

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 61, August 02, 2018]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PHILIPPINE TARIFF COMMITMENTS PURSUANT TO THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the Philippines (PH) was signed on 28 April 2016 in Bern, Switzerland;

WHEREAS, the PH-EFTA FTA was ratified by the President on 08 December 2017;

WHEREAS, the Senate concurred in the ratification of the PH-EFTA FTA through Senate Resolution No. 93 on 05 March 2018;

WHEREAS, the PH-EFTA FTA covers trade in goods, services, investment, government procurement, intellectual property rights, competition and sustainable development, and applies to the trade and economic relations between the Philippines and the individual EFTA States;

WHEREAS, the PH-EFTA FTA provides that the Philippines shall, upon the FTA's entry into force, eliminate import duties and charges having equivalent effect on import duties on non-agricultural goods originating from an EFTA State, except as otherwise provided for in the Schedule of Tariff Commitments on Non-Agricultural products;

WHEREAS, the PH-EFTA FTA also provides that both Parties shall grant tariff concessions for agricultural goods originating from either Party as specified in the Schedules of Tariff Commitments on Agricultural Products;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1609 of Republic Act (RA) No. 10863, or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)," the President shall, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), modify import duties, including any necessary change in classification and other import restrictions as are required or appropriate to carry out and promote foreign trade with other countries;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board, during its 25 April 2018 meeting, approved the Tariff Reduction Schedule on various products covered by the Schedules of Tariff Commitments under the PH-EFTA FTA;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order: