

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 254, June 12, 2000]

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 2000-2003 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)

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the 6th ASEAN Summit held in Hanoi, Vietnam on 15-16 December 1999, 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, among the "bold" economic measures adopted was the acceleration of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) from year 2003 to 2002;

WHEREAS, each country will, by the year 2000, individually impose tariffs of 0-5% on 85% of items in their respective CEPT Inclusion Lists, 90% in year 2001 and 100%, with some flexibility, in year 2002;

WHEREAS, at its Meeting on 19 August 1999, the NEDA Board approved the acceleration of the CEPT rates on eight hundred fifty (850) tariff lines to 0-5% and likewise decided on the unification of the CEPT rates on extracted tariff lines to facilitate the implementation of the AFTA-CEPT on said products;

WHEREAS, the 13th AFTA Council Meeting and the 31st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore on 29 September 1999 and 30 September 1999, respectively, approved the acceleration of the CEPT tariff reduction to 0-5% on products in the Inclusion Lists of the Philippines and Thailand in year 2000 whose legal enactments shall cover the whole period of 2000-2003;

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, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, 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 "bold" measure initiative of the AFTA-CEPT) 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 2000-2003 schedule indicated in Columns 4-7 of ANNEX "A". The ASEAN CEPT rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from ASEAN member states applying CEPT