



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64 and +63(2) 8273-2474

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 18
Series of 2024

SUBJECT: CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, AS AMENDED

The Republic Act No. 7581, as amended, otherwise known as the *Price Act*, identified the Department of Agriculture as the implementing agency with reference to agricultural crops, fish and other marine products, fresh meat, fresh poultry and dairy products, fertilizers, and other farm inputs.

Section 9 of the of the *Price Act* provides for the allocation of a buffer fund to the implementing agency, to wit:

The implementing agency may procure, purchase, import, or stockpile any basic necessity or prime commodity, devise ways and means of distributing them for sale at reasonable prices in areas where there is shortage of supply or a need to effect changes in its prevailing price. For any or all of these purposes, a buffer fund shall be allocated in the annual appropriations of the implementing agencies.

In view of the foregoing, a Technical Working Group (TWG) is hereby created to prepare the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the abovementioned provision. The TWG shall be composed of officials/personnel from the following DA Operating Units.

Chairperson: **NOEL A. PADRE**
Assistant Secretary for Policy Research and Development

Co-Chairperson: **ATTY. PAZ J. BENAVIDEZ II**
Assistant Secretary for Regulations

Vice Chairperson: **JEROME D. BUNYI**
OIC-Director, Policy Research Service

Members: **DA-AGRIBUSINESS AND MARKETING ASSISTANCE SERVICE**
DA-POLICY RESEARCH SERVICE
DA-FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE
DA-LEGAL SERVICE
DA-PLANNING AND MONITORING SERVICE

The TWG, in fulfilling its mandate to prepare and finalize the IRR of Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7581, shall undertake the following key functions:

1. Develop a clear and concise set of implementing rules and regulations that translates the provisions of Section 9 into actionable guidelines;
2. Engage the Department of Trade and Industry and other relevant government agencies in developing the IRR to ensure interagency cooperation and seamless implementation;
3. Facilitate consultations with relevant stakeholders, including industry representatives, consumer groups, and experts, to gather insights, address concerns, and incorporate diverse perspectives into the drafting process; and
4. Verify that the proposed IRR adheres to the legal framework established by Republic Act No. 7581 and other relevant laws.

The PRS, OASR, and AMAS shall designate personnel that will act as the Secretariat of the TWG to provide administrative and technical support.

They shall be entitled to travelling expenses, per diem and other incidental expenses that may be incurred in the performance of their functions, chargeable against the funds of their respective agencies, subject to existing rules and regulations.

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

Done this 5th day of JANUARY 2024.


FRANCISCO TIW LAUREL, Jr.
Secretary



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