

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 43, October 18, 2001]

**AUTHORIZING THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
CENTER TO ASSIST IN THE PERFORMANCE OF CERTAIN
FUNCTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Philippine Economic and Cultural Center is a private non-stock corporation organized under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, among the corporate purposes of which is the promotion of the socio-economic welfare of Filipinos throughout Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, there is a substantial number of Filipinos and Philippine juridical persons in Sabah;

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. Authority. — The Philippine Economic and Cultural Center is hereby authorized to assist in the performance of the following functions:

- a) Disseminate information about the Philippines and facilitate cooperation between the Philippines and Malaysia in various fields and endeavors;
- b) Promote the welfare of and assist Filipinos and Philippine juridical persons in Sabah in respect of labor, security, trade, investment, economic, tourism, cultural, educational and other matters;
- c) Conduct periodic assessments of the social and economic conditions in Sabah and their effects on the Filipinos in Sabah; and
- d) Draw-up and recommend effective mechanisms that will facilitate the travel of Filipinos to and from Sabah.

In assisting in the performance of the above functions, the Philippine Economic and Cultural Center shall conduct consultations with Filipinos in Sabah and other concerned sectors and seek policy guidance from and submit quarterly reports to the Office of the President.

SECTION 2. Repealing Clause. — All executive orders, instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Executive Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. — This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

City of Manila, October 18, 2001.

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President: