

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 664, September 25, 2007]

ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY MEASURES TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE THE SPREAD AND DAMAGE OF BRONTISPA IN THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT INDUSTRY AND DESIGNATING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, coconut is a major source of livelihood in 68 of the 70 provinces of the country;

WHEREAS the Philippines has earned the niche as the top supplier of coconut products and by products in the world market contributing an estimated \$ 800 million net foreign earnings to sustain the economic lives of some 3.5 million coconut farmers and their families;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Coconut Authority is the government agency mandated to oversee the development of the coconut industry in all its aspects and ensure that such development redound to the interests of the coconut farmers;

WHEREAS, the Coconut leaf Beetle (*Bronstispa Longissima Gestro*) an invasive pest from Southeast Asia has found its way to the Philippines and is now considered as one of the most destructive pests of the coconut and ornamental palms thereby posing a grave threat to the vital coconut industry of the country if not properly controlled:

WHEREAS, to ensure the preservation and development of the coconut industry, there is a need to declare the implementation of emergency measures to control and eradicate the spread of *Brontispa* and designate the Philippine Coconut Authority as the lead agency for the purposes:

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

SECTION 1. LEAD AGENCY. The Philippine Coconut Authority shall be the lead agency in implementing emergency measures to control and eradicate *Brontispa* in the country. For this purpose, the PCA shall prescribe the necessary rules and regulations for its immediate and effective implementation.

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PCA. The PCA in order to effectively implement emergency measures can request the assistance of any local government unit or government agency to monitor and ensure compliance with the established emergency measures. For this purpose, the PCA may deputize the Philippine National Police (PNP) and other law enforcement offices to investigate and