

[**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 261, April 07, 2009**]

REITERATING GOVERNMENT BELT-TIGHTENING

Whereas, in challenging economic times, the government must tighten its belt and live within its means, just like the average Filipino household;

Whereas, to that end, the government is taking a series of actions to stop unnecessary and wasteful spending;

Whereas, the taxpayers deserve no less from their government and public servants;

Whereas, the government must pour all savings and revenue into programs that help the poor and the middle class;

Whereas, government-wide, a one-and-a-half reduction of Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Expenses translates to a savings of Seven Billion Pesos (P7,000,000,000.00);

Whereas, an Independence Day Parade costs more or less Thirty Million Pesos (P30,000,000.00);

Whereas, some forty thousand (40,000) Filipino workers, notably in the export industry, have been displaced by the global economic crisis;

NOW THEREFORE, I GLORIA M. ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by the power vested in me by law, do hereby order:

Section 1. As mandated earlier this year through Executive Order No. 782, all government agencies and instrumentalities, including all departments, bureaus, attached agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations and government financial institutions, shall reduce their respective Maintenance, Overhead and Operating Expense (MOOE) budgets by one and a half percent (1.5%). Savings from MOOE shall be allocated to emergency employment for the next six (6) months.

Section 2. As mandated in early 2008, all government agencies and entities shall undertake electricity and fuel saving measures, including but not limited to the following: the consumption of fossil fuels shall be brought down by twenty-five percent (25%); electric consumption shall be reduced by at least ten percent (10%); air conditioners shall be turned off at 4:30 p.m. except those with 24-hour work; incandescent bulbs shall be replaced with Compact Fluorescent Lamps; twenty percent (20%) of the vehicles of the national government, including those of the government-owned and controlled corporations, shall be converted to the use of natural gas.