

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 234[*], April 27, 2000]

MODIFYING THE RATES OF DUTY ON CERTAIN IMPORTED ARTICLES AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF 1978, AS AMENDED, IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE 2000-2003 PHILIPPINE SCHEDULE OF TARIFF REDUCTION OF PRODUCTS TRANSFERRED FROM THE TEMPORARY EXCLUSION LIST AND THE SENSITIVE LIST TO THE INCLUSION LIST OF THE ACCELERATED COMMON EFFECTIVE PREFERENTIAL TARIFF (CEPT) SCHEME FOR THE ASEAN FREE TRADE AREA (AFTA) AND THE UNIFICATION OF THE CEPT RATES ON EXTRACTED TARIFF LINES

WHEREAS, at its Meeting on 11 November 1998, the Tariff Related Matters (TRM) Cabinet Committee approved the transfer of popcorn and grain sorghum from the CEPT Sensitive List to the Inclusion List;

WHEREAS, at its Meeting on 19 August 1999, the NEDA Board approved the acceleration of the CEPT rates on eight hundred fifty (850) tariff lines to 0-5% and likewise decided on the unification of the CEPT rates on extracted tariff lines to facilitate the implementation of the AFTA-CEPT on said products;

WHEREAS, the 13th AFTA Council Meeting and the 31st ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting held in Singapore on 29 September 1999 and 30 September 1999, respectively agreed that ASEAN Member Countries shall prepare the legal enactment to implement the schedule of tariff reductions of products transferred from the Temporary Exclusion List (TEL) to the CEPT Inclusion List covering the period from 2000-2003;

WHEREAS, Section 402 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978 (Presidential Decree No. 1464), as amended, empowers the President, upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority, to increase, reduce or remove existing protective rates of import duty, as well as to modify the form of duty.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA, President of the Republic 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" (Articles Granted Concession under the AFTA-CEPT) hereof, as classified under Section 104 of the Tariff and Customs Code of 1978, as amended, shall be subject to the ASEAN Common Effective Preferential Tariff in accordance with the 2000-2003 schedule indicated in Columns 4-7 of Annex "A". The ASEAN CEPT rates so indicated shall be accorded to imports coming from ASEAN member states applying CEPT concession to the same product pursuant to Article 4 of the CEPT Agreement and its Interpretative Notes.

SECTION 2. In the event that any subsequent changes are made in the basic (MFN) Philippine rate of duty on any of the articles listed in Annex