

[PROCLAMATION NO. 470, September 15, 2003]

DECLARING THE THIRD SATURDAY OF SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR AS THE INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP (ICC) DAY IN OBSERVANCE OF THE GLOBAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP CELEBRATIONS

WHEREAS, the International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) is a global initiative since 1986 by The Ocean Conservancy (TOC), formerly the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC), a Non-Government Organization based in Washington, D.C., USA, together with Environment Protection Agency (EPA);

WHEREAS, the ICC is the largest volunteer effort for the environment and is held every Third Saturday of September of every year in over 199 countries and 554 U.S. states and territories;

WHEREAS, the Philippines joined the ICC in 1994 with the international Maritime Alliance (IMA) as the country coordinator and more than 3,000 volunteers cleaned the shorelines and underwater sites and since 1998, the Philippines has consistently topped the ICC, in terms of volunteer turn out, and has been recognized as "the clean-up capital of the world";

WHEREAS, information collected during the International Coastal Clean-up is used to educate people and create solutions to the problems of solid waste and litter in our coastal areas;

WHEREAS, it is important that we protect our coastal and marine areas as 80% of Filipinos depend on fish for their protein requirements;

WHEREAS, through partnerships with government; environment groups and citizens, this very important process is gradually, changing behaviors and practices that create debris;

WHEREAS, Republic Act 9003, otherwise known as the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act" was signed into law in 2001 and is a significant positive action in dealing with the debris problem in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, there is a need to declare an ICC day to remind and re-awaken our people for vigilance in support for the continuing crusade against the debris crises all over the world - a united front for all "citizens of the world" to keep Mother Earth clean.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare every third Saturday of September of each year as the ***International Coastal Clean-up Day***, consistent with Presidential Proclamation No. 244 declaring September as