



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. **323**

Series of 2024

SUBJECT : CREATION OF A SPECIAL FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

DATE :

Section 7(5), Chapter 2, Book IV of E.O. no. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987) provides that the Secretary shall exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees under the Secretary in accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation of a committee or officer to conduct such investigation.

In view hereof and in the exigency of service, a fact-finding committee is hereby created to investigate and determine all the facts and circumstances regarding the alleged violations and irregularities in the disposition of National Food Authority (NFA) stocks and other reported anomalies involving officials and/or employees of the NFA.

To ensure transparency, impartiality, and credibility, the Committee shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson : **Atty. Demosthenes R. Escoto**
Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Members : **James A. Layug**
Assistant Secretary, DA Inspectorate and Enforcement

Atty. Willie Ann M. Angsiy
Director, DA Legal Services

The Committee is hereby authorized to gather facts and evidence to ascertain the truthfulness of the reports and allegations, conduct preliminary investigation, summon parties to a conference where the investigators may propound clarificatory and other relevant questions, determine if a *prima facie case* exists to warrant the issuance of a formal charge, endorse for the Secretary's approval, the issuance of a formal charge and the order of a preventive suspension, if warranted, and to do such other acts necessary and incidental to its mandate.

The Committee is also empowered to call upon and secure the assistance of any bureau or office of the Department, including its attached agencies or corporations, in the performance of its duties and discharge of its functions.





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All bureaus and offices of the Department, including its attached agencies and corporations, are hereby directed to extend all forms of assistance that may be requested by the Committee and are necessary in the performance of its functions.

The Chairperson of the Committee may establish a Secretariat for the technical and staff support of the Committee. For this purpose, he is hereby authorized to detail any personnel from any of the Department offices to assist the Committee.

The Committee shall convene immediately and shall submit its findings and recommendations to the Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of this Order.

All Committee members must adhere to strict confidentiality and security measures to protect the integrity of the investigation and the individuals involved.

All expenses to be incurred in the performance of the Committee's functions shall be charged against DA-OSEC funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Done this 1st day of March 2024.

FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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