

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 29, September 30, 1998**]

MANDATING THE STREAMLINING OF THE NATIONAL TOBACCO ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, there is a need for the National Tobacco Administration (NTA) to adjust and strengthen its operations to enable the agency to effectively serve its mandate, address major and pressing concerns to meet the challenges in local tobacco industry as well as respond to the growing needs of international trade;

WHEREAS, Section 29, Chapter V, Book V of Executive Order No. 292 (The Administrative Code of 1987) authorizes an agency to reduce its staff whenever it becomes necessary because of lack of funds due to the change in the scope or nature of an agency's program or as a result of reorganization;

WHEREAS, under Section 78 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 8522 (General Appropriations Act for FY 1998), the President may direct changes in the organization and key positions in any department, bureau or agency;

WHEREAS, as a consequence of financial constraints as well as to enable the agency to perform better and upon recommendation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), a streamlining plan for NTA has been approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. ESTRADA, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested upon me by law, do hereby order the streamlining of the NTA:

SECTION 1. Principles. The streamlining should adhere to the following principles:

1. The streamlining shall be taken within the overall context of promoting the development of the tobacco industry. It should address the current needs of the agency and support its strategic thrusts. This will include the review of all its operations with a set of criteria for measuring programs, projects and services to attain the agency's visions and plans; and

2. Attain optimum efficiency in the allocation of resources especially for priority programs, projects and services by minimizing organizational levels, reducing span of control, combining common functions, avoiding duplication and maximizing resource utilization, but with minimum disruption to operations.

SECTION 2. Guidelines for Refocusing of Operations. To give due consideration to the opportunities and challenges of the industry, the NTA shall refocus its operations with a set of guidelines: