

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 263, July 28, 2000]

FACILITATING THE IMPORTATION OF SUGAR

WHEREAS, the Administration, in line with its thrust to promote the interest of the poor, aims to ensure adequate food supply at prices affordable to the ordinary Filipino;

WHEREAS, for the year 2000, there is an estimated shortage of some 150,000 metric ton (MT) of sugar;

WHEREAS, there is need to immediately undertake importation to address the projected shortfall in supply and ensure the stable price of sugar in the domestic market.

NOW, THEREFORE I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order the following:

SECTION 1. *Importation of Sugar.* The government shall hereby facilitate the importation of sugar at sixty five percent (65%) tariff to address the expected shortfall in production of 150,000 MT.

The National Food Authority shall immediately import 50,000 MT to partly address the shortage. The rest of the shortage may be addressed through private sector importation.

SEC. 2. *Committee on Sugar Conversion/Auction.* The Committee on Sugar Conversion/Auction (CSCA), created pursuant to Executive Order No. 87, series of 1999 (Facilitating the Importation of Sugar) is hereby authorized to: (a) prepare and issued the implementing guidelines on the importation of sugar by the private sector; and (b) determine the allocation and use of the fees to be collected from the importation.

The CSCA is chaired by the Department of Agriculture (DA), with the following as members: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Finance (DOF), Sugar Regulatory Authority (SRA), and a representative each from the sugar planters' group and the sugar millers' group.

The membership of the CSCA is also hereby expanded to include a representative each from the consumers group and the sugar workers group. The three representatives of the sugar industry and the representative of the consumers group shall be appointed by the DA Secretary, upon nomination of the SRA Administrator and the DTI Secretary, respectively.

SEC. 3. *Sugar Importation Guidelines.* The guidelines shall cover, among