

**PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF ARRASTRE AND STEVEDORING OPERATORS**

Ground Floor, OPASCOR Building, Don Bernardo Benedicto St.,  
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April 17, 2002

SECRETARY LUIS LORENZO JR.  
Presidential Adviser for Agriculture  
and Creating One Million Jobs  
Mabini Hall  
Malacañang, Manila

Sir:

The Philippine Chamber of Arrastre Stevedoring Operators (PCASO), the organization of port cargo handling providers nationwide, would like to seek clarification whether you made the pronouncement, attributed to you in press reports, that the President has directed a twenty percent (20%) rollback in port cargo handling rates.

Our general membership has reacted strongly to these reports as they reflect utter lack of understanding of the difficult process in securing even a limited upward adjustment in the rates from the Philippine Ports Authority. A 20% rollback will definitely adversely affect port operation and will impact on port labor and such pronouncement during these difficult times has created instability in our labor force.

Your immediate categorical clarification on this very serious matter is earnestly requested.

Very truly yours,

  
BENJAMIN C. AKOL  
President

*COPY FOR SLP, JR  
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