

[OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 336, July 23, 2004]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON CRUDE PETROLEUM OILS AND REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464), AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, current developments warrant the modification in the rates of duty on crude petroleum oils and refined petroleum products;

WHEREAS, Section 6 (Tariff Treatment) of Republic Act (R.A.) 8479, otherwise known as the "Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998," provides that: "Any law to the contrary notwithstanding and starting with the effectivity of this Act, a single and uniform tariff duty shall be imposed and collected both on imported crude oil and imported refined petroleum products at the rate of three percent (3%): *Provided, however,* That the President of the Philippines may, in the exercise of his powers, reduce such tariff rate when in his judgment such reduction is warranted, pursuant to Republic Act No. 1937, as amended, otherwise known as the "Tariff and Customs Code": *Provided, further,* That beginning January 1, 2004 or upon implementation of the Uniform Tariff Program under the World Trade Organization and ASEAN Free Trade Area commitments, the tariff rate shall be automatically adjusted to the appropriate level notwithstanding the provisions under this Section."

WHEREAS, Sections 401 and 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empower the President of the Republic of the Philippines to increase, reduce, or remove existing rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty and the tariff nomenclature, under Section 104 of the Code;

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, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the rates of import duty [Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT)] indicated in Columns 4 and 5 opposite each article.

SECTION 2. The ASEAN-CEPT rates so indicated in Annex "A" 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 ASEAN Free Trade Area (CEPT Agreement), signed on 28 January 1992, and its Interpretative Notes.