

[**PROCLAMATION NO. 373, May 09, 2003**]

DECLARING THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2003, AS A REGULAR WORKING DAY IN COMMEMORATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2003, AS A SPECIAL (NON-WORKING) DAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

WHEREAS, "*Independence Day*", which is observed as a regular holiday on June 12 of each year, recognizes the patriotism and heroism of our countrymen, who struggled for freedom and democracy;

WHEREAS, the commemoration of "*Independence Day*" falls on a Thursday this year;

WHEREAS, a longer weekend encourages families to travel and to get together, with a view to strengthening their relationship towards a more productive society;

WHEREAS, a longer weekend promotes domestic tourism and enables employers to plan their work schedules effectively and efficiently, resulting in improved productivity; and

WHEREAS, to enable our countrymen to avail of the benefits of a longer weekend, June 13, 2003 may be declared as a special (non-working) day, instead of June 12, 2003, provided that the historical significance of "*Independence Day*" is maintained.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ALBERTO G. ROMULO, by order of Her Excellency, **GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, do hereby declare Friday, June 13, 2003 as a special (non-working) day throughout the country.

All activities and celebrations for the historical milestones in observance of "*Independence Day*" shall remain to be observed on June 12, 2003, Thursday, which shall be a regular working day, to enable all government officials and employees to participate fully in the activities and celebrations for this historical commemoration.

The Department of Labor and Employment is hereby directed to issue appropriate circulars in implementation of this Proclamation in the private sector.

Done in the City of Manila, this 9th of May, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand Three.

By order of the President:

(Sgd.) ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary

By the Executive Secretary: