

**[ PROCLAMATION NO. 338, March 10, 2003 ]**

**DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 2003 TO FEBRUARY 2004  
AS THE YEAR OF THE FAMILIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO  
WORKERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines is presently one of the major sources of migrant labor in the international market;

**WHEREAS**, the family is the basic unit of our society, and thus, any effect of labor migration on the Filipino family will affect the Filipino society;

**WHEREAS**, the present migration phenomenon may involve one or both parents;

**WHEREAS**, the government is concerned with managing the effects of migration on family relations, particularly between couples, or between parents and their children;

**WHEREAS**, migration decisions take place in the household, temporary separation of the family members should not break family ties but instead, strengthen it in view of the sacrifices each member has to make for the common good;

**WHEREAS**, it is a national responsibility to help provide the external support needed by both migrants and the families they leave behind to cope with temporary separation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the period from March 2003 to February 2004 as the Year of the Families of Overseas Filipino Workers.

The Department of Labor and Employment, through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, in coordination with other government institutions, the private sector, church-based organizations and other non-government organizations, shall spearhead the year long undertakings for the purpose of this proclamation.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 10th day of March, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and three.

**(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

By the President: