[MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 128, December 23, 2003]

APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS DATED 14 NOVEMBER 2003 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 236 (SERIES OF 2003), OTHERWISE KNOW AS THE HONORS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 236 (series of 2003) entitled "Establishing the Honors Code of the Philippines to Create an Order of Precedence of Honors Conferred and for Other Purposes" was issued on 19 September 2003;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Executive Order No. 236 mandated the Chancellery of Philippine Orders and State Decorations in the Office of Presidential Protocol to promulgate appropriate guidelines to implement the Honors Code, subject to the approval of the President;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 8 of Executive Order No. 236 and after a series of meetings authorized by the Chief of Presidential Protocol among the Historical Affairs Office (Office of the President), the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of National Defense, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Transportation and Communications. The National Historical Institute, and the National Academy of Science and Technology, the Presidential Assistant for Historical Affairs submits for approval the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Executive Order No. 236, a copy of which is attached hereto as Annex "A";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALBERTO G. ROMULO, Executive Secretary, by order of Her Excellency **GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO,** President of the Republic of Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby approve the Implementing Rules and Regulations dated 14 November 2003 of Executive Order No. 236 (series of 2003).

DONE in the City of Manila, this 23rd day of December, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and three. By order of the President:

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Executive Secretary By the Executive Secretary:

(Sgd.) JOAQUIN C. LAGONERA

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary