

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 496, January 14, 1977

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION NO. 496, January 14, 1977

Read online (full-text search, related cases, audio case brief): <https://batas.org/library/69a99c7ef9f9/>

TO: The Secretary of Labor
The Secretary of Public Works
The Secretary of Public Highways
The Secretary of Natural Resources
The Secretary of Local Government and Community

Development

The Secretary of Agriculture
President, Philippine National
Bank Administrator, National Grains Authority
All heads of local governments concerned

WHEREAS, the Philippine sugar industry is severely-affected by the present slump in the world price of sugar;

WHEREAS, this slump has resulted in cutbacks in the local sugar production causing massive lay-offs of sugar workers;

WHEREAS, the dislocation rate of sugar workers is expected to be as much as 30% at the end of the present milling season;

WHEREFORE, be it ordered as it is hereby ordered that emergency measures be immediately initiated and carried out, jointly or separately to provide all possible assistance and relief to affected sugar workers and their families; Provided, that any project or program undertaken shall satisfy the following criteria: (1) priority to the most distressed workers and planters, (2) with immediate impact, and (3) with maximum employment content;

To ensure effective coordination of the efforts of the various agencies participating in the amelioration of the sugar workers affected by the economic crisis, there is hereby created an Inter-Agency Task Force—Sugar Workers, which shall be composed of the following:

Secretary Bias F. Ople
Department of Labor Chairman

Secretary Baltazar Aquino
Department of Public Highways Member

Secretary Arturo Tanco
Department of Agriculture Member

Secretary Alfredo Juinio
Department of Public Works Member

Secretary Jose Leido

Department of Natural Resources Member

Administrator Jesus Tanchanco
National Grains Authority Member

President Panfilo Domingo
Philippine National Bank Member

To assist the Task Force, the Rural Workers Office of the Department of Labor is hereby constituted as the Task Force Secretariat.

The Task Force shall:

(a)

in coordination with the local governments and the regional development councils adopt a workplan for the immediate amelioration of the sugar workers and their families;

(b)

formulate plans and programs and set priorities for the disposition of development funds that may be made available;

(c)

establish as it may deem necessary

(1)

a project management group to supervise the implementation of the projects and to coordinate such activities according to priorities established by the Task Force;

(2)

a project monitoring group to monitor the progress of project implementation on the basis of the over-all development plan.

The Task Force is hereby authorized to call upon any department, office, agency or instrumentality of the government including the Regional Development Councils of Regions VI and VII for such assistance as may be necessary in the discharge of its functions and the attainment of its objectives;

The Task Force shall meet at least once a month to assess the implementation and the projects, and to monitor the implementation of these instructions. Weekly reports shall be submitted to me on the progress of the implementation of these instructions.

The Secretary of Labor shall monitor negotiations between workers and planters so that the present crisis may be met peaceably and with a minimum of antagonism. He is also directed to intensify the skills retraining program of workers and other remedial measures to enable them to find other employment opportunities.

The Secretaries of Public Works, Public Highways, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Local Government and Community Development, shall immediately implement all their respective projects already approved and funded in the affected areas. The Secretary of Agriculture is specifically instructed to initiate a livestock dispersal

program, for the affected sugar workers.

The Administrator of the National Grains Authority shall allow emergency rice loans to planters to enable them to restore the rice advances which were usually extended to sugar workers in the past.

The President of the Philippine National Bank shall guarantee the rice loans of sugar planters.

In coordination with the Task Force, the provincial and local governments shall initiate their own projects for the benefit of the workers involved.

The Commissioner of the Budget is directed to release P2,000,000.00 from any available fund for the implementation of this Letter of Instructions on top of what the various departments and agencies may appropriate from their own respective funds.

Done in the City of Manila, this 14th day of January, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and seventy-seven.

(Sgd.) FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President of the Philippines

ABOUT BATAS.ORG

Study smarter at BATAS.org

The Philippine bar review and law-school companion built around how your brain actually remembers.

The complete Philippine law library - free for everyone.

More than 100,000 Supreme Court decisions, Republic Acts, and executive issuances - full-text searchable, browsable by category and year, and always free. No paywall, no login. This PDF came from it.

Audio case-brief lectures.

Any decision becomes a podcast-style lecture - facts, issues, ruling, and doctrine - with read-along highlighting and a hands-free presentation mode. Study while commuting, working out, or resting your eyes.

Bar review built on the science of memory.

Complete, sequenced courses for all eight bar subjects, narrated like podcasts and reinforced with retrieval practice and spaced review - the study techniques with the strongest evidence behind them.

The full law-school curriculum.

One subscription unlocks the entire J.D. curriculum - every subject, every lesson, with your progress tracked down to the paragraph so you can pick up exactly where you left off, on any device.

Mock exams that tell you where you stand.

Timed multiple-choice exams graded instantly, with per-subject score breakdowns and focus suggestions that point you at your weakest topics first.

A study planner that keeps you on pace.

Set your schedule and BATAS tells you every day whether you are on track for bar day - and exactly which lesson to take next.

Start free at <https://batas.org>

The law library is free forever - and your first lesson is one click away.

The text of this document is an official public record and remains in the public domain. Formatting, presentation, and compilation © 2026 batas.org.

Downloaded free from the batas.org Law Library. Share it freely - the library is free for every law student, bar reviewee, and practitioner.