

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 178, May 28, 2007 ]**

**DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF TOURISM TO LEAD THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS IN CELEBRATION OF THE 109th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE ON JUNE 12, 2007**

**WHEREAS**, the heroism, patriotism and nationalism of our forebears in the struggle for independence deserve to be commemorated;

**WHEREAS**, the 109th anniversary of the proclamation of the Philippine Independence is the ideal occasion for all freedom-loving Filipinos to unite and rally behind the government and the country's institutions;

**WHEREAS**, the proper planning, implementation and coordination of all programs and activities leading to the celebration are urgently needed;

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

**Section 1.** The Secretary of Tourism is hereby directed to take the lead role in the planning, coordination, implementation and conduct of programs and activities in celebration of the 2007 Independence Day.

**Sec. 2.** The Department of Tourism, being the lead agency of this national event, shall immediately convene an inter-agency organizing task force to plan and implement effectively all programs, projects and activities related to this event.

**Sec. 3.** The inter-agency task force shall be composed of the Secretary of Tourism as Chair, with the Executive Director of the National Historical Institute and the Secretary of Education as Vice-Chairs. Other members of the inter-agency task force shall be designated by the Chair.

**Sec. 4.** All departments, bureaus, offices, national government agencies and local government units and government owned and controlled corporations are hereby enjoined to give full support, assistance, and cooperation to the Secretary of Tourism in the exercise of his responsibilities under this Administrative Order.

**Sec. 5.** All branches of government are enjoined to participate actively in the 2007 Independence as well as to enlist the participation of private sector groups and non-government organizations so that the 109th Philippine Independence Day celebration will be a show of unity and strength during these challenging times. Local government units, together with private sector groups, non-government organizations and the Philippine Embassies abroad, are likewise enjoined to