



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

National Headquarters, Philippine National Police
Camp Crame, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 721-85-98 • Fax No. 725-31-78 • Fax No. 721-85-74

RESOLUTION NO. 02-2001

RESOLUTION CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESCUE OF CHILD LABORERS IN COMMERCIAL FISHING

WHEREAS, the Philippines, as one of the signatories to the International Labor Organization Convention 182, is committed to eliminate all forms of child labor and to improve their working conditions;

WHEREAS, various Philippine laws, one of them Republic Act 7610, as amended by RA 7658 prohibiting the employment of children in hazardous labor conditions, have been enacted to protect children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty and exploitation;

WHEREAS, the exploitation of children who work in commercial fishing, particularly in *muro ami* or any deep-sea fishing operations in Palawan and other major fishing grounds in the country, has reached an alarming proportion prompting no less the President, Mdme Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to make pronouncement for an intensified campaign against such exploitation of children;

WHEREAS, the clear and present danger in the exploitation of children, numbering to about six hundred based on estimates, in commercial fishing has brought about the urgency to effect appropriate massive surveillance and rescue operations for these minors and to ensure their safety and protection while legal action is being initiated against their violators;

WHEREAS, equally urgent is the creation of an inter-agency task force which shall implement a well-orchestrated government operations prior to, during, and after the rescue of those minors who have been both exploited and at risk of being victimized in commercial fishing operations;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as it is hereby resolved that an inter-agency **Task Force on Surveillance and Rescue of Child Laborers in Commercial Fishing** be created, to be composed of the following government agencies which shall either be principally or alternatively, unilaterally or multilaterally, involved in the entire phase of implementation to be formulated by these agencies: *Department of Labor and Employment; Department of Justice; Department of Social Welfare and Development; Department of the Interior and Local Government; Philippine National Police; National Bureau of Investigation; Armed Forces of the Philippines; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; Philippine Ports Authority; Maritime Industry Authority; and Philippine Coast Guard.*

FURTHER, be it resolved that the Philippine National Police, represented by the Director, Maritime Group, is designated as task force Chairman who shall initiate or cause to initiate meetings with other member agencies upon approval hereof.

FURTHERMORE, be it resolved that each member of the task force shall provide funds to be taken from their regular appropriations as may be necessary in the exercise of their respective mandates and in pursuance of this particular operation, until such time that the NALECC would be able to source funding from the President's Contingency Fund.

Approved unanimously by this Body this 4th day of May 2001, at the Department of Tourism, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

LEANDRO R MENDOZA
Police Director General
Chief, Philippine National Police
and
Chairman, NALECC

Attested by:

EDGAR B AGLIPAY
Police Director
The Director for Operations
and
Head, NALECC Secretariat