

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 559, August 28, 2006]

**CREATING THE METRO ILOILO-GUIMARAS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (MIGEDC)**

WHEREAS, Section 14, Article X of the Philippine Constitution provides that "the President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of department, and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region";

WHEREAS, Section 33, Article 3, Chapter 3 of the Local Government Code provides that "local government units may through appropriate ordinances, group themselves, consolidate, or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them";

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Iloilo Development Council (MIDC) was created through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) date 9 February 2001 by the City of Iloilo, based on voluntary, consensus-based and collaborative approaches in integrated area development that is focused on six areas of collaboration, namely: Basic Services Delivery, Environmental Management, Public Safety and Security, Land Use Management, Infrastructure Development, and Economic Promotion and Development;

WHEREAS, the Guimaras-Iloilo City alliance (GICA) was also similarly created through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) entered into by Iloilo City and the Province of Guimaras on 22 May 2005 to effect mutually beneficial economic development with special focus on tourism and infrastructure development with special focus on road and port systems improvements;

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Santa Barbara, which hosts the new Iloilo Airport of International standards, has similarly recognized the importance of inter-modal transportation links and tourism development to overall economic development;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Units involved recognize the need to collaborate on certain specific areas in order to speed-up the economic and tourism development of the area;

WHEREAS, the National Government has recently unveiled during the 6th State of the Nation Address of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a massive investment program to sustain economic growth, speed progress to all areas of the country through the Mega-Region Economic Development Strategy and propel the Philippines to the "First World" status and through such development strategy, make funds available through the Medium-Term Public Investment Program (MTPIP);