

**[ MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 225, August 31, 2006 ]**

**ENJOINING ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS SUMMIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines was ranked number 49 among 61 countries in the 2006 World Competitiveness Yearbook, and number 77 among 117 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report of the world Economic Forum;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to improve the country's performance in areas where the country's ranking sharply declined, that is, in infrastructure, business efficiency and economic performance;

**WHEREAS**, the five comprehensive strategies for global competitiveness outlined in the recent State of the Nation Address need to be detailed in specific actions: making food plentiful and affordable to keep our labor cost globally competitiveness; reducing the cost of electricity to make our factories regionally competitiveness; modernizing infrastructure at least cost to efficiency in the transport of goods and people; mobilizing upgrading and disseminating knowledge and technologies for productivity; and reducing red tape in all agencies to cut business cost;

**WHEREAS**, to implement this strategies and improve the country's competitiveness, a National Competitiveness Summit will be conducted with the objective of highlighting commitment of key government and agencies and private sector organizations on achievable action points for 2006 until 2007 organized into an Action Agenda for Competitiveness, and the formation of National Competitiveness Council which will manage the implantation of the Action Agenda;

**WHEREAS**, a Public Sector Core Group(Core Group) has been established through Department Order No. 46 issued by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) whose role is to provide the strategic direction for the National Competitiveness Summit;

**WHEREAS**, the Core Group co-chaired by the DTI and the Private Sector shall be given special powers to ensure that all agencies and departments of the department will lend support in the preparatory activities and during the actual conduct of the Summit;

**WHEREAS**, the functions of the Export Development Council special team created to work out and monitor projects that would improve the country's competitiveness are now subsumed by the Core Group for the National Competitiveness Summit.

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