



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City, 1100 Philippines

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 16
Series of 2019

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT-WIDE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE NEW DA VISION OF “A FOOD SECURE PHILIPPINES WITH PROSPEROUS FARMERS AND FISHERS” AND INSTITUTING MEASURES THEREFOR FOR BETTER PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY, ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY, AND STRONGER ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS DOUBLING THE INCOMES OF SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERS WITHIN FIVE YEARS.

WHEREAS, the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that: “The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged;”

WHEREAS, under the leadership and direction of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, the Government, is highly desirous and committed to lifting the living standards of the Filipino people and improving their general well-being by establishing a peaceful society, stronger democracy, and a thriving Philippine economy supported by highly productive and competitive agriculture, industry and service sectors;

WHEREAS, under the Administrative Code of 1987 (EO No. 292, S.1987) the Department of Agriculture is mandated to “*promote the well-being of farmers, including share tenants, leaseholders, settlers, fishermen, and other rural workers by providing an environment in which they can increase their income, improve their living conditions, and maximize their contributions to the national economy;*” and that “*Toward this end, the State shall accelerate agricultural development and enhance the production of agricultural crops, fisheries, and livestock by optimizing the use of resources and by applying modern farming systems and technology in order to attain food security for domestic use and expand and diversify agricultural production for export. It shall also encourage private initiative in agri-business ventures both in the production and in the exportation and importation of food and other allied commodities;*”

WHEREAS, SECTION 2 of EO No. 292, S.1987 states that the Department “*is the government agency responsible for the promotion of*



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agricultural development by providing the policy framework, public investments, and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises;"

WHEREAS, various laws and policies have mandated the implementation of programs for the development of the agriculture and fisheries sectors of the country, including but not limited to, the Agri-Agra Law (PD 717 as amended by RA 10000), Magna Carta for Small Farmers (RA 7607), the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1998 (R.A. 8435), High-Value Crops Development Act of 1995 (Republic Act No. 7900), Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 (R.A. 8550 as amended by R.A. 10645), Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (R.A. 10068), the Food Safety Act of 2013 (R.A. 10611), Farm Tourism Development Act of 2016 (R.A. 10816), the Sagip Saka Act of 2019 (R.A. 11321), among others;

WHEREAS, there is need to establish a consistent and unified policy framework in order to enhance, and strengthen the planning, budgeting, accountability and governance processes, and as well align the current policies, mechanisms, structures and programs through which the agencies and instrumentalities of the Department operate in the service of the farmers and fishers and to help hasten the overall development of the agriculture sector of the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, in order to enable better service delivery, generate higher and more inclusive growth, and intensify the fight against poverty; the following Policy Framework and its accompanying guidelines are hereby established and adopted by the Department of Agriculture to help guide the operations of all offices, units and attached agencies under it.

SECTION 1. COVERAGE. — This Administrative Order shall cover all offices, units and attached agencies under the Department of the Agriculture, including all corporations, boards, task forces, councils, banner programs and special projects.

SECTION 2. POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR INCLUSIVE AGRI-INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE NEW THINKING FOR AGRICULTURE — The Department of Agriculture's new Vision of "*A FOOD SECURE PHILIPPINES WITH PROSPEROUS FARMERS AND FISHERS*" shall guide the formulation and implementation of all policies, plans, programs, and regulations towards the development of the agriculture sector.

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The Department, adopts the development strategy of "New Thinking for Agriculture" with the aim to bring the agri-fishery sector along a path toward a higher rate of growth and employment and to ensure higher level of incomes for Filipino farmers and fishers. These are:

1. *Modernization of agriculture* – support for increased use of science-based farming and good agriculture practices and promotion of better access to technology in the production, processing, and handling of agriculture and fisheries produce.
2. *Industrialization of agriculture* – adoption of more efficient division of labor, technological innovation to solve problems, promotion of entrepreneurship and enhanced financial management, the use of enhanced farm management organization as well as "big-brother-small brother partnerships" between farmer groups with the private sector as key to elevate productivity in the agriculture sector.
3. *Promotion of exports* – development of exports for more segments of the agriculture sector and improving access to more domestic and foreign markets through mindful efforts to raise the level of competitiveness of agriculture and fisheries, by ensuring the adoption of higher standards of quality of produce, and through pro-active programs for the promotion of Philippine agriculture exports.
4. *Enhanced Support to Farm Consolidation / Clustering* – encouraging farmers to combine/consolidate/cluster and synchronize their farming and fishing activities in order to realize economies as better organized community enterprises engaging the services of proficient farm managers for enhanced access to technologies, financing and markets.
5. *Infrastructure Development* – support for the development of infrastructure and common service facilities, including better farm machineries, post-harvest equipment, processing and packaging facilities and ICT-based technologies that will redound to manpower and cost savings and lead to higher margins for the farmers.
6. *Roadmap development* – to provide a more consistent and coherent basis for the Department's policy and program support, long term plans and strategies shall be developed for the agriculture sub-sectors, including the various commodities, services, logistics, and government support programs, taking into account the development of value chains in each subsector, in consultation with farmers, fishers and industry stakeholders.



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7. *Higher Budget and Investments For Agriculture.* More effort shall be exerted towards encouraging private investment in Philippine agriculture and fisheries. Concomitantly, the Department shall work for higher budgetary support for food security and enhanced support to the development of more farm-based enterprises as well as community projects for the fisher-folks.
8. *Legislative support.* The Department shall continue to seek legislative support at the national and local levels and engage/partner with policy-makers in the other agencies in sustaining reforms that will promote faster growth the overall competitiveness of the agriculture sector.

The Department strategies, actions and oversight focus shall henceforth be founded on and aligned with the following pillars of inclusive agri-industrial strategy:

1. **INCLUSIVE** – connotes comprehensive social processes that includes the participation of all stakeholders, especially the small farmers and fishers in defining problems and solutions, in collective decisions and activities, as well as in the economic benefits of capacity building, investments and production.
2. **SCIENCE-BASED** – respects culture and traditional knowledge but endeavors to evolve the use of science-validated truths, ground data, and good agricultural practices.
3. **MARKET-ORIENTED** – proposes that farming and fishing are production activities that demand thoughtful business management and adoption of the value chain approach in all stages from pre- to post-production in order for meeting domestic and export market requirements.
4. **RESILIENCE** – consider the capacity of the sector and its sub-components to handle and experience change in socio-economic, environmental and market conditions.

SECTION 3. CORE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE — As an integral part of its enhanced reform and development efforts, the Department reaffirms its adherence to the Constitutional mandate that “Public office is a public trust” and that “Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives.” In the implementation of its policies, programs and actions, the Department shall



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abide by the mandates of the Administrative Code, the Code of Conduct for Public Officials and Employees (R.A. 6713), the Anti-Red Tape Act (R.A. 9485), Government Procurement Reform Act (R.A. 9184) and the Ease of Doing Business law (R.A. 11032), in order to ensure efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, progressiveness, and courtesy the provision of its services.

The following principles of governance shall also be highlighted:

- *National Interest* – enabling and supportive policy environment and upholding the national welfare above the interest of organizations or individuals
- *Integrity* – adhering to moral and professional standards in fulfilling commitments and provision of services on arms-length basis
- *Transparency* – timely access to relevant and verified information/data subject to the limits of law
- *Accountability* – obligation to spend allocated funds in a responsible way and with clear reporting rules
- *Sustainability* – continuing engagement by instituting progressive policies and operational mechanisms of mutual trust; and institutionalization of good practices

SECTION 4. NEW DA-WIDE POLICY INITIATIVES — Further guided by government policies to ensure better public service delivery, accountable governance, enhanced transparency, improved effectiveness and efficiency in the use of public funds, the following actions and guidelines are hereby adopted for implementation by all concerned units and officials of the Department, to wit:

A. Institutionalization — All units, bureaus, attached agencies, boards, banner programs, and special projects under the Department of Agriculture are hereby directed to incorporate the above strategies and core principles in all their short-term, medium-term and long-term plans, protocols and activities, including those of on on-going P/A/Ps, budgets and NGA documents and reports, performance targets and indicators to be monitored, for submission to the Chief of Staff, of the Office of the Secretary.

B. Timelines – Every unit, bureau, attached agency, banner program, and special project shall prepare and submit to the designated OIC-



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Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, measurable timelines and metrics on how their particular agency/units will contribute to the goal of "doubling the incomes of farmers and fisher-folk within the next five years." Said timelines shall indicate the micro and macro-impacts of their programs, actions and activities and shall be broken down into annual and quarterly targets, coinciding with the P/A/Ps and budgets of the concerned programs/agencies/units.

- C. Vetting of Major Project Proposals** — All locally-funded projects that require public expenditures above Fifty Million Pesos (PhP50,000,000.00), in addition to project-proposals intended for foreign funding, shall henceforth be subjected to vetting via the DA-Wide Clearing House System to be coordinated with the designated OIC-Undersecretary for Policy and Planning.
- D. Review and Audit of Program Beneficiaries** — In order to ensure the sustainability and increase beneficial impact of the DA's programs and projects to more farmers and fisher-folk, the Department shall undertake a comprehensive review and audit of the list of beneficiaries that have received DA assistance in the last five years, learn from the lessons that may arise there from and enhance/update the systems and protocols in future implementations of existing as well as new DA programs and projects. This may entail third party audit, institutional research partnerships with relevant agencies, and designated consultants, including the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission, to be coordinated by the Chief of Staff.
- E. Renewal of Civil Society Partnerships** — The Department shall endeavor to broaden the scope of stakeholder consultations on policy concerns and directions for the agriculture by (1) ensuring that more farmers' groups and organizations are able to take on leadership positions in consultative bodies, including the local and national Councils of Agriculture and Fisheries, and (2) imposing single-term limits of one year for the chairmanships of councils and the various committees, to be coordinated by the designated OIC-Undersecretary for Policy and Planning.
- F. Information Support Systems and Knowledge Sharing.** — The DA-ICTS, in consultation with the Chief of Staff and the various operating units, shall develop web-based information support systems to provide more efficient sourcing of agriculture information and data, enable faster reporting by DA units, programs and agencies, enhance decision support mechanisms to ensure the quality of policy choices. All units,



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bureaus, attached agencies, boards, banner programs, and special projects under the Department of Agriculture are likewise directed to provide regular updates on their respective activities to be shared within the Executive Committee.

- G. Review and updating of the Agency-Wide Rationalization Plan.** — Consistent with the E.O. 366, S,2004, a three-member Working Group to be headed by the Chief of Staff, with the Undersecretary for Administration and the designated OIC-Undersecretary for Policy and Planning as members, shall undertake a review and updating of the agency-wide rationalization plan, assess the current thematic assignments, and submit their recommendations to the Secretary, within 60 days.
- H. Establishment of the Agriculture PPP Support Center.** The designated OIC-Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, together with the Undersecretary for Operations and the Undersecretary for High Value Crops shall formulate and implement the necessary support programs and mechanisms to encourage and fast track investments into PPP in agriculture, agri-infrastructure and agri-business.
- I. Development of a Corps of Farm Managers.** The designated OIC-Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, in collaboration with the Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) and the Secretary's Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) and the Agriculture Training Institute (ATI), is hereby tasked to formulate concept notes and proposals for partnership arrangements with professional agriculturist organizations, higher educational institutions, and multilateral donor bodies towards the development of a corps of professional farm managers, capable of providing guidance to farm and fishing communities in terms the technical aspects of science-based farming, access to financing, and access to better markets.
- J. Adoption of Quality Standards of Performance.** All units, bureaus, attached agencies, boards, banner programs, and special projects under the Department of Agriculture shall endeavor to adopt a standard or system of quality management, transparency, institutional accountability, and/or due diligence, including but not limited, to ISO 9001:2015 certifications and/or active partnership with the Integrity Initiative movement in order to ensure continuing reviews and enhancement of their protocols and operational processes. This effort shall be undertaken by the Undersecretary for Administration, in coordination with the Chief of Staff.

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SECTION 5. REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS. — The concerned officials, units, agencies and other relevant parties involved in the operationalization and progress of the above-cited initiatives shall submit to the Office of the Secretary regular quarterly reports and updates on their actions, accomplishments, and concerns, for review and evaluation by the Office of the Secretary.

SECTION 6. REPEALING AND SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. — All other existing rules, circulars, procedures, practices, orders or any part thereof that are inconsistent with this Administrative Order are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly. If any part or provision of the Administrative Order is declared unconstitutional or illegal, the other parts or provisions shall remain valid.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVITY. — This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE in Quezon City, this 10th day of December, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.

WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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