

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 514, March 17, 2006]

ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL BIOSAFETY FRAMEWORK, PRESCRIBING GUIDELINES FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON BIOSAFETY OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS , there is rapid expansion of the use of modern biotechnology not only for scientific research but also for products for commercial releases and purposes;

WHEREAS , there is concern over modern biotechnology's potential impacts on the environment, particularly on biological diversity, on human health, and on social and cultural well-being;

WHEREAS , it is the policy of the State to promote the safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology and its products as one of the several means to achieve and sustain food security, equitable access to health services, sustainable and safe environment and industry development;

WHEREAS , the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity which the Philippines signed on 24 May 2000 entered into force on 11 September 2003;

WHEREAS , the National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP), Department of Science and Technology, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources have played, since 1987, a pioneering and important role in developing and establishing the current biosafety system;

WHEREAS , there is a need to enhance the existing biosafety framework to better respond to the challenges presented by further advances in modern biotechnology and to comply with the administrative requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

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. Adoption and Operationalization of the National Biosafety Framework. The National Biosafety Framework (NBF) for the Philippines, attached hereto as Annex A, is hereby adopted.

SECTION 2. Scope and Objectives . The NBF shall have the following scope and objectives:

2.1 Scope. The NBF shall apply to the development, adoption and implementation of all biosafety policies, measures and guidelines and in making biosafety decisions concerning the research, development, handling and use, transboundary movement, release into the environment and management of regulated articles.