



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. 1417
Series of 2023

**SUBJECT : COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVOLUTION OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CREATION OF TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP FOR THE UPDATING AND ENHANCEMENT OF
THE DEVOLUTION TRANSITION PLAN (DTP)**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 138, Series of 2021, entitled "*Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments, Creation of a Committee on Devolution, and for Other Purposes*," the Department of Agriculture submitted its Devolution Transition Plan (DTP) to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in November 2021. The DTP was revised based on the initial comments of DBM and was resubmitted in June 2022. The latest comments from DBM was provided in July 2022. As such, the Department needs to revise and update the DTP.

Upon instructions of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., the DBM temporarily suspended the activities related to the crafting of the DTP while further studying EO No. 138. Nevertheless, the DA shall continue to revise the DTP based on the latest comments from DBM and adjust the timeline of the devolution phases in preparation for the issuance of a new Executive Order.

The composition and functions of the **DA Committee on Devolution** are as follows:

Chairperson	:	Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Regulations
Co-Chairpersons	:	Undersecretary for Finance Assistant Secretary for Operations
Members	:	Undersecretary for Administration Assistant Secretary for Policy Research and Development Assistant Secretary for Regulations Assistant Secretary for Finance Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Department Legislative Liaison Officer (DLLO) Director, Legal Service
Secretariat	:	Staff from the Planning and Monitoring Service and Field Operations Service

The Committee shall serve as the policy decision-making body and shall provide the overall strategic direction, policy, legal and institutional framework to the devolution efforts of the Department.

Functions:

1. Review the DTP in conformity with the joint guidelines of the DBM and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DTP shall cover all the DA offices, bureaus, attached agencies and GOCC under the control or supervision of the DA. It must contain the following, among others:
 - DA functions, services, and facilities to be devolved to the Local Government Units (LGUs) by level of LGU (provincial or municipal) based on RA 7160 and other relevant laws;
 - Strategies, phasing of devolution to the LGUs, and timeline;
 - Standards for the delivery of devolved services;
 - Strategies for the capacity development of the LGUs; and
 - Framework for the monitoring and performance assessment of the LGUs.
2. Perform other tasks as may be needed and as instructed by the Secretary.

In support to the Committee, a **Technical Working Group** is hereby created and shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson	:	Director, Field Operations Service
Co-Chairpersons	:	Director, Planning and Monitoring Service
Members	:	Director, Policy Research Service Director, Project Development Services Director, Administrative Service Director, Financial Management Service Director, Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service Director, Agricultural Training Institute Director, Bureau of Soils and Water Management Director, Bureau of Agricultural Research Director, Bureau of Plant Industry Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director, Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering Director, Bureau of Animal Industry Director, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards Director, National Meat Inspection Service
Secretariat	:	Staff from the Planning and Monitoring Service and Field Operations Service

Functions:

1. Revise, update, and enhance the DTP based on the comments of the DBM and Executive Order and /or other legal issuances that may be issued relating to the Devolution Transition Plan;

2. Adjust the timeline on phasing of devolution in consideration of the LGUs capacity;
3. Call upon other DA units, as needed for the enhancement of the DTP;
4. Conduct consultation and collaboration with other national government agencies, LGUs and institutions for technical assistance in the updating and enhancement of the DTP; and
5. Perform other tasks as needed or as instructed by the Committee on Devolution.

The Secretariat shall serve as the channel of communication and coordination for the Committee and the TWG and shall perform the following functions:

1. Provide technical and administrative support to the Committee
 - a. Organize, schedule, and prepare the necessary arrangements and logistics for the conduct of the meeting and other activities of the Committee and TWG; and
 - b. Document and prepare the highlights of the meeting of the Committee and the TWG.
2. Perform coordination work with DBM and other agencies for the timeline of DTP and other related matters; and
3. Perform other tasks as need or as instructed by the TWG and the Committee.

Traveling expense, per diem, incidental expenses of the above officials and staff and consultancy services are chargeable against OSEC funds, subject to existing 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 of the composition of the Committee on Devolution and TWG and directed to give their full support and cooperation to them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

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

Done this 10th day of November 2023.

FRANCISCO TIO LAUREL, JR.
Secretary

