

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 608, March 30, 2007]

**ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SECURITY CLEARANCE SYSTEM FOR
GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED
MATTERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the government is always at constant risk of being infiltrated by a group or individual for a purpose which is inimical to national interest;

WHEREAS, these groups/individuals rely on infiltrating and/or developing contacts within the bureaucracy to be their source of intelligence and other relevant information, particularly on classified or sensitive information and materials in order to accomplish their unlawful objectives;

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of all government departments, agencies and offices to implement security measures that will protect and ensure the integrity and sanctity of classified or sensitive materials or information they have access to or in their possession;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Circular No. 78 dated August 14, 1964 and Memorandum Circular No. 196 dated July 19, 1968 were promulgated to ensure against unauthorized access or disclosure of information and classified matters which could cause grave damage to the government or national interest;

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop and institutionalize a uniform Security Clearance System that is national in scope to cover all government personnel who by reason of their function or their office have access or can have access to classified information or documents;

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

SECTION 1. *Institution of an Interim Security Clearance*

a. All heads of government offices or agencies handling or having access to classified matters shall strictly implement and institutionalize the security clearance procedure approved by the Office of the National Security Adviser regarding the conduct of a comprehensive background investigation on their personnel who by reason of their duty or employment, have access to classified matters as defined under Memorandum Circular No. 78 as amended by Memorandum Circular No. 196 dated July 19, 1968. It is only after passing the said security clearance procedure can the department, agency or office issue an Interim Security Clearance in favor of said employee. Only the head of the department, agency or office concerned or their designated representative can issue the Interim Security Clearance.

b. The heads of departments and/or agencies of the government or their designated agents or instrumentalities, shall before issuance of the Interim Security Clearance,