

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 229, July 21, 2003]

**CREATING THE MINDANAO PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, this Administration is committed to pursuing a policy of building peace and development;

WHEREAS, in order to put an end to long years of hostilities and achieve durable and lasting peace in Southern Philippines, a Peace Agreement was signed in 1996 between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF);

WHEREAS, the Southern Philippines Development Authority, was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 690 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1703, to undertake essential developmental and economically viable ventures in the Southern Philippines;

WHEREAS, the SPDA was deactivated in November 2002 pursuant to Executive Order No. 149;

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 124 dated September 12, 2002 established the ARMM Social Fund for Peace and Development that has as its coverage and target beneficiaries disadvantaged conflict affected and influenced communities in the expanded Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM);

WHEREAS, in light of the on-going efforts to achieve lasting peace in Southern Philippines, there is a need for an implementing mechanism that can address the socio-economic needs of other conflict affected areas in Mindanao outside of ARMM; and

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Executive Branch of Government pursuant to Section 20, Chapter 7, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987 (EO 292);

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Mindanao Peace and Development Fund. - There is hereby established a program fund to be known as the MINDANAO PEACE & DEVELOPMENT FUND, hereinafter referred to as MPDF, under the Office of the President that shall have as its coverage and target beneficiaries disadvantaged conflict affected and influenced communities in Mindanao outside ARMM.

SECTION 2. Mandate. The MPDF shall promote the development of conflict