

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 285, February 23, 2004 ]**

**DIRECTING THE RATIONALIZATION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE GARMENTS AND TEXTILE EXPORT BOARD (GTEB)**

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Philippines' accession to the World Trade Organization, garments and textile export quotas will be totally eliminated by year 2005, paving the way for a quota-free trade in garments and textile;

WHEREAS, the major function of GTEB which is the negotiation, administration, allocation and monitoring of garments and textile export quota will correspondingly be phased-out;

WHEREAS, with the phasing-out of its major function 2005, where GTEB will be left with a residual function of developing and promoting garments and textile exports, there is a need to rationalize and streamline its operations;

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the government to maintain efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of public services by removing redundancies and eliminating/minimizing overlaps and duplication;

WHEREAS, Section 77 and 78 of the General Provisions of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2003, as well as similar provisions of previous GAAs, give the President of the Philippines authority to direct changes in the organizational units of key positions in any department or agency;

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. Rationalization of GTEB Operations and Organizations. The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is hereby ordered to rationalize the operations and organization of the GTEB. The rationalization should take into consideration the performance by the GTEB of its remaining regulatory functions pending the elimination of the textile export quotas and the transfer of its export promotion functions to appropriate units of the Department.

SECTION 2. Deactivation of the GTEB by 2005. The DTI Secretary shall prepare and implement a winding up plan for the deactivation of the GTEB by 2005.

SECTION 3. Separation Package. Personnel of the GTEB who may be affected by this effort shall be entitled to a separation benefit equivalent to two (2) months of their latest compensation for every year of service in the government, in addition to all gratuities and benefits to which they may be entitled under existing laws, rules and regulations. GTEB employees who avail of such privileges and opt to start their government service anew by being absorbed I the rationalized GTEB shall refund the government of the full amount of the separation benefits received.