

[ **ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 259, March 20, 2009** ]

**DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO LEAD THE ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 111<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE ON JUNE 12, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, the heroism, patriotism and nationalism of our forebears in the struggle for independence of our country merit noble commemoration;

**WHEREAS**, the 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence is an ideal occasion for all Filipinos to unite and celebrate the freedom and liberty of our nation and to rally behind the government and the country's institutions;

**WHEREAS**, in order to have a truly meaningful celebration, the proper planning, coordination and implementation of all activities are needed;

**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 Secretary of Labor and Employment is hereby directed to take the lead in the planning, coordination, and implementation of the program of activities and events in celebration of Independence Day on June 12, 2009, with the theme "*Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan.*"

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Labor and Employment, as the lead agency of the celebrations, shall convene inter-agency organizing task force to plan, coordinate and implement effectively all programs, projects and activities related to this national event.

**SECTION 3.** All departments, bureaus, offices, national government agencies, local government units and government owned and controlled corporations are hereby enjoined to give full support, assistance, and cooperation to the Secretary of Labor and Employment in the exercise of his responsibilities under this Administrative Order.

**SECTION 4.** All branches of the government are enjoined to actively participate in the Independence Day celebrations, as well as to enlist the participation of private sector groups and non-government organizations, so that the commemoration of the 111<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the country's independence will truly demonstrate the spirit of patriotism, unity and national identity of the Filipino people.

Local government units, together with private sector groups and non-government