

[MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 94, April 03, 2003]

**DIRECTING ALL CONCERNED TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO
QUELL THE RECENT ACTS OF TERRORISM AND LAWLESS
VIOLENCE, IN; REGIONS 11 AND 12**

WHEREAS, lawless elements have once again launched bomb attacks and recently exploded bombs in Regions 11 and 12 resulting in the loss of innocent lives and useless destruction of property;

WHEREAS, such terroristics acts have undermined the peace initiatives of the government in Mindanao and continue to threaten and perpetuate acts of terrorism and lawless violence in Mindanao in open defiance of duly constituted authorities;

WHEREAS, the existing situation necessitates an immediate, effective and adequate Government response to avert further loss of innocent lives and destruction of property;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VII, Section 18 of the Constitution, General Order No. 3 series of 2003 has been issued calling upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism and lawless violence in Mindanao, particularly in Regions 11 and 12.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution as President and Commander-in-chief of all Armed Forces of the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. In accordance with General Order No. 3, series of 2003, the Department of National Defense (DND) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall coordinate the immediate deployment of additional forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism and lawless violence in Mindanao, particularly in Regions 11 and 12.

SECTION 2. The DND and the DILG shall organize AFP and PNP personnel in Regions 11 and 12 into Joint Task Forces.

The DND Secretary shall have responsibility and exercise authority over the Joint Task Force deployed in Region 12.

The DILG Secretary shall have responsibility and exercise authority over the Joint Task Force deployed in Region 11.

The DND Secretary and the DILG Secretary shall ensure that there is close coordination, mutual support and cooperation at all times among the officers and men of the AFP and the PNP.