

MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 609

**FURTHER ENHANCING EMPLOYABILITY BY DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ADMINISTER A VOLUNTARY EXAMINATION FOR THE NURSES LICENSED PURSUANT TO THE JUNE 2006 BOARD OF NURSING EXAMINATION AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE VOLUNTARY EXAMINEES**

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) recently decided that Philippine nurses licensed pursuant to the Board of Nursing (BON) Examination of June 2006 shall not be eligible for the grant of *VisaScreen* Certificates;

**WHEREAS**, the CGFNS significantly noted that a retake of and passing the equivalent of Tests III and V of the June 2006 BON Examination in a Board Examination administered by Philippine regulatory authorities shall remedy the eligibility problem of nurses;

**WHEREAS**, the CGFNS likewise urged Philippine authorities to give these nurses the opportunity to retake the abovementioned equivalency tests without the need of surrendering their licenses;

**WHEREAS**, in response to this call and as a measure of enhancing the employability of our nurses, the Government deems it appropriate to immediately act through the Department of Labor and Employment, which has immediate supervision and control over the Professional Regulation Commission and the BON.

**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. Special Voluntary Examination.** The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), acting through the Board of Nursing (BON) and utilizing the administrative processes of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), shall administer a special voluntary examination to the nurses licensed pursuant to the June 2006 BON Examination.

**SEC. 2. Examination, when taken.** The special voluntary examination shall be offered in the June 2007 and December 2007 BON Examination and may



