

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 263, December 30, 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 TRANSFER OF THE LAST TRANCHE OF PRODUCTS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT SENSITIVE LIST (SL) TO THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF INCLUSION LIST (CEPT-IL) AND THE MODIFICATION OF THE CEPT RATE ON OIL CAKE AND OTHER SOLID RESIDUES OF MAIZE (CORN) GERM, SODIUM TRIPOLYPHOSPHATES AND CASSAVA STARCH.

WHEREAS, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, signed the Protocol on the Special Arrangement for Sensitive and Highly Sensitive Products on 30 September 1999;

WHEREAS, Member States (i.e., Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand) phased-in sensitive products to the CEPT Scheme beginning on 01 January 2001 with flexibility but no later than 01 January 2003 and shall complete the phasing-in by 01 January 2010;

WHEREAS, Article III of the Protocol provides that the beginning rate shall be the applied rate and the ending tariff rates shall be 0-5%;

WHEREAS, on 5 November 2001, the NEDA Board approved the 2001-2010 Philippine CEPT Schedule for sensitive agricultural products.

WHEREAS, on 9 December 2003, the NEDA Board confirmed the phasing in of 44 sensitive agricultural products to the CEPT-IL in 2003 and approved the modification of the CEPT rate on oil cake and other residues of maize (corn) germ, sodium tripolyphosphates and cassava starch, respectively;

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 Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex "A" hereof (Sensitive Agricultural Products Granted Concession under the CEPT for the AFTA), as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject