

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 739, August 19, 2008]

REORGANIZING THE PEACE AND ORDER COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Communist rebels have spent years as a low-level threat;

WHEREAS, it is time for their disruption and violation of human rights to be put to rest so that the nation can move ahead;

WHEREAS, the Communist rebels impede the progress and development of a number of rural areas, for example, the tri-boundary of Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur, and are responsible for a wide range of human rights abuses;

WHEREAS, if the Philippines is to become a first world country, it must put a stop to their ideological nonsense and their criminal acts once and for all;

WHEREAS, the creation of an office in the regions has been recommended to focus on convergence and the orchestration of internal security operations (ISO) efforts of civil authorities and agencies, military and police;

WHEREAS, the imposition of sanctions has been recommended against local chief executives who are giving material and political support to the Communist rebels;

WHEREAS, the provision of livelihood and infrastructure development programs and projects in the remote rural and indigenous population areas has been adopted as a policy to isolate them from the Communist rebels' "Agitate/Arouse, Organize and Mobilize" and ideological, political and organization works;

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA ML ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby order and direct the following:

Sec. 1. Reorganization of the Peace and Order Council. - The Peace and Order Council is hereby reorganized on the national, regional, provincial, city and municipal levels of government to be constituted as follows:

(a) The National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) shall have the same composition as the National Security Council (NSC) except for the chairmanship. The Chair of the NSC shall be the President of the Philippines, while the Chair of the NPOC shall be the Secretary of Interior and Local Government (SILG). The members of both Councils shall be composed of the following:

The SILG

The Director-General of the National Security Council

The Executive Secretary
The Secretary of Foreign Affairs
The Secretary of National Defense (SND)
The Secretary of Justice
The Press Secretary
The Chairman of the Dangerous Drugs Board
The Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process
The Director-General, Presidential Management Staff
The Director-General, Philippine Information Agency
The Chairperson of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission
The Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP)
The Chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP)
The Director of the National Bureau of Investigation
Three (3) representatives from the private sector who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines.

- (b) The Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) shall be composed of the region's Provincial Governors, the Mayors of the Highly Urbanized Cities, the Presidents of the Leagues of Municipalities, the regional counterparts of the departments, offices and agencies enumerated in paragraph (a) above, wherever applicable, with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be appointed by the SILG with the approval of the President of the Philippines from among the members of the Council. In addition, there shall be one representative of the Mayors of the Component Cities to be chosen from among themselves. The Chairman of the RPOC shall appoint the three (3) representatives of the private sector, upon consultation with the members of the Council and with the approval of the SILG. The regional counterpart of the CSAFP shall be the Commander of the Infantry Division. Departments, offices and agencies with no regional and/or field offices shall not sit in the RPOC.
- (c) The Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) shall be composed of the provincial counterparts of the departments, offices and agencies as enumerated in paragraph (a) above, wherever applicable, with the Provincial Governor as Chairman and the Vice Governor as Vice Chairman. In addition there shall be one representative of the Sangguniang Lalawigan to be chosen by it from among its members. The Chairman of the PPOC shall appoint the three (3) representatives of the private sector, upon consultation with the members of the Council and with the approval of the Commander of the Infantry Division and the Regional Director of the PNP. The provincial counterpart of the CSAFP shall be the Brigade Commander or, in the case of Palawan, the Commander of the Western Command. Departments, offices and agencies with no provincial and/or field offices shall not sit in the PPOC.
- (d) The City or Municipal Peace and Order Council (CPOC or MPOC) shall be composed of the city or municipal counterparts of the departments, offices and agencies as enumerated in paragraph (a) above, wherever applicable, with the Mayor as Chairman and the Vice Mayor as Vice Chairman. In addition, there shall be one representative or the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be, to be chosen by the said Sanggunian from among its members. The Chairman of the CPOC or MCOP shall appoint the three (3) representatives from the private sector, upon consultation with the