

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 160, October 04, 2006]

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) TO CONDUCT FIELD INSPECTIONS, EVALUATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS OF ALL BILLBOARDS AND DETERMINE THOSE THAT ARE HAZARDOUS AND POSE IMMINENT DANGER TO LIFE, HEALTH, SAFETY AND PROPERTY OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND TO ABATE AND DISMANTLE THE SAME.

WHEREAS, it is the declared policy of the State to protect life, health, safety and property and to promote the general welfare that are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, there is proliferation of billboards of all shapes and sizes along the major thoroughfares of Metro Manila and other cities and in national highways in the provinces and other areas in local government units (LGUs);

WHEREAS, the recent typhoon *Milenyo* which hit the country with strong winds showed that some of these billboards are of sub-standard condition because they easily collapse, as they did, to the detriment of the life, health, safety and property of the general public;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has announced the coming of another typhoon named *Neneng* and six (6) other typhoons are expected to hit the country until the end of the year;

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), there is a need to immediately respond to the effects of the calamity brought about by Typhoon *Milenyo* and other typhoons expected to come in the next months in order to prevent the same occurrence of toppling of billboards resulting in death and injuries, blocking of roads and cutting of posts and wires of electricity and other utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with the assistance of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the various local government units (LGUs), in view of the six (6) typhoons or more expected to hit the country, to conduct field inspections, evaluations and assessments of all billboards, commercial or non-commercial, nationwide starting with Metro Manila and other areas directly affected by the path of Typhoon *Milenyo* for the purpose of abating and dismantling (a) billboards posing imminent danger or threat to the life, health, safety and property of the public; (b)