

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 550, July 31, 2006 ]**

**CREATING A PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS  
CONCERNS ARISING FROM THE CONDUCT OF THE NATIONAL  
COUNCIL LICENSURE EXAMINATION (NCLEX) FOR NURSES IN  
THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for nurses is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to determine those qualified to practice nursing in the United States at the entry level;

WHEREAS, the NCSBN has authorized the conduct of the NCLEX in Hong Kong, London and Seoul in 2004, and further established additional test centers in Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Mexico and Taiwan in 2006;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is the top origin country of foreign educated nurses taking the NCLEX, many of whom encounter financial hardship due to the cost of taking the examinations overseas;

WHEREAS, Filipino nurses constitute 83% of foreign-educated nurses practicing in the United States of America and contribute positively to the good image of the Philippines through their hard work, dedication and ethic of care;

WHEREAS, officers of the NCSBN visited the Philippines in March 2006 to assess the feasibility of establishing an NCLEX test center in the country;

WHEREAS, the conduct of the NCLEX in the Philippines, will open opportunities for qualified yet less fortunate Filipino nurses to take the NCLEX locally, and the savings from not having to travel abroad to take said exam may be devoted to test preparation;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government fully supports the establishment of an NCLEX test center in the Philippines, and is prepared to provide assistance in terms of physical and examination security, as well as intellectual property protection through its agencies.

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 a Presidential Task Force on National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

SECTION 1. Lead Agency. The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), through its Chairman, shall be the lead agency in the NCLEX Task Force.

SEC. 2. Agency Support. The CFO shall be supported by the following agencies, represented by an official with rank not below that of an Assistant Secretary, namely: Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Philippine National Police (PNP), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA).