

**[BPI SPECIAL QUARANTINE ORDER NO. 03, S.
2005, October 24, 2005]**

**DECLARING COCONUT LEAF BEETLE, BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA
(GESTRO) AN INVASIVE QUARANTINE PEST OF COCONUT,
COCOS NUCIFERA, AND PROVIDING MEASURES TO REGULATE
AND PREVENT ITS SPREAD**

WHEREAS, it has been reported and verified that Coconut Leaf Beetle, *Brontispa longissima* now exists in Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon and Bulacan, possibly introduced and spread through the importation and movement of infested palms;

WHEREAS, the invasive insect pest has not been observed in Davao and Cebu;

WHEREAS, the coconut industry continues to contribute to the Philippine economy an estimated 750 M USD annually and it is crucial if the Philippines is to maintain or improve its position as the world's second largest producer of coconut products;

WHEREAS, surveys confirmed that *B. longissima* develop and inflicts damage in coconut and other native as well as exotic ornamental palms;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture issued Special Order No. 256 series of 2005, Constituting the Interagency *Brontispa* Action Team (BAT) for the Abatement of the Invasive Coconut Leaf Beetle (*B. longissima*) Infestation;

WHEREAS, BAT, in collaboration with local government units and other concerned agencies will conduct surveillance, research and control measure activities to abate coconut leaf beetle infestation in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, if the spread of this invasive pest is not regulated and contained, it may virtually wipe out the coconut industry in the country;

WHEREAS, it is necessary that quarantine measures be put in place in order to arrest and prevent spread of the disease to other non-infested areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry by P.D. 1433, otherwise known as the Plant Quarantine Decree of 1978, this Special Order is hereby promulgated as follows:

SECTION 1. The Coconut Leaf Beetle (*Brontispa longissima*) is hereby declared an injurious and invasive pest of coconut.

SECTION 2. Metro Manila and the provinces of Cavite, Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, and Bulacan in the island of Luzon are hereby declared infested with Coconut Leaf Beetle and shall be placed under quarantine;