

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 344, August 09, 2004]

CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL ADVISER IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE POLITICAL COALATION AFFAIRS AND THE OFFICE FOR CONSTITUENCY AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the task of enacting legislation, as well as coordinating political support for the Government's national agenda for growth, stability and good governance involves coordinating not only between the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government, but also between the Government and the various political parties, and between the Government and the various basic sectors of society and other relevant constituencies;

WHEREAS, there is a need for an office in the Office of the President to coordinate and streamline the functional operations of the office of the agencies charged with legislative liaising, and party and constituency relations;

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to recognize 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 power vested I me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order:

Section 1. Office of the Political Adviser. – There is hereby created the Office of the Political Adviser [OPA] under the Office of the President, to be headed by a Political Adviser, who shall have the rank and emoluments of a Cabinet Secretary, to coordinate the legislative and political coalition liaising and constituency building efforts of the Office of the President.

SEC. 2. Coordinating and Oversight Mechanism. – The OPA shall have oversight over the following offices, without diminution of their respective powers and functions: (a) the Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer [PLLO]; (b) the Office of the Political Coalition Affairs, created under Section 3 hereof; the Office of the Constituency Affairs, created under Section 4 hereof.

SEC. 3. Office of the Political Coalition Affairs. – There is hereby created the Office of Political Coalition Affairs [OPCA], headed by an Executive Directors, which shall address the requirements and objectives of the Office of the President towards the participation and support of the various political parties and groups behind the development and implementation of the administration's program of government. The Political Affairs Office in the Office of the President hereby merged with the OPCA and shall be re-engineered in accordance with Section 5 hereof.