



23 April 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 14
Series of 2020

SUBJECT : INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AGRICULTURE DIALOGUE AND INFORMATION NETWORK GROUPS (ADING) AS THE INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHEREAS, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE seeks to level up the performance of the agriculture sector in the Philippines in order to enhance food security and food availability, (1) by promoting the productivity and incomes of farmers, fishers and allied groups including agri-processors, traders, transport and logistics support, market retailers, among others, and (2) by ensuring the provision of better and more efficient government support in order to boost the growth, and overall performance of the sector;

WHEREAS, Section 27, Article II, 1987 Constitution, provides that it is the policy of the State to maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and to undertake positive and effective measures against graft and corruption;

WHEREAS, Section 2, of Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the "Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees," declares that it is the policy of the State to promote a high standard of ethics in public service and that public officials and employees shall at all times be accountable to the people and shall discharge their duties with utmost responsibility, integrity, competence, and loyalty, act with patriotism and justice, lead modest lives, and uphold public interest over personal interest;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture seeks to further strengthen the sense of duty, responsibility and initiative among its officers and staff in all units, bureaus, regional offices and attached agencies by way of: (a) actively developing, implementing, and promoting effective good governance principles and projects, effective anti-corruption measures and activities; (b) closer working relations with clients, sector constituencies, and other publics through participatory programs and active engagements with civic, youth and religious groups and organizations;

WHEREAS, in order to level up the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability in the implementation of plans, programs, projects, and policies of the Department and its attached agencies; and to further enhance the overall impact of its services to the agriculture sector, especially under the COVID-19 environment, and beyond.

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NOW THEREFORE, the Department of Agriculture adopts and endeavors to implement the following policies and administrative guidelines concomitant to its new Integrity building initiative and program for participatory oversight, to wit:

Section 1. Governance Principles The Department of Agriculture values its close working relations, partnership, and cooperation with its various publics, especially the farmers and fishers, and other participants in the agriculture sector and shall seek to institutionalize transparency, participatory and collaborative programs that will enhance and elevate the integrity profiles of the various programs and initiatives undertaken in all its offices, bureaus, attached agencies, and their various programs, projects, and other continuing activities.

The Department seeks to deepen constructive citizen engagement through collaborative and consultative practices that encourage citizen participation in order to advance the realization of a genuine participatory democracy, deepen constructive citizen engagement, in the context of greater social and political equity and people empowerment; and to encourage better service delivery to strengthen and promote the productivity of the agriculture sector on the whole.

Section 2. Integrity Management Program, Objectives. The integrity management program of the Department of Agriculture shall be called the ***Agriculture Dialogue and Information Network Groups (ADING)*** Program. The Program shall focus on establishing Integrity Circles at the local, provincial, regional and national levels as the Department's dialogue partners in institutionalizing transparency and accountability, leveling up integrity practices, and further developing the responsiveness of the Department's programs and projects to the needs of its publics and the agriculture sector at large.

The main objectives of the ADING Program are:

- (1) To improve and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the DA's various actions and programs in lifting the conditions of farmers, fishers and other participants in the agriculture sector;
- (2) To enhance the quality and timeliness of delivery of the DA's services to its target beneficiaries;
- (3) To ensure the prevention and avoidance of leakages and wastage in the use of the agencies' resources by engaging its publics in dialogues, monitoring and consultative activities, including active participation in the procurement process;
- (4) To institutionalize the value of honesty and principles of integrity in the everyday processes and actions of the various units and personnel within the Department; and

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- (5) To strengthen the relevance of the Department's programs, actions, and strategies to the needs of the producers, consumers, economy and society at large.

Section 3. Coverage. The ADING Program shall be a DA-wide initiative to push for good governance, anti-corruption, enhanced effectiveness and efficiency, and adherence to participatory mechanisms in the operational programs, projects, and activities of **all** the various DA units and attached agencies, especially in the procurement, monitoring and data validation activities, and overall prioritization and use of public resources for agriculture development and food production. All officials, including the Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Bureau and Agency Heads, and program directors, are hereby enjoined to cooperate in the activities, projects, requests for data and other requirements of the ADING Program.

Section 4. Key Focus Areas. The ADING's programs and activities shall focus on improving public's trust and confidence in government, especially in the following areas:

- Improving the timeliness, relevance and quality of service delivery by all agencies, units, programs and key activities of the Department and its Bureaus, attached agencies and key programs/projects;
- Enhancing the transparency and integrity profiles of the various DA agencies and units in terms of financial, procurement and asset management concerns and activities;
- Encouraging collaborative institutional partnerships in monitoring and reviewing the efficiency, and effectiveness of the Department's major programs and projects to further improve as well as expand their coverage and service reach; and
- Promoting cooperation and partnership activities with civil society as well as with civic and religious groups in order to boost the transparency, integrity, and responsiveness of DA programs, projects, and activities, and important contributions of farmers, fishers, and agriculture workers to the economy and nation.

