MALACAÑANG Manila

PROCLAMATION NO._256

DECLARING THE THIRD WEEK OF JULY OF EACH YEAR AS "SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK"

WHEREAS, cognizant of the potentials and contributions of small enterprises in economic growth and countryside development, it has been declared a policy of the State to promote, support, strengthen and encourage the growth and development of small enterprises in all productive sectors of the country, particularly the rural and agri-based enterprises;

WHEREAS, pursuant to this declared policy of the State, Republic Act No. 6977, otherwise known as the "Magna Carta for Small Enterprises' was enacted on January 24, 1991 to effectively spur the promotion, growth and development of small enterprises nationwide through the establishment of adequate support structures in financing and credit delivery systems, training, appropriate technology transfer, common service facilities and the active participation of the private sector, among others;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Republic Act No. 6977, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation were established to spearhead the promotion, growth and development of small enterprises;

WHEREAS, it is timely to institute a continuing awareness of the primacy of small business in nation-building and in people empowerment, thus, a period be set within the year to celebrate and espouse the firm commitment of the State in the promotion, growth and development of small business;

NOW THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the third week of July of each year as the "Small Enterprise Development Week" under the auspices of the Department of Trade and Industry, Small Medium Enterprise Development Council and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this day of September in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Three

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TEOFISTO A.

By the President:

JR.