

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 165, January 10, 2003]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE 2002 PHILIPPINE SCHEDULE OF TARIFF REDUCTION UNDER THE BOLD ECONOMIC MEASURE INITIATIVES OF THE ACCELERATED COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT.) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA) AND THE TRANSFER OF PRODUCTS FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT SENSITIVE LIST (SL) TO THE CEPT INCLUSION LIST (CEPT-IL)

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 6th ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 15-16 December 1998, the ASEAN Heads of State and Government agreed to adopt a number of "bold" economic measures aimed at restoring regional economic growth and hastening the recovery from the Asian financial crisis;

WHEREAS, on 25 October 2001, the Tariff and Related Matters (TRM) Cabinet Committee approved the 2001-2010 Philippine CEPT Schedule of Tariff Reduction of Sensitive Agricultural Products;

WHEREAS, at its meeting on 27 February 2002, the TRM Cabinet Committee approved the year 2002 Philippine CEPT Acceleration Package;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President, 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" (Articles Granted Concession under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff [CEPT] for the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA]) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN Common Effective Preferential Tariff in accordance with the year 2002 schedule indicated in Column 4 of Annex "A". 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 CEPT Agreement and its Interpretative Notes.

SEC 2. The articles specifically listed in Annex "B" (Sensitive Agricultural Products Granted Concession under the Common Effective Preferential Tariff [CEPT] for the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA]) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN Common Effective Preferential Tariff in accordance with the year 2002-2010 schedule