

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 273, January 20, 2004]

TRANSFERRING THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DRUG TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS AND PROGRAM NATIONWIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, in line with the priority concern of the current Administration to remove the scourge of dangerous drugs in the country, the 12th Congress enacted and the President signed into law Republic Act (R.A.) 9165, also known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Act 2002, reputed to be one of the strictest laws against dangerous drug abuse in Asia;

WHEREAS, the said law delineated the functions and roles of various agencies in the government in its campaign against dangerous drugs;

WHEREAS, there are over 6,000 institutionalized drug dependents in treatment and rehabilitation centers out of the estimated 1.8 million chronic drug user nationwide;

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve and further strengthen treatment and rehabilitation centers to accommodate the growing need brought about by the improved apprehensions and law enforcement by the present administration;

WHEREAS, R. A. 9165 tasked the Department of Health (DOH) to "oversee and monitor the integration, coordination and supervision of all drug rehabilitation, intervention, after-care and follow-up programs, projects and activities as well as the establishment, operations, maintenance and management of privately-owned drug treatment rehabilitation centers and drug testing networks and laboratories throughout the country in collaboration with the DSWD and other agencies";

WHEREAS, R. A. 9165 further mandates that the existing treatment and rehabilitation center for drug dependents operated and maintained by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Philippine National Police (PNP) shall be operated, maintained and managed by the DOH in coordination with other concerned agencies; and

WHEREAS, a Joint Executive, Legislative, Private Sector Initiative letter, dated December 10, 2003 and signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, both the House and the Senate Chairmen of the Oversight Committee on Dangerous Drugs, DILG Secretary and IOC Chair of the Dangerous Drugs Board, the DOH Secretary, and the representative of the Private Sector, was sent to the President expressing support and the need to improve treatment and rehabilitation efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order: