

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 707, February 18, 2008]

OPENING THE PORT OF APARRI AS A PRINCIPAL PORT OF ENTRY PURSUANT TO SECTION 702 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS AMENDED IN RELATION TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7922 OR THE CAGAYAN SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE ACT OF 1995.

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7922, entitled "ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ANA AND THE NEIGHBORING ISLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF APARRI, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" provides that it is the "policy of the government to actively encourage, promote, induce and accelerate a sound and balanced industrial, economic and social development of the country in order to provide jobs to the people especially those in the rural areas, increase their productivity and their individual and family income, and thereby improve the level and quality of their condition through the establishment, among others, of special economic zones and free ports in suitable and strategic locations in the country and through measures that shall effectively attract legitimate and productive foreign investments";

WHEREAS, the opening of the Port of Aparri into a customs principal port of entry will complement efforts to accelerate further not just the economic growth but the total development of the Cagayan Special Economic Zone.

WHEREAS, upgrading the status of the Port of Aparri into a principal port of entry will enable said port to avail of the manpower complement and other resources from national government agencies such as the Bureau of Customs, thereby hastening infrastructure and systems development which will result in the port and the Cagayan Freeport Zone attracting more investors and other locators;

WHEREAS, the expansion of economic activity within the port requires that the Port of Aparri be accorded the status as a principal port of entry;

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. *Upgrading of the Port of Aparri and opening it as a Principal Port of Entry* - The present Port of Aparri is hereby opened and declared as a principal port of entry to be known as the District Port of Aparri.

Section 2. *Authority of the Commissioner of Customs to define the jurisdictional limits of the collection district affected.* - The Commissioner of Customs, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Finance pursuant to Section 701 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended, is hereby authorize to redefine the jurisdictional boundaries of the Port of San Fernando and to delineate