

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 582, December 04, 2006**]

STREAMLINING THE PROCESS OF AUTHENTICATING DOCUMENTS INTENDED FOR USE ABROAD AND TRANSFERRING THE AUTHENTICATION OFFICE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to reduce red tape by streamlining processes and eliminating duplicative cross-agency activities:

WHEREAS, both the Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) or the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Authentication Office of the Office of the President (AO-OP) perform similar authentication functions;

WHEREAS, Chapter 1, Article 5, sub-article (F) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and Optional Protocols of which the Philippines is a signatory of this Convention provides that a given state's consular office shall act "as notary and civil registrar and in capacities of a similar kind, and performing certain function of an administrative nature";

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO No. 292 s. 1987) mandates the Department of Foreign Affairs to serve as the official channel for foreign relations, including official communications to and from the Republic of the Philippines, and carry out legal documentation functions under pertinent laws and regulations, among others;

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:

Sec. 1. Responsibility for Authentication. The DFA-OCA is hereby mandated to be the agency solely responsible for authenticating documents certified as authentic by the issuing agency office.

In this regard, the AO-OP is hereby directed to transfer to the DFA-OCA all equipments, furniture, materials, pertinent documents and other facilities necessary for the operations of authentication function

Sec. 2. Detail of OP Personnel. The AO-OP personnel shall be detailed to the DFA-OCA for a maximum of six (6) months in order for the DFA-OCA to acquire the necessary competence to carry out the authentication process according to the service standards set by the one day authentication process of the AO-OP. After this transition period, personnel detailed from the AOOP to the DFA-OCA shall have the option to stay in the DFA-OCA or avail of early retirement privileges,

Sec. 3. Accrual of Proceeds. Revenues collected or receipts of any kind from the streamlined authentication process shall be remitted to or deposited intact with the