

[PROCLAMATION NO. 503, November 19, 2003]

PROCLAMATION NO. 503 DECLARING DEC 24, 2003 AND JANUARY 2, 2004 (IN LIEU OF DECEMBER 30, 2003 WHICH SHALL BE A REGULAR WORKING DAY) AS SPECIAL (NON-WORKING) DAYS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND DECEMBER 26, 2003 AS SPECIAL (NON-WORKING) DAY FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ONLY.

WHEREAS, December 25, 2003 (**Christmas Day**), December 30, 2003, (Rizal Day) and January 1, 2004 (**New Year's Day**) are regular holidays throughout the country pursuant to Executive Order No. 292 (1987), as amended by Republic Act. No. 9177 [2002];

WHEREAS, December 31, 2003 (last day of the year) is a nationwide special holiday pursuant to Executive Order No. [1987], as amended by Republic Act No. 9177 [2002];

WHEREAS, by tradition, Filipinos celebrate the Christmas holidays by visiting their families, relatives and friends.

WHEREAS, to spur domestic tourism throughout the country, it is necessary to declare December 26, 2003 as special (non-working) day for government employees only and January 2, 2004 as special (non-working) day throughout the country, in lieu of December 30, 2003 (Rizal Day)

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALBERTO G. ROMULO, Executive Secretary, by order of Her Excellency, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby declare the following:

SECTION 1. December 24, 2003 as special (non-working) day throughout the country;

SEC. 2. January 2, 2004 as special (non-working) day throughout the country in lieu of December 30, 2003 (Rizal Day), which shall be regular working day.

SEC. 3. All employees of government departments, offices, agencies or instrumentalities shall not be required to report for work on **December 26, 2003**, except that:

- a. The head of a department, office, agency or instrumentality may, if required by the exigencies of public service, require the employees of said department, office, agency or instrumentality to observe regular working hours and provide regular services to the public on the said date;