

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City

4
5 EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
6 Second Regular Session

7 House Bill No. 7367
8
9



10
11 Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
12 2nd District, Ilocos Norte
13

14 **AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC**
15 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND**
16 **FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR**
17 **OTHER PURPOSES**
18

19 ***EXPLANATORY NOTE***
20

21 Merriam-Webster defines a visionary as someone with a strong vision of
22 the future. A visionary, in layman's term, is a man with a vision—one who has
23 the ability to plan for the future with great wisdom and imagination. Planning,
24 after all, has always been the key to national development. It is also the reason
25 why every nation such as ours had a council of visionaries as early as 1935 in
26 order to formulate and adopt the State's economic program for national
27 development.
28

29 This was the National Economic Council (NEC), created by virtue of
30 Commonwealth Act No. 2 which was approved by the National Assembly on
31 December 23, 1935. NEC then became what is known as the National
32 Economic Development Authority (NEDA), created by Presidential Decree No.
33 107 in 1973 and reorganized in 1987 under Executive Order No. 230.
34

35 Faced with the challenges of the modern era, the council of visionaries has
36 no choice but to adapt. In order to adapt, changes have to be made. Hence,
37 this bill.
38

39 This bill seeks to strengthen the economic planning and development
40 policy of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines by transforming
41 the NEDA into an independent economic planning agency to be known as the
42 Department of Economic Planning and Development (DEPD).
43

44 The DEPD shall be the policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and
45 administrative entity of the Executive Branch of government on economic
46 planning and development. It shall formulate the country's continuing,
47 integrated, and coordinated policies, plans, and programs for national
48 development and oversee the country's public investment program.
49

50 Pursuant to Section 9, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, an
51 Economics and Planning Council, headed by the President of the Philippines,

1 is likewise established to serve as the executive collegial body responsible for
2 directing and providing overall policy direction on economic, financial, social
3 and environmental matters to achieve inclusive and sustained economic
4 growth.

5
6 This proposed measure is in line with the current administration's
7 commitment to the whole-of-government-approach, which promotes
8 harmonization of policies and programs and coordination between and among
9 all government departments, agencies, bureaus, local government units, and
10 even the private sector.

11
12 In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is most earnestly sought.
13
14

15
16 
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16 **FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR**
17 **OTHER PURPOSES**

18
19 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
20 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
21

22 **CHAPTER 1.**
23 **CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
24 **ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

25
26 **ARTICLE I – TITLE AND POLICY**
27

28 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Department of
29 Economic Planning and Development”.
30

31 **SECTION. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – Pursuant to Section 9, Article XII
32 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State recognizes that Congress may
33 establish an independent economic and planning agency headed by the
34 President of the Philippines, which shall, after consultations with the
35 appropriate public agencies, various private sectors, and local government
36 units, recommend to Congress, and implement continuing integrated and
37 coordinated programs and policies for national development.
38

39 The State, pursuant to Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine
40 Constitution, recognizes that the goals of the national economy are a more
41 equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; a sustained
42 increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the
43 benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the
44 quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.
45

46 **ARTICLE II – DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC PLANNING**
47 **AND DEVELOPMENT**
48

49 **SECTION 3.** *Creation of Department of Economic Planning and*
50 *Development.* – There is hereby created a Department of Economic and
51 Planning Development, hereafter referred to as DEPD.

1
2 **SECTION 4. *Mandate.*** – DEPD shall be the policy, planning,
3 coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive
4 Branch of government on economic planning and development. It shall
5 formulate the country's continuing, integrated, and coordinated policies, plans,
6 and programs for national development and oversee the country's public
7 investment program.

8
9 **SECTION 5. *Powers and functions.*** – DEPD shall have the following
10 powers and functions:

11
12 **I. Policy and Planning**

- 13
14 a. Formulate the long-term development framework as the basis for
15 overall direction of government policies, programs, and projects;
16
17 b. Formulate the national and regional framework for physical and
18 spatial planning to ensure the sustainable use of land and other
19 physical resources;
20
21 c. Formulate national, inter-regional, regional and provincial
22 development plans that set forth measurable goals, strategies,
23 proposed policies, programs, and projects;
24
25 d. Ensure consistency of national, inter-regional, regional and
26 provincial sectoral, and spatial plans and programs and monitor
27 their respective implementations;
28
29 e. Recommend the priorities for budget expenditure policies
30 including sectoral and regional allocations;
31
32 f. Propose and review policies to achieve economic development goals
33 and foster innovation;
34
35 g. Conduct research, surveys, and related studies for the formulation
36 of policies, plans, programs, and projects; and
37
38 h. Coordinate with the autonomous and administrative regions in the
39 conduct of planning activities affecting their respective regions.
40

41 **II. Investment Programming**

- 42
43 a. Formulate and review the national and regional public investment
44 program that identifies priority programs, activities, and projects;
45
46 b. Adopt and implement appropriate evaluation measures and
47 criteria to determine viability of programs and projects;
48
49 c. Appraise and recommend programs and projects that are found
50 viable;

- d. Monitor and assess the progress of implementation of priority programs and projects; and
- e. Assess the impacts and outcomes of priority programs and projects.

III. Capacity Building of Development Planners

- a. Establish and implement a capacity building program on development planning for national, regional, and local planners; and
- b. Provide technical assistance on localization of national development strategies.

IV. Secretariat Support

- a. Provide technical and secretariat support to the Economics and Planning Council and its Committees, Regional Development Councils, National Innovation Council, and Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

SECTION 6. *Composition of DEPD.* – DEPD shall be headed by a Secretary. The Department Proper shall be composed of the Office of the Secretary, the Offices of the Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries, technical and sectoral staffs, operations support staffs, and regional staffs.

SECTION 7. *Secretary of Economic Planning and Development.* – The Secretary of Economic Planning and Development hereafter referred to as the Secretary, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments.

The Secretary, who shall be the country's Chief Economist, shall have the following minimum qualifications: a natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines; of good moral character; must have distinguished himself/herself professionally in public, civic, or academic service in the field of economics; must have been in active practice of his/her profession for at least ten (10) years; and must have not been a candidate for any elective national or local office in the immediately preceding elections, whether regular or special.

SECTION 8. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary.* – The Secretary shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Advise the President on matters of national economic and social development;
- b. Provide executive direction and supervision over the entire operations of DEPD;
- c. Establish policies and standards for the efficient and effective operations of DEPD;

- d. Exercise disciplinary powers over officers and employees of DEPD in accordance with law;
- e. Promulgate such rules and regulations, and exercise such other powers as may be required to implement the objectives of this Act; and
- f. Perform such other functions as may be provided by law.

SECTION 9. *Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries.* The Secretary shall be assisted by four (4) Undersecretaries and eight (8) Assistant Secretaries, who shall, upon recommendation by the Secretary, be appointed by the President.

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

SECTION 10. *Groups and Offices.* – DEPD shall have four (4) major Groups headed by Undersecretaries, to be supported by Offices and Staffs in the discharge of their functions, to wit:

- a. The Policy and Planning Group which shall be responsible for preparing and updating the integrated long-term development frameworks and plans, and physical planning frameworks; harmonizing national and sub-national, sectoral, and spatial plans and programs and monitoring their respective implementations; conducting research and related studies for plan formulation and policy recommendations; and preparing the annual economic reports;
- b. The Investment Programming Group which shall be responsible for translating plans and policies into programs and projects for sectoral and regional development; and formulating the public investment program;
- c. The Regional Development Group which shall be responsible for promoting and undertaking regional planning and development; and
- d. The Corporate Affairs Group which shall be responsible for providing support services relating to budget, finance and management; human resources; legal assistance; information, communications and technology; records; supplies and equipment; collection and disbursement; security; sanitation; and custodial work.

The Secretary shall have the flexibility to reorganize the groups, offices, and staffs, and to recommend to DBM for approval, the creation of additional offices, positions, or staffing modifications as may be necessary.

