



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

24 June 2020

**JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 02  
Series of 2020**

**TO : PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIAN, LOCAL AGRICULTURAL OFFICES, LOCAL FINANCE COMMITTEES, AND ALL OTHER NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES ON THE STRENGTHENING AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING GROUPS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs)**

**1.0 Rationale**

The foremost goals of Republic Act (RA) Nos. 8435<sup>1</sup> and 10601<sup>2</sup>, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997 and the Agriculture and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law, respectively, are to modernize and mechanize the Philippine agriculture and fisheries sector in order to alleviate poverty and ensure national food security.

The implementation of these laws largely involve the provision, establishment, strengthening, operation and maintenance, research and development, extension and/or regulation and the funding of irrigation, post-harvest and agro-processing, farm-to-market roads, agricultural and fisheries machineries, infrastructure and facilities at the national and local levels which are within the sphere of agricultural and biosystems engineering. The LGUs have a very crucial and important role on these developmental processes.

<sup>1</sup> An Act Prescribing Urgent Related Measure to Modernize the Agriculture and Fisheries Sectors in the Country in Order to Enhance their Profitability, and Prepare Said Sectors for the Challenges of Globalization Through an Adequate, Focused and Rational Delivery of Necessary Support Services, Appropriating Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes

<sup>2</sup> An Act Promoting the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Development in the Country

The aforementioned endeavors principally require the strengthening or establishment of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) unit and the creation of corresponding Engineer positions in every province, city and municipality.

This Circular covers all LGUs.

## 2.0 Legal Bases

This Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) is hereby promulgated based on the following legal provisions:

### 2.1 RA No. 7160<sup>3</sup>, otherwise known as Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991

"Section 17. *Basic Services and Facilities.* - (a) Local government units shall endeavor to be self-reliant and shall continue exercising the powers and discharging the duties and functions currently vested upon them. They shall also discharge the functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices devolved to them pursuant to this Code. Local government units shall likewise exercise such other powers and discharge such other functions and responsibilities as are necessary, appropriate, or incidental to efficient and effective provisions of the basic services and facilities enumerated herein. (b) Such basic services and facilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) x x x

(2) For a Municipality: (i) Extension and on-site research services and facilities related to agriculture and fishery activities which include x x x inter-barangay irrigation system; water and soil resource utilization and conservation projects; x x x; (viii) Infrastructure facilities intended primarily to service the needs of the residents of the municipality and which are funded out of municipal funds including but not limited to, x x x communal irrigation, small water impounding projects and other similar projects; fish ports; x x x

(3) For a Province: (i) Agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities x x x; (vii) Infrastructure facilities intended to service the needs of the residence of the province and which are funded out of provincial funds including, but not limited to, x x x, irrigation systems; x x x.

(4) For a City: All the services and facilities of the municipality and province, x x x.

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<sup>3</sup> An Act Providing for a Local Government Code of 1991



Section 76. Every LGU shall design and implement its own organizational structure and staffing pattern taking into consideration its service requirements and financial capability, subject to the minimum standards and guidelines prescribed by the CSC."

**2.2 RA No. 8435 (AFMA Law)**

"Section 46. *Agriculture and Fisheries Infrastructure Support Services*- x x x *Provided*, That, the Department and the LGUs shall also strengthen its agricultural engineering groups to provide the necessary technical and engineering support in carrying out the smooth and expeditious implementation of agricultural infrastructure projects."

**2.3 Executive Order (EO) No. 66<sup>4</sup>, series of 1999 (Food Security)**

"Section 8. *Funding and Administrative Support for the Food Security Program of the Province/City*. - All Governors/City Mayors, through their respective Sanggunian Panlalawigan/Panlungsod, shall provide specific budgetary appropriation under the local development plan of the province/city, for their Provincial/City Food Security Action Plan, including the setting up of an agricultural engineering unit to complement the extension services for the purpose".

**2.4 RA No. 10601 (AFMech Law of 2013)**

"Section 29. *Strengthening the Agricultural Engineering Groups of the LGUs*. - The agricultural engineering division/section of the agriculture offices of the LGUs organized under Executive Order No. 86, Series of 1999 and Section 46 of Republic Act No. 8435 shall serve as the planning, coordinating, regulating and implementing bodies at the provincial, city and municipal levels on agricultural and fisheries engineering, mechanization and infrastructure programs and projects, x x x the agricultural engineering division of the provincial and city agriculture offices, and agricultural engineering section in the municipal agriculture offices are hereby strengthened and institutionalized into the organizational structure of the LGUs, and if not yet existing, shall be created in the particular LGUs. The LGUs belonging to the first up to the third income classes which are providing or implementing agricultural and fisheries infrastructure, mechanization and engineering projects shall hire at least one (1) agricultural engineer at the provincial, city and municipal levels. In the case of provincial, city and municipal LGUs belonging to the fourth up to the sixth income classes which are not capable of establishing then agricultural engineering division/section due to financial constraints, the DA through its regional agricultural engineering divisions shall augment and perform such responsibilities and, as deemed necessary, establish its provincial, city

<sup>4</sup> Providing for the Creation of the National Food Security Council, Councils on Food Security for the Provinces, Independent Component Cities (ICCs) and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), National Secretariat on Food Security and for Other Purposes

and municipal operation units, and shall be allocated and provided with necessary funding and manpower requirements for their operation."

**2.5 RA No. 10915 (Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Act of 2016)**

"Section 34. *Personnel Required.*— All concerned national government agencies, LGUs and SUCs implementing, regulating, funding and undertaking research, development, training and extension, testing, evaluation and inspection as well as technical audit of irrigation, farm mechanization, post harvest and agro processing facilities, agricultural and biosystems infrastructures, farm-to-market roads, agro-meteorology, forest mechanization development programs, and environmental protection and conservation programs and projects shall employ the required number of agricultural and biosystems engineers, and for this purpose, create various levels of agricultural and biosystems engineer positions; x x x. Provided, that there shall be no understaffing and/or overloading of agricultural and biosystems engineers. The ratio of agricultural and biosystems engineers to clientele shall be such as to reasonably effect a sustained quality of agricultural and biosystems engineering services at all times without overworking the agricultural and biosystems engineers. x x x."

**3.0 Purpose**

To prescribe the policies and guidelines for the:

- a) Strengthening or establishment of the ABE unit in every province, city and municipality; and
- b) Creation of the Engineer positions of the ABE units.

**4.0 Acronyms**

ABE	-	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer
ABE Unit	-	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering unit
AFCs	-	Agricultural and Fishery Councils
AFMA	-	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997
AFMeC	-	Agriculture and Fishery Mechanization Committee
AFMech Law	-	Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law
AMTEC	-	Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center of University of the Philippines Los Baños
ATI	-	Agricultural Training Institute
BAFE	-	Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering
BFAR	-	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BSWM	-	Bureau of Soils and Water Management
CSC	-	Civil Service Commission
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DBM	-	Department of Budget and Management
DILG	-	Department of the Interior and Local Government



IRR	-	Implementing Rules and Regulations
JMC	-	Joint Memorandum Circular
LGC	-	Local Government Code
LGU	-	Local Government Unit
PAES	-	Philippine Agricultural Engineering Standards
PABES	-	Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Standards
PhilMech	-	Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization
PRBABE	-	Professional Regulatory Board of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer
PRC	-	Professional Regulation Commission
PS	-	Personal Services
PSABE	-	Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers
TESDA	-	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
ULAP	-	Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines
UPLB	-	University of the Philippines Los Baños
RAED	-	Regional Agricultural Engineering Division

## 5.0 Policy Guidelines

Pursuant to the above legal bases mentioned in Item 2.0, hereunder are the following policy guidelines:

- 5.1 For the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Provincial, City and Municipal LGUs, each LGU concerned shall create an ABE unit, either as a department, division or section, based on their respective service requirements and financial capabilities, subject to the minimum standards and guidelines prescribed by the CSC and in accordance with pertinent provision of the LGC.
- 5.2 The Engineer positions to be created in the ABE unit for the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> class Provincial, City and Municipal LGUs shall follow the prescribed position levels specified in Item 6.5 hereof.
- 5.3 The Engineer positions in the ABE unit shall be treated as separate position as that of the existing Provincial/City/Municipal Agriculturist and Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer (who is a Civil Engineer) positions in the respective LGU<sup>5</sup>.
- 5.4 The budgetary requirements for personnel services (PS), maintenance and other operating expenditures, and capital outlay for the strengthening or creation of the ABE unit at the provincial, city and municipal levels, and the creation of corresponding Engineer (ABE)

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to Sections 482 and 477 of the Local Government Code in relation to Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Resolution No. 200-663 (Creation of the Board of Agriculture) and Republic Act No. 544, known as Civil Engineering Law, the existing Provincial/City/Municipal Agriculturist or, Provincial/City/Municipal Engineer (who is a Civil Engineer) have their prescribed scope of practice and functions

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positions shall be sourced from the General Fund of the LGU concerned and included in the Appropriation Ordinance, subject to Sections 76 and 325 (a) of RA No. 7160.

- 5.5 Requirements for other maintenance and other operating expenditures, and other capital outlays necessary in the implementation of programs and projects under RA No. 10915 shall be charged against the General Fund of the respective LGUs.
- 5.6 For the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Class Provincial, City and Municipal LGUs, each LGU concerned may still create an ABE unit, either as a department, division or section, based on its service requirements and financial capabilities, subject to the minimum standards and guidelines prescribed by the CSC.

Otherwise, the DA, through RFO-RAEDs, shall provide assistance those LGUs not capable of establishing an ABE unit due to financial constraints. This could be done by deploying ABE/s from RFO-RAEDs, as determined by the DA, to the LGU concerned.

#### 6.0 Organization and Composition of the ABE Unit

- 6.1 The ABE unit shall be under the office of the governor, city or municipal mayor and shall be responsible for: (1) engineering plans, designs, and specifications; (2) program and project management; and (3) standards, regulation, and enforcement.
- 6.2 As provided under Section 29 of RA No. 10601 that if an ABE unit is not existing in the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> income class LGUs, the following positions shall be created in a particular LGU to head the ABE unit, as appropriate:

LGU	Head of the ABE Unit
Provinces	Engineer IV, SG-22
Special Cities (Manila and Quezon City)	Engineer V, SG-24
Highly Urbanized Cities	Engineer IV, SG-22
Component Cities	Engineer IV, SG-22
Municipality within Metro Manila	Engineer IV, SG-22
Municipalities outside Metro Manila- 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Municipalities	Engineer III, SG-19
Municipalities outside Metro Manila - 4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Class Municipalities	Engineer II, SG-16



- 6.3 The Head of the ABE unit shall have lower positions as his/her staff, using the following series of Engineer positions:

Position Title	Salary Grade (SG)
Engineering Assistant	SG-8
Engineer I	SG-12
Engineer II	SG-16
Engineer III	SG-19
Engineer IV	SG-22
Engineer V	SG-24

- 6.4 The respective LGUs may resort to the following options, as applicable, in order to cope with the funding constraints in the creation of Engineer (Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer) positions:


- 6.4.1 The existing Provincial, City and Municipal Agriculturist, and other Department Head/Assistant Department Head positions of the LGUs, being occupied by registered and licensed agricultural and biosystem engineers, may be designated as Provincial, City or Municipal ABEs, following the CSC rules on designation of personnel.
- 6.4.2 The existing personnel of the respective LGU may be re-assigned to the Provincial, City or Municipal ABE unit, following the CSC rules and regulations on re-assignment of personnel.
- 6.4.3 The existing Agricultural Technologist, Agriculturist, and other positions performing agricultural engineering work may be reallocated to Engineer classes of positions for the respective Provincial, City or Municipal ABE units, pursuant to DBM Budget Circular No. 03, series of 2003<sup>6</sup>.
- 6.4.4 The vacant positions of the respective LGU may be abolished such that the PS requirement for said abolition may be utilized for the creation of Engineer positions in the Provincial, City or Municipal ABE units, subject to the PS limitation of said LGUs.
- 6.4.5 The respective LGU may hire ABE/s as emergency, casual or contractual employees, pursuant to Section 77 of the LGC and other pertinent laws.

- 6.5 If an LGU is financially capable and has not exceeded the PS limitation, the local Sanggunian may create/elevate the organization and staffing of the ABE unit. LGUs shall be guided by the following standards on position titles and salary grades of Department Heads (DH), Assistant Department Heads (ADH), and the highest positions below the ADH.

<sup>6</sup> Reallocation of Agriculturist Positions and Other Positions Performing Agricultural Engineering Work to the Existing Classes of Positions (September 12, 2003)

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LGU	Department Head (DH)	Assistant Department Head (ADH)	Highest Position below ADH
Provinces	Provincial Government Head (PGDH), SG-26	Provincial Government Assistant Department Head (PGADH), SG-24	Engineer IV, SG-22
Special Cities (Manila and Quezon City)	City Government Department Head (CGDH) III, SG 27 City Government Office Head, SG-26	City Government Assistant Department Head (CGADH) III, SG-25	Engineer V, SG-24
Highly Urbanized Cities/Other Metro Manila Cities	CGDH II, SG-26	CGADH II, SG-24	Engineer IV, SG-22
Component Cities	CGDH I, SG-25	CGADH III, SG-23	Engineer IV, SG-22
Municipality within Metro Manila	Municipal Government Department Head (MGDH) II, SG-25	Municipal Government Assistant Department Head (MGADH) II, SG-23	Engineer IV, SG-22
Municipalities outside Metro Manila - 1 <sup>st</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class Municipalities	MGDH I, SG-24	MGADH I, SG-22	Engineer III, SG-19
Municipalities outside Metro Manila- 4 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Class Municipalities	MGDH I, SG-24	MAGDH I, SG-22	Engineer II, SG-16

**7.0 Position Titles, Qualification Standards, and Salary Grades for the Technical Staff of the ABE Units**

- 7.1 The following Engineer positions titles (ABEs) with their corresponding minimum qualification standards shall be adopted in the LGU's ABE units:

Position Title	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Engineering Assistant, SG-8	Completion of two years studies in college	1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	Career Service (Subprofessional/ First Level Eligibility)
Engineer I, SG-12	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	None required	None required	RA No. 10915 (ABE)

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Position Title	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Engineer II, SG-16	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	1 year of relevant experience in agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	4 hours of relevant training	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Engineer III, SG-19	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	2 years of relevant experience in agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	8 hours of relevant training	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Engineer IV, SG-22	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	3 years of relevant experience in agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	16 hours of relevant training	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Engineer V, SG-24	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	4 years in position/s involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	40 hours of supervisory/ management training/ learning and development intervention	RA No. 10915 (ABE)

- 7.2 The following minimum qualification standards shall be required for the Heads of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department/Division/Section, depending on the actual level of organization created or to be created by the LGUs:

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Page 9 of 17

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Level of Organization	Position Title	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Department (SG-25 to 27)	PGDH*, SG-26 CGDH III*, SG-27 CGDH II*, SG-26 CGDH I*, SG-25 CGADH III*, SG-25	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	5 years in position involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	None required	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Department (SG-24-25)	MGDH II*, SG-25 MGDH I*, SG-24	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	3 years in position involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering or agricultural and biosystems engineering	None required	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Department (SG-24)	PGADH*, SG-24 CGADH II*, SG-24	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	4 years in position involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	None required	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Department (SG-22 to 23)	CGADH I*, SG-23 MGADH II*, SG-23 MGADH I*, SG-22	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	3 years in position involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	None required	RA No. 10915 (ABE)

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Level of Organization	Position Title	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
Division (SG-24)	Engineer V, SG-24	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	4 years in position involving management and supervision, 1 year of which is relevant to agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	40 hours of supervisory/management training/ learning and development intervention	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Section (SG-22)	Engineer IV, SG-22	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	3 years of relevant experience in agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	16 hours of relevant training	RA 10915 (ABE)
Section (SG-19)	Engineer III, SG-19	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	2 years of relevant experience in agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	8 hours of relevant training	RA No. 10915 (ABE)
Section (SG-16)	Engineer II, SG-16	Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Engineering or Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	1 year of relevant experience in agricultural engineering/ agricultural and biosystems engineering	4 hours of relevant training	RA No. 10915 (ABE)

\*Including the requirements of Filipino Citizenship, of good moral character and a resident of the Local Government Unit concerned as provided for in the Local Government Code of 1991

- 7.3. The following position titles and their parenthetical titles shall be indicated on the appointment to be issued to the Provincial, City and Municipal ABEs.

Position Title	SG	Parenthetical Title
PGDH	28	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer
PGADH	24	
CGDH III	27	
CGDH II	26	
CGDH I	25	

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Position Title	SG	Parenthetical Title
CGADH III	25	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer
CGADH II	24	
CGADH I	23	
MGDH II	25	
MGDH I	24	
MGADH II	23	
MGADH I	22	
Engineer V	24	
Engineer IV	22	
Engineer III	19	
Engineer II	16	
Engineer I	12	

- 7.4 The LGUs need not secure the approval of the CSC if the aforecited qualification standards shall be adopted. However, LGUs may set specific or higher qualification standards, in which case they shall submit to the CSC for approval. Once approved, the same shall be adopted by the CSC as qualification standards in the attestation of their appointments.

