

**[ OP ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 226, May 16, 2008 ]**

**SUSPENDING THE PROCESSING AND APPROVAL OF ALL LAND CONVERSION APPLICATIONS OF ALL RICE LANDS**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state as declared under Republic Act No. 8435 to assure the availability, adequacy, accessibility of food supplies to every Filipinos at all times;

WHEREAS, the State shall ensure that the poorer sectors of society have equitable access to resources, income opportunities, basic and support services especially in areas where productivity is low;

WHEREAS, the State shall promote food security, including sufficiency in our staple food, particularly the rice supply;

WHEREAS, to meet the needs of the increasing number of Filipinos, there is a need for the production of rice to be optimized to meet our local needs and consumption;

WHEREAS, to ensure sufficient rice supply there is a need for all lands utilized and intended for rice production to be protected from any other land use or conversion;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the law, do hereby order the following

*SECTION 1.* That the processing and approval of all land conversions applications affecting rice lands mentioned under Republic Act No. 8435 considered as Network of protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development (NPAAD) which includes and covers all irrigated areas, all irrigable lands already covered by irrigation projects; all alluvial plain land highly suitable for agriculture whether irrigated or not; Agro-industrial CroP lands or lands presently planted to industrial crops that support the viability or existing agricultural infrastructure and agro-based enterprises, highlands, areas located at an elevation of five hundred (500) meters or above and have the potential for growing semi-temperate and high-value crops; all agricultural lands that are ecological fragile and mangrove areas and fish sanctuaries shall be temporarily suspended for two (2) years.

*SECTION 2.* The Department of Agrarian Reform is hereby tasked for implementation of this order.

*SECTION 3.* All orders, rules and regulations and issuances or parts inconsistent with this Administrative Order are hereby repealed, amended or accordingly

*SECTION 4.* This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately after publication