



## Stimulating Samar

THE President last November 17 gave the go-signal for the implementation of the Samar Integrated Rural Development Project (SIRDP) by directing the Cabinet Coordinating Committee on Integrated Rural Development Projects (CCC-IRDP) of the NEDA to oversee the project and by appropriating P7 million for its funding.

The go-signal, under Presidential Decree No. 1048, makes the SIRDP the fourth integrated rural development project of the national government under the direct supervision of the CCC-IRDP. The other three are the Bicol River Basin Project, Mindoro Integrated Rural Development Project and the Cagayan Valley Integrated Development Project.

The CCC-IRDP as created in Letter of Instructions No. 99 dated July 10, 1973 is composed of the secretaries of agriculture and public works, transportation and communications, as chairman and vice chairman, respectively, with the secretaries of finance, public highways, natural resources, local government and community development, agrarian reform, and economic planning as well as the representative of the Office of the President, as members.

The local government secretary shall be the Cabinet committee coordinator for the SIRDP and shall act for the chairman of the Cabinet Coordinating Committee in all administrative matters.

Under the decree, the Cabinet committee is charged with the planning and implementation of all rural development projects.

To effectively carry out rural development projects, the President ordered that the following policies be adopted:

- To integrate national and local government programs and projects within its jurisdiction, and

- To decentralize the planning and implementation of all rural development projects.

The President has also placed the SIRDP Office under the supervision of the Cabinet committee, through the Cabinet committee coordinator, for coordinating the planning and implementation of the project by the implementation of national and local government agencies.

The SIRDP Office shall be headed by a project director who shall maintain a technical and management staff to help him perform his duties and responsibilities.

It shall have field offices in Northern, Eastern and Western Samar which shall be headed by project officers who shall be appointed by the project director.

The President appropriated from the National Treasury funds P5 million for the SIRDP and its three field offices and P2 million for the CCC-IRDP.

In a related development, the President created the town of Tagapuluan in Western Samar, under his direct supervision in the execution of the developmental programs of the locality and, at the same time, ensure peace and order in the area.

Under Presidential Decree No. 1047, Tagapuluan is created out of the town of Almagro. However, the creation of Tagapuluan does not affect in any manner the legal existence of the mother town of Almagro, according to the decree.

The seat of government of the newly created town shall be located in barangay Sugod.

Pending the appointment by the President of the officials of Tagapuluan, the present elective officials of Almagro shall perform their duties as such



in the newly created town and shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected, "unless sooner removed by the President."

Under PD 1047, the President shall transfer to Tagapuluan its equal share in obligations, funds, assets, and other property from Almagro, upon recommendation of the Commission on Audit. □

## Muslim housing

THROUGH Letter of Instructions No. 481, the President last November 24 ordered the Budget Commission to release P9 million for the development of the Sahaya Housing Project and resettlement projects in Mindanao.

The amount, to be taken from previously unappropriated funds of the Rehabilitation and Development of Mindanao Program, is broken down as follows: Sahaya Housing Project, P7.5 million, and the various resettlement projects, P1.5 million.

The Southern Philippines Development Authority shall undertake the development of the Sahaya Housing Project. Specifically, it shall develop the project's water, electrical and sewerage systems, construct 200 dwelling units, barangay community facilities, and other social infrastructures, and widen and upgrade the access road.

It shall also undertake the improvement and rehabilitation of resettlement projects in Mindanao, including those in Tawi-Tawi, Jolo, and Marawi City.

The President directed the Departments of Public Highways and Public Works, Transportation and Communications to help in the development of the Sahaya infrastructure projects and to earmark money for the project in their 1977 budgets.

In ordering the release of P7.5 million for the Sahaya Housing Project, the President pointed out that the housing project "not only conforms with the human settlements approach in community development but also preserves the lifestyle of our Muslim brothers."

In a related development, the President ordered five government agencies to expand, upgrade and integrate the development of Maharlika Village "so as to make it truly a symbol of our national aspiration for unity in diversity."

Maharlika Village was established through Proclamation No. 1217, dated January 3, 1973, to serve the needs of the resident Muslim population of Metro Manila. It is located at Bicatan, Taguig, Metro Manila.

In Letter of Instructions No. 482, the President ordered:

- The National Housing Authority, as project administrator, to provide the cooperating agencies detailed plans of their participation and to advance to them funds needed to accomplish their participation, and undertake housing

development needed in the project;

- The Department of Public Highways to undertake road construction and land development within the project, including landscaping and development of parks and recreational areas;

- The Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications to construct all basic community amenities, such as schools, clinics, multi-purpose community building;

- The Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System to construct the water system, including deep wells and water reservoir, and sanitary sewerage systems that will lead to the development of a bio-gas system, and

- The Budget Commission to give due course to the request for funds by the participating agencies and to effect the needed transfer of funds from the cooperating agencies to the NEA to liquidate its cash advances. □



## The longest parks

THE President last November 18 ordered Natural Resources Secretary Jose Leido Jr. to prepare a proclamation which would set aside a belt of 25 kilometers on each side of the Marikina-Infanta Road as a national park and forest reserve.

To speed up implementation of the order, the President directed that photogrammetry be used in surveying the areas and in delineating boundaries.

Presidential Decree No. 399 issued in 1974 declares all lands of the public domain within a strip of 1,000 meters along any existing, proposed or ongoing public highway or road outside existing towns, cities or settlements, withdrawn from settlement or sale until the government has made a comprehensive and integrated land use and development plan for such lands.

The President's directives are part of the government program of public land utilization, forest conservation and the establishment of wildlife reservations and sanctuaries.

Just recently, the President, through Proclamation No. 1578, declared Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan, a game preserve and wildlife sanctuary. □

He has also issued Proclamation No. 1594 declaring an area in Ternate and Maragondon, Cavite, and Nasugbu, Batangas, a national park, game refuge and bird sanctuary. □

## Planners' community

GOVERNMENT employees in Metro Manila will soon enjoy the benefit of low-cost housing in planned communities. President Marcos last December 6 ordered the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to make available its 60-hectare land at barrio Kamias, in Antipolo, Rizal for the development of low-cost housing for government employees in Metro Manila.

The President's directive under Letter of Instructions No. 483 is in line with the government's policy to develop housing for government employees in Metro Manila.

The Kamias housing project development is expected to provide the government, particularly agencies involved in urban development planning, opportunities to apply and adapt ecological systems to community living.

To carry out the project, the President likewise directed the GSIS to make available money for the construction of housing units in the project and to advance to the participating government agencies their full requirements to undertake specific tasks until such funds can be made available to these agencies by means of their respective budgets.

Under the LOI, the National Housing Authority is made responsible for the construction of housing units of different designs. The NHA general manager will be the project administrator.

The President also ordered:

1. The Department of Public Highways to undertake the project's land development and road construction, including landscaping and the conversion of the lagoon and other areas into parks and recreational facilities;

2. The Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications to construct all basic community amenities, such as schools, clinics, and a multi-purpose administrative building, and develop wells in springs; and
3. The Metropolitan Water and Sewerage System to construct water and sanitary sewerage systems that will lead to the development of a bio-gas system.

These government agencies, including the GSIS and the NHA, will constitute a committee to be called "Bagong Nayon Project Committee," under the direct supervision of the Metro Manila government. The committee will plan and develop the housing project as a pilot project for the application of ecological systems in community living. It is authorized to employ professional services, such as appropriate consultants and project managers. □