

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 202, October 10, 2007]

**CREATING AN INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE
CELEBRATION OF THE MONTH OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS AND
INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 276, issued by President Corazon C. Aquino in 1988 declared December of every year as "Month of Overseas Filipinos", to give recognition to Filipinos abroad and encourage their participation in development activities in the country;

WHEREAS, a United Nations' General Assembly Resolution adopted on 4 December 2000, proclaimed December 18 of every year as "International Migrants Day", calling all member states, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to observe this occasion through the dissemination of information regarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of migrants, and the formulation of policies and program of action to ensure their protection;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government recognizes the significant role of Filipino migrants in national development;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government recognizes the "Month of Overseas Filipinos" and the "International Migrants Day" as avenues for collective action to promote the welfare of Filipino migrants, recognize their role in nation building and national development, strengthen their ties with the Philippines and raise public awareness on various issues concerning migrants;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Migrants Rights Watch (PMRW) is an umbrella organization of 12 migrant civil society organizations working for the recognition, protection and fulfillment of the rights of Filipino migrants in the Philippines and abroad, through policy advocacy and constant collaboration with fellow advocates and various stakeholders in the field of migration;

WHEREAS, the Commission of Filipino Overseas (CFO), an agency under the Office of the President, is mandated to strengthen the ties of Filipinos overseas with the Philippines, as well as promote their interests in the Philippines and abroad, and has, since its establishment in 1980, developed and implemented various programs recognizing Filipino individuals and organizations overseas for their exceptional achievement and invaluable contribution to the country, including the bi-annual Presidential Awards for Filipinos and Filipino Organizations Overseas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the creation of an Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) for the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos" and the Philippine International Migrants Day".