

GMA orders mandatory fuel, energy conservation for gov't offices**By PAOLO ROMERO**

President Arroyo has issued an administrative order directing government agencies and offices to reduce energy and fuel consumption with specific instructions on how to do it.

Administrative Order 228 "Addressing the Rising Cost of Energy," which the President signed on June 2, orders all government agencies to reduce their transport fuel consumption in liters by 10 percent starting this month.

The AO further stated that all government buildings must turn off their air conditioning units at 4:30 p.m. Exempted from this order are offices on 24-hour work.

By next month, Mrs. Arroyo wants all government offices to implement plans to replace all incandescent lamps and by September, all agencies shall convert 20 percent of their vehicles in major cities to liquefied petroleum gas.

"Agencies shall install and/ or adopt other energy saving technology, with the help of the Department of Energy and/ or the Department of Science and Technology," the AO stated.

She also issued Executive Order 728 creating a top-level body that will formulate programs and strategies to assure adequate food and energy supply for the country over the next five years.

An EO was also signed on June 2 creating the National Food and Energy Council (NFEC).

"The NFEC is tasked with assessing the food and energy situation and prospects, and formulating, coordinating, undertaking, monitoring and/ or adjusting major national long-term policies, programs and project as measures to ensure adequate, competitively priced supplies of food and energy for the nation, especially the very poor," the EO stated.

The President will chair the NFEC, with the Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as vice chair.