

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 852, December 23, 2009**]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE TRADE IN GOODS CHAPTER OF THE AGREEMENT ON COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AMONG MEMBER STATES OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS AND JAPAN

WHEREAS, the Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Partnership among Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and Japan (AJCEPA) was signed by the Economic Ministers of the ASEAN and Japan on 14 April 2008;

WHEREAS, Parties to the AJCEPA share the view that the Agreement will strengthen economic ties, create a larger and more efficient market, provide greater opportunities and 'larger economies of scale, and enhance attractiveness to capital and talent, for the Parties mutual benefit;

WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines ratified the AJCEPA on 24 December 2008;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Paragraph 1, Article 79 of the AJCEPA, the Agreement entered into force on 01 December 2008 with the notifications of the completion of the legal procedures by the Governments of Japan and at least one (1) ASEAN Member State;

WHEREAS, in relation to the Philippines, pursuant to Paragraph 2, Article 79 of the AJCEPA, the Agreement shall enter into force on the first day of the second month following the date on which it makes notification of the completion of its legal procedures but the staging of tariff elimination or reduction shall commence on 01 December 2008;

WHEREAS, or reduce its customs duties on a non-discriminatory basis on originating goods of the other Parties;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation. of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles listed in the Annex (Articles Granted Concessions under the AJCEPA) hereof, and accompanied by Certificate of origin (CO) Form AJ, shall be subject to the rates of import duty as indicated in Columns 4 to 14 of said Annex.