

Editor's Notes

It has been almost a decade since the Second Development Decade declared by the United Nations came to an end. A general examination of the conditions in the Third World, including the Philippines, will reveal that the general development efforts of most governments and international bodies have not been met with much success. Poverty still continues to be a major scourge of humankind. Thus, as a general introductory article it is appropriate to reflect on this continuing concern of theorists and practitioners of public administration: the issue of development and underdevelopment. Danilo R. Reyes' article "The Crisis of Underdevelopment: A Reexamination of Economic Models in the Third World" brings us back to basics, specifically in terms of reexamining the very models of development held by varying schools of thought of various ideological persuasions. Professor Reyes argues that it is possible to come up with a development model appropriate and suitable for Third World countries. Such a model incorporates the best features of both capitalist and Marxist economic theories.

We are featuring articles that examine some of the major development concerns of the Aquino government as it marks its first thousand days in office. Included among such concerns are privatization and agrarian reform. Privatization has been one strategy adopted by the Aquino government as part of its general development effort within the context of the post-dictatorship era. Leonor M. Briones in "Issues on the Privatization Policy in the Philippines" discusses among other things, the concept of privatization. The Philippine experience with privatization so far, has shown that it certainly does not provide all the answers to problems of inefficiency, waste and uncontrolled growth that bedevil organized government in underdeveloped countries. Professor Briones suggests that instead of adopting the privatization prescription in its entirety, policy makers should also consider the experiences of other countries that were successful in turning around ailing public enterprises into efficient and productive units, through conscious application of innovative management and dynamic policies.

Land reform, also broadly referred to as agrarian reform to include the total package of support services of the program, has been another key development strategy identified by the Aquino government. The 1987 Constitution provides for the adoption of a Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Ric Tan Legada's contribution is an article on "Assessment of the Implications of the CARP Law as a Reform Strategy." He argues that the law (Republic Act 6657) implementing this program contains some provisions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the fundamental law of the land. It has provisions that tend to favor some sectors such as transnational corporation and corporate farms not mentioned in the Constitution as groups to be given preferential treatment. Given this, he underscores the need to pass amendatory legislation to remove some of the defects of the 1988 CARP Law.

Agricultural development was also a development strategy adopted by the previous administration during its initial years in office. This was illustrated in its Masagana 99 Program that was generally aimed at improving the quality of life of the farmers by increasing palay production to an average of 99 cavans per hectare. The article by Kenneth Smith on "Palay, Policy and Public Administration: The 'Masagana 99' Revisited," which is based on his doctoral dissertation, illustrates through exhaustive investigation of government data, that marginal expansion of hectarage, not increased yield as was originally anticipated, was the key to the Philippines attaining rice self-sufficiency in crop year 1976. He concludes that *ex post facto* evaluation of the programs' Management Information System (MIS) can be of further utility to those given the responsibility of formulating and implementing future agriculture-oriented policies.

Finally, we are featuring R.C. Mascarenhas' 1988 book on A Strategy for Rural Development. It is reviewed by Vicente Mariano.