

**[ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 352, August 27, 2004 ]**

**CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER FOR  
NEW GOVERNMENT CENTERS, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS  
AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, one of the declared priorities of the Government is the promotion of regional development and the decentralization of government departments and agencies through the transfer and establishment of new government centers [NGCs] outside Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to establish an office which shall assume the primary responsibility of advising the President on matters pertaining to the transfer of select government agencies to specific regions or areas where they are needed the most;

WHEREAS, under the Administrative Code of 1987 and other existing laws, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President;

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* - The Office of the Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers [OPANGC] is hereby created under the Office of the President, to be headed by the Presidential Adviser for New Government Centers [NGCs], who shall have the rank and emoluments of a Cabinet Secretary.

SECTION 2. *Mandate* - The Presidential Adviser for NGCs shall advise the President on the programs, policies and projects for the promotion of regional development and the decentralization of government departments and agencies through the transfer and establishment of NGCs outside Metro Manila to regions where they are needed most.

SECTION 3. *Powers and Functions* - The Presidential Adviser for NGCs shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Identification of ideal sites for proposed NGCs outside Metro Manila, with emphasis on unutilized government-owned buildings and facilities that will house the departments and other national government agencies whose central offices have been previously decided to be transferred or relocated outside Metro Manila;
2. Conduct consultations with concerned local government officials, the business sector, the academe, concerned civil society groups and other interest groups, in order to gain insights, reactions, acceptability, viability and sponsorship of