

[OP EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 894, S. 2010, June 18, 2010]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON RICE AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE TARIFF REDUCTION SCHEDULE ON RICE THROUGH THE INVOCATION OF THE PROTOCOL TO PROVIDE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR RICE AND SUGAR UNDER THE COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (CEPT- AFTA)/ASEAN TRADE IN GOODS AGREEMENT (ATIGA)

WHEREAS, the Protocol to Provide Special Consideration for Rice and Sugar (Protocol) signed during the 21st AFTA Council Meeting on 23 August 2007 in Makati, Philippines, allows an ASEAN Member State to, under exceptional cases, request for waiver from the obligations imposed under the CEPT Agreement and its related protocols with regard to rice and sugar;

WHEREAS, the Philippines submitted her official notification to invoke the Protocol to the AFTA Council on 24 September 2007;

WHEREAS, during the 22nd AFTA Council Meeting on 26 August 2008 in Singapore, all ASEAN Member States agreed to grant the waiver to the Philippines and requested the Philippines to submit her concrete tariff reduction schedule on rice, including the end-rate and end-date;

WHEREAS, during the 23rd AFTA Council Meeting on 13 August 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, the Philippines submitted her proposed tariff reduction modality of 40% from 2009 until 2014 and 35% in 2015;

WHEREAS, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Thailand was signed on 08 April 2010 in Hanoi, Vietnam;

WHEREAS, the NEDA Board during its meeting on 25 May 2010 approved the tariff reduction schedule on rice;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President of the Republic of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to modify import duties for the promotion of foreign trade;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, pursuant to the powers vested in me under Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, do hereby order: