

[**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 73, May 17, 2003**
]

**DIRECTING THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS TO CELEBRATE PHILIPPINE
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON JUNE 12, 2003**

WHEREAS, there is a need for the Filipino people to commemorate the heroism, and self-sacrifice of our forefathers in the struggle for independence;

WHEREAS, the 105th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence is the ideal occasion for all Filipinos to unite and rally behind the government and the country's institutions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to properly plan, implement and coordinate all programs and activities leading to the said celebration.

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 designated to take the lead in the planning, coordination, implementation and conduct of programs and activities in the celebration of Philippine Independence Day 2003.

SEC. 2. All departments, bureaus, offices, national government agencies, 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 Order.

SEC. 3. All branches of government are enjoined to participate in the Independence Day Celebration as well as to enlist the participation of the private sector groups and the non-government organizations so that the 105th Philippine Independence Day celebration will be a show of unity and strength during these challenging times.

Local government units together with the private sector and the NGOs are likewise enjoined to celebrate Philippine Independence Day in their respective localities,

SEC. 4. The programs and events for the Philippine Independence Day celebration shall include, to the extent appropriate, the following;

- a. ***Pambansang Araw ng Watawat*** (Philippine National Flag Day) on May 28 as the kick-off ceremony for the two week Pagdiriwang ng Malayang Filipino (Philippine Independence Day Festival) to be conducted from May 28 to June 12 2003.
- b. Raising of the national flag and wreath-laying at the Rizal monument in the Rizal Park on June 12, 2003 at about 7:00 in the morning.