

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 747, August 01, 2008]

CREATING THE CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE AND DEFINING ITS SCOPE OF AUTHORITY

WHEREAS , the Cagayan River Basin is the country's largest river basin covering parts of Isabela, Cagayan, Mountain Provinces, Nueva Vizcaya and Quezon Provinces;

WHEREAS , the Cagayan River Basin comprises an area of 25,469 square Kilometers and the river flows into a northerly direction from its headwaters in Nueva Vizcaya province to its mouth in the Babuyan Channel near Aparri, Cagayan;

WHEREAS , the Cagayan River has principal tributaries that include the Magat Siffu-Mallig, Chico and Ilagan Rivers;

WHEREAS , there is an urgent need to protect the Cagayan River Basin from further environmental degradation, mitigate destructive floods and harness it for economic development;

WHEREAS , Cagayan Valley (Region 2) is now the top producer of rice and grains in the country and increased yield and harvest can be expected with the proper utilization of water resources in the region;

WHEREAS , the Cagayan Export Zone Authority (CEZA) is now attracting serious investors and the Cagayan River can be developed as an efficient and cheaper mode of transportation for products and tourists;

WHEREAS , the Master Plan on the Philippine Integrated River Basin Management and Development is in line with President Arroyo's ten point Legacy agenda and Medium Term Philippine Development Plan;

WHEREAS , there is a need to harness the support of all stakeholders – national government agencies, local government units, local communities/indigenous people, community organizations, private entities and business groups – for the above-stated reasons;

WHEREAS , a Project Management Office similar to the Bicol River Basin Project Management Office with clear accountability will permit the speedy preparation and implementation of an integrated river basin management and development plan for the Cagayan River Basin;

WHEREAS , under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

NOW, THEREFORE, I GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO , President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order the following: