

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 382, October 29, 2004 ]**

**DESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS LEAD AGENCY  
IN THE NATIONWIDE OBSERVANCE OF THE NATIONAL FOOD  
FORTIFICATION DAY EVERY 7TH OF NOVEMBER**

WHEREAS, micronutrient deficiencies have persisted as a public health problem, affecting a significant proportion of the population, resulting in adverse physical, mental, social and economic consequences to individuals, communities and country;

WHEREAS, food fortification, one of the impact programs of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, is the long-term solution and most cost-effective strategy in addressing the micronutrient malnutrition problem which affects the most vulnerable population particularly mothers and young children;

WHEREAS, in 1995 ASIN Law (RA 8172) and in 2000 the Food Fortification Law (RA 8976) mandate the compulsory fortification of salt with iodine and rice with iron, flour with vitamin A and iron, oil with vitamin A, sugar with vitamin A respectively, to ensure a steady supply of the essential micronutrients to the communities;

WHEREAS, the food industry has committed to support the implementation of the said laws by insuring availability and affordability of fortified food products nationwide;

WHEREAS, food fortification being one of the components of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act (RA 8980) aimed at enhancing the quality and extent of basic health, nutrition, psychosocial and early education services through institutionalization of a system that is comprehensive and sustainable with multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaboration at all levels;

WHEREAS, under the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) the local government shall be responsible for the implementation of basic health services including promotion, regulation and monitoring with assistance with the Department of Health and other concerned National Government Agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested I me by law, do hereby designate November 7, 2004 of every year as Food Fortification Day and order the following:

SECTION 1. Lead Agency. The Department of Health, through Secretary of Health, shall lead the implementation of the National Food Fortification Day on November 7, 2004. As such, he shall be empowered to call upon all agencies of the Government for assistance in the implementation of this Executive Order, including but not limited to the following: