecretary for Operations.

SEC. 3. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). The BFAR shall assist the Program's implementing units in achieving the objectives and accomplishing the targets set for the Natural Resource Management component as well as for the Coastal Marine and Biodiversity Conservation Component, under the Global Enhancement Fund. The Director of BFAR shall assign a focal person at the central office and its regional offices in Mindanao, who shall coordinate closely with the DA-RFUs in general, and with the RPCOs in particular.

SEC. 4. PSO. The PSO is hereby created, which shall provide support to the RPCOs in the DA. The PSO shall have the following functions:

- a. Assist in setting up the RPCOs and provide technical assistance to enable them to fulfill their functions in MRDP-2;