## 8.0 Powers, Functions and Responsibilities

- 8.1 Pursuant to Section 29 of RA No. 10601 and its IRR in relation to RA No. 10915, ABE units of the LGUs within their territorial jurisdiction, shall be responsible for planning, coordinating, regulating and implementing agricultural, fisheries and biosystems engineering, mechanization and infrastructure programs and projects at the provincial, city and municipal levels.

Specifically, the ABE units shall perform the following functions and responsibilities:

- a) Provide agricultural and biosystems engineering services which include engineering survey, preparation and evaluation of plans, designs, technical specifications, feasibility studies and cost estimates/program of work of irrigation, soil and water conservation and management, small water impounding, small farm reservoir, farm machinery, slaughterhouses, auction markets, poultry dressing plants, post-harvest facilities, auction markets, farm-to-market roads and other agricultural, fisheries and biosystems infrastructure projects of the LGUs;
- b) Administer, supervise, and coordinate the construction, operation, maintenance, improvement and management of irrigation, soil and water conservation and management, small water impounding, small farm reservoir, farm machinery, slaughterhouses, auction markets, poultry dressing plants, post-harvest facilities, auction markets, farm-to-market roads and other agricultural, fisheries and biosystems infrastructure projects of the LGUs;



- c) Undertake the registration of agricultural and fishery machinery and facilities, enforcement of the PAES/PABES and other agricultural, fishery and biosystems engineering regulatory activities in coordination and collaboration with the RFO-RAED, concerned national government agencies and other offices of the LGUs. In line with this, the ABE unit shall:
  - c.1. Provide assistance to BAFE through the RFO-RAED on the validation and surveillance of applications relative to the issuance of Permit to Operate to small and medium sized agricultural and fishery machinery and equipment manufacturer, fabricators, assemblers and importers;
  - c.2. Monitor the compliance on the provision of after-sales service and warranty of concerned agricultural and fisheries machinery assemblers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers, distributors and dealers in their respective locality in collaboration with BAFE;
  - c.3. Maintain and regularly update the data bank on irrigation, post-harvest, agricultural machinery and agricultural, fishery and biosystems infrastructure projects at all local levels;
  - c.4. Conduct inspection, performance testing and evaluation of agricultural, fisheries and biosystems machineries and equipment procured by the LGUs in coordination and collaboration with the RFO-RAED and AMTEC;
  - c.5. Provide assistance to the City and Municipal Building Officials in the evaluation and processing of application permits and certificate of occupancy of agricultural, fishery and biosystems buildings and structures to ensure the enforcement of PAES/PABES and RA No. 10915; and
  - c.6. Coordinate with BFAR on the registration of fish hatcheries, fish breeding facilities, private fishponds and post harvest facilities for fishing communities pursuant to Section 28 and 33 of RA No. 8550<sup>7</sup>.
- d) Coordinate with the concerned national government agencies with regard to the implementation of national government programs and projects on irrigation, farm mechanization, post-harvest facilities, farm-to-market roads and agricultural, fisheries and biosystems infrastructure;
- e) Be in the frontline of the delivery of basic agricultural and biosystems engineering services;

<sup>7</sup> Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998

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- f) Provide training and extension activities to farmers and fisherfolk particularly in the installation, operation and maintenance of their irrigation, postharvest facilities, agricultural, fishery and biosystems machinery projects in coordination with the agriculture and fisheries extension workers. In line with this, the ABE units shall coordinate and collaborate with State and Local Colleges and Universities, TESDA, and other concerned government agencies for the competency assessment and certification of agricultural and biosystems engineering technicians and operators including the establishment and operation of accredited technical-vocational education training (TVET) and assessment centers, learning sites/farm schools, farm tourism sites for agricultural and biosystems engineering at the provincial, city and municipal levels;
- g) Undertake and/or coordinate the pilot testing and commercialization of matured agricultural, fisheries and biosystems engineering technologies;
- h) Provide assistance in the organization and operation of the Agricultural and Fishery Mechanization Committee (AFMeC) of the Provincial, City and Municipal AFCs and serve as Vice Chairperson and Secretariat of said Committee, as well as in providing technical assistance and support to the local chapters of the PSABE and ABEs in the local implementation of agricultural and fisheries mechanization and infrastructure projects;
- i) Responsible in the planning, design and management of communal irrigation system devolved or to be devolved to the LGUs pursuant to Section 33 of RA No. 8435 (AFMA);
- j) Formulate local (Provincial, City and Municipal) Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Plans for approval by the Sanggunian pursuant to Section 33 of RA No. 10601;
- k) Formulate local (Provincial, City and Municipal) Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Master Plan/Program for approval by the Sanggunian pursuant to Joint DA-DILG MC No. 11, series of 2004 in relation to RA No. 10915. The master plan/program which supports and complements to the Comprehensive Land Use Plans, Local Development Plans, Local Food Security and Agri-Fisheries Modernization Plans shall have the following sub-components: (1) agricultural, fishery and biosystems mechanization; (2) soil and water conservation and irrigation; (3) farm-to-market road or farm access road development; (4) post-harvest, agro-processing and agro-industrial development; (5) agricultural and biological waste utilization and management; and (6) farm electrification and bio-energy development.

Page 14 of 17

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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- l) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

This also includes functions and responsibilities on agricultural and biosystems engineering under RA No. 10915, such as, but not limited to animal/livestock production engineering, aquaculture engineering, agricultural and biological waste management, and farm electrification and bio-energy development as part of the agricultural and fisheries modernization, environmental protection and food security program of the provincial, city and municipal LGUs.

## 9.0 Responsibilities of Agencies

- 9.1 **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)** – The DBM shall provide technical assistance in the strengthening or establishment of ABE units of LGUs.

- 9.2 **Civil Service Commission (CSC)** – The CSC shall provide technical assistance in the strengthening or establishment of ABE units of LGUs, specifically in the review of the qualification standards for Engineer (ABE) positions.

- 9.3 **Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)** – The DILG, through the Bureau of Local Government Supervision and its regional, provincial, city and municipal offices, shall monitor the compliance of LGUs of this JMC.

The Local Government Academy shall likewise include the implementation of this JMC as part of the capacity building programs for LGU executives/personnel.

- 9.4 **The Department of Agriculture (DA)** shall:

- 9.4.1 Through the RFO-RAED, augment and/or provide agricultural and biosystems engineering services in 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class LGUs pursuant to Section 29 of RA No. 10601;

- 9.4.2 Through the RFO-RAED, provide technical assistance to ABE units of LGUs in accordance with the Joint DA-DILG Memorandum Circular No. 11, Series of 2004, *"Enhancing the Functional Complementarity between the DA and LGUs in the implementation of irrigation, post-harvest facilities, agri-fishery mechanization and infrastructure and other agricultural engineering projects of AFMA"*.

- 9.4.3 Through the ATI, BSWM, PHilMech, BAFE, and other concerned DA offices/units, provide capability development trainings to LGU ABEs.

9.4.4 Include the implementation of this JMC as part of the implementing guidelines of its agricultural and fisheries mechanization, irrigation, farm-to-market roads and other agricultural and fisheries infrastructure and engineering programs and projects which involve the LGUs as project recipient/beneficiaries. Provided further, that these DA projects shall pass to the created ABE units of LGUs and the plans, designs and technical specifications shall be prepared, signed and sealed by a registered and licensed ABE upon submission to DA.

9.4.5. Through the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE), monitor the compliance of DA on this Joint Memorandum Circular.

#### **10.0 Compliance Monitoring**

A Joint Compliance Monitoring Committee composed of DILG as Chairman and its members are representative/s from DA, Professional Regulatory Board of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (PRBABE), Philippine Society of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (PSABE), and the ULAP shall be organized to monitor the compliance of all LGUs on this JMC.

#### **11.0 Penalties**

Administrative sanctions and penalties imposed under RA No. 10915, RA No. 10601, Revised Penal Code and pertinent CSC rules and regulations shall form part in the implementation of this JMC.

#### **12.0 Repealing Clause**

All existing issuances, either by the DA, DBM, DILG or CSC which are inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded. Any future reference with respect to their issuances in relation to the strengthening or establishment of ABE units/groups of LGUs shall be made in reference to this JMC.

#### **13.0 Resolution of Cases**

Any issues or concerns not covered by this JMC shall be referred to the DA for resolution jointly by the DA, DBM, DILG and CSC.

#### **14.0 Dissemination**

The Regional Directors of DA, DBM, DILG, and CSC shall disseminate this JMC within their territorial jurisdictions.

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LOURDES B. PLECHAS  
OIC, RECORDS DIVISION



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## 15.0 Effectivity

This JMC shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in a newspaper of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

  
**VILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**  
Secretary, DA

  
**WENDEL E. AVISADO**  
Secretary, DBM



  
**ALICIA DELA ROSA-BALA**  
Chairperson, CSC



  
**EDUARDO M. AÑO**  
Secretary, DILG



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