

[PROCLAMATION NO. 482, October 06, 2003]

DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2003 TO OCTOBER 2004 AS THE CENTENARY OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Manila Business School (MBS) was opened in Manila on October 19, 1904, primarily to train personnel for government service, to train young men and women for entrepreneurship and business management;

WHEREAS, in 1908 the MBS was made into an insular (national) school since the majority of its student came from different parts of the country; hence, its renaming as the Philippine School of Commerce (PCS);

WHEREAS, during the School Year 1917-1918, the PSC, with the objective of uplifting the poor, opened night classes and enabled working youth to acquire further studies;

WHEREAS, on June 21, 1953, through Republic Act No. 788, the PSC was converted to the Philippine College of Commerce (PCC) and on April 1, 1978, through Presidential Decree No. 1341, the PCC was converted into present Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP);

WHEREAS, Section 11 of the said P. D. No. 1341 provides that "It shall be the concern of the University to disperse its programs in the countryside through a system of regional branches;

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the aforementioned mandate and its role as a comprehensive national university, the PUP with its main campus in Manila, opened 12 Off-Campus Branches and Extension Units in Taguig, in the CALABARZON provinces, in Bataan, in Bulacan and in Camarines Sur;

WHEREAS, in spite of limited resources the PUP pioneered in 1990 the first "Open University" or "Distance Education" degree program with students from all over the Philippines and graduated its first batch in 1995;

WHEREAS, the PUP has a student population of about 55,000, the biggest among public and private colleges and universities, with its graduates employed in various public offices as well as in private business and industrial enterprises in the country and abroad;

WHEREAS, through the years, PUP has become one of the premier state universities in the country and it is only fitting to accord it the opportunity to celebrate its centenary with appropriate ceremonies and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the