

[PROCLAMATION NO. 675, January 20, 2004]

DECLARING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2004 AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER AS "NATIONAL PEACE CONSCIOUSNESS MONTH"

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 3, s. 2001, mandates the continuing pursuit of a comprehensive peace process along six major peace-making and peace-building components, otherwise known as the Six Paths to Peace, to wit:

- Pursuit of social, economic and political reforms to address the root causes of armed conflicts and social unrest;
- Consensus-building and empowerment for peace through consultations and people participation;
- Peaceful, negotiated settlement with different rebel groups and effective implementations of peace agreements;
- Program for reconciliation, reintegration into mainstream society and rehabilitation of former rebels and their communities;
- Addressing concerns arising from continuing armed conflicts, such as the protection of non-combatants and the reduction of the impact of armed conflicts on communities; and
- Building and nurturing a climate conducive to peace through peace education and advocacy programs and confidence-building measures.

WHEREAS, there is a need to instill greater consciousness and understanding among the Filipino people on the comprehensive peace process to strengthen and sustain institutional and popular support for and population in this effort, as well as in the global movement spearheaded by the United Nations to promote a Culture of Peace based of nonviolence, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, tolerance, understanding and solidarity;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 161 dated February 28, 2002 specially addresses the above concern by way of an annual observance of a National Peace Consciousness Week from February 28, to March 6;

WHEREAS, there is a need to reset the period of observance of the National Consciousness Week to September of every year to allow more active participation from the citizenry and institutions, including educational institutions, as well to expand the week-long celebration to a period of one month:

WHEREAS, the month of September holds several significant milestone in the history of pursuing the peace process in the country, some of which are as follows:

- Creation of the National Unification Commission, through Executive Order No. 19 issued on September 1, 1992, which undertook nationwide consultation in 1992-1993 to lay the foundations of the Philippine Government's agenda for a just, comprehensive and lasting peace