

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 355, October 23, 1950]

CREATING THE LAND SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND DISSOLVING THE NATIONAL LAND SETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE RICE AND CORN PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND THE MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

Pursuant to the powers vested in me by Republic Act Numbered Four hundred and twenty-two, I, Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, do hereby order:

CREATION, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a public corporation under the name of the Land Settlement and Development Corporation which, in short, shall be known as the "LASEDECO." This Corporation shall exist for a period of twenty-five years from the effective date of this Order. It shall have its main office in the City of Manila, and such branches and agencies in other places, within and outside of the Philippines, as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its business.

SEC. 2. The LASEDECO shall have the following powers, duties and functions:

- (a) To facilitate the acquisition, settlement and cultivation of agricultural lands;
- (b) To afford opportunity to own farms to tenant farmers and small farmers from congested areas, to graduates of agricultural schools and colleges, to trainees who have completed the prescribed military training, to veterans and members of guerrilla organizations, and to other persons as may be determined by the Board of Directors with the approval of the Secretary of Economic Coordination;
- (c) To encourage migration to sparsely populated regions, and facilitate the amalgamation of the people in different sections of the Philippines;
- (d) To acquire by grant from the Republic of the Philippines unrestricted areas of public agricultural lands in order to carry out its objectives; to survey, subdivide and set aside lots or areas of such lands for farming, townsites, roads, parks, government centers, recreational centers and other public and civic improvements; and to dispose of farm lands and townsite lots to persons qualified and to the extent of areas authorized under the Constitution and the Public Land Act, subject to such other qualifications, and to prices, terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors, with the approval of the Secretary of Economic Coordination, the proceeds from disposition of the same to accrue to the Corporation; Provided, however, That within a period of ten years after the final grant, the farm lands and townsite lots aforementioned shall not, except by inheritance, be encumbered, alienated or transferred, nor shall they become liable to the satisfaction of any debt

contracted prior to the expiration of the said period; but the improvements or crops on such lands and lots may be mortgaged or pledged to credit agencies duly authorized therefor by the Board of Directors;

(e) To establish and operate credit agencies, electric light and water plants, water supplies, irrigation systems, cooperative to engage in the buying and selling of commodities, and other services or conveniences for the well-being of the settlers;

(f) To encourage mechanized farming; to operate tractor and agricultural machinery pools; and to maintain training centers for the operation and repair of agricultural machinery, tractors and the like;

(g) To assist in the establishment of agricultural and other vocational schools within the areas under its territorial jurisdiction, and to allocate definite portions of farm lands and townsite lots with a view to enabling students successfully finishing courses prescribed in said agricultural and vocational schools to eventually acquire title thereto;

(h) To do all such other things and to transact all such business directly or indirectly necessary, incidental or conducive to their attainment of the purposes of the Corporation; and

(i) Generally, to exercise all the powers of a corporation under the Corporation Law in so far as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Order.

CAPITAL

SEC. 3. The LASEDECO shall have as its capital the net worth of the National Land Settlement Administration, and the Rice and Corn Production Administration and the Machinery and Equipment Department of the National Development Company, as determined in accordance with Section 13 of this Order, including the appraised value to be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and Natural Resources of lands ceded to it pursuant to section 14 of this Order, and such appropriations as may be authorized by law.

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall not be liable for any debt, liability, obligation or damage that might be contracted, incurred or caused by the corporation.

MANAGEMENT

SEC. 4. The management of the LASEDECO shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of a chairman and six members, appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission in Appointments. The said members shall serve as designated by the President in their appointments for terms of one, two, and three years, respectively, from the date they qualify and assume office; but their successors shall be appointed for terms of three years, except that any person chosen to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member whom he succeeds. For actual attendance at meetings, each director shall receive a per diem of twenty-five pesos.

SEC. 5. The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties: