

DECLARING BARAS PEACE ZONE IN KABANKALAN CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND MABINAY, NEGROS ORIENTAL, AS SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT AREA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 101, May 03, 2002

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WHEREAS, the government is undertaking a comprehensive peace process as mandated by Executive Order (EO) No. 125, s. 1993, as amended by EO No. 03, s. 2001;

WHEREAS, one of the principles of the comprehensive peace process is that it should be community-based, reflecting the sentiments, values and principles important to Filipinos, as defined by them as one community;

WHEREAS, one component of the comprehensive peace process is the undertaking of programs to address the legal status and security of former rebels, as well as community-based assistance programs to address the economic, social and psychological rehabilitation needs of former rebels, demobilized combatants and civilian victims of internal conflicts;

WHEREAS, peace zones are geographical areas that have been declared off-limits to war and any other forms of armed hostility by its residents, who are categorized as civilian victims of internal armed conflicts;

WHEREAS, to be able to sustain peace and uplift the socio-economic well-being of the residents in the peace zones, there is a need for the immediate and aggressive implementation of development projects that will bring about the effective delivery of basic social services;

WHEREAS, the residents of the Baras Peace Zone, comprising Barangay Bantayan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental and Barangay Baras Dacu, Mabinay, Negros Oriental, have requested socio-economic assistance for community development projects that will pave the way for the Peace Zone to become a progressive farming community in a sustained peaceful environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The Baras Peace Zone in Barangay Bantayan, Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental and Barangay Baras Dacu, Mabinay, Negros Oriental is hereby declared as a Special Development Area.

SEC. 2. The amount of P7,200,000.00 from the President's Social Fund is hereby released to the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process as a grant, to fund the special integrated area development program of the Baras Peace Zone.

SEC. 3. The Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process is hereby charged to coordinate with the concerned national government agencies and local government units to ensure that the needs of the Baras Peace Zone are adequately addressed. He is further tasked to guide and assist in the full implementation of the development projects in the area.

DONE in the City of Manila, this 3rd day of May in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Two.

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(SGD.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Executive Secretary

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