

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6878

Introduced by Representatives Conrado M. Estrella III, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Ian Paul L. Dy, Sharon S. Garin, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Josephine Ramirez-Sato, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Carlos O. Cojuangco, Jose "Ping-ping" L. Tejada, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Ma. Bernardita "Ditas" B. Ramos, Sharee Ann T. Tan, Virgilio S. Lacson, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Leonardo L. Babasa, Jr., Teodorico T. Haresco, Jr., Evelina G. Escudero, and Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT 10068, OR THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 2 on Declaration of Policy is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3
4 **"SEC.2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic
6 **FARMING AND OTHER SUSTAINABLE** agriculture **PRACTICES** in the
7 Philippines that will cumulatively condition and enrich the fertility of the soil,
8 increase farm productivity **AND FARMERS' INCOMES**, reduce pollution
9 and destruction of the environment, prevent the depletion of natural resources,
10 further protect the health of farmers, consumers, and the general public, [and]
11 save on imported farm inputs **AND PROMOTE FOOD SELF**
12 **SUFFICIENCY.**

13
14 Towards this end, a comprehensive program for the promotion of community-
15 based organic agriculture systems, which include, among others, farmer-
16 produced [purely organic fertilizers such as compost, pesticides] **ORGANIC**
17 **SOIL AMENDMENTS, BIO CONTROL AGENTS** and other farm inputs,
18 [together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for
19 their use and processing, as well as adoption of organic agriculture system as a

1 viable alternative] shall be undertaken.

2
3 **LIKewise, A NATIONWIDE EDUCATIONAL AND AWARENESS**
4 **CAMPAIGN FOR CONSUMERS ON THE BENEFITS OF**
5 **CONSUMING ORGANIC PRODUCTS AS WELL AS ON THE**
6 **VIABILITY OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE SYSTEM AS AN**
7 **ALTERNATIVE SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN TO BOOST LOCAL**
8 **PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC FOOD AND NON-FOOD PRODUCTS.**

9
10 The State recognizes and supports the central role of the farmers, indigenous
11 people and other stakeholders at the grassroots in this program.”

12
13 **Section 2.** Section 3 on Definition of Terms is hereby amended to read as
14 follows:

15
16 “SEC.3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the following terms
17 shall be defined as follows:

18
19 XXX

20
21 (h) *Certification* is the procedure by which [official certification bodies or
22 officially recognized certification bodies] **A GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR**
23 **AN OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY**
24 **(OCB)** provides written or equivalent assurance that [foods or food control
25 systems] **OPERATORS AND CORE PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE**
26 **SYSTEM (PGS) GROUPS** conform to [requirements] **ORGANIC**
27 **AGRICULTURE STANDARDS AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT;**

28
29 (i) *OFFICIAL Accreditation* is the procedure by which a government agency
30 having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an [inspection
31 and/or certification] **ORGANIC CERTIFYING** body to provide inspection
32 and certification services;

33
34 XXX

35
36 **(O) INSPECTION IS THE EXAMINATION OF THE PRODUCTION,**
37 **POSTHARVEST, PROCESSING, HANDLING, STORAGE AND**
38 **PACKAGING UNITS TO VERIFY THAT THESE CONFORM TO THE**
39 **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STANDARDS;**

40
41 **(P) ORGANIC BIO-CONTROL AGENTS ARE ORGANISMS AND**
42 **THEIR ASSOCIATED METABOLITES AS WELL AS NATURALLY**
43 **OCCURRING SUBSTANCES THAT CONTROL PESTS AND**
44 **DISEASES;**

1 (Q) *ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY* (OCB) IS A LEGAL ENTITY
2 OFFICIALLY ACCREDITED BY A GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO
3 PERFORM INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES;
4

5 A CORE PGS GROUP, SEEKING TO BECOME AN ORGANIC
6 CERTIFYING BODY, SHALL FIRST BE EVALUATED BY THE
7 BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES STANDARDS (BAFS)
8 AS COMPLIANT WITH ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STANDARDS
9 AND WITHOUT ANY INFRACTION FOR THE PAST THREE (3)
10 YEARS. THIS SHALL ALSO SERVE AS BASIS FOR ITS OFFICIAL
11 ACCREDITATION AS AN ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY.
12

13 THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL
14 GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL ENCOURAGE AND SUPERVISE
15 THE PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORGANIC
16 AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.
17

18 ANY PRIVATE GROUP OR ORGANIZATION ACTUALLY
19 ENGAGED IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, FOR THE PAST FIVE (5)
20 YEARS, AS A DIRECT ORGANIC FARM PRODUCER, AS A
21 PROMOTER/ADVOCATE OF THE WAYS, METHODS AND
22 PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, OR AS A MARKETER
23 OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCE, MAY ALSO APPLY TO
24 BECOME AN ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY;
25

