

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 420, June 17, 1997]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON SUGAR AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE ASEAN PREFERENTIAL RATES OF DUTY THEREON

WHEREAS, the Philippines is committed to participate in the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) Scheme;

WHEREAS, the government needs to provide certain agricultural sectors interim tariff adjustments to help the sector to be efficient and globally competitive;

WHEREAS, the government recognizes sugar as highly sensitive but considers it in its best interest to subject the same to a tariff reduction schedule similar to the one mandated under the CEPT Scheme;

WHEREAS, Sections 104 and 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empower 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, FIDEL V. RAMOS, 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" hereof, classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN preferential rate of duty in accordance with the 1997 schedule indicated in Column 4 of Annex "A".

SEC. 2. In the event that subsequent changes are made in the basic (MFN) Philippine rate of duty on any of the articles listed in Annex "A" to a rate lower than the rate prescribed in Column 4 of Annex "A", such article shall automatically be accorded the corresponding reduced rate of duty.

SEC. 3. Should world market prices rise or increase to a level where the rates of duty herein specified would cause unfairly high prices to consumers, government may reduce the applied rate of duty temporarily or for the duration of said situation to such levels as may be deemed necessary.

SEC. 4. The Margins of Preference (MOP) accorded under the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangements (PTA) shall no longer be extended to any of the products listed in Annex "A" hereof.

SEC. 5. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid Annex "A" which are entered or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the rates of duty therein prescribed