PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 461

DATE: May 17, 1974

REORGANIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF **AGRICULTURE** AND NATURAL RESOURCES INTO TWO DEPARTMENTS, NAMELY: DEPARTMENT OF **AGRICULTURE** AND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CHAPTER I, PART VIII OF THE INTEGRATED REORGANIZATION PLAN

WHEREAS, it is a primary objective of the Government to conserve, revitalize and develop the country's national wealth and manage its utilization for the continued well-being of present and future generations;

WHEREAS, progressively increasing demands for food, agricultural raw materials, mineral, aquatic, and forest products, are being felt throughout the world and predicted to intensify in the immediate future;

WHEREAS, within the Philippines itself, the demands of a growing population exert tremendous pressure on the country's existing food and natural resources;

WHEREAS, in the light of growing domestic and world demands for basic commodities, there is a pressing need to continuously assess the status of all existing food and natural resources of the Philippines with the view to maximizing their possible, providing for their replacement;

WHEREAS, the development of **agriculture** and the management of natural resources involve two separate broad and complex programs which are presently being planned and implemented by only one organization; and

WHEREAS, the attainment as soon as possible of the national goal of increased production and self-sufficiency in basic foods and the completion of an up-dated inventory and assessment of the nation's natural resources for the purpose of ensuring **conservation,** optimal utilization, programmed exploitation and replacement whenever possible, can best be achieved if these objectives are prosecuted by two separate departments.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FERDINAND E. MARCOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution, do hereby adopt this amendment to Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan as part of the law of the land.

Sec. 1. Presidential Decree No. 1, dated September 24, 1972, relative to Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan is hereby amended by reorganizing the Department of **Agriculture** and Natural Resources into two Departments, namely: (a) Department of **Agriculture** and (b) Department of Natural Resources.

Sec. 2. The Department of **Agriculture** shall be composed of the Department Proper which shall include the Office of the Secretary, the Planning Service, the Financial and Computer Service Center, the Administrative Service, the Computer Service Center, and the Agrarian Reform Unit. The Bureaus under the supervision and control of the Department are the (1) **Bureau of Soils,** (2) **Bureau of Plant** Industry, (3) **Bureau** of Animal Industry, (4) **Bureau** of Agricultural Extension, and (5) **Bureau** of Agricultural Economics. The following government-owned and controlled corporations are attached to the Department: (a) National Grains Authority, (b) Philippine Tobacco Administration, (c) Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration, (d) Philippine Coconut Authority, (e) Coconut Investment Company, and (f) Philippine Cotton Corporation. The **Fertilizer** Industry Authority, National Food and **Agriculture** Council, and the National Meat Inspection Commission are placed under the administrative supervision of the Department. The Coconut Consumers Stabilization Committee is attached to the Department. The Philippine Council of Agricultural Research shall be attached to the National Science Development Board.

Sec. 3. The organization and functions of the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, and the Administrative Service shall be in accordance with Articles III, IV, and V, Chapter I, Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan.

Sec. 4. The Computer Service shall be responsible for providing the Department and the bureaus under it, including the corporations and other agencies attached to it with economical, efficient, and effective services relating to electronic data processing.

Sec. 5. The Agrarian Reform Unit shall be responsible for providing advice and assistance to the Office of the Secretary in coordinating the work of the Department extension service and **soil surveys** and classification with that of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Sec. 6. The organizations and functions of the **Bureau** of Animal Industry, **Bureau** Agricultural Extension,

and **Bureau** of Agricultural Economics shall be provided in Paragraphs 7 and 8, Article II and in Article IV, VIII, and IX, respectively, of Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan and in Letter of Implementation No. 9, dated November 1, 1972.

Sec. 7. There is created a **Bureau of Plant** Industry which shall be responsible for conducting research on agricultural **crops;** production of improved seeds and **plant** materials; protection of agricultural **crops** from pests and diseases; development and improvement of farm equipment, structures, and practices, and such other functions as may be provided by law. The **Bureau of Plant** Industry shall have, in addition to a Planning and Management Staff and an Administrative Division, the following divisions: (a) Laboratory Services Division, (b) Research Division, (c) Production Division, (d) Farm Development Division which is renamed Agricultural Engineering Division, and (e) **Crop** Protection Division. The functions of these divisions shall be as provided in Paragraph 2, Article III, Chapter I, Part VII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan and in Letter of Implementation No. 9, except that the Laboratory Services Division and the Research Division shall not have the functions on production of **soil** inoculants and **soil** research, respectively.

Sec. 8. There is created a **Bureau of Soils** which shall be responsible for the assessment, development and **conservation** of existing and potential **soil** resources of the Philippines; conducting research on different aspects of **soil** utilization, management, and **conservation;** and such other functions as may be provided by law. The **Bureau of Soils** shall have, in addition to a Planning and Management Staff and an Administrative Division, the following divisions:

a. Laboratory Services Division which shall be provide technical supervision in the effective operation and maintenance of the **Bureau's soil** laboratories, including the maintenance of precision laboratory equipment; prescribe standards in the physical; and/or chemical analysis of **soils** for researches and farmlands as the bases for formulation of **fertilizer** and lime recommendation and for **soil** characterization; prepare the program for the production and distribution of **soil** inoculants; coordinate with the **Soil** Research Division in the study of new and effective methods of analysis and with **Soil** Fertility Division in updating **soil** correlation values and **fertilizer** requirements of **crops;** and perform such other functions may be provided by law.

b. **Soil Conservation** Division which shall formulate policies, standards and measures for **soil** and water **conservation** and utilization; develop a program of field demonstrations on **soil** and water land-use program for **agriculture** areas on the control of **soil erosion,** floods, and siltation; exercise technical supervision over all **soil** and water **conservation** stations of the Bureaus; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

c. **Soil** Fertility Division which shall develop plans and procedures for field studies and surveys on **soil** fertility; prescribe procedures and techniques on the use of fertilizes, **soil** amendments and fertility maintenance practices; compile and analyze results of field **fertilizer** and fertility maintenance studies for purposes of preparing and issuing periodic **soil** fertility status and **fertilizer** recommendations for major economic **crops;** and perform such other functions be provided by law.

d. **Soil** Research Division which shall design a program of researches on **soil** chemistry, **soil** physics, **soil** biology and mineral nutrition as they relate to agricultural and non-agricultural application; provide standards and establish criteria for research on **soil** utilization, **conservation and soil,** water, and **plant** relationship; exercise technical supervision in the operation of the **Bureau's** research stations; maintain liaison with other research institutions in both government and private sectors, including foreign institutions; provide technical assistance to other agencies in conducting training programs on **soil** research and other related subjects; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

e. **Soil Surveys** Division which shall prepare the plans and programs on basic **soil surveys** at all levels of generalizations throughout the Philippines to provide sufficient **soil** resources data needed by the government and the private sector; interpret basic **soil survey** data to provide information on land classification, land capability and land-use; provide standards and guidelines in the conduct of **soil surveys** and other related activities, consolidate, review, and summarize reports on **soil surveys** for dissemination: prepare and maintain thematic maps, charts, tables, photo mosaics, diagrams and other related materials; and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

Sec. 9. The Department of Natural Resources shall be composed of the Department Proper which shall include the Office of the Secretary, the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, and the Administrative Service. In addition, there are created in the Department Proper a Legal Service, Computer Service Unit and an Agrarian Reform Unit. The bureaus under the supervision and control of the Department are: (a) **Bureau** of Forest Development, (b) **Bureau** of Lands, (c) **Bureau** of Fisheries, which is renamed **Bureau** of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and (d) **Bureau** of Mines. The following agencies are attached to the Department: (a) Presidential Committee on Wood Industries Development, (b) National Committee for Mineral Exploration and Survey Operations, (c) Fishery Industry Development Council, (d) Surigao Mineral Reservation Board, (e) Presidential Action Committee on Land Problems.

The National Committee for Mineral Exploration and Survey Operations is reconstituted as follows: Secretary of Natural Resources, as Chairman, Director of Mines, as Vice-Chairman, and representative of the Office of the Executive Secretary, Budget Commission, Philippine Air Force, Philippine Navy, **Bureau** of Cost and Geodetic Survey, **Bureau** of Forest Development, **Bureau** of Lands, **Bureau of Plant** Industry, and **Bureau of Soils,** as members.

Sec. 10. The organizations and functions of the Planning Service, the Financial and Management Service, and the Administrative Service shall be in accordance with Article III, IV, and V, Chapter I, Part II of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, except that the Administrative Service shall not have a Legal Division.

Sec. 11. The Legal Service shall have the following functions: Prepare decisions and orders on cases involving the disposition, utilization, exploitation, and development of public lands, forest, mines, aquatic resources and other natural resources brought on appeal from action taken by the bureaus under the Department, review patents, licenses, concessions, permits, deeds of conveyance, sales and other transfer of rights, affecting public lands, mines, forest, aquatic resources and other natural resources initiated and/or processed by the bureaus under the Department: appear as counsel for the Secretary, Undersecretary, **bureau** directors, and other subordinate employees under the Department in court cases where such officials or employees are parties thereto in their official capacities and upon authorization of the Solicitor General; conduct administrative investigation, including the review of administrative charges against employees of the Department: and perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

Sec. 12. The Agrarian Reform Unit of the Department shall be responsible for providing the Office of the Secretary with advise and assistance in coordinating the work of the Department on land surveys, release of lands of the public domain for resettlement purposes, and other related activities with that of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Sec. 13. The organizations and functions of the **Bureau** of Lands, **Bureau** of Forest Development, **Bureau** of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and **Bureau** of Mines shall be as provided in Paragraphs 7 and 8, Article II and in Articles V, VI, VII, and X, respectively, of Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan is amended by creating the Petroleum Division which shall be responsible for the administration and development of the petroleum resources of the country. The Mineral Resources Development Division is renamed Mineral Resources Administration which shall be responsible for the administration of minerals lands.

Sec. 14. The Regional Offices of the Bureaus of **Soils, the Bureau of Plant** Industry, the **Bureau** of Animal Industry, the **Bureau** of Agricultural Extension and those of the **Bureau** of the Forest Development, the **Bureau** of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the **Bureau** of Lands shall established in accordance with Article I, Chapter III, Part II, of the Integrated Reorganization Plan, as amended, and with the Letter of Implementation No. 9. The **Bureau** of Mines shall established its regional offices in accordance with its requirements, subject to the approval of the President upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Sec. 15. Section 1 of Presidential Decree No. 107, dated January 24, 1973, is hereby amended by removing the Secretary of **Agriculture** and Natural Resources from membership in the National Economic and Development Authority and providing for the membership in that body of the Secretary of Natural Resources.

The Secretary of **Agriculture** shall be ex-officio

(a) Chairman of the Council of the National Grains Authority; **Fertilizer** Industry Authority, National Food and **Agriculture** Council, National Artificial Rain Stimulating Committee.

(b) Vice-Chairman of the Philippine Council for **Agriculture** Research and the Board of Directors of the Greater Manila Terminal Food Market; and

(c) Member of the Metric System Board, Board of Directors of the Philippine International Trading Corporation, Board of Trustees of the Tarlac College Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, Boards of Directors of the National Irrigation Administration, National Manpower and Youth Council, Price Control Council, Executive Committee of the National Security Council and the Agrarian Reform Coordinating Council.

The Secretary of Natural Resources shall be ex-officio

(a) Chairman of the Petroleum Board, Presidential Committee on Wood Industries Development, Presidential Action Committee on Land Problems, National Committee for Mineral Exploration and Survey Operation, Fishery Industry Development Council and Surigao Mineral Reservation Board.

(b) Co-Chairman of the National Minorities Assistance Council, and

(c) Member of the Metric System Board, Board of Directors of the Philippine International Trading Corporation,

Committee to Study the Financing Scheme for Nationwide River Control and Reforestation Projects, National Economic and Development Authority, Executive Committee of the National Security Council, Agrarian Reform Coordinating Council, Philippine Council for Agricultural Research, Board of Directors of the National Irrigation Administration and Water Resource Council.

Sec. 16. All provisions of Chapter I, Part VIII of the Integrated Reorganization Plan and of the Letter of Implementation No. 9 which are not amended or not inconsistent with the foregoing provisions shall remain in full force and effect and shall be correspondingly applied in accordance with the intents and purposes of this Decree.

Sec. 17. The functions of the Department of **Agriculture** and National Resources pertaining to agricultural development and those relating to the administration of natural resources shall be respectively transferred to the Department of **Agriculture** and Department of Natural Resources. Such transfer shall include the corresponding balance of appropriations, records, equipment, property and such **personnel** as may be necessary. Additional funds, if necessary, shall be appropriated from funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated for personal services in the two Departments. The appropriations for the Agricultural Guarantee and Loan Fund and for the procurement and distribution of **fertilizers** and certified seeds shall be transferred to the Department of **Agriculture.** The transfer of the bureaus to the two Departments shall include their respective balance of appropriations, records, equipment, property and **personnel.** The duly appointed Secretaries of each of the departments created hereby, shall promulgate the necessary administrative orders that will provide the implementing details of the provisions of this Section, and shall be responsible for carrying into immediate effect the intents and purposes of this Decree.

Sec. 18. This Decree shall take effect upon its approval.

Done in the City of Manila, this 17th day of May, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-four.