

# GMA orders creation of intellectual property rights superbody

President Arroyo has issued an executive order creating an intellectual property rights (IPR) superbody to check IPR violations and run after pirates and counterfeiters.

In Executive Order No. 736 signed last June 21, Mrs. Arroyo formed the National Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (NCIPR) and ordered that permanent IPR units be set up in various law enforcement agencies and selected government offices.

She cited the need to create an inter-agency group "that will effectively formulate and implement plans and policies and strengthen the protection and enforcement of IPR in the country."

She stressed that Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines has declared that an effective intellectual and industrial property system is vital to the development of domestic creative activity, facilitates transfer of technology, attracts foreign investments, and ensures market access for the country's products.

The Philippines was delisted last year from the United States Trade Representative's IPR priority watch list and placed on the "lower level watch list."

The NCIPR will be chaired by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), while the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) will be the vice chair. The DTI and the IPO will continue to coordinate inter-agency efforts against piracy and counterfeiting, the EO said.

Other members of the NCIPR are the Departments of Justice, Interior and Lo-

cal Governments, Bureau of Customs, National Telecommunications Commission, National Bureau of Investigation, Phil-

ippine National Police, Optical Media Board, National Book Development Board, Bureau of Food and Drugs, and other agencies to be determined by the committee chairman.

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