

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 148, September 01, 1999 ]**

**ESTABLISHING THE SOCSKSARGEN FISHING INDUSTRY STEERING COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS , Pacific Island Nations, whose waters are traditional tuna fishing grounds, have proposed and imposed laws that would close these waters to Filipino fishermen;

WHEREAS , the rapid growth of the SOCSKSARGEN fishing industry necessitates wider access of Filipino fishermen to major fishing grounds of our neighboring countries and Pacific Island Nations;

WHEREAS , an active government support for the SOCSKSARGEN fishing industry would boost the performance of this national income earner, as well as advance the country's position as the leading supplier in the approximately US\$3 billion a year worldwide tuna market;

WHEREAS , there is a need to create a national level inter-agency committee that will address the policy concerns and needs of the SOCSKSARGEN fishing industry both at the local and international levels;

WHEREAS , the SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project Office established under Executive Order No. 474 (s. 1991) and reconstituted under Executive Order No. 39 and 39-A (s. 1998) under the Presidential Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects oversees the overall development of major infrastructure projects in and around General Santos;

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of the SOCSKSARGEN Fishing Industry Steering Committee. There is hereby established a SOCSKSARGEN Fishing Industry Steering Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee shall be composed of the following:

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| Chairman, Presidential Committee on Flagship Programs and Projects | Chairman    |
| Secretary, Department of Agriculture                               | Co-Chairman |
| Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs                           | Member      |
| Secretary, Department of Labor                                     | Member      |