

MALACAÑANG
Manila

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 153

**INSTITUTING THE NATIONAL DRIVE TO SUPPRESS AND ERADICATE
PROFESSIONAL SQUATTING AND SQUATTING SYNDICATES,
AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDERS NOS. 178, S. 1999 AND 129, S. 1993,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, various instruments have been issued under Republic Act No. 7279, otherwise known as the Urban Development and Housing Act (UDHA) of 1992, instituting mechanisms to curb the nefarious activities of professional squatters and squatting syndicates;

WHEREAS, there is need to further intensify the national drive against these criminal elements that prey on people who need most the protection of the law;

WHEREAS, there is need to re-orient and strengthen the existing mechanisms to effectively curtail said menace; and

WHEREAS, Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of Executive Order No. 292 or the Administrative Code of 1987 provides for the continuing authority of the President to reorganize the administrative structure of the Office of the President.

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

Section 1. *Instituting the National Drive Against Professional Squatting and Squatting Syndicates.* -- The national drive against professional squatting and squatting syndicates is hereby instituted.

Sec. 2. *HUDCC and DOJ as Lead Agencies.* -- The Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) is hereby directed to take the lead in the identification of professional squatters and squatting syndicates, monitor and launch operations, through the proper agency or body, to curtail their activities.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), in conjunction with HUDCC's functions under this Order, shall take the lead in the prosecution of identified professional squatters and squatting syndicates.



