

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 482, December 27, 2005]

CREATING THE NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW TASK FORCE FOR CARGO CLEARANCE

WHEREAS, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted as customs facilitation core component the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) on the 11th Annual Meeting of ASEAN Director-Generals of Customs held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 2003, resulting to the establishment of the initiatives by the ASEAN Customs senior officers;

WHEREAS, the ASEAN leaders, in their 9th Summit held at Bali, Indonesia on September 2003, gave the highest level of endorsement to the ASW, and supported the recommendations of the High-Level Task Force of the ASEAN Director Generals of Customs on issues directly relevant to Customs cooperation, contained in the Bali Concord II stating that the ASW should include the electronic processing of trade documents at regional and national levels;

WHEREAS, the electronic processing of trade documents through a single window will bring about a more efficient and effective service to the public;

WHEREAS, the creation of the Inter-Agency Task Force Officials on ASW comprising of ASEAN will facilitate the development of electronic transactions of all trade matters in the national and regional level;

WHEREAS, the 1st Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on ASW held at Manila, Philippines on August 04-06, 2004 adopted the view that " the single decision making would be uniformly interpreted as a single point of decision for the release of cargoes on the basis of decisions taken by line ministries and communicated timely to the Customs" as the uniform interpretation of the definition of the ASW;

WHEREAS, in analyzing the roles played by related government agencies in the international supply chain, the 1st Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on ASW reaffirmed that Customs Authorities would be the final and single decision-maker on cargo clearance and release;

WHEREAS, in the 3rd Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting on ASW held at Manila, Philippines in April 2005, the Philippines volunteered to be the pilot country for the implementation of the National Single Window (NSW) for Cargo Clearance;

WHEREAS , the NSW is a system that enables a single submission of data and information that is synchronously processed, resulting in a single point of decision for the release of cargoes by Customs, based on decisions made by other Departments and Agencies of government and communicated in a timely manner to Customs;

WHEREAS, the NSW will, among others, increase transparency in cargo processing, provide a more accurate, timely and cost efficient exchange of information, reduce customs operational costs and improve revenue collection;

WHEREAS, the Implementation of NSW will minimize the risk associated in ASW implementation and provide a mitigation and transition plan for the full ASW implementation;

WHEREAS, the 4th Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting of the ASW adopted a Model for NSW for cargo clearance, with the following components, namely: Customs, Other Government Agencies, Banking and Insurance Agency, Transport Community, Trading Community, ASEAN/International Link;

WHEREAS, for purposes of implementing the decisions of the 3rd Inter-Agency Task Force for the ASW, all ASEAN Member-States agreed to establish National Working Groups or similar entities with the following responsibilities:

Monitor, supervise and coordinate the overall progress and implementation of the ASW Project;

Provide inputs and technical documents for the design and establishment of the ASW Project; and To conduct regular views of the project and monitor its implementation at national level;

WHEREAS, government departments and agencies involved in cargo clearance and release must cooperate with each other in order to provide the Bureau of Customs with an automated electronic system required for the establishment, implementation, and operation of NSW, and eventually the ASW;

WHEREAS, the creation of the NSW Task Force for Cargo Clearance is necessary for a more coherent and effective formulation, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the NSW;

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. Creation of Task Force. The National Single Window Task Force for Cargo Clearance (NSW Task Force) is hereby created to bring about a more efficient and effective service to the public.

SEC. 2. Composition . The NSW Task Force shall be composed of a Steering Committee and a Technical Working Group.

SEC. 3. The Steering Committee . The Steering Committee is a high level committee chaired by the Secretary of Finance, with the following as members:

- a. Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- b. Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA);
- c. Secretary Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC);
- d. Secretary, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- e. Secretary Department of Health (DOH);
- f. Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP); and
- g. Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

SEC. 4. Functions of the Steering Committee . The Steering Committee shall be responsible for the following: