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Republic of the Philippines
Department of the Interior and Local Government
A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.
Pinyahan, Quezon City

April 11, 2007

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 2007-34

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS, AND DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS

SUBJECT : PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

On December 27, 2005, Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 481. The Executive Order intends to promote, develop, and sustain organic agriculture as a farming technology in agricultural communities, establish effective networking and collaboration with stakeholders on organic agriculture and environmental safety. It serves as the roadmap for the development of the organic sector and sets out the vision for the organic agriculture industry.

In this regard, all DILG Regional Directors are hereby directed to cause the widest dissemination of Executive Order No. 481 entitled "PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FERTILIZER IN THE PHILIPPINES", in their areas of jurisdiction.

Attached is a copy of E.O. No. 481 for the guidance of all concerned.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY :

Austere
ASEC AUSTERE A. PANADERO
OIC-Office of the Undersecretary for
Local Government

LDPD:BLGD
MQG/PBM/AFB
TQA/SAC

File

Malacañan
Manila

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 481

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, it is an declared policy of the State to promote agriculture development, conserve environmental resources and promote social equity and product access to foreign and domestic markets of agriculture and fishery commodities;

WHEREAS, the development of Organic Agriculture nationwide as a farming scheme enhances global competitiveness, environmental integrity, food security and safety, and increases productivity and alleviates poverty;

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the potential of Organic Agriculture in increasing value-added in agricultural export and local consumption products;

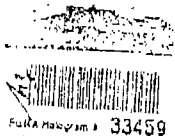
WHEREAS, the stakeholders have recognized the potential of certified organic farming as a way to lower input costs, utilization of local raw material inputs, conserve non-renewable resources, mainstream into high-value markets and improve farm income;

WHEREAS, the stakeholders of Organic Agriculture have manifested their strong interest to aggressively promote organic agriculture with support from the government on the research, development and extension activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order:

• **Section 1. Declaration of Objectives.** - This Executive Order shall have the following objectives:

- (a) promote organic agriculture as a farming scheme especially in rural farming communities;
- (b) forge effective networking and collaboration with the stakeholders involved in the production, handling, processing and marketing of organic agriculture products;
- (c) guarantee food and environmental safety by means of an ecological approach to farming; and
- (d) ensure the integrity of organic products through the approved organic certification procedures and organic production, handling and processing standards.



Section 2. The National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP).— The Department of Agriculture National Organic Agriculture Program shall focus on, but not limited to:

- (a) Regulations and Guidelines
- (b) Certification and Accreditation
- (c) Market Promotion and Networking
- (d) Organic Information for Producers, Handlers and Processors
- (e) Research, Development and Extension

Section 3. The National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB).— There is hereby constituted the National Organic Agriculture Board, hereinafter referred to as the NOAB. The NOAB shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture as Chairperson;
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry as Vice-Chair;
- (c) The Secretary of the Department of Health as Vice-Chair;
- (d) The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;
- (e) The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and
- (f) The Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology.

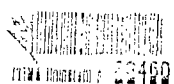
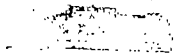
There shall be appointed to the NOAB seven (7) representatives engaged in the practice of organic agriculture. Such representatives may be taken from, but not limited to the recommended sectors listed below:

- a) Three from the private sector who operate an organic farm; organic handling and processing; and establishment with significant trade in organic products;
- b) Two from the NGO/PO who represent public interest or consumer interest;
- c) One from organic certifying body as identified under Section 6 of this E.O.; and
- d) One from the academe with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation, toxicology and biochemistry.

A member of the Board shall serve for a term of 3 years. A member cannot serve consecutive terms unless such member served an original term that was less than 3 years.

A National Technical Committee (NTC) shall be created as an implementing arm of the policies, programs and projects identified and approved by the Board. It shall be drawn from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Land Reform, representative from the private sector and civil society.

The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) of the Department of Agriculture shall serve as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of the Board and the NTC with the member agencies providing additional staff support as the need arises.



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Section 4. Functions, Duties and Responsibilities of the NDAAB and the Board. - The NDAAB shall have the following function, duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Formulate policies, plans, programs and projects to promote and develop Organic Agriculture;
- (b) Oversee the successful implementation of the Organic Agriculture programs and projects;
- (c) Coordinate with any government agency to carry out and implement programs and projects identified by the Board;
- (d) Call upon private sectors, people's organizations (POs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), and the academe to provide advise on matters pertaining to organic agriculture;
- (e) Identify sources of financing to expand organic agriculture; and
- (f) Submit annual and other periodic reports to the Office of the President.

The National Technical Committee shall:

- (a) Implement organic agriculture programs and projects approved by the Board;
- (b) Update the Board on the status of the programs, projects and activities undertaken for the promotion and development of organic agriculture;
- (c) Foster networking with the various stakeholders involved in organic agriculture; and
- (d) Perform other functions, duties and responsibilities as may be necessary to implement this Executive Order.

Section 5. Compliance Requirements for Organic Standards. - Adoption for the Philippine National Standard for Organic Agriculture (PNS/BAFPS 07:2003 IS:61:070) specifically in Annex "A" shall be mandatory throughout the country for the sectors involved in the production and marketing of organic agriculture products.

Section 6. Organic Certification. - The Department of Agriculture through Administrative Order 13 Series of 2003 and in ANNEX "B", otherwise known as the "Guidelines in the Accreditation of Certifying Bodies for Standards on Organic Agriculture" shall accredit certifying bodies as prescribed in the guidelines.

Section 7. Labeling of Organically Produced Products. - In addition to the requirements for labeling of organically produced commodities, goods and merchandise pursuant to PNS/BAFPS 07:2003 IS:61:070 listed in ANNEX "A", the products, commodities, goods or merchandise must contain contents prescribed in this Executive Order.

Section 8. Necessary Development and Extension. - The DA, DOST, SCUs and other appropriate agencies shall be limited to scientific/professional organizations and research institutions shall continue to enhance, support and consolidate scientific and related technologies to protect the environment and improve organic

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CITY OF MANILA



matter depleted agricultural soils, reduce cost of production, improve product quality and increase value-added for global competitiveness of Organic Produce.

Section 9. Appropriations. - The Department of Agriculture shall allocate from its present budget such amount not less than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) for the initial operation of the NOAB and its Secretariat. A portion of the amount thereof may be taken from the Presidential Social Fund for the initial year of implementation of the program. Thereafter, the Department of Agriculture shall include an appropriate amount in the General Appropriations Act following its enactment and every year thereafter.

Section 10. Implementing Guidelines. - The Board, within ninety (90) working days in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders concerned shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Executive Order.

Section 11. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of the Executive Order is declared invalid, the remainder shall remain operative.

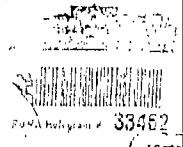
Section 12. Effectivity. - This Executive Order shall take effect immediately after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

DONE, in the City of Manila, on this 27th day of December in the year of our Lord twenty hundred and five.

By the President:

Gloria Arroyo

Edmundo R. Ermita
EDUARDO R. ERMITA
Executive Secretary



CERTIFIED COPY:
Lamberto R. Barbin
LAMBERTO R. BARBIN
In-charge