

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 98, October 28, 1999]

AUTHORIZING THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION (PITC) TO OPERATE AS A CUSTOMS BONDED WAREHOUSE SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPORTING SUGAR FOR FOOD EXPORTERS

WHEREAS, the Export Development Council as provided under RA 7844 shall mandate specific departments and agencies to attend to the bottlenecks and problems constraining the development of exports;

WHEREAS, streamlining export procedures and documentation has been identified as one of the strategies to create a favorable environment for export promotion;

WHEREAS, food exporters are suffering from the long-standing problems on the supply, unstable price and quality of domestic sugar compelling them to import tax and duty-free through Customs Bonded Warehouses;

WHEREAS, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), Export Development Council (EDC), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), and Philippine Exporters Confederation (PHILEXPORT), the EDC accredited organization, agreed to allocate annually a minimal volume of sugar for food exporters through the PITC Bonded Warehouse;

WHEREAS, the PITC is a corporation duly organized and existing under the Department of Trade and Industry and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines mandated to assist exporters to enhance export performance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH M. EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The PITC shall operate a Special Customs Bonded Warehouse (SCBW) solely for the importation of refined sugar by food exporters, the operating guidelines of which is attached as Annex A;

SECTION 2. The SRA shall allocate annually the volume of sugar to be imported for processed food exporters through the PITC;

SECTION 3. The creation of the Committee on Sugar Importation for export which shall be composed of the EDC, PITC, BOC, SRA, and PHILEXPORT with the following functions:

1. Monitor importation and liquidation of sugar used by processed food exporters;
2. Accredited processed food exporters for the purpose of using the PITC-SCBW; and
3. Recommend revisions in the procedures for importation.