

[MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 184, October 26, 2009]

DIRECTING ALL DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS, OFFICES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS TO USE TEN PERCENT (10%) BY VOLUME BIOETHANOL IN THEIR GASOLINE REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, under Section 2 (a) of R.A. No. 7638, known as the "Department of Energy Act of 1992", it is declared the policy of the State to ensure a continuous, adequate and economic supply of energy with the end in view of ultimately achieving self-reliance in the country's energy requirements through the integrated and intensive exploration, production, management and development of the country's indigenous energy resources without sacrificing ecological concerns;

WHEREAS, under Sections 2 and 4 (a) of R.A. No. 8749, known as "The Philippine Clean Air Act (PCAA) of 1999", it is declared the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature and recognize the citizen's right to breathe clean air;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9367 or the "Biofuels Act of 2006" was passed in 2006 as a measure to "ensure the availability of alternative and renewable clean energy, without any detriment to the natural ecosystem, biodiversity and food reserves of the country", thereby mandating a "minimum ten percent (10%) blend of bioethanol by volume (Sec. 5.2)";

WHEREAS, the Government is a major user of motor vehicles operating on gasoline fuel;

WHEREAS, the bioethanol blended with petroleum gasoline fuel can reduce harmful emissions and carbon monoxide thereby improving air quality;

WHEREAS, the World-wide Fuel Charter permits the blend of bioethanol up to ten percent (10%) by volume;

WHEREAS, the use of bioethanol in the petroleum industry will reinvigorate the Philippine sugar industry through the creation of a new domestic market and increased productivity, thereby improving the lives of sugarcane farmers;

WHEREAS, ten percent (10%) bioethanol blended gasoline fuel is available in the gasoline retail stations nationwide.

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: