

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
Maricao Avenue, Pasig City

October 24, 1996

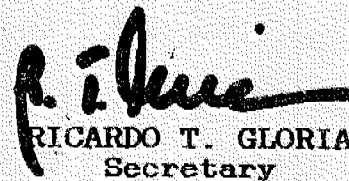
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DECS O R D E R
No. 77, s. 1996

IMPLEMENTATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 292

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Superintendents
Directors of Services/Centers and Heads of Units
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. Pursuant to the Order of His Excellency the President of the Philippines in Administrative Order No. 292 dated September 26, 1996, Adopting Implementing Guidelines to Ensure the Broadest Participation of the Basic Sectors of All Levels in the Implementation of the Social Reform Agenda, all offices/officials are hereby directed to coordinate and cooperate with and assist and support the Social Reform Council in the immediate implementation in each level and/or area.
2. This Order shall take effect immediately.
3. Immediate dissemination of this Order to all concerned is enjoined.


RICARDO T. GLORIA
Secretary

Incls.:
As stated

Reference:
DECS Order: No. 3, s. 1995

Allotment: 1-2-3--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

- ✓ BUREAUS & OFFICES
- ✓ OFFICIALS
- ✓ LEGISLATIONS

MALACAÑANG
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 292

ADOPTING IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THE BROADEST PARTICIPATION OF THE BASIC SECTORS AT ALL LEVELS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA

WHEREAS, the basic sectors, NGOs, labor and business sector representatives to the Social Reform Council (SRC) have established a Basic Sector Counterpart Council (BSCC) to ensure the autonomy and integrity of their participation in the Social Reform Agenda (SRA);

WHEREAS, the sectoral representatives formulated and adopted the BSCC Organizational Mechanisms and Guidelines which define the parameters for the participation of the basic sectors in the SRA to ensure principled partnership with government;

WHEREAS, government recognizes that the basic sectors, labor, non-government and other organizations in the civil society are important partners in governance who have their own decision-making processes and are capable of resolving conflicts among themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the adoption of this Implementing Guidelines to ensure the broadest and meaningful participation of the Basic Sectors in the enhanced Social Reform Agenda, as the National Integrated Action Agenda on Anti-Poverty.

SECTION. 1. All Cabinet Officers for Regional Development (CORDs), Heads of Flagship Agencies, GOCCs, Regional Development Councils and Local Government Units are hereby directed to support the effective implementation of this guidelines to ensure the broadest and meaningful participation of the Basic Sectors in the Social Reform Agenda (SRA).

SEC. 2. All SRA Technical Working Groups shall recognize and closely coordinate with the designated sectoral representatives and organizations from the national, regional and local levels in the implementation of the SRA.

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SEC. 3. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall issue supplementary guidelines in consultation with the Basic Sector Counterpart Council representatives, to their respective regional and local constituencies with PO/NGO mechanisms, to ensure the smooth interface of SRA's Basic Sectors Counterpart Structures at all levels.

SEC. 4. All Sectoral Representatives to the Social Reform Council are hereby directed to hasten the process of localizing this Implementing Guidelines and interface with existing PO/NGO mechanisms in government at all levels.

SEC. 5. The SRC Secretariat shall closely coordinate with the Basic Sectors Counterpart Council and Secretariat in the effective implementation of this guidelines.

SEC. 6. The Basic Sector Counterpart Council shall undertake periodic review of the Implementing Guidelines, and may propose amendments which shall be approved by the SRA Lead Convenor.

SEC. 7. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 26th day of September in the year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-Six.

By the President:



RUBEN D. TORRES
Executive Secretary

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY (#1-1430H-INTEG)

**CONVERGING THE SOCIAL REFORM
AGENDA BY LOCALIZATION**

**Speech of H. E. President Fidel V. Ramos
Regional Caucus to Fast-Track the Social
Reform Agenda (SRA) Localization
Malacañang, Manila, Philippines
1430H September 27, 1996**

INTRODUCTION

TWO YEARS AGO, WE LAUNCHED THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA (SRA) AS A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF REFORMS THAT WOULD ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF WHAT HAS BEEN CALLED "UNPEACE". WE IDENTIFIED THOSE CAUSES TO BE MASSIVE POVERTY AND ECONOMIC INEQUITY; INDIFFERENT LOCAL GOVERNANCE; INJUSTICE AND ABUSE OF POWER, AND UNCARING ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT.

THE SRA WAS ENVISIONED TO COMPLEMENT OUR EFFORTS AT THE PEACE PROCESS AND AT ECONOMIC RECOVERY. AT THE FIRST SOCIAL REFORM SUMMIT ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1994, WE IN GOVERNMENT AFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO PURSUE THESE REFORMS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BASIC SECTORS.

AT THE NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY SUMMIT IN MARCH THIS YEAR, THE SRA WAS ADOPTED AS THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL ACTION AGENDA ON ANTI-POVERTY TO COVER THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF POVERTY WHERE REFORM CAN MAKE THE GREATEST IMPACT:

- ON SOCIAL EQUITY, BY PROVIDING THE LEAST AMONG US WITH ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES FOR SURVIVAL;
- ON ECONOMIC PROSPERITY, BY ENSURING THAT OUR BASIC SECTORS HAVE ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ASSETS THAT ALLOW THEM TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL GROWTH;
- ON ECOLOGICAL BALANCE, BY INCORPORATING THE PARAMETERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES;
- ON RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE, BY DEMOCRATIZING STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES TO ALLOW MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING.

DURING YOUR REGIONAL CLUSTER WORKSHOPS THIS MORNING, YOU HAVE SEEN EXACTLY WHAT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE TO LOCALIZE THE AGENDA. AND I AM GLAD THAT YOU HAVE FORMALIZED YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SRA THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS THAT YOU JUST SIGNED.

ACHIEVING SPECIFIC TARGETS

I AM ALSO ENCOURAGED BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACHIEVE SPECIFIC POVERTY REDUCTION TARGETS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE REGIONS AND PROVINCES AS YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR ATTAINING THE NATIONAL POVERTY INCIDENCE RATE OF 30 PERCENT BY 1998.

THIS MORNING, SECRETARY ROBERT BARBERS SPELLED OUT YOUR TASKS AS ANTI-POVERTY CHAMPIONS, A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE ENTIRE "UNIVERSE OF EXPECTATIONS" FROM LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE 1991 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE.

IT IS A FORMIDABLE LIST, BUT I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU CAN MEET THE CHALLENGE, IF TRULY, YOU HAVE OUR PEOPLE'S WELFARE IN MIND.

I ALREADY SIGNED, LAST JULY 12, 1996 EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 356, PRESCRIBING THE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FAST-TRACKING SRA LOCALIZATION. THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS (RDC) SHALL SERVE AS THE REGIONAL POLICY-MAKING BODY ON ANTI-POVERTY. THE RDC CHAIRMEN SHALL BE COMPLEMENTED BY THE CABINET OFFICERS FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CORDs) IN OVERSEEING THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SRA. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING THE MINIMUM BASIC NEEDS OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

A FUND TRACKING MECHANISM

I HAVE SIGNED TODAY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 291 ESTABLISHING A FUND TRACKING MECHANISM TO HELP US MONITOR HOW GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN SOCIAL REFORM IS BEING UTILIZED. THE GUIDELINES COVER THE REGULAR BUDGET UNDER THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT (GAA), OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA), AND INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS (IRAs).

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE SEGREGATED THOSE PORTIONS OF THEIR REGULAR BUDGETS WHICH CORRESPOND TO THEIR PROGRAM COMMITMENTS TO SRA AND DISAGGREGATED THE AMOUNTS BY PROVINCE AND BY CITY. YOU HAVE BEEN PROVIDED COPIES OF THE BUDGET DISAGGREGATION.

WE WOULD LIKE TO PROMOTE GREATER TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC SPENDING AND AT THE SAME TIME GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLEMENT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES WITH YOUR OWN.

I AM LIKEWISE ENSURING THE MOST BROAD-BASED PARTICIPATION OF THE BASIC SECTORS AT ALL LEVELS IN SRA IMPLEMENTATION BY THE ISSUANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 292 PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE BASIC SECTOR COUNTERPART COUNCIL MECHANISMS AS PART OF THE SRA.

I ENJOIN YOU ALL TO RECOGNIZE AND CLOSELY COORDINATE WITH THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL BASIC SECTOR COUNCILS THAT ARE BEING ORGANIZED BY THE SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SOCIAL REFORM COUNCIL AND TO REGULARLY INTERFACE WITH THEM.

MORE MANAGEABLE BATTLES

WHY IS ALL OF THIS NECESSARY? LOCALIZING THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA, MAKING IT WORK AT THE BARANGAY LEVEL IS WHAT CAN SUSTAIN THE GAINS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE PEACE PROCESS.

LOCALIZATION IS BREAKING THE NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY WAR INTO MANAGEABLE BATTLES. THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE IS THE BATTLE FOR THE MINDS AND HEARTS OF OUR PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND DISADVANTAGED.

HISTORY TELLS US THAT REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS SUCCEED BECAUSE PEOPLE NO LONGER HAVE FAITH IN THOSE WHO GOVERN. A GOVERNMENT THAT CANNOT TAKE CARE OF ITS POOR LOSES ITS LEGITIMACY IN THE EYES OF ITS PEOPLE.

THE PEACE AGREEMENT WE SIGNED IN MINDANAO WITH CHAIRMAN NUR MISUARI IS A MANIFESTATION OF OUR CONVICTION THAT THE PEACE PROCESS IS DO-ABLE AND VIABLE IN THE LONG TERM. AND IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN THE INITIAL GAINS OF THAT ACCORD, THE 14 PROVINCES AND 9 CITIES CONSTITUTING THE SPECIAL ZONE OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT (ZOPAD) IN MINDANAO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS SPECIAL CONVERGENCE AREAS UNDER THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA.

THIS MEANS THAT ALL FLAGSHIP CHAMPIONS SHALL FOCUS AND FAST-TRACK THE DELIVERY OF THEIR PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES IN THE 14 PROVINCES AND 9 CITIES COVERED BY THE ZOPAD.

LOCALIZATION EMPOWERS PEOPLE, BEYOND SIMPLY ALLOWING THEM THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE. IT ALLOWS THEM A WIDER RANGE OF CHOICES. WE CANNOT BE PROUD OF OUR 7.1 PERCENT GNP GROWTH RATE DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THIS YEAR UNLESS IT IS TRANSLATED INTO CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE ORDINARY FILIPINO.

THIS MEANS THAT OUR POOR MUST BE GIVEN ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL RAISE INCOMES AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL. IN MY VISITS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND IN THE URBAN SLUMS, I HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THE KIND OF POSITIVE IMPACT OUR PROGRAMS HAVE ON OUR PEOPLE.

THE MINIMUM BASIC NEEDS (MBN) APPROACH, FOR EXAMPLE, NOT ONLY SERVES AS A SITUATION ANALYSIS AND PLANNING TOOL FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION. IT IS ALSO A WAY TO EMPOWER OUR PEOPLE AND EDUCATE OUR ELECTORATE.

ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITIES

LOCALIZATION IS ESTABLISHING ACCOUNTABILITY. BY CLEARLY DELINEATING WHO DOES WHAT IN SRA IMPLEMENTATION, WE CAN SEE WHERE THE GAPS ARE AND WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM.

ALTHOUGH I CAN CALL ON THE ASSISTANCE OF ANY AGENCY OR PERSON IN CARRYING OUT THE TASKS ATTENDANT TO THAT RESPONSIBILITY, MY ACCOUNTABILITY AS PRESIDENT IS TO ENSURE THAT THIS GOVERNMENT ADOPTS A REFORMIST OUTLOOK TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TOWARDS THE ACTUALIZATION OF OUR SHARED VISION OF "PHILIPPINES 2000!!!". I CONSIDER MYSELF PERSONALLY ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY.

YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY AS LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS THAT RESPOND TO THE DEEPEST CONCERNS OF YOUR CONSTITUENTS. THEY CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU REPRESENT TO THEM HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE. THE PEOPLE'S OPINION OF HOW EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT IS WILL BE DETERMINED BY THEIR IMPRESSION OF HOW WELL YOU DO YOUR JOB.

SUSTAINING THE SRA

EVEN AS THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA UNDERPINS PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT, APPREHENSIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED REGARDING THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SRA ITSELF. THE STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION MUST BE INSTITUTIONALIZED BEYOND THE POLITICAL LIFETIME OF MY ADMINISTRATION, SO THAT THE POOR WILL CONTINUE TO REAP THE BENEFITS.

WE HAVE ALLIES IN BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS WHO FILED PROPOSALS TO CREATE A NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION TO INTEGRATE AND OVERSEE THE EXECUTION OF ALL EXISTING SOCIAL REFORM INITIATIVES, AND TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITIES OF THE POOR TOWARDS GREATER EMPOWERMENT. TO SUSTAIN THE GAINS OF SRA, I WILL SUPPORT THE ANTI-POVERTY BILL WHICH WILL CREATE THE COMMISSION AND THE PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT FUND AS A PRIORITY ADMINISTRATION MEASURE, AS SOON AS AN APPROPRIATE, WELL-COORDINATED BILL IS FILED.

THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR LASTING PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NATION-WIDE THROUGH THE SOCIAL REFORM AGENDA. THE POLICIES AND STRUCTURES ARE IN PLACE, THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOTTED.

CLOSING

IN OTHER WORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ALL PREPARED AND WELL-PROVISIONED TO GO TO WAR -- TO DO BATTLE AGAINST THAT MOST BRUTAL AND BRUTALIZING OF HUMAN ENEMIES, THE MASS POVERTY THAT YOU AND I HAVE PLEDGED TODAY TO FIGHT AND TO ERADICATE.

I WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THAT NOBLE EFFORT.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

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