

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 210, May 17, 2003]

**ESTABLISHING THE POLICY TO STRENGTHEN THE USE OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AS A MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN THE
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, Section 7, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that for purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English;

WHEREAS, it is a declared policy of the State to promote education as a means to achieve and maintain an accelerating rate of economic development and social progress;

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop the aptitude, competence and proficiency of our students in the English language to maintain and improve their competitive edge in emerging and fast-growing local and international industries, particularly in the area of Information and Communications Technology [ICT];

WHEREAS, strengthening the use of the English language as a medium of instruction also depends on the improvement of the entire educational system, particularly in the training of educators and the provision of learning materials and resources;

WHEREAS, the Department of Education [DepEd], the Commission on Higher Education [CHED] and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority [TESDA] fully support the policies sought to be established herein and have favorably endorsed the issuance of this Executive Order;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. ***Declaration of Policies.*** - The following policies are hereby established:

- a. English shall be taught as a second language, starting with the First Grade.
- b. As provided for in the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum, English shall be used as the medium of instruction for English, Mathematics and Science from at least the Third Grade level.
- c. The English language shall be used as the primary medium of instruction in all public and private institutions of learning in the secondary level, including those established as laboratory and/or experimental schools, and non-formal and vocational or technical educational institutions. As the primary medium of instruction, the percentage of time allotment for learning areas conducted in