



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

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 231

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF ATTY. PAZ J. BENAVIDEZ II AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REGULATIONS

In the exigency of the service, **ATTY. PAZ J. BENAVIDEZ II** is hereby designated as **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR REGULATIONS**.

As such, she shall perform the following functions, duties and responsibilities:

- a) Provide overall leadership to all DA Regulatory Agencies, including the Food Safety Support Agencies, to wit: Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Food Development Center (FDC);
- b) Directly supervise the DA Sanitary/Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Focal Group and such other SPS Groups that may be created by the DA or as replacement thereof to unify and strengthen the SPS regulatory policy framework;
- c) Serve as the Permanent Representative of the DA to the ASEAN Task Force on Codex (ATFC);
- d) Oversee the meaningful and effective engagement of the DA and its regulatory agencies in Codex, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and such other related international bodies as well as in the participation in the discussions/negotiations on SPS-related matters in bilateral, regional and multilateral fora;
- e) Directly supervise the smooth transition from a commodity-based regulatory approach to an integrated risk-based management approach towards facilitating trade of agriculture and fisheries products, consistent with relevant laws and with international standards;
- f) Provide leadership in the various initiatives and actions to strengthen and harmonize the DA quarantine and inspection services;
- g) Provide policy recommendations to further enhance the harmonization and strengthening of DA regulatory services;
- h) Spearhead the implementation of Food Safety Act of 2013 and all other regulatory laws, rules and regulations;

- i) Network with the non-DA government agencies and other relevant groups and stakeholders to further strengthen DA programs and actions particularly on trade-related SPS matters;
- j) Serve as member of the Accreditation Review Body (ARB) of the Department of Agriculture tasked with reviewing the report of the Department of Agriculture Inspection Mission (DAIM) in the accreditation of Foreign Meat Establishments to export meat and meat products into the Philippines;
- k) Perform oversight supervision over the quarantine and inspection officers, the Food Safety Focal Group Members (National and Regional) as well as other food safety officers of the regulatory agencies of the DA;
- l) Perform such other functions as directed by the Senior Undersecretary and the Secretary.

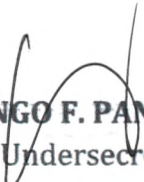
The Assistant Secretary for Regulations shall be under the general supervision of the DA Undersecretary for Planning, Policy and Regulations.

She shall be entitled to RATA, travelling expense, per diem and other incidental expenses that may be incurred in the performance of her functions, duties and responsibilities in view of the designation, chargeable against DA OSEC Funds and other available funds, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All officials and employees of the department, including its Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations, and DA-Regional Field Offices are hereby advised to give their full support and cooperation to Assistant Secretary Benavidez in the performance of her duties and responsibilities.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force until revoked in writing. All other orders, memoranda and other issuances inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked or amended.

Done this 28th day of February 2023.


DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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