Section 5. Program Management Committee (PMC). The ADING Program shall be under the supervision of a Program Management Committee, which is hereby created and to be composed of the following:

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| • Undersecretary for Policy and Planning | - Chairman |
| • Undersecretary for Administration and Finance | - Vice Chairman |
| • Undersecretary for Regulations | - Member |
| • Undersecretary for High Value Crops and Rural Credit | - Member |
| • Assistant Secretary for Policy | - Member |


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The ADING-PMC shall have the following tasks and functions:

- Serve as overseer of the ADING Program and provide the overall direction in program planning and implementation;
- Recommend the necessary guidelines, activities and component programs for approval by the Secretary to ensure effective implementation of the Program;
- Facilitate the provision of training, technical assistance, and information exchange to DA units, program and project implementers, regional offices and attached agencies;
- Ensure the provision of capacity-building interventions in relation to the effective implementation and roll-out of Integrity-related activities in such areas as procurement activities, financial assistance and grants, and implementation of projects;
- Establish rewards and incentive schemes to promote compliance and good practices that may be linked with existing performance management systems and budget management;
- Ensure resources are allocated to the program, as well as from donations, grants, contributions, sponsorships and/or any form of assistance from government entities, private sector and development partners to carry out its mandate;
- Coordinate with like-minded agencies, groups, institutions and organizations promoting Good Governance, Anti-Corruption, Transparency, and other groups engaged in Integrity-related activities to build constituency in support of ADING's programs and activities; and
- Perform such other functions as may be necessary consistent with the basic functions of the Committee.

A composite team to be formed from the Policy and Planning Group and other relevant offices shall provide secretariat support to the PMC.

Section 6. Regional Implementation. At the regional level, the Regional Planning Officers shall be responsible for the implementation of the Program's activities and projects as Regional ADING Coordinator (RAC), directly submitting reports to the ADING-PMC. The ADING-PMC may also directly request for reports and relevant information relative to its functional requirements. Specifically, the RACs shall assist the PMC in terms of the implementation of the programs and activities of the ADING, including but not limited to:

- Provision of technical assistance and information exchange on programs and projects to DA's publics, especially the farmers and fishers groups, civil society and other participants in ADING activities;

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- Capacity-building interventions, including the planning and monitoring activities of partner-stakeholders, in relation to the effective implementation and roll-out of Integrity-related activities such as but not limited to procurement, monitoring, and providing inputs in reviews in the evaluation of DA's programs and projects;
- Engaging relevant provincial and municipal stakeholders in the agriculture sector into dialogue, networking, training programs, monitoring/validation activities, and constituency build in support of ADING's programs and activities; and
- Coordinating with like-minded agencies, groups, institutions and organizations promoting Good Governance, Anti-Corruption, Transparency, and other groups engaged in Integrity-related activities.

The Regional ADING Coordinators shall encourage the formation of provincial and municipal ADING liaison units that coordinate monitoring and oversight activities and coordination for gathering information on the progress and concerns of farms and fisheries at the local levels.

Section 7. Mechanisms of Participation. The PMC shall adopt and implement participatory governance programs designed to engage its relevant publics, including farmers and fisher folk, civil society, youth groups, and agriculture professionals. Programs and projects shall be formulated for adoption and implementation under the direction and supervision of the PMC in the following areas: (a) consultative and agenda setting activities, (b) participatory monitoring and validation activities, (c) joint assessment and evaluation activities, (d) participation as observers in the procurement by the Bids and Awards Committee at various levels, and (e) monitoring of prices of agricultural products.

Section 8. Main Activities. The following programs shall be initially piloted at the national and regional level in cooperation with the policy and/or planning units, to wit:

- (1) Monthly dialogues with Integrity Circles;
- (2) Organizing customer and constituents' feedback collection mechanisms;
- (3) Undertaking participatory audits jointly with the Commission on Audit regional offices and/or stakeholder dialogues with COA on findings that concern the agriculture sector;
- (4) Participation in the procurement process as observers, submitting regular reports directly to the ADING;
- (5) Joint monitoring and/or reviews of projects and activities;
- (6) Maintaining quick response/emergency communication systems for their respective area coverage; and

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- (7) Developing the Planting and Harvest Notification System (PHNS) to facilitate information sharing on expected harvests, as well as to link up producers and buyers.

These projects shall be cascaded to the provincial and municipal levels as soon as feasible, in order to enhance and expand the DA's sources of field level information as well as its feedback mechanisms.

All units, attached agencies, and offices of the departments shall participate in the implementation of the plans, actions and programs to be implemented by the PMC and the relevant task groups and committees which may be organized. For this purpose, the relevant agriculture priorities of the particular region's agriculture development goals and strategies shall be considered key to the formulation of the ADING Integrity agenda.

Section 9. Funding. Funds that are necessary for the attainment of the objectives of this Administrative Order shall be provided from the budgets under the Office of the Secretary, subject to the usual accounting and auditing requirements. Activities at the regional level, the Regional Directors shall set aside the necessary funds for the meetings

and consultations on activities of the RAC. The ADING-PMC shall submit the necessary program budgets for the implementation of its activities for approval from the Secretary. The ADING Program shall be incorporated as a new line item proposal in the 2021 and future budgets of the Department. Official Development Assistance may be sought for specific actions and/or projects that may gain support from development funding institutions.

Section 10. Regular Reporting. The RAC's shall submit progress reports to the Secretary by the end of each calendar month on the results of their activities, plans and programs. The ADING-PMC shall consolidate the submitted reports, including the ADING's activities at the national level, to be submitted to the Secretary within the first week of each month.

Representatives from the ADING shall participate as observers or resource persons in the procurement processes by the Bids and Awards Committees within the Department, and shall provide regular reports to be submitted to the PMC.

The ADING shall also provide reports on the monitoring of projects to be submitted to the PMC for analyses.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Administrative Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. This Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.


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Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
In replying pls cite this code
For Signature: S-04-20-0216
Received 04/23/2020 02:17 PM

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