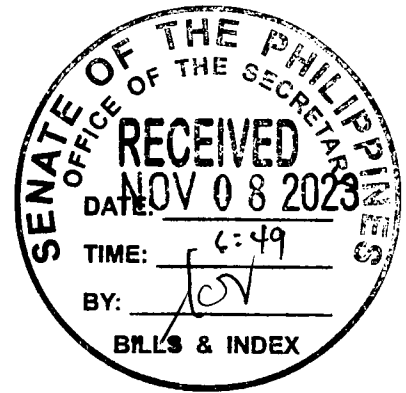


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

S. B. No. 2483

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

AN ACT

**REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 230 SERIES OF 1987
AND AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 SERIES OF 1987
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Economy, Planning and Development Act is a pivotal piece of legislation that lays the foundation for economic and social progress for our country. It underscores the importance of a fair and just distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth among the citizens.

By striving for sustained growth in the production of goods and services, this measure aims to help propel the nation's economy forward through economic expansion which has the potential to generate employment, elevate living standards, and enhance the overall quality of life for all Filipinos.

Acknowledging that elevated productivity is important for enhancing people's quality of life, this measure gives preference to strategies aimed at enhancing efficiency and output in different sectors. Heightened productivity is often synonymous with economic prosperity and higher incomes.

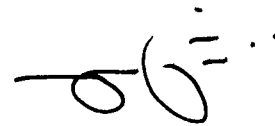
On that note, this measure serves as the cornerstone for equitable and sustainable progress in the Philippines. Its emphasis on equitable distribution, economic growth, and productivity improvement reflects a dedication to enhancing the well-being of all citizens and harnessing the nation's resources efficiently for the

common good. Not only does it align with constitutional principles, but it also provides a structured framework for effective national planning and development.

The proposed measure aims to established an Economy and Planning (EP) Council which is mandated to direct the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, and programs that promote economic development, approve policies, development plans, programs, and projects, approve proposed cost threshold and other criteria for priority programs and projects, approve the level of annual government expenditures and issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective discharge of the powers and functions vested on the EP Council.

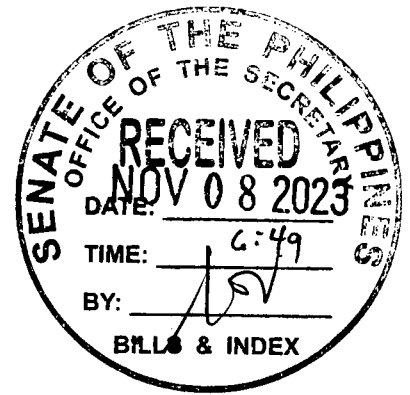
Moreover, under the proposed measure, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) shall be reorganized as the government's primary economic and planning agency and shall be known as the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development. It shall function as the primary policy, planning, coordinating, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of government on the national economy.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently sought.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 230 SERIES OF 1987
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APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**CHAPTER I
TITLE AND DECLARATION OF POLICY**

1
2
3
4 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Economy, Planning and
5 Development Act."

6 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes that, pursuant to Section
7 1, Article XII of the Constitution, the goals of the national economy are a more
8 equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained increase in the
9 amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people;
10 and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially
11 the underprivileged.

12 The State recognizes that, pursuant to Section 9, Article XII of the 1987
13 Philippine Constitution, the Congress may establish an independent economic and
14 planning agency headed by the President of the Philippines, which shall, after
15 consultations with the appropriate public agencies, various private sectors, and local

1 government units, recommend to Congress, and implement continuing integrated and
2 coordinated programs and policies for national development.

3
4 **CHAPTER II**
5 **ECONOMY AND PLANNING COUNCIL**
6

7 *Sec. 3. Economy and Planning Council.* – There shall be established an Economy
8 and Planning Council, headed by the President of the Philippines, hereafter referred
9 to as the EP Council. The EP Council shall serve as the executive collegial body
10 responsible for directing and providing overall policy direction on economic matters to
11 achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development.

12 *Sec. 4. Composition of the EP Council.* – The EP Council shall be composed of
13 the following:

14 Chairperson: The President

15 Vice-chairperson: Secretary, Department of Economy, Planning and
16 Development, established pursuant to Section 17 of this Act, hereinafter referred to
17 as DEPDEV

18 Members: Executive Secretary

19 Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM)

20 Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd)

21 Secretary, Department of Energy (DOE)

22 Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF)

23 Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban
24 Development (DHSUD)

25 Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

26 Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways
27 (DPWH)

28 Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

29 Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Chief
30 Minister, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim
31 Mindanao

32 The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or his or her duly authorized
33 representative shall sit in the meetings of the EP Council as a resource person.

1 The President or the EP Council may invite the participation of other heads of
2 departments and agencies as resource persons, as it deems necessary.

3 The President may, however, revise the membership of the EP Council whenever
4 the same is deemed necessary for the effective performance of the Council's
5 functions.

6 *Sec. 5. Powers and Functions of the EP Council.* – The EP Council shall have
7 the following powers and functions:

8 (a) Direct the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, and
9 programs that promote economic development and address development
10 concerns of national importance;

11 (b) Approve policies, development plans, programs, and projects consistent
12 with the policies set by the President, as may be endorsed by the
13 Committees of the EP Council;

14 (c) Approve proposed cost threshold and other criteria for priority programs
15 and projects, except those provided by laws, rules, and regulations;

16 (d) Approve the level of annual government expenditures, as well as
17 projections, forecast, resource requirement, and the ceiling of
18 government spending; and

19 (e) Issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective discharge of the
20 powers and functions vested on the EP Council.

21 *Sec. 6. Committees of the EP Council.* – The EP Council shall have committees
22 that shall act as its primary advisory bodies. These Committees shall be the main
23 coordinating mechanism that ensures that the policy environment is conducive to the
24 promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

25 The following Committees shall assist the EP Council in the performance of its
26 functions:

27 (a) Development Budget Coordination Committee;

28 (b) Investment Coordination Committee;

29 (c) Social Development Committee;

30 (d) Infrastructure Committee;

31 (e) Tariff and Related Matters Committee; and,

32 (f) National Land Use Committee.

1 The DEPDEV shall serve as the Secretariat to all Committees, unless otherwise
2 provided in this Act.

3 The President may revise the membership and reorganize the structures and
4 functions of the Committees, and establish new committees, as deemed necessary.

5 The Committees may invite the participation of other heads of departments
6 and agencies, or other resource persons, as necessary.

7 The Committees may create their respective subcommittees which will provide
8 technical support on matters within their mandate and which require their appropriate
9 action. The technical subcommittees shall be composed of duly designated
10 representatives of the same member agencies, preferably Undersecretaries or their
11 equivalent. Unless the Committees resolve otherwise, the existing technical
12 committees under the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board
13 Inter-Agency Committees shall be retained.

14 Each Committee shall formulate their respective rules and regulations which
15 will govern procedures before their respective bodies, in accordance with applicable
16 laws.

17 *Sec. 7. Meetings.* – The EP Council shall regularly meet on a quarterly basis,
18 or as frequently as necessary. A special meeting of the EP Council may be convened
19 by the President to address urgent concerns, emergencies, and other extraordinary
20 circumstances. In cases where the President is unable to attend, the Secretary of
21 the DEPDEV shall preside unless the President designates another Council member
22 to preside over such meeting.

23 The DEPDEV shall maintain and preserve a complete record of the
24 proceedings and deliberations of the EP Council, including the recording and
25 transcripts, either in their original form, or in any secure format made available by
26 existing technology.

27 *Sec. 8. Full Disclosure Rule.* – In addition to the requirements of Republic Act
28 No. 6713, otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public
29 Officials and Employees, any member of the EP Council with personal and
30 pecuniary interest in any matter in the agenda shall disclose the interest to the
31 Council and shall withdraw from the meeting when the matter will be taken up.

1 The minutes shall reflect the disclosure made and the withdrawal of the member
2 concerned from the subject meeting.

3 *Sec. 9. Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC).* – The DBCC shall
4 initially be composed of the Secretaries of the DBM, DEPDEV, DOF, and the Executive
5 Secretary. The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or his or her duly
6 authorized representative shall sit in the meetings of the DBCC as a resource person.

7 The Secretaries of the DBM and DEPDEV shall serve as the chairperson and
8 vice-chairperson of the DBCC, respectively.

9 The DBCC shall recommend for final approval of the President

10 (a) The level of annual government expenditures and the ceiling of
11 government spending for economic and social development, national
12 defense, and government debt service;

13 (b) The budget to be allocated for current operating expenditures and capital
14 outlays of government programs and projects;

15 (c) A strategic multi-year fiscal program which supports the long-term and
16 medium-term development objectives of the country; and

17 (d) A domestic and foreign borrowing program for general financing and
18 development purposes; and,

19 (e) Conduct periodic review of fiscal and macroeconomic targets, and the
20 revenue and expenditure projections of the government, including
21 general examination of cost, accomplishments and performance
22 standards applied in undertaking development projects.

23 The DBM shall serve as the Secretariat for the DBCC.

24 *Sec. 10. Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom).* – The InfraCom shall initially
25 be composed of the Secretaries of the DA, DBM, DENR, DEPDEV, DILG, DOE, DOF,
26 DOTr, DPWH, DTI, Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Information and
27 Communications Technology (DICT), and the Executive Secretary. The Secretaries
28 of the DEPDEV and DPWH shall serve as co-chairpersons of the InfraCom.

29 The InfraCom shall have the following functions:

30 (a) Recommend to the President a national infrastructure development
31 strategy, and necessary government policies, programs and projects

1 concerning infrastructure development consistent with national
2 development objectives and priorities;

3 (b) Advise the President and the EP Council on all matters concerning
4 infrastructure development; and

5 (c) Coordinate the activities of agencies, including government-owned and
6 controlled corporations involved in infrastructure development.

7 *Sec. 11. Investment Coordination Committee (ICC).* – The ICC shall initially
8 be composed of the Secretaries of the DBM, DEPDEV, DOE, DOF, DTI, and the
9 Executive Secretary. The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or his or her
10 duly authorized representative shall sit in the meetings of the ICC as a resource
11 person.

12 The Secretaries of the DOF and DEPDEV shall serve as the co-chairpersons of
13 the ICC.

14 The ICC shall have the following functions:

15 (a) Ensure the efficient and effective evaluation of major capital programs
16 and projects of the country by determining levels of acceptability and
17 viability relative to overall economic and fiscal conditions of the country;

18 (b) Recommend for the approval by the President or the EP Council, as the
19 case may be:

20 i. The timetable of the implementation of major capital programs and
21 projects on a regular basis;

22 ii. Public-private partnerships, privatization, and other funding options
23 to augment government's financing capacity;

24 iii. Modalities of development financing and capital market development
25 in support of long-term programs and projects for both national and
26 local government, and GOCCs; and

27 iv. Specific major programs and projects found viable in terms of
28 economic and social benefits.

29 (c) Submit to the President a status of the fiscal, monetary and balance of
30 payment (BOP) implications of major capital and infrastructure programs
31 and projects.

1 (d) Advise the President on matters related to the domestic and foreign
2 borrowings program in relation to major capital and infrastructure
3 projects requiring approval by the ICC.

4 *Sec. 12. Social Development Committee (SDC).* – The SDC shall initially be
5 composed of the Secretaries of the DA, DBM, DEPDEV, DEPED, DOLE, DHSUD,
6 DILG, DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), and Department of Migrant Workers
7 (DMW) and the Executive Secretary. The Secretaries of the DOLE and DEPDEV shall
8 serve as the co-chairpersons of the SDC.

9 The SDC shall have the following functions:

10 (a) Recommend for final approval of the EP Council appropriate policies,
11 programs, and projects on social development, including education,
12 human resources, health and nutrition, population and family planning,
13 social protection, housing, human settlements, Overseas Filipino Workers,
14 and other vulnerable sectors;

15 (b) Coordinates the activities of government agencies concerned with social
16 development; and,

17 (c) Advise the President and EP Council on matters concerning social
18 development and delivery of social services.

19 *Sec. 13. Tariff and Related Matters Committee (TRMC).* – The TRMC shall
20 be composed of the Secretaries of the DA, DBM, DEPDEV, DFA, DICT, DOF DOLE,
21 and DTI, the Executive Secretary, and the Chairpersons of the Tariff Commission
22 and Philippine Competition Commission. The Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng
23 Pilipinas or his or her duly authorized representative shall sit in the meetings of
24 the TRMC as a resource person.

25 The Secretaries of the DTI and DEPDEV shall serve as the co-chairpersons of
26 the TRMC.

27 The TRMC shall discharge the following functions:

28 (a) Recommend to the President a continuous rationalization policy and
29 program for the country's tariff structure;

30 (b) Advise the President and EP Council on tariff and non-tariff matters as
31 well various international developments and its effect on the country; and

1 (c) Coordinate government agency positions and recommend national
2 positions for international economic negotiations.

3 Sec. 14. *National Land Use Committee (NLUC)*. –The NLUC shall initially be
4 composed of the Secretaries of the DA, DAR, DEPDEV, DENR, DHSUD, DILG,
5 DPWH, and, one representative of the ULAP.

6 The Secretaries of the DEPDEV and DILG shall serve as the chairperson and
7 vice-chairperson of the NLUC, respectively.

8 The NLUC shall discharge the following functions:

- 9 (a) Advise the President and EP Council on matters concerning land use and
10 physical planning;
- 11 (b) Integrate and harmonize guidelines and policies relevant to land use and
12 spatial planning;
- 13 (c) Recommend for final approval of the EP Council the national and sub-
14 national framework for physical planning;
- 15 (d) Resolve disputes concerning land use and spatial planning;
- 16 (e) Formulate a national physical framework plan (NPFP), shepherd the
17 preparation of sub-national spatial development and physical frameworks
18 and come up with other inter-sectoral policies and programs that guide
19 the rational use and management of the country's land and other physical
20 resources. The NPFP shall have a timeframe of thirty (30) years with
21 regular review and updating every ten (10) years;
- 22 (f) Promote and ensure the integration of land use and spatial planning policies,
23 plans and programs, including disaster risk management and climate change
24 adaptation and mitigation, into national and sub-national socio-economic
25 plans and programs;
- 26 (g) Coordinate the establishment of an up-to-date, interoperable and
27 accessible national database system which would identify and classify the
28 present and possible uses of specific land resources; and,
- 29 (h) Assess periodically the impacts or effects of land use policies which have
30 been adopted and implemented.

1 environment and natural resources, industry and services;

2 iii. Formulate national and sub-national development plans that set
3 forth measurable goals, strategies, proposed policies, programs, and
4 projects;

5 iv. Ensure consistency of national and sub-national, sectoral, and
6 spatial plans and programs and monitor their respective
7 implementations;

8 v. Recommend strategies, and priority programs, activities and projects
9 for budget expenditure policies, in accordance with the long-term
10 vision and development framework, and national and regional
11 development plans;

12 vi. Propose and review policies, plans and programs, for consideration
13 of the appropriate EP Council Committee and/ or approval of the EP
14 Council, as the case may be, to ensure these:

15 a. foster equitable and sustainable distribution of economic
16 opportunities and benefits to Filipinos;

17 b. support the development of agriculture, industry, and services that
18 achieve economic development goals and foster innovation, and
19 are vital to equitable and sustainable growth;

20 c. advance national productivity, competition and competitiveness.

21 d. promote transparency, accountability, participatory governance,
22 and strengthening of national and subnational public
23 institutions; and,

24 e. improve policy and regulatory environment to reduce cost of
25 doing business and improve ease of doing business;

26 vii. Conduct research and related studies for the formulation of policies,
27 plans, programs, and projects; and

28 viii. Coordinate with autonomous and administrative regions in the
29 conduct of planning activities affecting their respective regions.

30 **(b) Investment programming**

31 i. Ensure that development plans are translated into programs,
32 activities, and projects;

- 1 ii. Formulate and review the national and regional public investment
- 2 program that identifies priority programs, activities, and projects;
- 3 iii. Appraise and recommend programs and projects that are found
- 4 viable in terms of economic and societal benefits; and
- 5 iv. Adopt and implement appropriate evaluation measures and criteria
- 6 to determine viability of programs and projects.

7 (c) Monitoring and evaluation

- 8 i. Formulate annual reports that monitor the implementation of
- 9 national and sub-national development plans;
- 10 ii. Monitor and assess the progress of implementation of priority
- 11 programs and projects; and
- 12 iii. Assess the impacts and outcomes of priority programs and projects.

13 (d) Establish and implement a capacity building program on development

14 planning for national, regional, and local planners;

15 (e) Undertake scenario planning exercises, anticipating future trends or

16 discontinuities, and recommend responsive measures to the President and

17 the Congress, as may be appropriate; and,

18 (f) The DEPDEV shall provide technical and secretariat support to the EP Council

19 and its Committees, as may be provided in this Act.

20 (g) The DEPDEV shall serve as Secretariat to the RDCs pursuant to Executive

21 Order No. 325, series of 1996, National Innovation Council pursuant to

22 Republic Act No. 11293, Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council

23 pursuant to Republic Act No. 7640, and such other inter-agency committees,

24 boards or councils, as may be provided by law.

25 Sec. 20. *Visioning.* – The DEPDEV shall formulate a long-term vision,

26 hereinafter referred to as the Vision, which embodies the long-term aspirations of all

27 Filipinos. It shall be data-driven and evidence-based, encompassing all dimensions of

28 economic, social, and environmental development. The Vision shall undergo a periodic

29 review in consideration of changing aspirations and preferences.

30 Sec. 21. *Long-term Development Framework.* – The DEVDEP shall formulate

31 the country’s long-term development framework, hereinafter referred to as the

32 Framework.

1 The Framework is a high-level and broad strategy spanning twenty-five (25)
2 years that shall guide the nation towards sustainable growth and development and
3 the attainment of the Vision. It shall serve as a tool to coordinate, guide, and inform
4 the preparation and consideration of future, more detailed national and subnational
5 development plans, national and subnational public investment programs, and
6 sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and programs. It shall embody the development goals
7 and milestones to serve as basis for the overall direction of government policies,
8 programs, and projects across political administrations. The initial long-term
9 development framework shall cover the period ending 2050.

10 *Sec. 22. Philippine Development Plan and Regional Development Plans.* – The
11 DEPDEV, in consultation with public agencies, civil society organizations, non-
12 government organizations, people’s organizations, academe, private sector, and
13 LGUs, shall formulate within six (6) months from the assumption of office of the
14 President of the Philippines, a national economic and development blueprint, known
15 as the Philippine Development Plan, hereinafter referred to as the PDP, which shall be
16 anchored on the Framework. The PDP shall establish a set of measurable goals and
17 objectives with corresponding strategies, in terms of policies, programs, and projects,
18 that shall be the basis for each political administration’s pursuit of its economic and
19 development agenda.

20 At the subnational level, this shall be known as the Regional Development Plan,
21 hereinafter referred to as the RDP, which shall be formulated by the DEVDEP Regional
22 Offices within reasonable period after formulation of the PDP and in consultation with
23 public agencies, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, people’s
24 organizations, the academe, the private sector, and local government units. The RDP
25 shall be aligned with the PDP, defining the region’s development direction. The PDP
26 and the RDPs shall undergo a midterm review and updating in consideration of
27 accomplishments, and emerging trends and developments.

28 *Sec. 23. Public Investment Program and Regional Development Investment*
29 *Program.* – The DEVDEP, in consultation with public agencies, shall formulate the
30 Public Investment Program, hereinafter referred to as the PIP, which shall identify the
31 priority programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that are responsive to the sectoral
32 goals and outcomes of the PDP, for implementation through national government

1 funds or the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Official Development Assistance
2 (ODA), Public- Private Partnership (PPP), joint ventures (JV), and other viable
3 implementation and financing options. At the subnational level, this shall be known as
4 the Regional Development Investment Program, hereinafter referred to as the RDIP,
5 which shall be formulated by the DEPDEV Regional Offices in consultation with their
6 respective RDCs.

7 *Sec. 24. Philippine Development Report and Regional Development Reports.* –
8 The DEPDEV and its Regional Offices shall formulate annually the Philippine
9 Development Report (PDR) and Regional Development Reports (RDRs), respectively.
10 The PDR and RDRs shall serve as monitoring reports on the implementation of the
11 PDP and RDPs, respectively. The results from such monitoring activities shall serve as
12 inputs to policy and decision makers in the formulation of policies, budgeting, and
13 implementation of programs and projects. To this end, the PDRs and RDRs shall
14 contain the latest data and information pertaining to the goals, policies, and
15 strategies, as specified in the PDP.

16 *Sec. 25. Stakeholder Engagement.* – In the discharge of these powers and
17 functions, the DEPDEV shall undertake consultations with but not limited to
18 appropriate government agencies, civil society organizations, non-government
19 organizations, people’s organizations, academe, private sector, and local government
20 units to incorporate their priority needs in the formulation of policies, plans,
21 programs and projects.

22 *Sec. 26. Composition of the DEPDEV.* – The DEPDEV shall be headed by a
23 Secretary. It shall be composed of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices of the
24 Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, technical and sectoral staff, operations
25 support staff, and Regional Offices.

26 *Sec. 27. Secretary.* – The Secretary shall be appointed by the President, subject
27 to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments.

28 The Secretary shall have the following minimum qualifications: a citizen and
29 resident of the Philippines; of good moral character; of recognized probity and
30 independence; must have distinguished himself/herself professionally in public, civic,
31 or academic service in the field of and preferably must have a Ph.D. in economics;
32 must have been in the active practice of his/her profession for at least ten (10) years;

1 and must not have been a losing candidate in the immediately preceding regular or
2 special elections, within one year from such elections.

3 *Sec. 28. Functions of the Secretary.* – The Secretary shall have the following
4 functions:

5 (a) Advise the President on matters of national and subnational economic and
6 social development;

7 (b) Lead public discourse on the latest trends, strategic issues, futures thinking,
8 and key developments and their relevant implications for the country;

9 (c) Provide executive direction and supervision over, and establish policies
10 and standards for the efficient and effective operations of the DEPDEV;

11 (d) Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees of the DEPDEV
12 in accordance with law, including their investigation and the designation
13 of a committee or officer to conduct such investigation;

14 (e) Promulgate such rules and regulations as may be required to implement
15 the objectives of this Act and to implement the DEPDEV's mandate,
16 objectives, and policies; and,

17 (f) Perform such other functions as may be provided by law or as may be
18 assigned by the President.

19 *Sec. 29. Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries.* – The Secretary shall be
20 assisted by at least five (5) Undersecretaries and at least five (5) Assistant Secretaries,
21 who shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary.

22 The Secretary shall have the flexibility to determine the respective assignments
23 of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries depending on the DEPDEV's strategic
24 directions and/or on emerging development trends affecting the country's economy.

25 *Sec. 30. Organizational Structure and Staffing.* – The organizational structure
26 and staffing shall be determined by the DEPDEV, and shall be submitted to the DBM
27 for approval . As such, the Secretary of the DEPDEV may reorganize and/ or create
28 different groups within the DEPDEV and appoint staff to carry out its mandate, subject
29 to the existing laws, roles, regulations, and guidelines on position classification and
30 compensation structure. Unless a new organizational structure and staffing plan is
31 submitted to and approved by the DBM, the DEPDEV shall retain the existing
32 organizational structure of the NEDA.

1 Sec. 31. *DEPDEV Regional Offices.* – The DEPDEV shall establish, operate, and
2 maintain a regional office in all the different regions of the country, except the National
3 Capital Region and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Each
4 regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director, who shall be assisted by an
5 Assistant Regional Director. The DEPDEV Regional Offices shall discharge the
6 functions of the DEPDEV, as applicable, at the regional level.

7 In addition to the functions as specified in other sections of this Act, the DEPDEV
8 Regional Offices shall have the following functions:

- 9 (a) Ensure that regional and local development priorities are aligned with the
10 national plans;
- 11 (b) Oversee the integration of plans and programs of regional agencies, state
12 universities and colleges (SUCs), special development bodies, and local
13 government units (LGUs) into the regional and national plans. The DECON
14 Regional Offices shall provide assistance to regional line agencies, LGUs,
15 SUCs and special development bodies in identifying and developing
16 programs and projects;
- 17 (c) Evaluate and review proposed policies, land use plans, programs and
18 projects in the region;
- 19 (d) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of plans, policies, programs and
20 projects;
- 21 (e) Provide technical and secretariat support to their respective RDC;
- 22 (f) Undertake research and ensure knowledge utilization for regional
23 development and productivity; and
- 24 (g) Provide technical assistance to development partners in the region in
25 accordance with the DEPDEV's functions.

26 Sec. 32. *Attached Agencies.* – The agencies currently attached to NEDA shall
27 hereafter be attached to the DEPDEV and shall continue to operate and function in
28 accordance with their respective charters, laws, rules and regulations, or orders
29 creating them, except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Administrative Code of
30 1987, and subsequent laws.

31 The following agencies shall be attached to the DEPDEV for purposes of
32 supervision:

1 (a) Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) created pursuant to
2 Presidential Decree 1201 dated September 26, 1977;

3 (b) Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) created
4 pursuant Executive Order No. 635, series of 1980; and

5 (c) Tariff Commission (TC) created pursuant to Republic Act No. 10863.

6 The following agencies shall be attached to the DEPDEV for purposes of policy
7 coordination:

8 (a) Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) created pursuant to Republic Act No.
9 10625; and

10 (b) Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) created
11 pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625.

12 The Commission on Population and Development (CPD), created pursuant to
13 Republic Act No. 6365 dated August 15, 1971, shall be attached to the DEPDEV for
14 purposes of policy and program coordination.

15 The Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines (PPPC), created pursuant
16 Executive Order No. 8, series of 2010, as amended by Executive Order No. 136, series
17 of 2013, shall be attached to the DEPDEV for budgetary purposes and administrative
18 supervision.

19
20 **CHAPTER IV**
21 **TRANSITORY AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**
22

23 *Sec. 33. Transitory Provision.* – The DEPDEV shall, by virtue of this Act, be
24 subrogated to all the rights and assume all the liabilities of NEDA, and all of its funds,
25 records, property, assets, equipment, and such personnel as necessary, including
26 unexpended appropriations and/or allocations. All contracts and liabilities of NEDA are
27 hereby transferred to and assumed by the DEPDEV and shall be acted upon in
28 accordance with the Auditing Code and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.
29 Subject to the succeeding section, all current officials and employees of NEDA shall
30 be retained under and absorbed by the DEPDEV.

31 Any reference to NEDA or to the Director-General or Secretary of NEDA and the
32 NEDA Board in any existing law, Executive Order, Administrative Order, or Presidential

1 Proclamation, rules and regulations, and other issuances with respect to any duty or
2 function assumed by the DEPDEV as created in this Act, shall be deemed hereafter to
3 be referenced to the DEPDEV or to the Secretary of Economy, Planning, and
4 Development, and EP Council, respectively.

5 The procedure under prevailing laws, rules and regulations, guidelines, and
6 issuances at the time of submission or endorsement to the DEPDEV and EP Council,
7 respectively, shall apply to all programs and projects submitted to NEDA for appraisal
8 and/or those endorsed by the current Investment Coordination Committee for NEDA
9 Board approval prior the effectivity of this Act.

10 *Sec. 34. Absorption or Separation from Service of Employees of NEDA.* — The
11 NEDA employees who are separated from service as a result of the consolidation and
12 reorganization under the provisions of this Act, shall be entitled to the following
13 applicable separation incentives:

14 (a) one-half (1/2) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year of service, for
15 those who have rendered less than eleven (11) years of service;

16 (b) three-fourths (3/4) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year of
17 service, computed starting from the first year, for those who have rendered
18 eleven (11) to less than twenty-one (21) years of service;

19 (c) the actual monthly basic salary for every year of service, computed starting
20 from the first year, for those who have rendered twenty-one (21) to less than
21 thirty-one (31) years of service; or,

22 (d) one and one-fourth (1 ¼) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year of
23 service, computed starting from the first year, for those who have rendered
24 thirty-one (31) years of service and above.

25 The NEDA employers who opt to retire under existing retirement laws shall be
26 entitled to the above incentives in addition to the retirement benefits to which they
27 may be entitled under applicable laws and issuances: provided that the personnel who
28 avails of the separation incentives under this Act shall not be re-employed in any
29 agency of the executive branch for a period of five (5) years except as a teaching or
30 medical staff in educational institutions and hospitals respectively: provided further
31 that retired or separated personnel who are re-employed within the prohibited period
32 shall refund the separation incentives received on a pro-rated basis.

1 For purposes of this additional separation incentives, the actual monthly basic
2 salary shall refer to the salary of the affected personnel as of the date of approval of
3 the department's organizational structure and staffing pattern of the DBM.

4 The personnel who are not absorbed shall be separated from the service and
5 shall be allowed to receive the corresponding retirement and separation benefits under
6 applicable laws and regulations. The separation pay authorized herein shall be charged
7 against the available funds of the DEPDEV, and such other funding sources that the
8 DBM may identify subject to the existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws,
9 rules and regulations.

10 *Sec. 35. Other Benefits of Retired Personnel.* – The affected personnel who shall
11 retire or are separated from the service shall, in addition to the applicable benefits
12 abovementioned, be entitled to the following:

13 (a) Refund of PAGIBIG contributions, both personal and government,
14 pursuant to existing rules and regulations of the home development
15 mutual fund; and

16 (b) commutation of unused vacation and sick leave credits of the affected
17 personnel in accordance with existing rules and regulations.

18 *Sec. 36. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to cover the initial
19 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
20 appropriations of NEDA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
21 effective and continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
22 General Appropriations Act.

23 *Sec. 37. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within one hundred twenty
24 (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DEPDEV shall promulgate the rules
25 and regulations, necessary for the proper implementation of the provisions of this
26 Act. The implementing rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
27 the completion of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
28 Within three (3) days from its effectivity date, three (3) certified copies of the
29 published implementing rules and regulations shall be furnished to the University
30 of the Philippines Office of the Law Center pursuant to Book VII, Chapter 2, Section
31 3 of the Administrative Code of 1987.

32 The delay in the promulgation or publication of the implementing rules and

1 regulations shall not defer the effectivity and implementation of this Act.

2 Sec. 38. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or portion of this Act is declared
3 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby affected
4 shall remain in full force and effect.

5 Sec. 39. *Repealing Clause.* – Executive Order No. 230, series of 1987, and
6 Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4, Subtitle C, Title II, Book V of Executive Order No. 292,
7 Series of 1987, Executive Order No. 257, series of 2003; and Executive Orders No.
8 770 and 770-A, series of 2008 are hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, executive
9 orders, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which
10 are inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, and/
11 or modified accordingly.

12 Sec. 40. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,