

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 725, May 15, 2008]

DIRECTING AND AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO MANAGE AND COORDINATE ALL EFFORTS OF RELEVANT AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS TO ADOPT MEASURES TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF THE CURRENT WORLD RICE SUPPLY SHORTAGE

WHEREAS, there are global clouds on the horizon that are driving up the price of oil and food, particularly rice;

WHEREAS, the first obligation and commitment of government is to put food on the table in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the rise of agricultural prices is a global problem and all must work together to resolve it and to help prevent any global food crisis in the longer term;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to intensify efforts to carry out the aforementioned policy;

WHEREAS, there is a need to manage and coordinate relevant agencies of the Executive Department, government financial institutions and government owned and controlled corporations in the implementation of measures aimed at addressing challenges related to rice prices and supply;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. - The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby mandated to coordinate and oversee all government efforts on the issue of rice management.

SECTION 2. RICE MANAGEMENT. - The response to the issue of rice management shall be based on three fundamental needs:

1. To ensure supply,
2. To make sure distribution of rice gets to the people who need it most, efficiently and cost-effectively; and
3. To be vigilant that unscrupulous traders do not price gouge and exploit the situation.