

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 698, January 18, 2008 ]**

**STRENGTHENING PROCLAMATION NO. 1637, S. 1977, WHICH DECLARED THE LUNGSOD SILANGAN TOWNSITE RESERVATION, AND DESIGNATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF ANTIPOLO, SAN MATEO AND RODRIGUEZ, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF AREAS IDENTIFIED AS NEW TOWNSITE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OF METRO MANILA AND RIZAL PROVINCE**

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall, by law, undertake a continuing program of urban land reform and housing which will make available at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to guide and improve the allocation, utilization, management, and development of the country's land resources, and to ensure their optimum use, under the principles of economic growth and efficiency, social equity and justice;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation No. 1283, dated 21 June 1974, reserved 5,005 hectares of land situated in Antipolo for Townsite purposes under the provisions of the Public Land Act;

**WHEREAS**, Proclamation No. 1637, dated 18 April 1977, amended Proclamation No. 1283 by increasing the area covered by the Lungsod Silangan Townsite to 20,312 hectares of properties comprising portions of Antipolo City, Municipalities of San Mateo and Rodriguez, in the Province of Rizal;

**WHEREAS**, the government is aware that shelter programs generate multiple economic benefits to the marginalized sectors of society and result in the pump priming of our economy and the stimulation of growth in all sectors;

**WHEREAS**, the President has laid out a Ten-point Agenda to decongest Metro Manila by forming new cores of government and housing centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao;

**WHEREAS**, the Local Government Units of Antipolo, San Mateo and Rodriguez, all in the Province of Rizal, are spearheading the initiative to help alleviate the housing problem and are committed to fast-track the initiatives as spelled out in Memorandum Order No. 72 in support of the National Shelter Program;

**WHEREAS**, such initiative showcases this Administration's seriousness in its anti-poverty strategies, particularly on asset reform that directs the redistribution of physical assets to the poor;