26 (R) *ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS* ARE PRODUCTS WITHIN THE
27 SCOPE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARD THAT ARE
28 ADDED TO THE SOIL TO IMPROVE ITS PHYSICAL PROPERTIES.
29

30 (S) *PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS* (PGS) ARE LOCALLY
31 FOCUSED QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS THAT CERTIFY TO
32 THE PRACTICE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE. THE
33 CERTIFICATION IS BASED ON THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF
34 PRODUCERS AND FARMERS IN THE PRACTICE OF ORGANIC

1 **AGRICULTURE, BUILT ON A FOUNDATION OF TRUST, SOCIAL**
2 **NETWORKS AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE.**

3
4 **(T) *PGS GROUP* IS A LEGAL ASSOCIATION OR COOPERATIVE OF**
5 **REGISTERED FARMER MEMBERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS**
6 **IN A PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM.**

7
8 **(U) *PARTICIPATORY ORGANIC CERTIFICATE* IS A**
9 **DOCUMENTARY PROOF THAT A CORE PGS GROUP IS**
10 **COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, STANDARDS AND**
11 **NORMS OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE. IT SHALL BE ISSUED BY A**
12 **GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR BY AN AUTHORIZED ORGANIC**
13 **CERTIFYING BODY, AFTER THE CONDUCT OF AN**
14 **INVESTIGATION AND CERTIFICATION ACTIVITY ON THE**
15 **APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION BY THE CORE PGS GROUP.**
16 **IT SHALL CONTAIN A PERIOD FOR ITS VALIDITY, AS SET BY**
17 **THE BAFS.**

18
19 **(V) *SMALL FARMERS* REFER TO THOSE CULTIVATING NOT**
20 **MORE THAN FIVE (5) HECTARES OF LAND AND/OR ARE**
21 **ENGAGED AS SMALL POULTRY/LIVESTOCK/SHEEP AND OTHER**
22 **SMALL RUMINANTS RAISERS WHO ARE DEFINED AS THOSE**
23 **RAISING NOT MORE THAN THE FOLLOWING:**

- 24
25 • **POULTRY – 1,000 POULTRY LAYERS OR 5,000**
26 **BROILERS**
27 • **SWINE – 10 SOW LEVEL OR 20 FATTENERS**
28 • **NATIVE PIGS – 30 HEADS**
29 • **CATTLE – 10 FATTENERS OR 5 BREEDERS**
30 • **DAIRY – 10 MILKING COWS**
31 • **GOAT – 50 HEADS**
32 • **SHEEP AND OTHER SMALL RUMINANTS**
33 • **AND OTHERS THAT THE NATIONAL ORGANIC**
34 **BOARD DEEMS AS SMALL FARMER**

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(W) SMALL FISHERS ARE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **THOSE OPERATING FISHING VESSELS OF NOT MORE THAN THREE (3) TONS IN CAPACITY;**
- **THOSE OPERATING FISHPONDS OF LESS THAN FIVE HECTARES OR CAGES OF LESS THAN 400 SQUARE METERS;**
- **FISH WORKERS IN FISHING BOATS, FISHPONDS, OR FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS; AND**
- **ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTION.**

(X) ORGANIC VALUE CHAIN OR AGRIBUSINESS ARE AGRICULTURE-RELATED ACTIVITIES THAT PUT FARMERS, PROCESSORS, DISTRIBUTORS AND CONSUMERS WITHIN A SYSTEM THAT PRODUCES, PROCESSES, TRANSPORTS, MARKETS AND DISTRIBUTES ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.”

Section 3. Section 4 on Coverage is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Coverage. - The provisions of this Act shall apply to the development and promotion of organic agriculture and shall include [, but not limited to,] the following:

XXX

(c) Promotion and encouragement of the establishment of facilities, equipment and processing plants that would accelerate the production and commercialization of organic fertilizers, [pesticides, herbicides] BIO-CONTROL AGENTS, ORGANIC SOIL AMENDMENTS and other appropriate farm inputs THAT THE NOAB DEEMS APPROPRIATE; and

(d) Implementation of organic agricultural programs, projects and activities, including the provision and delivery of support services with focus on the

1 farmers, **PRIORITIZING SMALL FARMERS/FISHERFOLK AND**
2 **THEIR ORGANIZATIONS** and other stakeholders.”

3
4 **Section 4.** Section 7 on the Composition of the NOAB is hereby amended to
5 read as follows:

6
7 “SEC. 7. *Composition of the NOAB.* The NOAB shall consist of:

8
9 (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, or his duly authorized permanent
10 representative, with a rank of Undersecretary, as Chairperson;

11
12 XXX

13
14 (e) [The Secretary of Education] **DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE**
15 **TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**
16 **AUTHORITY (TESDA)**, or [his] A duly authorized permanent
17 representative;

18
19 XXX

20
21 (j) A representative [each] from the NGOs involved in sustainable
22 **ORGANIC** agriculture [for at least three (3) years; agricultural colleges
23 and universities; and private sector or agribusiness firms as members];

24
25 **(K) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES**
26 **AND UNIVERSITIES INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABLE ORGANIC**
27 **AGRICULTURE;**

28
29 **(L) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR**
30 **AGRIBUSINESS FIRMS INVOLVED IN SUSTAINABLE**
31 **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE;**

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33
34 **(M) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL PGS**
35 **FORMED TO BE CHOSEN AMONG AND BY THEMSELVES;**
36 **AND**

37
38 **(N) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NATIONAL**
39 **ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGUs)**
40 **ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.**

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42 XXX

43
44 The representatives of small farmers and NGOs and of agricultural colleges
45 and universities shall be chosen by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Science
46 and Technology, respectively, from among nominees submitted by their
47 respective national organizations. These representatives must [be]
48 **REPRESENT FARMERS’ ORGANIZATIONS NATIONWIDE,**
49 **ACTUALLY AND ACTIVELY PRACTICING, PROMOTING**

1 **FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PURPOSES**
2 **OF THIS ACT:**

- 3
- 4 **1. UPDATE THE NOAB ON THE STATUS OF THE PROGRAMS,**
5 **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE**
6 **DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF ORGANIC**
7 **AGRICULTURE;**
- 8 **2. FORMULATE AND UPDATE STANDARDS RELEVANT TO**
9 **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE;**
- 10 **3. ACCREDIT ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES (OCBS) AND CORE**
11 **PGS GROUPS;**
- 12 **4. ISSUE REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL,**
13 **FISHERY AND INPUTS;**
- 14 **5. RULE ON THE APPEAL OF FARMOWNERS AND CORE PGS**
15 **GROUPS ON DECISIONS MADE BY MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS**
16 **GROUPS ON CERTIFICATION ISSUES; AND**
- 17 **6. PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND**
18 **RESPONSIBILITIES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT**
19 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL**
20 **OF THE NOAB.”**

21

22 **Section 7.** A new provision on Participatory Guarantee Systems is hereby
23 inserted after Section 10 [The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards
24 (BAFPS) of the DA] to read as follows:

25

26 **“SECTION 11. PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEMS (PGS).**

- 27
- 28 **A. *BASIC PRINCIPLES.* THE PGS SHALL BE THE MECHANISM BY**
29 **WHICH SMALL FARMERS, FISHERFOLK, THEIR FARMS,**
30 **ASSOCIATIONS, COOPERATIVES SHALL BE CERTIFIED AS**
31 **ENGAGED IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND AS PRODUCERS**
32 **OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS.**

33

34 **THE PARTICIPATORY ORGANIC CERTIFICATION FROM**
35 **ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES, ORGANIZED IN**

1 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ACT, SHALL BE PROMOTED AND
2 ACCEPTED.

3
4 THE PRODUCTS CERTIFIED BY THESE GROUPS SHALL BE
5 TRADED ONLY IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET.

6
7 AN ASSOCIATION OR GROUP UNDER THE PGS SHALL
8 ADHERE TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS (PNS)
9 FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.

10
11 FURTHER, ASSOCIATIONS OR GROUPS UNDER THE PGS
12 SHALL ADOPT THE FOLLOWING FEATURES AND
13 CHARACTERISTICS:

- 14
- 15 i. EXISTENCE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NORMS
16 CONCEIVED BY THE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
17 STAKEHOLDERS; THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO
18 SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE;
 - 19 ii. GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION WITH ITS
20 PARTICIPATORY CERTIFICATION A RESULT OF A
21 SOCIAL DYNAMIC, AND BASED ON THE ACTIVE
22 PARTICIPATION OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS;
 - 23 iii. EXISTENCE OF PRINCIPLES AND VALUES THAT
24 ENHANCE THE LIVELIHOODS AND WELL-BEING OF
25 FARMING FAMILIES AND PROMOTE ORGANIC
26 AGRICULTURE; DOCUMENTED MANAGEMENT
27 SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES;
 - 28 iv. PROVISION OF MECHANISMS TO VERIFY FARMER'S
29 COMPLIANCE TO ESTABLISHED NORMS;
 - 30 v. PROVISION OF MECHANISMS FOR SUPPORTING
31 FARMERS TO PRODUCE ORGANIC PRODUCTS AND BE
32 CERTIFIED AS ORGANIC FARMERS, WHICH SHALL
33 INCLUDE THE SERVICES OF FIELD ADVISORS,

- 1 NEWSLETTERS, FARM VISITS, WEB SITES, AMONG
- 2 OTHERS;
- 3 vi. EXISTENCE OF A BOTTOM-LINE DOCUMENT, SUCH AS
- 4 A FARMER'S PLEDGE, THAT SHALL CONFIRM THE
- 5 FARMER'S AGREEMENT TO THE ESTABLISHED
- 6 NORMS;
- 7 vii. INTRODUCTION OR USE OF SEALS OR LABELS
- 8 PROVIDING EVIDENCE OF ORGANIC STATUS; AND
- 9 viii. EXISTENCE OF A CLEAR AND PREVIOUSLY DEFINED
- 10 SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND MEASURES
- 11 AGAINST FARMERS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH
- 12 STANDARDS.

13

14 **B. LEGAL PERSONALITY.** THERE SHALL BE A CORE PGS GROUP

15 AS THE BASIC UNIT IN THE PGS. THE CORE PGS GROUP

16 SHALL BE REGISTERED WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OR CITY

17 IN WHICH IT OPERATES. IT SHALL SECURE A MAYOR'S

18 PERMIT FROM THE SAID MUNICIPALITY OR CITY, THE

19 POSSESSION OF WHICH SHALL SUFFICE AS PROOF OF

20 REGISTRATION AND THE GRANT OF LEGAL PERSONALITY

21 FOR WHATEVER TRANSACTION IT MAY ENTER INTO.

22

23 A NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

24 UNITS (LGUS) ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN ORGANIC

25 AGRICULTURE AND REGISTERED OR ACCREDITED BY A

26 NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY EMPOWERED TO DO SO,

27 SHALL ALSO ACQUIRE LEGAL PERSONALITY FOR THE

28 PURPOSES OF OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION BY BAFS.

29

30 ANY OTHER ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY SHALL

31 SECURE A MAYOR'S PERMIT FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OR

32 CITY WHERE IT INTENDS TO OPERATE, THE POSSESSION OF

33 WHICH SHALL SUFFICE TO GRANT IT LEGAL PERSONALITY

34 FOR PURPOSES OF RECOGNITION BY BAFS.

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C. CERTIFICATION. THE BAFS SHALL PROVIDE THE GUIDELINES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF FARMS, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. A FARM OR FARMOWNER APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATION AS AN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRACTITIONER SHALL APPLY WITHIN THE SAME MUNICIPALITY OR CITY. THE DECISION OF THE CORE PGS GROUP OR OF THE ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY ON SAID APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO APPEAL: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH CERTIFICATION SHALL BE ISSUED IN THE NAME OF THE CORE PGS GROUP OF WHICH THE FARM OR FARMOWNER IS A MEMBER. FURTHER, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN SAID CORE PGS GROUP SHALL RESULT IN THE FORFEITURE OF THE PRIVILEGE THE FARM OR FARMOWNER TO USE THE CORE PGS GROUP CERTIFICATE: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT ONLY MINIMAL FEES SHALL BE COLLECTED FOR THE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION.

D. OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION. THE BAFS SHALL PROVIDE THE GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION. A REGISTERED CORE PGS GROUP SHALL APPLY FOR OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION WITH THE BAFS. A CORE PGS GROUP SHALL BE ACCORDED OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION BY THE BAFS ONLY IF IT HAS AT LEAST FIVE (5) MEMBERS, WHO SHALL COME FROM DIFFERENT FARMS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OR CITY THAT ARE ACTUALLY PRACTICING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.

THE BAFS SHALL ISSUE ITS DECISION ON THE APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION BY A CORE PGS GROUP OR ANY QUALIFIED ENTITY APPLYING FOR ACCREDITATION WITHIN SIXTY WORKING (60) DAYS FROM THE SUBMISSION OF THE COMPLETE REQUIREMENTS, AND

1 **FAILURE TO RENDER DECISION WITHIN SUCH PERIOD**
2 **SHALL BE UNDERSTOOD AS AN APPROVAL OF THE**
3 **APPLICATION FOR OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION OF THE**
4 **PGS/OCB. THE BAFS SHALL NOT CHARGE ANY OFFICIAL**
5 **ACCREDITATION OR APPLICATION FEES.**

6
7 **E. ORGANIZATIONAL LEVELS.**

8
9 **1. THE CORE PGS GROUP. EVERY PGS GROUP SHOULD HAVE AT**
10 **LEAST FIVE (5) MEMBERS, COMPOSED OF FARMERS FROM A**
11 **COMBINATION OF BOTH THE CROPS AND LIVESTOCK**
12 **SECTORS. IT MAY ADD TO ITS MEMBERSHIP FARMERS FROM**
13 **OTHER SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE, NON-GOVERNMENT**
14 **ORGANIZATIONS, PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, BUYERS OF**
15 **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS, SUPPLIERS OF ORGANIC**
16 **INPUTS, AMONG OTHERS, WHO LIVE IN THE SAME**
17 **MUNICIPALITY OR CITY, AND REGULARLY INTERACT WITH**
18 **EACH OTHER.**

19
20 **EACH CORE PGS GROUP WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING**
21 **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 22
23 **i. DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ORGANIC**
24 **STANDARDS;**
25 **ii. ENSURE THAT FARM PRACTICES ARE COMPLIANT**
26 **WITH THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS**
27 **FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE;**
28 **iii. UNDERTAKE BY WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT**
29 **THEY UNDERSTAND AND ADHERE TO THE**
30 **ORGANIC STANDARDS;**
31 **iv. CONDUCT INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION**
32 **ACTIVITIES OF MEMBER FARMS IN THE**
33 **MUNICIPALITY/CITY. AT LEAST A MAJORITY OF**
34 **THE MEMBERS OF THE PGS CORE GROUP WHO**

- 1 JOINED IN THE ACTUAL INSPECTION AND
2 CERTIFICATION ACTIVITY SHOULD SIGN ON THE
3 TRUTHFULNESS OF THE FINDINGS OF THE
4 INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION ACTIVITY;
- 5 v. RECOMMEND WHICH FARMS WILL BE CERTIFIED;
 - 6 vi. INITIATE KEY FIELD TRAININGS FOR FARMER-
7 MEMBERS AND RESIDENTS IN THEIR LOCALITY TO
8 PROMOTE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE;
 - 9 vii. ATTEND MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL PGS
10 MEETINGS AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH
11 OTHER PARTICIPANTS;
 - 12 viii. TAKE ACTIONS ON DELISTING AND NON-
13 COMPLIANCE AS PER SANCTION GUIDELINES TO
14 BE PROVIDED BY THE BAFS, ORGANIC
15 CERTIFYING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL OR CITY
16 PGS GROUPS; AND
 - 17 ix. ASSIST DELISTED AND NON-COMPLIANT MEMBERS
18 TO REGAIN ACTIVE CERTIFICATION STATUS.

19
20 **2. MUNICIPAL/CITY PGS GROUP.** THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS
21 GROUP SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING: 1) ONE (1)
22 REPRESENTATIVE FOR EACH CORE PGS GROUP IN THE
23 MUNICIPALITY OR CITY, AND 2) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE
24 FROM A REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATE UNIVERSITY OR
25 COLLEGE (SUC) OR LOCAL PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL
26 EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION: *PROVIDED*, THAT, THERE
27 SHOULD BE AT LEAST TWO (2) CORE PGS GROUPS IN THE
28 MUNICIPALITY OR CITY BEFORE A MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS
29 GROUP SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.

30
31 THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS GROUP SHALL CONDUCT
32 ITS BUSINESS AND AFFAIRS BASED ON THE DECISION OF THE
33 MAJORITY OF MEMBERS PRESENT IN A MEETING, THERE
34 BEING A QUORUM.

1 **THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS GROUP SHALL HAVE THE**
2 **FOLLOWING POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- 3
- 4 **i. TOGETHER WITH THE BAFS, DEVELOP OR UPDATE**
5 **AND IMPLEMENT THE PARTICIPATORY**
6 **GUARANTEE SYSTEM, AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT;**
- 7
- 8 **ii. ENSURE THAT FARMER MEMBERS CONTINUE TO**
9 **COMPLY WITH ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE**
10 **APPLICABLE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS**
11 **(PNS) ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND RELEVANT**
12 **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS;**
- 13
- 14 **iii. HEAR AND DECIDE ON APPEALS OF THE FARMER**
15 **MEMBERS ON THE FINDINGS OF THE**
16 **INVESTIGATION AND CERTIFICATION OF**
17 **ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES. AN ADVERSE**
18 **DECISION OF THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS**
19 **GROUP MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE BAFS ON**
20 **APPEAL. THE BAFS SHALL RULE ON THE APPEAL**
21 **WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE FILING**
22 **THEREOF. FAILURE TO RULE ON SUCH APPEAL**
23 **SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS A REVERSAL OF THE**
24 **APPEALED DECISION.**
- 25
- 26 **iv. THE INACTION OR INDECISION OF THE**
27 **MUNICIPAL OR CITY PGS GROUP ON AN APPEAL**
28 **FROM THE DECISION OF THE ORGANIC**
29 **CERTIFYING BODY, AFTER FIFTEEN (15) DAYS**
30 **FROM THE FILING OF THE APPEAL, SHALL BE**
31 **CONSIDERED THE UPHOLDING OF THE APPEALED**
32 **DECISION. THE FARMER COMPLAINANT MAY**
33 **THEN HAVE THE OPTION TO FILE AN APPEAL**
34 **WITH THE BAFS. THE BAFS SHALL RULE ON THE**

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APPEAL WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE FILING THEREOF. FAILURE TO RULE ON SUCH APPEAL SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS A REVERSAL OF THE APPEALED DECISION;

v. MAINTAIN A REGISTRY OF CORE PGS GROUPS OPERATING WITHIN ITS AREA OF JURISDICTION, WHICH SHALL BE FORWARDED TO THE BAFS AT THE END OF EACH YEAR AND ENTERED INTO THE LATTER'S NATIONAL DATABASE;

vi. TOGETHER WITH THE ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODY INVOLVED IN THE INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION ACTIVITY, AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE BAFS, ISSUE PARTICIPATORY ORGANIC CERTIFICATE AND THE "PGS GUARANTEED ORGANIC" LABEL OR MARK TO COMPLIANT SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK AND THEIR FARMS, ASSOCIATIONS, OR COOPERATIVE (FAC); AND

vii. SUBMIT REGULARLY TO THE BAFS A LIST OF CERTIFIED SMALL FARMERS, FISHERFOLK AND THEIR FARMS, ASSOCIATIONS AND COOPERATIVES (FAC).

IN THE MEANTIME THAT A CORE PGS GROUP OR A MUNICIPAL/CITY PGS, WHICHEVER IS THE CASE, HAS YET TO BE ESTABLISHED, THE BAFS, IN COORDINATION WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, SHALL ASSIST SMALL FARMERS IN THE FORMATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY/CITY PGS.

1 **3. PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL PGS GROUP.** IT SHALL BE THE
2 OPTION OF THE PGS GROUPS TO FORM AGGRUPATIONS AT
3 THE PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS. THEY SHALL
4 RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE,
5 SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE OF THE DEPARTMENTS IN THE NOAB
6 AND THE DA-BAFS IN THIS REGARD.

7
8 THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ARE ENJOINED TO
9 ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES
10 OF PGS GROUPS, PURSUANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE
11 INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) MEMORANDUM
12 CIRCULAR NO. 2019-70.

13
14 **F. PROMOTION.** THE NOAB SHALL ACTIVELY PROMOTE AND
15 SEARCH FOR ASSOCIATIONS OR GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN
16 PRACTICING ORGANIC AGRICULTURE FOR OFFICIAL
17 ACCREDITATION AS PGS COMPLIANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
18 THIS ACT. THE NOAB SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH PROVINCE IN
19 THE COUNTRY HAS A PGS. EVERY PGS SHALL CONDUCT
20 TRAININGS AND PROMOTE ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.

21
22 **G. TRAINING AND INSPECTION.** THE AGRICULTURE TRAINING
23 INSTITUTE (ATI) SHALL CONDUCT TRAININGS FOR PGS
24 GROUPS AND THE BAFS SHALL CONDUCT RANDOM
25 INSPECTIONS TO ENSURE THAT PGS GROUPS ARE ALL
26 COMPLIANT WITH THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL STANDARDS ON
27 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE. THE BAFS SHALL KEEP A RECORD
28 OF COMPLIANT PGS GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY AND SHALL
29 PUBLISH A LIST OF SUCH COMPLIANT PGS GROUPS AT LEAST
30 ONCE A YEAR.

31
32 **H. INCENTIVES.** ANY SMALL FARMER, FISHERFOLK OR THEIR
33 FARMS, ASSOCIATIONS, COOPERATIVES ENGAGED IN
34 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, OR ANY ORGANIC INPUT PRODUCER

1 WHO INTENDS TO APPLY FOR EXPORT SHALL BE GIVEN
2 SUPPORT FOR THIRD PARTY OR INTERNATIONAL
3 CERTIFICATION ACCREDITATION. INCENTIVES SUCH AS
4 POST-HARVEST FACILITIES, FREE PRIME LOCATION IN ANY
5 GOVERNMENT AGENCY-INITIATED OR SPONSORED TRADE
6 AND BUSINESS MARKETING, GATHERING OF FILIPINO
7 PRODUCTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPLAYING AND SELLING
8 THEIR OWN ORGANIC PRODUCTS, MARKET SUPPORT AND
9 TRADING POST ESTABLISHMENT, ASSISTANCE IN
10 TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS, PROVISION OF ORGANIC
11 SEEDS AND INPUTS, SHALL BE GIVEN TO SMALL FARMERS
12 FOCUSING ON LOCAL DOMESTIC MARKETS.

13
14 Section 8. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10068 is hereby repealed and a
15 new Section 12 is hereby inserted, to read as follows:
16

17 “[SEC. 11. *Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the BAFPS.* —
18 The BAFPS, in addition to its existing functions and responsibilities shall
19 perform the following functions, duties and responsibilities for purposes of
20 this Act:

- 21 (a) Implement organic agriculture programs and projects approved by the
22 NOAB;
- 23 (b) Update the NOAB on the status of the programs, projects and activities
24 undertaken for the development and promotion of organic agriculture;
- 25 (c) Create effective networking with the various stakeholders involved in
26 organic production; and
- 27 (d) Perform such other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be
28 necessary to implement this Act and as directed by the NOAB.]

29
30 **SEC 12. NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM -**
31 **NATIONAL PROGRAM COORDINATING OFFICE (NOAP-NPCO) OF**
32 **THE DA. TO MANAGE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF**
33 **THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM, THE DA-**
34 **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY SHALL BE STRENGTHENED AND**
35 **EMPOWERED IN TERMS OF ESTABLISHING A FUNCTIONAL**

1 **OFFICE TO SERVE AS THE NATIONAL PROGRAM**
2 **COORDINATING OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC**
3 **AGRICULTURE PROGRAM.”**

4
5 **Section 9.** Section 16 of Republic Act No. 10068 is hereby repealed and a new
6 section is inserted, to read as follows:

7 “[SEC. 16. *Registration of Organic Food and Organic Input*
8 *Producers.* — All organic food and input establishments must register with the
9 director, BAFPS, registration under this section shall begin within ninety (90)
10 days of the enactment of this Act. Each such registration shall be submitted to
11 the director through an electronic portal and shall contain such information as
12 the director by guidance may determine to be appropriate. Such registration
13 shall contain the following information:

14 (a) The name, address and emergency contact information of each organic
15 food or input establishment that the registrant owns or operates;

16 (b) The primary purpose and business activity of each organic food or input
17 establishment, including the dates of operation if the organic food
18 establishment is seasonal;

19 (c) A list of the organic food or input produced and corresponding brand
20 names;

21 (d) For organic food establishment, the name, address and contact information
22 of the organic food certifying body that certified the organic products sold by
23 the company;

24 (e) An assurance that the registrant will notify the director of any change in the
25 products, function or legal status of the domestic food establishment
26 (including cessation of business activities) not later than thirty (30) days after
27 such change; and

28 (f) For organic input producers, a list of materials used in the production of
29 each particular input.]

30 **SEC. 17. REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND**
31 **INPUTS AND ORGANIC PROCESSED FOOD. THE BAFS SHALL BE**
32 **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF CERTIFIED**
33 **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND INPUT PRODUCTS,**
34 **AND REGISTRY OF ORGANIC PRODUCERS.**

35
36

1 **FURTHER, THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY (BAI) OF**
2 **THE DA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF**
3 **ORGANIC BEES, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY AND ITS FEEDS.**

4
5 **THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**
6 **(BFAR) OF THE DA SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE**
7 **REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE**
8 **RESOURCES AND ORGANIC AQUACULTURE FEEDS.**

9
10 **THE BAFS, BPI, BAI, AND BFAR OF THE DA SHALL COME**
11 **UP WITH A SINGLE UNIFIED SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS**
12 **FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND INPUTS.**

13
14 **ADDITIONALLY, THE DA-BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY**
15 **AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL FACILITATE AND**
16 **COORDINATE THE CREATION AND/OR STRENGTHENING OF A**
17 **LOCAL ORGANIC SEED CENTER NEEDED TO INCREASE**
18 **FARMERS' ADOPTION TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.**

19
20 **THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) OF THE**
21 **DOH SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRODUCT**
22 **REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC PROCESSED FOOD. IT SHALL**
23 **FORMULATE ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE**
24 **REGISTRATION OF ORGANIC PRE-PACKAGED AND PROCESSED**
25 **FOOD."**

26
27 **Section 10. Section 17 of Republic Act No. 10068 is hereby amended and**
28 **renumbered, to read as follows:**

29 **"SEC. [17] 18. Labeling of Organic Produce. The label of organic**
30 **produce shall contain the name, logo or seal of the organic certifying body and**
31 **the OFFICIAL accreditation number issued by the [BAFPS] BAFS. [Only**
32 **third-party certification is allowed to be labeled as organically produced.]**
33 **THE ORGANIC LABEL OR MARK SHALL ALSO INCLUDE THE**
34 **TRADE NAME, AS DEFINED BY PERTINENT DOMESTIC**

1 **PROPERTY RIGHTS LAWS, AND THE ADDRESS OF ORIGIN OF**
2 **THE PRODUCE.**

3
4 **PRODUCTS FROM CERTIFIED THIRD-PARTY ORGANIC**
5 **PRODUCTION SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH**
6 **CERTIFICATION FROM THE OCB AND PGS, SHALL BE**
7 **ALLOWED TO BE LABELLED AND SOLD AS ORGANIC.”**

8
9 **Section 11.** Section 14 of Republic Act No. 10068 is hereby amended and
10 renumbered, to read as follows:

11
12 “SEC.14. *Local Executive Committees.* Every provincial governor
13 shall, insofar as practicable, form a provincial technical committee, and which
14 shall, in coordination with and assistance of the BAFS [BAFPS]/DA-Regional
15 Field Units (RFUs) implement activities in line with the National Organic
16 Agricultural Program within each province.

17
18 Every municipal mayor shall likewise, insofar as practicable, form a
19 municipal technical committee for purposes of implementing activities in line
20 with the National Organic Agricultural Program within each municipality.

21
22 A local government unit that intends to shift its area of responsibility to
23 organic agriculture must ensure that local industries have been adequately
24 informed and consulted and that a viable plan to ensure supply for vulnerable
25 industries is in place.

26
27 **THE MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES ARE HEREBY**
28 **ENJOINED TO ENACT ORDINANCES THAT SHALL PROTECT**
29 **ORGANIC FARMING ZONES AND ORGANIC FARMING**
30 **PRACTICES.**

31
32 The governors shall monitor implementation of and compliance with
33 this Act within their respective jurisdictions.”

1 Section 12. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 10068 is hereby repealed and a
2 new section is inserted, to read as follows:
3

4 **“SEC. 20. MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE**
5 **PROMOTION.**

6
7 **THE NOAB OF THE DA, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER**
8 **RELEVANT AGENCIES, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT**
9 **MARKET DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAMS**
10 **FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE.”**

11
12 Section 13. Section 26 is hereby amended and renumbered, to read as follows:
13

14 **“SEC. [26] 27. Penal Provision AND OTHER PENALTIES.** Any
15 person who willfully and deliberately:
16

17 (a) obstructs the development of propagation of organic agriculture,
18 or the manufacture, production, sale or use of organic agricultural
19 products; **THIS MAY INCLUDE ANY FORM OF**
20 **HARASSMENT OR PERSECUTION OF GROUPS OR**
21 **INDIVIDUALS PURSUING THE RIGHTS AND**
22 **INTERESTS OF FARMER IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS**
23 **ACT BY GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS**
24 **OR JURIDICAL ENTITIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT**
25 **OFFICIALS AS MAY BE WARRANTED BY EXISTING**
26 **CRIMINAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAWS AND**
27 **REGULATIONS.**

28
29 (c) mislabels or claims that the product is organic when it is not in accordance
30 with the existing standards for Philippine organic agriculture or this Act shall,
31 upon conviction, be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month
32 nor more than six (6) months, or a fine of not more than Fifty thousand pesos
33 (P50,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a
34 corporation or a juridical entity, the official who ordered or allowed the
35 commission of the offense shall be punished with the same penalty. If the

1 offender is in the government service, he shall, in addition, be dismissed from
2 office: **PROVIDED, THAT ANY PGS GROUP OR ORGANIC**
3 **CERTIFYING BODY FOUND TO HAVE ISSUED A CERTIFICATION**
4 **TO A FARM OR PRODUCER WHO IS FOUND TO BE NOT**
5 **COMPLIANT WITH ANY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL**
6 **STANDARDS ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE OR WITH THE**
7 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, SHALL BE PENALIZED BY THE BAFS**
8 **AS FOLLOWS:**

9
10 **1. FIRST OFFENSE. WRITTEN WARNING.**

11 **2. SECOND OFFENSE. SUSPENSION OF OFFICIAL**
12 **ACCREDITATION.”**

13
14 **Section 14. Succeeding sections are hereby renumbered accordingly.**

15
16 **Section 15. *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.* THE**
17 **NOAB SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
18 **PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE**
19 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.**

20
21 **Section 16. *Separability Clause.*** If any provisions of this Act is declared
22 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in
23 full force and effect.

24
25 **Section 17. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
26 presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or
27 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

28
29 **Section 18. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
30 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official
31 Gazette, whichever comes first.

32
33 Approved.