

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 444, July 05, 2005 ]**

**DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT A STRATEGIC REVIEW ON THE CONTINUING DECENTRALIZATION AND DEVOLUTION OF THE SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN SUPPORT OF THE RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM OF FUNCTIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

WHEREAS, the President has directed a rationalization program of all functions and agencies of the Executive Branch through Executive Order No. 366 dated 04 October 2004 as part of the National Government's efforts to address the challenges of increasing services amidst fiscal and budgetary constraints;

WHEREAS, to attain improved government performance, there is a need to institute reforms that would transform the bureaucracy into an efficient and results-oriented structure;

WHEREAS, local government units (LGUs) are the frontline agencies of government mandated to deliver basic services to the people and serve as the National Government's main partner and implementing arm of its productivity and development programs;

WHEREAS, Section 3 (h) of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides for a continuing mechanism to enhance local autonomy not only by legislative enabling act but also by administrative and organizational reforms;

WHEREAS, LGUs through their respective Leagues have expressed unequivocal and formal support to the President's 10-point agenda of government and relieving the National Government's fiscal burden through good local governance and efficient delivery of basic services.

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. Strategic Review. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is hereby directed to conduct a strategic review on the continuing decentralization and devolution of services and functions of all departments, agencies and bureaus, including corporation, boards, task forces, councils and commissions of the Executive Branch, for purposes of:

- a. Supporting the objectives of the National Government's rationalization policy as provided for under EO 366;
- b. Identifying functions, services, programs, projects, and activities of national government agencies and offices that duplicate or unnecessary overlap with those exercised by the LGUs that could further be devolved or decentralized without