

[PROCLAMATION NO. 1414, November 09, 2007]

**DECLARING EVERY LAST WEEK OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR
AS "NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK"**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of Government to promote safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of the several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment, and industry development;

WHEREAS, biotechnology sustains increased crop yields and farm productivity, and enhances the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food and other uses that are complementary to modern agriculture;

WHEREAS, biotechnology is behind many breakthroughs in human health care that have benefited millions of people through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs that cannot be made in any other way;

WHEREAS, biotechnology has delivered benefits to our environment including protection of water quality, conservation of topsoil, improvement of waste management techniques, reduction of chemical pesticide usage, production of renewable energy and biotechnology-based products, and cleaner manufacturing processes;

WHEREAS, there are already biotechnology-based industries in the country that would benefit from the week-long advocacy campaign through recognition of their significant public contribution;

WHEREAS, biotechnology has been helping in the speedy and fair administration of justice through forensic DNA analysis and similar DNA technologies;

WHEREAS, biotechnology increases the pace of technology development for medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental applications;

WHEREAS, public awareness, education, and understanding of biotechnology is essential for the responsible application and regulation of this new technology; and

WHEREAS, biotechnology, celebrates globally more than a decade of achievements in research and development and its commercial applications in agriculture towards a more healthy and safe use of products of modern technology.

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 declare the last week of November of every year as **"National Biotechnology Week"**.

The Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Science and