

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 239, September 24, 2003]

**RATIONALIZING THE OFFICE OF NORTH LUZON GROWTH
QUADRANGLE AREA AND DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code provides for inter-LGU collaboration wherein "local government units may group themselves, consolidate, or coordinate their efforts, services and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them;"

WHEREAS, the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area is an integrated region, composed of Region I, Region II and the Cordillera Administrative Region, established to stimulate trade, investment and tourism activities, generate jobs, expand businesses, and create export markets for local produce, thereby reducing the incidence of poverty in said regions;

WHEREAS, the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area should be efficiently administered in line with the national government's goal of achieving a Strong Republic through effective governance, vigorous free enterprise economy, true and vigorous democratic representation, and a vibrant civil society;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. *Creation of the Office of North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area.*—The Office of North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area (ONL-GQA) is hereby created to facilitate the integrated development of Region I, Region II and the Cordillera Administrative Region. The ONL-GQA shall oversee the promotion of the socio-cultural development of the Ilocanos and other Filipino workers within and outside the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area, as well as promote trans-border economic cooperation with neighboring advanced economies and cause the inter-regional economic growth of North Luzon communities.

SECTION 2. *Presidential Adviser for North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area.*—The President shall appoint a Presidential Adviser with the rank of Cabinet Secretary to head the Office of North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area. The Presidential Adviser shall report directly to the President and shall assist the President in mobilizing local support, national leadership assistance, and international cooperation in developing North Luzon.

SECTION 3. *Functions and Responsibilities of the Office of North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area.*—The Office of North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Area (ONL-GQA) shall have the following functions and responsibilities: