

## [ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 77, March 04, 1999 ]

### **CREATING THE BANAUE RICE TERRACES TASK FORCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESTORING, MAINTAINING AND ADMINISTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RICE TERRACES**

WHEREAS, major cultural and natural landmarks should be preserved, developed and maintained for the perpetuation of Filipino heritage and the enhancement of our national identity;

WHEREAS, the Ifugao rice terraces are a priceless legacy as one of man's best engineering achievement and a major tourist attraction in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the Ifugao rice terraces are increasingly being threatened with destruction not only by traditional causes of decay but also changing social and economic conditions;

WHEREAS, to preserve and enhance the cultural and historical value of the rice terraces, it is imperative that a special organization be created to undertake the vital role and responsibility of restoring, maintaining and developing the Ifugao rice terraces;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force. There is hereby created under the Office of the President a Presidential Task Force to be called the Banaue Rice Terraces Task Force for the restoration and preservation of the rice terraces in the municipalities of Banaue, Aguineldo, Hingyon, Hungduan, Kiangnan, Lagawe, Mayoyao and Tinoc in Ifugao, herein after referred to as the Task Force composed of the following:

Secretary of Tourism	Chairman
Undersecretary of Agriculture	Vice-Chairman
Undersecretary of Environment and Natural Resources	Member
Undersecretary of Public Works and Highways	Member
Congressman of Ifugao	Member
Governor of Ifugao	Member
President of the Mayor's League of Ifugao	Member

A technical secretariat to the Task Force headed by an Executive Director is likewise created. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the President.