

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

PROCLAMATION NO. 432 (432)

**DECLARING THE NATIONWIDE OBSERVANCE OF THE YEAR 2003 AS
"ASIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR"**

WHEREAS, Section 19, (1), Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the State shall promote physical education and encourage sports program, league competitions, and amateur sports, including training for international competitions, to foster self-discipline, teamwork and excellence for the development of a healthy and alert citizenry;

WHEREAS, the Asian Athletics Association (AAA), the highest international governing body for athletics in Asia, has awarded to the Philippines the hosting of the 15th Asian Athletics Championship on September 18-23, 2003 through the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association (PATAFA);

WHEREAS, the 1st Asian Athletics Championships was held at the Rodriguez Sports Center in Marikina on November 18-23, 1973 under the leadership of former Governor Jose C. Sering, the First President of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association (AAAA);

WHEREAS, the Philippines is committed to host the 15th Asian Athletics Championships to be held at the historic Rizal Memorial Track and Field Stadium in Manila on September 18-23, 2003;

WHEREAS, the said Championships shall provide not only immense exposure for our national athletes to international competitions but also serves as preparation for the country's participation to the Vietnam SEA GAMES in December 2003 as well as boost the tourism industry.

NOW, THEREFORE I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare the year 2003 as the **"ASIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR"** and direct the Organizing Committee of the 15th Asian Athletic Association Championships in cooperation with the Philippine Sports Commission to act as the lead agency in planning, disseminating information and conducting the sporting event;

All heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations and instrumentalities of



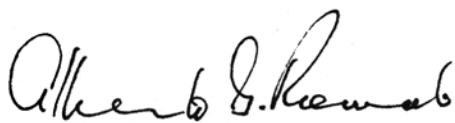
the government, particularly the Philippine Sports Commission, are hereby directed to give full assistance to the Organizing Committee of the 15th Asian Track and Field Championships.

Non-government organizations, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the private sector are hereby requested to lend their cooperation in marking the 15th Asian Track and Field Championships as a dynamic vehicle for the formation of desirable values and the promotion of peace and unity through sports among the youth of Asia.

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

Done in the City of Manila, this 8th day of August, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

By the President:



ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Executive Secretary



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