

[OP Executive Order No. 185, June 26, 2015]

MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE PHILIPPINE TARIFF COMMITMENTS ON CERTAIN PRODUCTS INCLUDED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS LIST UNDER THE ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Adopted: 26 June 2015

Date Filed: 09 July 2015

WHEREAS, under the 2007 Sydney and 2011 Honolulu Declarations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders made a commitment to address issues on climate change, review the progress of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Doha Development Agenda negotiations on the liberalization of trade in environmental goods and services, and take concrete steps to achieve past ambitions and make green growth a reality, consistent with their WTO obligations;

WHEREAS, in its 2009 Annual Report, the APEC Committee on Trade and Investment endorsed the APEC Environmental Goods and Services (EGS) Work Program to help in reaching an agreement on actions to support sustainable growth in the region, advance work to increase utilization and dissemination of EGS, reduce existing barriers and refrain from introducing new barriers to trade and investment in EGS, and enhance the capabilities of economies to develop their EGS sectors;

WHEREAS, under the 2012 Vladivostok Declaration, the APEC leaders endorsed the APEC List of Environmental Goods enumerating 54 environmental goods that "directly and positively contribute to green growth and sustainable development objectives," with a commitment to reduce applied rates to 5% or less on these environmental goods by the end of 2015, taking into account "economies' economic circumstances, without prejudice to their position in the WTO;"

WHEREAS, on 19 May 2015, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board recommended the reduction of the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) rates of duty on certain tariff lines under the APEC List of Environmental Goods by 2015; and

WHEREAS, Section 401 of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1464, or the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines (TCCP), as amended, empowers the President, upon the recommendation of NEDA, to increase, reduce or remove existing rates of import duty, as well as to modify the tariff nomenclature.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the power vested in me by law, do hereby order: