



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9146

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ENVERGA, KHO, RAMOS, MARCOLETA, GONZALEZ, ESCUDERO, MANGAOANG, CAMINERO, CALDERON, PALMA, VILLANUEVA, BATOCABE, BATAOIL, SALON, AGGABAO, SANDOVAL, SY-ALVARADO, AMANTE, DUAVIT, NUÑEZ-MALANYAON, COJUANGCO, LOBREGAT, SAMBAR, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, MANALO, AMATONG, SARMIENTO (E.M.), PINEDA, RAMIREZ-SATO, UY (J.), CASTRO (F.H.), ROA-PUNO, HOFER, ORTEGA (V.N.), NOEL, SALO, GONZALES (A.P.), PIMENTEL, SAVELLANO, GARIN (R.), GARCIA (J.E.), FORTUN, BRAVO (A.), BERTIZ, CAMPOS, BELARO, GULLAS, TEJADA, VIOLAGO, ZUBIRI, ALEJANO, GONZALES (A.D.), CHIPECO, BORDADO, GO (M.), CARI, TREÑAS, FERNANDO, TUPAS, CUARESMA, ROMUALDO, SILVERIO, DALIPE, VERGARA, SUANSING (E.), VILLARICA, TAMBUNTING, DE VENECIA AND ACOSTA-ALBA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1304

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR  
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE  
IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

- 1 SECTION 1. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the “*National Convergence*  
2 *Initiative Act.*”

1           **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies and Objectives.** It is the policy of the  
2 State to promote agricultural development as a means to ensure food security  
3 and alleviate poverty especially among the rural folks. Towards this end, the  
4 State shall develop and operationalize a common framework for equitable,  
5 inclusive, and sustainable rural development through the convergence of the  
6 resources of the principal rural development departments to maximize its  
7 impact.

8           The implementation of the National Convergence Strategy shall be guided  
9 by the following principles:

- 10       (a) The Department of Agriculture (DA)-Department of Agrarian Reform  
11       (DAR)-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-  
12       Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) (DA-DAR-DENR-  
13       DILG). National Convergence shall be treated as an institutionalized  
14       complementation strategy between and among these four (4) rural  
15       development departments. The Convergence shall work with other  
16       national line agencies, donor agencies, international and local non-  
17       government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs) mentioned  
18       in Section 6 hereof;
- 19       (b) The implementation of a national convergence strategy shall in no way  
20       alter and/or impair the respective mandates of the four (4) rural  
21       development departments;
- 22       (c) The critical role of local government units (LGUs) as the integrating and  
23       converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall  
24       be emphasized;
- 25       (d) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development;  
26       from planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and  
27       evaluation;
- 28       (e) Complementation of resources and expertise of the concerned departments  
29       and LGUs shall take primordial consideration in the implementation of  
30       the Convergence Initiative;
- 31       (f) Convergence shall be mainstreamed in all programs, projects and  
32       activities of the national government departments and concerned LGUs;

1 (g) Instituting relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage  
2 investment by the private sector, cooperatives and other NGOs.

3 SEC. 3. **Scope.** This Act shall apply to all rural development areas  
4 primarily inhabited by the targeted beneficiaries - the marginalized farmers  
5 (both agrarian reform beneficiaries and non-agrarian reform beneficiaries),  
6 fisherfolks, upland dwellers, and indigenous people.

7  
8 **CHAPTER II**  
9 **DEFINITION**

10  
11 SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

12 (a) *Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs)* refer to landless farmers and  
13 regular farm workers, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who were  
14 awarded lands as evidenced by an Emancipation Patent (EP) or a  
15 Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under Presidential Decree  
16 (PD) No. 27, or the Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, as amended, otherwise  
17 known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988." ARBs also  
18 include the leaseholders to the landowners' retained areas who represent  
19 the ARB group which are not awarded with lands but whose tenurial  
20 rights have been strengthened through the registration of leasehold  
21 contracts.

22 (b) *Agricultural lands* refer to lands devoted to or suitable for agricultural  
23 activity and not classified by law as mineral, forest, residential,  
24 commercial or industrial land.

25 (c) *Agro-based cluster* refers to the concentration of producers, agribusiness  
26 and institutions that are engaged in the same agricultural or agro-  
27 industrial sub-sector, and inter-connect.

28 (d) *Coastal areas* refer to a band of dry land and the adjacent ocean space  
29 (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses  
30 directly affect oceanic process and uses, and vice versa. For purposes of  
31 initiating and implementing the Convergence Initiative, it shall include  
32 foreshore land.

1 (e) *Convergence Area* refers to the physical areas where the National  
2 *Convergence Initiative – Sustainable Rural Development* is implemented.

3 (f) *Ecosystem* refers to the complex relationships among the living resources,  
4 habitats, and residents of an area. It includes plants, trees, animals, fish,  
5 birds, micro-organisms, water, soil, and people.

6 (g) *Enhanced National Convergence Initiative (Enhanced NCI)* refers to the  
7 National Convergence Initiative Strategy provided for under DA-DAR-  
8 DENR Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, Series of 2010 and the DA-  
9 DAR-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2015.

10 (h) *Farmers* refer to natural persons whose primary livelihood is cultivation of  
11 land or the production of agricultural crops, agro-forestry products,  
12 livestock and/or fisheries, either by himself/herself, or primarily with the  
13 assistance of his/her immediate farm household, whether the land is  
14 owned by him/her or by another person under a leasehold or share tenancy  
15 agreement or arrangement with the owner thereof.

16 (i) *Fisherfolk* refers to people directly or personally and physically engaged in  
17 taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources.

18 (j) *Good agricultural practices* refer to applied knowledge and practices  
19 geared at addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability  
20 dimensions for on-farm production and post-production processes,  
21 resulting in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products.

22 (k) *Mangrove forests* refer to silt-rich, saline (brackish water) habitat  
23 generally found along large rivers, deltas, and estuaries in the coastal  
24 areas. It is characterized by low tree diversity with a low broken canopy. It  
25 serves as barrier to strong tidal waves and habitat of various aquatic  
26 species.

27 (l) *National Convergence Initiative (NCI)* refers to the complementation of  
28 efforts and resources between and among the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, and  
29 LGUs that seek to promote sustainable rural development. It is a response  
30 to the fragmented and sometimes overlapping delivery of agriculture and  
31 rural development services.

1 (m) *Primary forests or old growth forests* refer to untouched, pristine forest  
2 that exists in its original condition and has been relatively unaffected by  
3 human activity.

4 (n) *Ridge-to-Reef strategy* refers to the development approach to improve the  
5 lives of the ARBs and small farmers, indigenous peoples, marginalized  
6 dwellers and fisherfolks from upland and forest areas, in middle and  
7 lowland areas, down to the coastal areas.

8 (o) *Rural development departments* in this Act refer to the DA, the DAR, the  
9 DENR, and the DILG.

10 (p) *Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ)* refer to  
11 areas within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-  
12 industrial Development (NPAAAD) identified for production, agro-  
13 processing and marketing activities to help develop and modernize, with  
14 the support of the government, the agriculture and fisheries sectors, in an  
15 environmentally and socio-culturally sound manner.

16 (q) *Secondary growth forests* refer to the largest and most dynamic natural  
17 forest ecosystem in the Philippines. Further, it shall refer to an area  
18 which has been disturbed in some way, naturally or unnaturally created in  
19 a number of ways such as degraded forest recovering from the effects of  
20 selective logging or areas cleared by slash-and-burn agriculture or  
21 "kaingin" that have been reclaimed by forest growth. It is also  
22 characterized by a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less  
23 diversity.

24 (r) *Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)* refers to the development objectives  
25 of meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities,  
26 without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own  
27 needs consistent with the principles of social equity, efficiency and  
28 environmental integrity.

29 (s) *Upland or forest ecosystems* refer to areas or at least an 18% slope that  
30 provides ecological benefits and support to agricultural production,  
31 industries, water, and power needs. Timber production as well as agro

1 forestry activities may be promoted in these areas to maximize their  
2 utilization.

3 (t) *Watershed* refers to a topographically delineated area of land from which  
4 rainwater can drain as surface run-off vis-à-vis a specific stream or river  
5 system to a common outlet point which may be a dam, irrigation system or  
6 urban water supply take-of point, or where the stream discharges into a  
7 river, lake or the sea.

### 8 9 CHAPTER III 10 PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK

11  
12 SEC. 5. *Guiding Framework.* The convergence strategy shall adopt the  
13 watershed and integrated ecosystem management (IEM) and integrated area  
14 development (IAD) approaches as the intervention framework in the convergence  
15 areas. This is primarily because the "ridge to reef" convergence strategy is an  
16 environmentally sustainable approach to development since human  
17 interventions in the forest and upland areas would impact on the lowland areas,  
18 and this in turn would affect the coastal and marine areas. Selection of  
19 convergence zones shall likewise take into consideration the SAFDZ provision of  
20 Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries -  
21 Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997".

22  
23 SEC. 6. *Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas.* The following  
24 criteria shall guide the selection of convergence for the agro-enterprise cluster:

25 (a) Adequacy of ecosystem zones. - The convergence sites should cut across the  
26 various ecosystems or should be a combination of two (2) or more  
27 ecosystems;

28 (b) Key production zones, agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and clusters  
29 with connectivity for increased productivity and income.- The convergence  
30 sites should be current key production areas or with potential to  
31 substantially expand and scale-up production. As such, the area may  
32 transform from mono-cropping to integrated, multi-cropping or high value

1 farming system. In terms of connectivity, the key production zone may be  
2 linked with surrounding areas for allied industries or services, or for  
3 backward linkages;

4 (c) Combination of sites across major poverty groups. - The convergence sites  
5 must cover a significant number of small farmers, agricultural workers  
6 including actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, indigenous people, and  
7 rural women and upland dwellers;

8 (d) The convergence sites should involve LGUs and local chief executives  
9 (LCEs) who are willing to support the convergence initiative;

10 (e) The convergence sites should have active POs and/or NGOs that can be  
11 tapped to support the convergence initiative. Presence of private, business,  
12 academic, and research institutions that are willing to partner within the  
13 convergence framework shall be an advantage.

#### 14 15 CHAPTER IV

#### 16 NCI TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND COMPONENTS

17  
18 SEC. 7. *Technical Working Groups of NCI.* The implementation of the  
19 NCI shall be done through Technical Working Groups in an ecosystem. The three  
20 (3) working groups are equally important and shall be mutually re-enforcing.  
21 They shall ensure that the objectives of the NCI as a means of improving  
22 institutional efficiencies in the governance of sustainable rural development are  
23 achieved. Infrastructure development shall form part of the improvement of the  
24 ecosystem and shall sufficiently consider the impact of such development on  
25 ecosystem services.

26 (a) The TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management shall address the  
27 issues and concerns pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs,  
28 sea grasses and algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach  
29 forests ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of concerned  
30 departments/units of the DA, DAR, DENR and the DILG. Other  
31 government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private sector or business

1 groups, and other associations may also be part of the TWG whenever  
2 necessary.

3 (b) The TWG on Sustainable Lowland Agriculture shall address issues and  
4 concerns on the use and management of agricultural ecosystems through  
5 application of good agricultural practices. The TWG shall be composed of  
6 concerned departments / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other  
7 government agencies, NGOs / POs, the academe, private sector or business  
8 groups / associations may also be part of the TWG whenever necessary.

9 (c) The TWG on Forestry and Upland Development shall address issues and  
10 concerns on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and  
11 forests ecosystems through conservation of biodiversity, protection of  
12 primary or old growth forests and secondary growth forest, and  
13 rehabilitation of degraded and denuded ecosystems. The TWG shall be  
14 composed of concerned departments / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and  
15 DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private  
16 sector or business groups / associations may also be part of the TWG  
17 whenever necessary.

18  
19 SEC. 8. *Components of the NCI.* The following shall serve as cross  
20 cutting components of the three (3) TWGs.

21 (a) Policy and Advocacy. The component shall address the issues and  
22 problems of conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to  
23 land administration, regulatory, framework, operational strategies and  
24 jurisdictional boundaries.

25 (b) Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development. The component shall  
26 facilitate enterprise development and agribusiness within the convergence  
27 sites through the establishment of agro-enterprise clusters in all provinces.  
28 These clusters shall be the focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the  
29 potential of the areas especially those designated as strategic zones as  
30 identified by the SAFDZ maps.



- 1 (c) Capacity Development. The component shall ensure the organizational  
2 preparedness of the three agencies and capability of the implementors and  
3 other stakeholders to implement the convergence initiative.
- 4 (d) Knowledge Management. The component shall ensure that NCI programs,  
5 projects and initiatives are implemented and monitored in an efficient and  
6 effective manner. It shall likewise ensure that innovations are documented  
7 for possible adoption, expansion and scaling up.

8  
9 **CHAPTER V**

10  
11 **IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM**

12 **Article One**

13 **National Policy Administration**

14  
15 **SEC. 9. *NCI Executive Board.*** The NCI shall have an Executive Board  
16 hereinafter referred to as the Board which shall act as the policy making body of  
17 the NCI. The Board shall direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

18  
19 The Board shall be composed of four (4) voting members:

- 20 (a) The Secretary of the DA as Chairperson;
- 21 (b) The Secretaries of the DENR, DAR and DILG as members ; and
- 22 (c) The Executive Director of the NCI Secretariat and as *ex-officio* member.

23 The Department Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent  
24 alternate representatives whose rank shall not be lower than  
25 Undersecretary.

26  
27 **SEC. 10. *Powers and Functions.*** The NCI Executive Board shall assume  
28 the following powers and functions:

- 29 (a) Provide overall policy directions for the implementation of  
30 programs/projects and other related activities under the NCI;
- 31 (b) Approve/ratify implementing rules and regulations, programs, projects and  
32 plans pertaining to the operation of the NCI;

- 1 (c) Appoint the National Focal Person (NFP) with a rank of Assistant  
2 Secretary and a Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP) with a rank of  
3 Director IV to spearhead the NCI Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG)  
4 and oversee and supervise NCI operations.
- 5 (d) Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders,  
6 and partner agencies on policies and major programs related to  
7 sustainable rural development;
- 8 (e) Approve of Memorandum of Agreements with investors and funding  
9 agencies being recommended for approval by the NCI National Focal  
10 Person;
- 11 (f) Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCI,  
12 including the membership of the National Convergence Initiative  
13 Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG), the three (3) NCI-Ecosystem  
14 Technical Working Groups (NCI-ETWG) and the four (4) NCI-Component  
15 Working Groups (NCI-CWG), through a Joint Special Order;
- 16 (g) Allocate resources to carry out the plans, programs, projects, and other  
17 related activities of the NCI;
- 18 (h) Regularly advise the President on all matters concerning the  
19 implementation of convergence initiative strategies;
- 20

21 **SEC. 11. Meetings of the Board .** The Board shall meet on a quarterly  
22 basis and may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Secretary of the  
23 DA shall act as Lead Convenor while the Secretaries of the DAR, DENR and  
24 DILG shall act as Co-Convenors. In the absence of the Lead Convenor and/or Co-  
25 Convenor of the host department, the present principal members may decide or  
26 choose between themselves who will be the Chairperson of the meeting.  
27 Furthermore, the NCI-Executive Board meetings may be done in rotation  
28 amongst the five (5) departments;

29

30 **SEC. 12. National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person.**  
31 A National Focal Person, who shall have a has a rank of Assistant Secretary,  
32 shall be appointed by the NCI Executive Board to spearhead the NCI- Technical

1 Working Group (NCI- TWG) and supervise NCI operations. The National Focal  
2 Person assisted by a *Deputy National Focal Person*, shall have a rank of Director  
3 IV. The NFP shall also convene the members of the NCI-TWG to discuss  
4 updates/status on programs, projects and activities before the conduct of NCI  
5 Board meetings. The NFP shall come from the lead agency (DA) while the DNFP  
6 shall come from any of the three (3) co-convenor rural development departments.

7  
8 **SEC. 13. *The National Convergence Initiative-Technical Working***  
9 ***Group (NCI-TWG)***—The NCI-TWG shall serve as the advisory and  
10 recommendatory body to the NCI Executive Board on matters related to the  
11 implementation of the NCI.

12  
13 **SEC. 14. *Composition of the NCI-TWG.*** The NCI -TWG to be convened  
14 by the NCI National Focal Person shall have the following members:

- 15 (a) Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management  
16 (b) Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management  
17 (c) Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development  
18 (d) Convergence Focal Person, DA (Agro-Enterprise Development)  
19 (e) Convergence Focal Person, DAR (Policy and Advocacy)  
20 (f) Convergence Focal Person, DENR ( Knowledge Management)  
21 (g) Convergence Focal Person, DILG (Capacity Development)  
22 (h) Executive Director, NCI Secretariat Office

23  
24 **SEC. 15. *Agency Convergence Focal Persons.*** Each agency shall  
25 designate a Convergence Focal Person who shall be responsible for the  
26 coordination and management of the convergence program in their respective  
27 departments (national and field levels). The Department Convergence Focal  
28 Person shall likewise be a member of the NCI-TWG.

29  
30 **SEC. 16. *Creation of NCI Secretariat Office.*** A permanent NCI  
31 Secretariat shall be created with the corresponding plantilla positions for its  
32 administrative and technical staff compliment. Filling up of permanent

1 personnel shall be based on the current and existing NCI Secretariat  
2 organizational structure. The NCI Secretariat Office shall be headed by an  
3 Executive Director who shall be appointed by the DA Secretary.

4 The NCI Secretariat shall be strengthened with detailed personnel coming  
5 from the secretariat of the four (4) NCI core departments on top of the designated  
6 coordinators of each working group. The NCI Secretariat shall work closely with  
7 the NCI National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person, the  
8 Chairperson of the different Working Groups and the Agency Convergence Focal  
9 Persons.

10

11 SEC. 17. *Functions of the NCI Secretariat.* The NCI Secretariat shall  
12 have the following functions:

- 13 (a) Coordinate the conduct of the NCI-Executive Board and NCI-TWG  
14 meetings and workshops, writeshops, seminars, fora and consultations;  
15 (b) Provide administrative, logistics, and technical support to the NCI-NSC  
16 and NCI-TWG;  
17 (c) Document, prepare, and disseminate the highlights of the proceedings of  
18 NCI Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;  
19 (d) Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during  
20 NCI Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;  
21 (e) Submit monitoring/progress reports to the NCI Executive Board and NCI-  
22 TWG and other oversight bodies;  
23 (f) As coordinators, follow up on the activities to be conducted by the three (3)  
24 NCI-ETWGs and four (4) NCI-CWGs. Ensure that the timelines for the  
25 activities are strictly followed.  
26 (g) Coordination with KM-TWG in management of convergence areas'  
27 database; and,  
28 (h) Perform other functions as the NCI Executive Board may direct.

29 There shall be a satellite secretariat office to be established in the DA,  
30 DAR, DENR and DILG Department. Each satellite secretariat office shall  
31 be composed of staff from the offices of the Departments' respective  
32 Alternate Board Representatives.

1 Article Two

2 Sub-National Level Administration

3  
4 SEC. 18. *Regional Convergence Initiative-Technical Working Group*  
5 (*RCI-TWG*). Parallel to the NCI-TWG, the RCI-TWG shall manage and  
6 supervise the programs, projects, and other related activities at the regional  
7 level. The RCI-TWG shall be the regional arm of the NCI Executive Board in  
8 carrying out its functions.

9  
10 SEC. 19. *Duties and Responsibilities*

- 11 (a) Work closely with other government line agencies and offices and with the  
12 Regional Development Council (RDC) and concerned Provincial  
13 Development Council (PDC) to ensure that the enhanced convergence  
14 initiative interventions are aligned with the regional development agenda  
15 and initiatives;
- 16 (b) Facilitate complementation of efforts and resources for greater impact;
- 17 (c) Coordinate and work closely with the Provincial LGUs in the  
18 implementation of the NCI plans, programs, projects, and other related  
19 activities. The Regional Directors of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG may enter  
20 into an agreement with the Provincial Governor or LGU leagues, as  
21 necessary;
- 22 (d) Meet monthly or as deemed necessary.

23  
24 SEC. 20. *Composition of the RCI-TWG*. The RCI-TWG shall be  
25 composed of:

- 26 (a) DA, DAR, DENR or DILG Regional Directors, who may act as Chairperson;  
27 (b) Depending on the result of the election of Chairperson, the three other  
28 rural development department directors will act as Co-Chairpersons;  
29 (c) Regional Focal Persons for all the departments and Head RCI-TWG  
30 Secretariat as Members.

31 The Chairperson of the RCI-TWG shall be a convergence champion and  
32 shall be decided by and among the Regional Directors of DA, DAR, DENR, and

1 DILG. Upon the completion of the RCI-TWG composition, a resolution to that  
2 effect shall be submitted to the NCI Secretariat. Membership of the RCI-TWG  
3 may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other  
4 agencies as deemed necessary.

5 The RCI-Secretariat shall be composed of representatives from the  
6 regional offices of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. The RCI Secretariat shall be  
7 headed by the Regional Focal Person. The Regional Focal Person and the  
8 members of the RCI Secretariat shall be designated by the Chairperson of RCI-  
9 TWG.

10  
11 **SEC. 21. Provincial Convergence Initiative Technical Working**  
12 **Group (PCI-TWG).** The PCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans,  
13 programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCI at their respective  
14 provinces in collaboration with RCI-TWG. The PCI-TWG shall identify or  
15 determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed,  
16 such as, but not limited to infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and  
17 institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and  
18 programs.

19 The Chairperson of the PCI-TWG shall be the Provincial Governor and the  
20 Provincial heads of DAR, DENR and DILG shall be the Co-Chairpersons. The  
21 members of the PCI-TWG are the Provincial Environment and Natural  
22 Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO),  
23 Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), Provincial Planning and Development  
24 Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Government – Environment and Natural  
25 Resources Officer (PG-ENRO), the DA's Agricultural Program Coordinating  
26 Officer (APCO) and Provincial Interior and Local Government Officer (PILGO).  
27 The respective interface mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, DENR and  
28 DILG providing technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms  
29 may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU  
30 level.



1 implementation of the NCIs, the learnings on convergence as an approach to  
2 sustainable rural development, and proposed policy recommendations.

3  
4 **CHAPTER VI**  
5 **TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

6  
7 **SEC. 24. *Convening of NCI Secretariat Office.*** Within sixty (60) days  
8 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the  
9 NCI Secretariat Office. The current head of the Enhanced NCI Secretariat shall  
10 sit temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCI Secretariat Office until such time  
11 that a regular Executive Director has been appointed.

12  
13 **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The implementing  
14 rules and regulations of this Act shall be drafted and approved by the NCI  
15 departments concerned within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

16  
17 **SEC. 26. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** Within sixty (60) days from  
18 the effectivity of this Act, the NCI Executive Board shall formulate and submit  
19 the NCI Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing  
20 pattern to the President for final approval through the Department of Budget  
21 and Management (DBM).

22 The DA shall assist in the preparation of the Organizational Structure and  
23 Staffing Pattern of the NCI Secretariat Office with corresponding number of  
24 plantilla positions as well as budgetary requirements to effectively carry out its  
25 mandated functions under this Act.

26  
27 **SEC. 27. *Appropriations.*** Funds necessary to carry out the  
28 implementation of the NCI shall be taken from the available funds of the DA,  
29 DAR, DENR and DILG under the current General Appropriations Act.  
30 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the NCI  
31 Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of NCI plans and programs



1 shall be included in the respective annual budget of the aforementioned  
2 Departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

3 Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of  
4 assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be  
5 tapped and facilitated by NCI Executive Board to support the program, subject to  
6 regular auditing guidelines and procedures. Cost-sharing or counter parting  
7 schemes among national government and LGUs is also encouraged to support  
8 the implementation of the NCIs.

9  
10 SEC. 28. **Non-Impairment Clause.** Nothing in this Act shall be  
11 construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or  
12 available to marginalized or basic sectors under existing laws including Republic  
13 Act Nos. 8371, 8550 and 6657.

14  
15 SEC. 29. **Separability Clause.** If for any reason or reasons, any part or  
16 provision of this Act shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid,  
17 other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to  
18 be in full force and effect.

19  
20 SEC. 30. **Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
21 regulations or parts or provisions thereof that are not consistent with this Act are  
22 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

23  
24 SEC. 31. **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26  
27 Approved.