

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 287, December 12, 1995]

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 1996 PHILIPPINE SCHEDULE OF TARIFF REDUCTION UNDER THE NEW TIME FRAME OF THE ACCELERATED COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA)

WHEREAS, under Executive Order No. 145, Series of 1993, the Philippines started the implementation of the CEPT tariff reductions effective 1 January 1994;

WHEREAS, at the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers held in Chiangmai, Thailand from 22-23 September 1994, the ASEAN member countries decided to accelerate the realization of AFTA from 2008 to 2003;

WHEREAS, during the same Meeting, the ASEAN Economic Ministers agreed on the elimination of the Temporary Exclusion List in five equal installments beginning 1 January 1996 and ending 1 January 2000 and on the inclusion of unprocessed agricultural products into the CEPT Scheme for AFTA;

WHEREAS, at the Special Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers held in Phuket, Thailand from 28-29 April 1995, the Ministers decided to phase-in all PTA products in the CEPT Scheme so that eventually there will be only a single trading arrangement in ASEAN;

WHEREAS, at the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the ASEAN Economic Ministers held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam from 3-10 September 1995, the ASEAN Member Countries agreed that the starting date of the implementation of the tariff reduction schedule under the new time frame of the accelerated CEPT/AFTA be on 1 January 1996.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in Annex "A" (Articles Granted Concessions Under the CEPT/AFTA) 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 1996 Schedule indicated in Column 4 of Annex "A". Implementation of the tariff reduction schedule for the succeeding years shall be subject to the issuance of separate implementing Executive Orders.

Sec. 2. The articles specifically listed in Annex "B" (Articles for Phasing-in the CEPT/AFTA) hereof shall be subject to the ASEAN rate in accordance with the 1996