

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 446, September 26, 1997]

MANDATING THE PHASE-OUT OF LEADED GASOLINE AS ONE OF THE MEANS OF SOLVING AIR POLLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "[T]he State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature";

WHEREAS, Section 4, Chapter I, Title XIV, Book IV of the Administrative Code of 1987 empowers the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to "formulate, implement and supervise the implementation of the government's policies, plans and programs pertaining to the management, conservation, development, use and replenishment of the country's natural resource";

WHEREAS, the use of lead in gasoline is one of the main causes of air pollution particularly in Metro Manila;

WHEREAS, lead affects virtually every part of the body and has long been recognized as a neurotoxin with deleterious effects on the intelligence of human beings; on the other hand, it is an additive for gasoline to prevent knocking of engines as well as provide lubricity to engines with soft valves, and the removal of such would require changes in the gasoline formulation and/or use of replacement additives;

WHEREAS, changes in the fuel formulation may need corresponding complementing measures on its use, storage, handling and distribution; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the government to ensure adequate and continuous supply of fuels, and at the same time ensure that other possible additives, contaminants, and components shall not reach harmful levels.

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 DENR, in coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Finance (DOF) shall mandate the phase-out of leaded gasoline and the phase-in of unleaded gasoline and other suitable unleaded replacement not later than 01 January 2000 in Metro Manila, and nationwide by 01 January 2001, provided that unleaded gasoline and other unleaded replacements shall not result in the aggravation of pollution problems and undue economic difficulties to users.

SECTION 2. The DENR, in coordination with the DOE, DTI and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall formulate and implement appropriate