

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 171, January 22, 2003 ]**

**PROVIDING FOR THE SURRENDER AND LICENSING OF LOOSE FIREARMS AND THE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FROM THE PROCEEDS THEREOF**

WHEREAS, a number of Firearms with licenses which were not re-registered under Presidential National Emergency Proclamation Order No. 6 (PNEMO No. 6) dated January 4, 1980 were cancelled;

WHEREAS, despite the issuance of Executive Orders No. 107, 122, 122-A and 122-B, an estimated 350,000 loose firearms remain to be accounted and licensed;

WHEREAS, it is consistent with the national interest that these loose firearms be submitted for licensing and the holders of loose firearms be encouraged and given an opportunity to obtain the required firearm license;

WHEREAS, the submission and subsequent registration of loose firearms will undoubtedly increase the PNP Firearm Ballistics Data Bank and consequently, widen its capabilities to investigate crimes committed with the use of firearms;

WHEREAS, the Philippine National Police, as the primary law-enforcement arm of the government, lacks the required technology to efficiently make use of the Firearm Ballistics Data Bank to support its investigative missions and functions;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the registration and licensing of loose firearms will be accomplished if the appropriate technology and resources are made available to exploit the Firearm Ballistics Data Bank;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to encourage the use of IT resources by governmental entities and offices in the delivery of services to the public.

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. Any person who possesses loose firearms may surrender same to the Philippine National Police for custody and apply for the corresponding license as required by existing laws within one (1) year from the effectivity of this order. Concerned holders of said firearms might avail of this amnesty only within the period. Each firearm submitted for licensing shall have its own distinct firearm description.

SEC 2. As a general rule, high-powered rifles/paltik firearms may not be allowed for licensing. However, the Chief, PNP may allow the licensing of some high-powered firearms. Those who will surrender same will not be prosecuted for illegal possession of firearm while in the act of surrendering the said firearms.