

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 482, September 24, 1991]

**DEVOLVING TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF
THE AUTONOMOUS REGION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO THE
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN
REFORM AND THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OVER ITS
OFFICES WITHIN THE REGION**

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 229, series of 1987 and Proclamation No. 131 dated July 1987 provides for the institution of a comprehensive agrarian reform program which would be in pursuance of what was envisioned in Presidential Decree No. 27 that entailed the emancipation of tenants from the bondage with the soil;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agrarian Reform is mandated by law to be the principal agency responsible for implementing the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), as provided for in Articles XII, XIII and XVIII of the 1987 Constitution;

WHEREAS, the Oversight Committee created under Republic Act No. 6734 (RA 6734) otherwise known as the Organic Act for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao recommends that the control and supervision of the offices of the Department of Agrarian Reform be placed under the Autonomous Regional Government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CORAZON C. AQUINO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Transfer of Powers and Functions. All powers and functions of the Department of Agrarian Reform under Section 5 of Executive Order No. 129-A and as enumerated hereunder are hereby transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) in the implementation of the CARP in the four (4) provinces covered by the ARMM:

- a. Advise the President and the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) on the promulgation of executive and administrative orders, other regulative issuances and legislative proposals designed to strengthen agrarian reform and protect the interest of the beneficiaries thereof;
- b. Establish and promulgate operational policies, rules and regulations and priorities for agrarian reform implementation;
- c. Coordinate program implementation with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and other relevant civilian and military government agencies mandated to support the agrarian reform program;

- d. Acquire, administer, distribute, and develop agricultural lands for agrarian reform purposes;
- e. Undertake surveys of lands covered by agrarian reform;
- f. Issue emancipation patents to farmers and farmworkers covered by agrarian reform for both private and public lands and when necessary, make administrative corrections of the same;
- g. Provide free legal service to agrarian reform beneficiaries and resolve agrarian conflicts and land tenure related problems as may be provided for by law;
- h. Promote the organization and development of cooperatives and other associations of agrarian reform beneficiaries;
- i. Conduct continuing education and promotion programs on agrarian reform for beneficiaries, landowners, government personnel, and the general public;
- j. Institutionalize the participation of farmers, farmworkers, other beneficiaries, and agrarian reform advocates in agrarian reform policy formulation, program implementation, and evaluation;
- k. Have exclusive authority to approve or disapprove conversion of agricultural lands for residential, commercial, industrial, and other land uses as may be provided for by law;
- l. Call upon any government agency, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and non-government organizations to extend full support and cooperation to program implementation; and
- m. Exercise such other powers and functions as may be provided for by law or directed by the President, to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services.

Sec. 2. Functions Retained. The adjudicatory functions of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) shall be retained by the Department until a Regional Agrarian Reform Law (RARL) has been enacted by the Regional Assembly.

Sec. 3. Programs and Projects. All programs and projects of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) being implemented within the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) are hereby transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG) and these shall include Land Tenure Improvement; Program Beneficiaries Development and delivery of support services.

The management of the Special Projects Areas and the projects administered by the Special Projects Office shall be turned over to the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG).

Sec. 4. Personnel. (1) All plantilla positions, filled or unfilled, assigned to the affected provincial DAR offices shall be transferred to the Autonomous Regional Government (ARG).