

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 206, May 15, 2003**]

**STRENGTHENING THE SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR THE
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (Republic Act [R.A.] No. 9165), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was created for the efficient and effective law enforcement of all the provisions on dangerous drugs and/or precursors and essential chemicals as provided in R.A. No. 9165;

WHEREAS, pursuant to R.A. No. 9165, the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) is the policy-making and strategy-formulating body in the planning and formulation of policies and programs on drug prevention and control;

WHEREAS, R.A. No. 9165 provides for the abolition of the drug enforcement-units of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC);

WHEREAS, the same Act also provides that the personnel of the abolished units shall continue to perform their task as detail service with the PDEA until such time that the PDEA is fully operational and is able to recruit a sufficient number of new personnel to do the task themselves;

WHEREAS, the PDEA, as the lead agency tasked to enforce R.A. No. 9165, is still in its transition period and still has to develop its institutional capabilities to be able to accomplish its mandated task;

WHEREAS, other agencies of the Government have trained drug enforcement personnel who can help PDEA fulfill its task;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to pursue a forceful, intensive and unrelenting campaign against drug trafficking and the use of illegal drugs whether syndicated or street-level.

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 and/or authorize:

SECTION 1. Creation of Task Forces. - The Office of the President, the PNP, the NBI and the BOC shall organize anti-drug task forces to support the PDEA.

SECTION 2. *Supervision and Support.* - The PDEA shall exercise operational supervision and provide technical support to the main task force created by the PNP. In the case of other task forces, created within the PNP, the NBI or the BOC, the President of the Philippines shall determine whether the DDB or the PDEA shall exercise operational supervision.