



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. **227**

Series of 2024

SUBJECT: CREATION OF A TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION AND INPUTS ON THE ANTI-AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC SABOTAGE BILL

The Republic Act No. 10845, otherwise known as the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016, was enacted for the purpose of protecting local agricultural industry and farmers from agricultural smuggling. However, there have been issues in the implementation of the law. Anent, the House of Representatives and the Senate proposed to amend the legislation by introducing a measure that seeks to include acts of hoarding, profiteering and cartel of agricultural products as economic sabotage, and impose severe sanctions to offenders and perpetrators of such nefarious activities.

In view of the foregoing, a Technical Working Group (TWG) is hereby created to prepare the Department's position and inputs for consideration of both Houses of Congress. The TWG shall be composed of officials/personnel from the following DA Operating Units:

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

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

Vice Chairperson: **ATTY. GENEVIEVE E. VELICARIA-GUEVARRA**
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs and DLLO

Members: **DA-INSPECTORATE AND ENFORCEMENT OFFICE**
DA-POLICY RESEARCH SERVICE
DA-LEGAL SERVICE
DA-AGRIBUSINESS AND MARKETING ASSISTANCE SERVICE
DA-LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICE

The TWG, in fulfilling its mandate to prepare the Department's inputs on the proposed measure, shall undertake the following key functions:

1. Review RA No. 10845 and the proposed amendments under House Bill No. 9284 and Senate Bill No. 2432;
2. Provide inputs that balance the diverse interests of both producers and legitimate businesses in the agricultural value chain;
3. Develop concrete recommendations addressing identified issues and enhancing the effectiveness of the proposed legislation; and
4. Consult the relevant regulatory agencies to gather insights on the draft bills.

The PRS and DLLO 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 15th day of FEBRUARY 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, Jr.
Secretary 



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