

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 627, June 15, 2007]

MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND MOST-FAVORED NATION (MFN) RATES OF DUTY ON VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT ON RICE UNDER THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture embodies the rules and commitments of WTO members in improving market access and promoting fairer competition in agriculture;

WHEREAS, Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, otherwise known as the "special treatment" provision, provides for restriction on imports of primary sensitive agricultural products subject to strictly defined conditions;

WHEREAS, the Philippine government applied for a seven (7) year extension of the Special Treatment on rice under Annex 5 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture until 2012;

WHEREAS, Paragraph 9, Section B, Annex 5 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture mandates the Philippine government to compensate other WTO member countries by reducing the Most Favored Nation (MFN) rates of duty on certain agriculture products for the requested seven (7) year extension of the special treatment on rice;

WHEREAS, the modification and rectifications of Schedule LXXV of the Philippines took effect on 27 December 2006;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, empowers the President to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade.

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. The articles specifically listed in "Annex A" hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the rates of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated indicated opposite each article.

SECTION 2. The Nomenclature and the rates of import duty on tariff headings not enumerated and those listed but represented by the symbol "X X X" shall remain in force and in effect.

SECTION 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex "A" which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the rates of duty herein prescribed.