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SENATE

S. No. **2479**

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 788 and 1885)

Prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Economic Affairs and Finance
with Senators Hontiveros, Marcos, Angara, and Revilla, Jr., as authors thereof

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A RESULTS-BASED NATIONAL EVALUATION
POLICY**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Results-Based National
2 Evaluation Policy (RBNEP) Act."

3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to ensure the
4 relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and impact of laws, policies, strategies,
5 and programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) of the government, through the regular
6 conduct and use of credible evaluations of its interventions to achieve its inclusive
7 development and poverty reduction goals.

8 **SECTION 3. *Policy Objectives.*** The RBNEP intends to achieve the following
9 objectives:

10 a) Facilitate the institutionalization of an integrated evaluation system of
11 the government;

- 1 b) Ensure the timely provision to government decisionmakers of credible
2 and useful evaluations in support of results-based formulation,
3 planning, budgeting, implementation, and oversight of government
4 interventions;
- 5 c) Ensure the systematic utilization of evaluation findings and
6 recommendations for the continuous improvement of government
7 interventions; and
- 8 d) Promote greater transparency and accountability for results of
9 government departments, agencies, and other instrumentalities.

10 **SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.*** The terms used in this Act are defined as
11 follows:

- 12 a) **Government Interventions** refer to the laws, policies, strategies,
13 and programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) of the government
14 departments, agencies, and other instrumentalities.
- 15 b) **Results** refer to changes in a state or condition due to a government
16 intervention. There are three types of such changes--outputs,
17 outcomes, and impacts—which can be intended or unintended,
18 positive and/or negative.
- 19 c) **Evaluation** refers to the systematic and impartial assessment of the
20 results of government interventions. It provides credible information
21 on the efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence, impact, and
22 sustainability of government interventions, enabling the incorporation
23 of lessons learned into the decision-making process.
- 24 d) **Monitoring** refers to a continuous and systematic collection of data
25 on key results indicators to track progress in achieving the objectives
26 of government interventions.

- 1 e) **Outputs** refer to the goods and services delivered to the external
2 stakeholders of government departments, agencies and other
3 instrumentalities implementing government interventions.
- 4 f) **Outcomes** refer to the short-term and medium-term benefits to
5 clients, beneficiaries, and stakeholders, as a result of the outputs of
6 government interventions.
- 7 g) **Impacts** are higher-level sectoral and societal benefits and other
8 consequences of government interventions. Impacts take place long
9 after target individuals, groups, systems or organizations have
10 experienced the outputs and outcomes of government interventions.

11 **SECTION 5. Coverage.** The RBNEP shall apply to the following:

- 12 a) All departments, agencies, and other instrumentalities of the national
13 government, including state universities and colleges (SUCs),
14 constitutional commissions, and government-owned and/ or
15 controlled corporations (GOCCs); and legislative and judicial branches
16 of the government;
- 17 b) All government interventions formulated and implemented by the
18 above entities including those funded by Official Development
19 Assistance (ODA) and those contracted to and executed by local
20 government units (LGUs), private sector and civil society
21 organizations.

22 **SECTION 6. Guiding Principles for Evaluation.** The credibility, quality, and
23 usefulness of evaluation shall be ensured through adherence to the following principles:

- 24 a) **Utility.** In commissioning or conducting an evaluation, there shall be
25 a clear intention to use the evaluation findings and recommendations
26 for results-based formulation, planning, budgeting, implementation,
27 and oversight of government interventions. The design and timing of

1 evaluations shall address the information needs of government
2 decision-makers.

3 b) **Applying evaluation criteria.** Evaluations shall assess and report
4 on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, impact and
5 sustainability of government interventions in accordance with
6 internationally accepted evaluation criteria. The use of these criteria
7 shall be responsive to the needs of decision-makers, and to the
8 purpose and context of evaluation.

9 c) **Observing evaluation standards.** Evaluation shall be consistent
10 with internationally accepted evaluation norms, standards and best
11 practices, including the use of evaluation designs and methodologies
12 capable of attributing observed outputs, outcomes and impacts to
13 government interventions being evaluated. Evaluation reference
14 groups and other mechanisms shall be established and strengthened
15 to ensure the generation of credible, quality and useful evaluations.

16 d) **Independence and Impartiality.** The independence of the
17 evaluation units of departments, agencies and other instrumentalities
18 shall be ensured at all times. Those who design, manage, and conduct
19 evaluations shall be shielded from any undue influence that will
20 undermine the credibility of evaluations. They shall be provided with
21 adequate resources to produce credible, high-quality and useful
22 evaluation. Evaluation shall be conducted with the highest degree of
23 impartiality. In case third-party evaluators are commissioned to ensure
24 impartial evaluation, they shall be selected from a wide and diversified
25 pool according to objective criteria.

