

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 163, October 18, 1999]

MODIFYING THE NOMENCLATURE AND THE RATES OF IMPORT DUTY ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PRODUCTS UNDER SECTION 104 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978 (PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, AS AMENDED)

WHEREAS, during the APEC meeting held in Manila in November 1996, the 18 APEC leaders called for the conclusion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) by the first WTO Ministerial Conference in a move to eliminate tariffs by the year 2000, with flexibility in the time frame for the elimination of tariffs;

WHEREAS, on 13 December 1996, fourteen (14) economies signed in Singapore a Ministerial Declaration on Trade and Information Technology Products providing for the elimination/binding of tariffs on IT products beginning 1 July 1997 and ending on 1 January 2000 with extended staging of tariff reductions up to the year 2005 for developing countries;

WHEREAS, the Philippines formally signed the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) on 1 April 1997;

WHEREAS, with the Philippine Senate ratification of ITA 1 on 3 December 1998, the Philippines can now implement its commitments under the said Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. The articles specifically listed in "Annex A" hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the rates of import duty in accordance with the schedule indicated opposite each article.

SEC. 2. The nomenclature and the rates of import duty on tariff headings not enumerated and those listed but represented by the symbol x x x shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 3. Upon the effectivity of this Executive Order, the articles specifically listed in the aforesaid "Annex" which are entered in or withdrawn from warehouses in the Philippines for consumption shall be levied the rates of duty herein presented.

SEC. 4. All other Presidential issuances, administrative rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Executive Order are hereby revoked or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Executive Order shall take effect on 1 January 2000 following the complete publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.