

[PROCLAMATION NO. 524, January 05, 2004]

PROVIDING FOR THE PHILIPPINE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF RICE IN 2004, AND DECLARING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL RICE AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the Government continually supports the ideals of the United Nations (UN) and recognizes the importance of declaration of 2004 as the International Year of Rice (IYR);

WHEREAS, the Philippines was instrumental to have 2004 declared as IYR;

WHEREAS, the UN Declaration of 2004 as IYR emphasizes the heightening of public awareness on rice and its interrelationship with malnutrition and poverty in order to sustain the attainment of global food security;

WHEREAS, the Government recognizes the role of rice in providing food and in helping alleviate poverty among Filipinos;

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

1. Adopt the UN Declaration of 2004 as International Year of Rice
2. Proclaim the month of November of every as National Rice Awareness Month, coinciding with the anniversary of the Philippine Rice Research Institute, created under Executive Order 1061 dated 5 November 1985, as amended and
3. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to come up with national programs on IYR 2004 Philippine Celebration, which shall heighten public awareness on rice to address issues relating to malnutrition and poverty, and attainment of self-sufficiency;

I hereby task the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to draw up plans and activities for the IYR 2004 Philippine Celebration

The DA Secretary may call upon the government agencies, non-government organizations, and various stakeholders of the rice industry in the country to assist in an meaningful observance of the IYR 2004.

The Department of Agriculture, as lead agency, shall review the funding requirement for the IYR Philippines activities and shall allot funds from its regular budget. The concerned government agencies are also enjoined to pool their resources to support the IYR activities in as much as many of the activities that maybe conducted are supported by the agencies' inherent functions.