26 e) **Evaluation Competencies.** Evaluations shall be conducted by
27 organizations and individuals having the required knowledge, skills,
28 and other evaluation competencies. Capacity-building initiatives shall
29 be implemented to strengthen the evaluation competencies of

1 organizations and individuals who commission, design, manage,
2 conduct, communicate and use evaluations.

3 f) **Ethics.** Individuals and organizations who commission, manage,
4 design, and conduct evaluations shall observe accepted ethical
5 standards including integrity, fairness, gender sensitivity, respect for
6 culture and beliefs, and protection of the rights of evaluation
7 participants.

8 g) **Transparency.** The implementation of RBNEP shall promote
9 transparency crucial to ensuring credible, high-quality and useful
10 evaluations. To the greatest extent possible, all information required
11 for evaluation shall be made available to evaluators, subject to existing
12 laws and regulations governing the confidentiality and nondisclosure
13 of information.

14 Those who commission or manage evaluation shall ensure the
15 selection of evaluators with no conflict of interest with the evaluation
16 to be undertaken. Potential evaluators of government interventions
17 shall disclose possible conflict of interest that may undermine the
18 credibility of evaluation. They shall disclose the identities of the
19 members of the evaluation team.

20 Evaluators shall disclose to government decision-makers and
21 other stakeholders the purpose, design, implementation, results and
22 utilization, including possible constraints or limitations of an
23 evaluation. . Complete evaluation reports shall be made easily
24 accessible to government decision-makers, relevant stakeholders, and
25 the public.

26 h) **Accountability.** Entities responsible for the commissioning,
27 managing and conducting evaluations shall ensure that evaluations are
28 credible, quality, useful and timely. Key findings and recommendations
29 of completed evaluations shall be communicated clearly by the same
30 entities to government decisionmakers and other stakeholders. The

1 covered entities of the RBNEP shall incorporate the use of evaluations
2 in results-based formulation, planning, budgeting, implementation,
3 and oversight of government interventions.

4 **SECTION 7. *Establishment of a National Evaluation Council.*** A National
5 Evaluation Council (NEC) is hereby established to oversee the implementation of the
6 RBNEP.

7 **SECTION 8. *Composition of the National Evaluation Council.*** The NEC
8 shall have the following seven (7) voting members:

- 9 a) Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority
10 (NEDA), or his/her authorized representative, as Chairperson. The
11 representative of the NEDA Secretary shall be an Undersecretary in
12 charge of monitoring and evaluation in NEDA;
- 13 b) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), or
14 his/her authorized representative, as co-chairperson. The
15 representative of the DBM Secretary shall at least be an Assistant
16 Secretary in charge of monitoring and evaluation in the DBM;
- 17 c) Secretary of the Philippine Senate or his/her authorized representative
18 who shall at least be a career Director in charge of policy, planning,
19 research and/or evaluation in the Senate;
- 20 d) Secretary General of the House of Representatives or his/her duly
21 authorized representative who shall at least be a Career Director in
22 charge of policy, planning, research and/or evaluation in the House of
23 Representatives;
- 24 e) Court Administrator of the Supreme Court or his/her authorized
25 representative who shall at least be a career Director in charge of
26 policy, planning and /or performance monitoring and evaluation;

- 1 f) Chairperson of the Commission on Audit (COA) or his/her authorized
2 representative who shall at least be a career Director in charge of
3 policy, planning and /or performance monitoring and evaluation; and
4 g) Head of the Presidential Management Staff or his/her authorized
5 representative who shall at least be a career Director in charge of
6 policy, planning and /or performance monitoring and evaluation.

7 The NEC shall meet at least once every quarter or as often as necessary. To
8 ensure that the NEC is guided by inputs of evaluation experts, the following shall attend
9 the NEC meetings as non-voting members:

- 10 a) The head of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS)
11 or his/her duly authorized representative who shall at least be a career
12 Director in charge of policy, planning, and/or performance monitoring
13 and evaluation;
14 b) The head of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) or his/her duly
15 authorized representative who shall at least be a career Director in
16 charge of policy, planning, and/or performance monitoring and
17 evaluation; and
18 c) Representative from the voluntary organizations for professional
19 evaluation (VOPES).

20 **SECTION 9. *Functions of the National Evaluation Council.*** The NEC shall
21 perform the following functions to operationalize the RBNEP:

- 22 a) Provide overall policy direction on the implementation of the RBNEP;
23 b) Approve the basic guidelines for the conduct of evaluation;
24 c) Review and approve the National Evaluation Strategy (NES) and
25 ensure its implementation;
26 d) Review, approve, and ensure the implementation of, the costed
27 evaluation agenda of covered entities;

- 1 e) Provide oversight on the conduct of evaluation by covered entities and
- 2 their management response to evaluation recommendations; ;
- 3 f) Issue the basic guidelines on the formation and operation of IEUs of
- 4 covered entities; and
- 5 g) Approve and implement a program to strengthen the evaluation
- 6 capacity of IEUs and government decision-makers.

7 **SECTION 10. *NEC Secretariat and its Functions.*** The NEC Secretariat shall
8 be established within the NEDA. The existing staffing complement of the NEDA shall be
9 augmented to undertake the functions of the NEC Secretariat. The NEC Secretariat shall:

- 10 a) Formulate and recommend basic guidelines for the conduct of
- 11 evaluation;
- 12 b) Prepare the National Evaluation Strategy ;
- 13 c) Review and make recommendations on the costed evaluation agenda
- 14 of covered entities;
- 15 d) Monitor the implementation of the entities' evaluation agenda and their
- 16 management response to evaluation recommendation in support of the
- 17 oversight function of the NEC;
- 18 e) Formulate the basic guidelines on the formation and operation of IEUs
- 19 of entities covered;
- 20 f) Provide quality assurance of evaluations conducted by covered
- 21 entities;
- 22 g) Facilitate the dissemination to decision-makers of key findings, lessons
- 23 learned, and recommendations from completed evaluations;
- 24 h) Maintain a public website containing the evaluation plans and reports
- 25 of covered entities;
- 26 i) Develop a program to strengthen the evaluation capacity of covered
- 27 entities and government decisionmakers;
- 28 j) Prepare and submit to the DBM the annual funding requirement of the
- 29 program to strengthen the evaluation capacity of the government; and

- 1 k) Carry out other directives of the NEC, as necessary.

2 **SECTION 11. *National Evaluation Strategy.*** The National Evaluation Strategy
3 (NES) shall identify the priority areas for evaluation in line with the Philippine
4 Development Plan. It shall guide the formulation of evaluation agenda of the covered
5 entities.

6 **SECTION 12. *Organization of Independent Evaluation Units (IEUs) of***
7 ***Covered Entities.*** Each covered entity shall organize an IEU that shall report directly
8 to the head of the entity. The head of the entity shall ensure that the IEU can perform
9 its evaluation functions independently and objectively.

10 **SECTION 13. *Functions of IEUs.*** The IEUs shall:

- 11 a) Coordinate the formulation and approval of the costed evaluation
12 agenda of the covered entity;
- 13 b) Manage or conduct evaluations identified in the costed evaluation
14 agenda;
- 15 c) Submit evaluation plans and final evaluation reports to the entity's
16 head and to the NEC Secretariat in accordance with prescribed
17 guidelines;
- 18 d) Disseminate the key findings and recommendations of completed
19 evaluations to the head of the entity, decision-makers and other
20 stakeholders;
- 21 e) Facilitate the formulation of the management response to key findings
22 and recommendations from the completed evaluations;
- 23 f) Monitor the entity's progress in implementing the management
24 response;
- 25 g) Establish quality assurance and participatory mechanisms for
26 evaluation; and

1 h) Provide inputs to results-based formulation, planning, budgeting, and
2 implementation within the entity.

3 **SECTION 14. *Formulation of the Costed Evaluation Agenda.*** Each covered
4 entity shall formulate a six-year costed evaluation agenda aligned with the NES. The head
5 of entity shall submit the costed evaluation agenda to the NEC.

6 **SECTION 15. *Utilization of Evaluation Findings and Recommendations.***
7 The head of a covered entity shall incorporate the use of evaluations in results-based
8 formulation, planning, budgeting, implementation, and oversight of government
9 interventions. He or she shall submit to the NEC the management response to evaluation
10 recommendations, and ensure its implementation.

11 **SECTION 16. *Funding for the Implementation of the RBNEP.*** The funding
12 requirement for the implementation of the RBNEP, including the budget for the conduct
13 of evaluation indicated in the costed evaluation agenda, NEC Secretariat, and IEUs shall
14 be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

15 **SECTION 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** The NEDA, in
16 consultation with the prospective members of NEC, shall promulgate the IRR to
17 operationalize the guiding principles of the RBNEP and to implement its specific provisions
18 within 60 days upon the approval of this Act.

19 **SECTION 18. *Amendment.*** This Act shall be evaluated three years after its
20 initial implementation. The results of such evaluation shall guide the proposed
21 amendments of this Act and its IRR.

22 **SECTION 19. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
23 regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
24 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SECTION 20. *Separability Clause.*** If any portion or provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby
3 shall remain in force and effect.

4 **SECTION. 22. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
5 following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of
6 general circulation in the Philippines.

7 Approved,