

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 237, September 19, 2003]

DIRECTING THE CONDUCT OF A NATIONAL FOLLOW UP MEASLES CAMPAIGN ON FEBRUARY 2004 AND DESIGNATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS THE LEAD AGENCY FOR THE PURPOSE

WHEREAS, sustaining high measles immunization coverage has been proven effective in combating the measles infection and deaths and interruption of measles transmission;

WHEREAS, in 1998 the Philippines adopted a ten-year plan, otherwise known as the Philippines Measles Elimination Campaign (PMEC) through Presidential Proclamation No. 4, which aims to interrupt the circulation of measles virus in all communities by 2008;

WHEREAS, the 1st phase of the Philippine Measles Elimination Campaign (PMEC) was successfully implemented in 1998 through the collaborative efforts of national and local governments, communities, religious, and business sectors and international agencies;

WHEREAS, the government has declared a policy to promote the rights of children to survival, development, special protection and participation with full recognition of the nature of childhood and its special needs;

WHEREAS, in support of this policy, Congress passed the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Act (Republic Act No. 8980) which commit the institutionalization of a national system for ECCD that, is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, that involves multi-sectoral and interagency collaboration at all levels;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code states that the local government shall be responsible for the delivery of basic health services and the Department of Health (DOH) shall assist these local government units;

WHEREAS, addressing this concern shall be efficiently undertaken through the joint effort of the national and local government and other key stakeholders, the community and the parents;

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 the conduct of a nationwide follow-up measles campaign to be called the "Ligtas Tigdas" Campaign on February 2004. Free measles vaccines shall be given to all children currently residing in the Philippines between ages 9 months to less than 8 years of age.