

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 484, December 29, 2005]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON SUGAR AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF RATES THEREON UNDER THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

WHEREAS, the transfer of raw and refined sugar from the Philippines' CEPT Temporary Exclusion List to its Sensitive List was approved by the ASEAN Ministers during the 33rd ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Meeting held in Vietnam in September 2001 and subsequently reflected in the First Protocol to Amend the Protocol on Special Arrangements on Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Products signed on September 2004;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 230 signed on 26 July 2003 provided tariff concessions on imports of raw and refined sugar in consideration of the AEM approval of the Philippine request to transfer subject articles to its Sensitive List;

WHEREAS, Article III of the Protocol on the Special Arrangement for Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Products signed on 30 September 1999 prescribes the tariff reduction of sensitive products;

WHEREAS, on 20 December 2005, the NEDA Board approved the 2006 – 2008 CEPT rate schedule for raw and refined sugar;

WHEREAS, Sections 104 and 102 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (PD 1464), as amended, empower the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty;

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 ASEAN CEPT rate in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article. The ASEAN CEPT rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from ASEAN Member States applying CEPT concession to the same product pursuant to Article 4 of the Agreement on the CEPT Scheme for the AFTA (CEPT Agreement) signed on 28 January 1992 and its Interpretative Notes.

SECTION 2. In the event that any subsequent change is made in the basic (Most Favored Nation) Philippine rate of duty on any of the articles listed in Annex "A" to a