

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 596, December 29, 2006 ]**

**DEFINING AND INCLUDING "GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITY VESTED WITH CORPORATE POWERS" OR "GOVERNMENT CORPORATE ENTITIES" UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATE COUNSEL (OGCC) AS PRINCIPAL LAW OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCS) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC), as the principal law office of all Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), including their subsidiaries, other corporate offsprings and government acquired assets corporations, plays a very significant role in safeguarding the legal interests and providing the legal requirements of all GOCCs;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to integrate, strengthen and rationalize the powers and jurisdiction of the OGCC in the light of the Decision of the Supreme Court dated July 20, 2006, in the case of *"Manila International Airport Authority vs. Court of Appeals, City of Parañaque, et al."* (G.R. No. 155650), where the High Court differentiated "government corporate entities" and "*government instrumentalities with corporate powers*" from GOCCs for purposes of the provisions of the Local Government Code on real estate taxes, and other fees and charges imposed by local government units;

WHEREAS, in the interest of an effective administration of justice, the application and definition of the term "GOCCs" need to be further clarified and rationalized, to have consistency in referring to the term and to avoid unintended conflicts and/or confusion;

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.** The Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) shall be the principal law office of all GOCCs, except as may otherwise be provided by their respective charter or authorized by the President, their subsidiaries, corporate offsprings, and government acquired asset corporations. The OGCC shall likewise be the principal law office of "*government instrumentality vested with corporate powers*" or "*government corporate entity*", as defined by the Supreme Court in the case of *"MIAA vs. Court of Appeals, City of Parañaque, et al."*, supra, notable examples of which are: Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Mactan International Airport Authority, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Services (MWSS), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI), Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), Fisheries Development Authority (FDA), Bases Conversion