

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 721, May 02, 2008 ]**

**ENCOURAGING LARGE CORPORATIONS TO PROVIDE FOR RICE REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice;

WHEREAS, on the issue of rice management, this is a global problem that this Administration has seen coming, and has worked to head off for some time now;

WHEREAS, this Administration's response is based on three fundamental needs:

1. To ensure supply of rice;
2. To make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively;
3. To be vigilant that unscrupulous vendors do not divert subsidized rice and sell it as commercial rice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order that:

1. For a period of time to be recommended by the National Food Authority, hereinafter referred to as NFA, but in no case less than two years from the effectivity of this Order, the NFA shall encourage large corporations to provide for rice requirements of their employees in either of the following ways:
  - a. By engaging in the production of rice as here-after provided;
  - b. By importing rice to meet requirements.
2. For purposes of this Order, large corporations shall refer to all corporations existing under Philippines laws with at least five hundred (500) employees, provided that said corporations report earnings over the last four years that will allow them to engage in the production or importation or rice for their employees' requirements without affecting their financial viability.

The NFA shall generate a list of the large corporations who shall be encouraged as stated above.

3. Those corporations with existing landholdings determined to be suitable for rice production by the NFA, and who decide to engage in such production shall be encouraged to engage in such production within a period of time deemed desirable by the NFA.