[OP ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 278, February 08, 2010]

PROVIDING MEASURES FOR THE OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF WATER RESOURCES IN METRO MANILA

WHEREAS, the water level in Angat Dam has fallen to an alarming level, which may be aggravated by the forecasted El Niño conditions during the first quarter of 2010;

WHEREAS, as a consequence, a shortfall in water supply for Metro Manila is expected;

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to institute appropriate measures to ensure the optimum utilization of water resources for Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, there is a need to actively implement water conservation measures and to improve the operational efficiency of water service providers (e.g., reduce the level of non-revenue water) to maximize the limited supply of water.

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 order:

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. The Government shall adopt urgent and decisive measures to address the water shortage in Metro Manila to protect the health and well-being of the population.

SEC. 2. The following measures are hereby adopted to mitigate the effects of water shortages:

a. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), through the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), shall appropriately cut-down water allocation and actual releases to the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) effective January 2010;

b. The DENR, with the NWRB, the MWSS, and the Public Information Agency (PIA) shall undertake a massive information, education and communication campaign to encourage people to implement water conservation measures;

c. All Local Government Units (LGUs) in Metro Manila through the barangays shall monitor and report all water leaks and pilferages to the concerned Water Concessionaire;

d. The MWSS and its Concessionaires shall actively pursue and immediately respond to all complaints of water leaks within twenty four (24) hours and