1 **SECTION 11. *Structure and Staffing.*** – The organizational structure and
2 staffing shall be determined by DEPD and shall be submitted to the DBM for
3 approval as necessary.
4

5 **SECTION 12. *DEPD Regional Offices.*** – The DEPD shall establish,
6 operate, and maintain a regional office in all different regions of the country.
7 Each regional office shall be headed by a Regional Director, who shall be
8 assisted by an Assistant Director. The regional offices shall discharge the
9 functions of DEP, as applicable, at the regional level.
10

11 **SECTION 13. *Attached Agencies.*** – The agencies currently attached to
12 the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) shall hereafter be
13 attached to the DEPD and shall continue to operate and function in
14 accordance with their respective charters, laws, or orders creating them,
15 except as otherwise provided in this Act.
16

17 The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) as the
18 government's primary socioeconomic policy think tank; and the Philippine
19 Statistics Authority (PSA) as the government's statistical authority, shall be
20 organizationally linked to the Office of the Secretary for policy and program
21 coordination.
22

23 The Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines (PPPC) as the
24 agency responsible for the promotion and facilitation of PPP programs and
25 projects shall be organizationally linked to the Investment Programming
26 Group for policy and program coordination.
27

28 The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) as the
29 agency mandated to conduct high quality, objective and responsive statistical
30 research and training; the Commission on Population and Development
31 (POPDEVCOM) as the agency responsible for the government's national
32 program on population and family planning; and the Philippine National
33 Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) as the agency mandated to
34 promote and coordinate volunteer programs and services shall be
35 organizationally linked to the Policy and Planning Group for policy and
36 program coordination.
37

38 The Tariff Commission (TC) as the agency that provides independent
39 analysis, information, and technical support on matters related to tariff and
40 non-tariff measures shall be organizationally linked to the Policy and Planning
41 Group for administrative purposes.
42

43 **SECTION 14. *Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.*** –
44 DEPD shall serve as the principal secretariat of the Legislative-Executive
45 Development Advisory Council (LEDAC), pursuant to Republic Act No. 7640,
46 otherwise known as "An Act Constituting the Legislative-Executive
47 Development Advisory Council". The LEDAC Secretariat shall hereafter be
48 integrated in the organizational structure of DEPD. The necessary
49 appropriations for operating and capital expenditure of the LEDAC Secretariat
50 shall be included in DEPD's budget in the General Appropriations Act.
51

CHAPTER 2.
THE ECONOMICS PLANNING COUNCIL
AND ITS COMMITTEES

SECTION 15. *The Economics and Planning Council.* – There shall be established an Economics and Planning Council, hereafter referred to as the Council, as the executive collegial body responsible for directing and providing overall policy direction on economic, financial, social and environmental matters to achieve inclusive and sustained economic growth. The Council shall be headed by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 16. *Composition of the Council.* – The Council shall be composed of the following:

- a. The President of the Philippines, as Chairperson;
- b. Secretary of Economic Planning and Development;
- c. Secretary of Finance;
- d. Secretary of Budget and Management;
- e. Secretary of Interior and Local Government;
- f. Secretary of Trade and Industry;
- g. Secretary of Public Works and Highways;
- h. Chairperson of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines; and
- i. Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), as a resource institution.

All members of the Council, except the Governor of BSP, are voting members. The presence of a majority of all members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. The council may request inputs from the private sector.

The President shall assign the Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Council. The President may revise the membership of the Council as deemed necessary for the effective performance of the Council's functions.

SECTION 17. *Powers and Functions of the Council.* – The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Direct the formulation and implementation of policies, plans, and programs that promote economic development and address development concerns of national importance;
- b. Approve policies, plans, programs, and projects, as endorsed by the Committees;
- c. Approve proposed cost threshold and other criteria for priority programs and projects, unless already provided by existing laws, rules and regulations;
- d. Approve the level of annual government expenditures, as well as projections, forecast, resource requirement, and the ceiling of government spending; and

- 1 e. Issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective discharge of the
2 powers and functions vested on the Council.
3

4 **SECTION 18. *Meetings.*** – The Council shall meet quarterly. A special
5 meeting of the Council may be convened by the President to address urgent
6 concerns, emergencies, and other extraordinary circumstances.
7

8 All decisions of the Council shall require the concurrence of the President
9 of the Philippines.
10

11 DEPD shall maintain and preserve a complete record of the proceedings
12 and deliberations of the Council, including recording and transcripts, either in
13 their original form, or in any secure format available by existing technology.
14

15 **SECTION 19. *Full Disclosure Rule.*** – In addition to the requirements of
16 Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical
17 Standards for Public Officials and Employees, any member of the Council with
18 personal and pecuniary interest in any matter in the agenda of the Council
19 shall disclose the interest to the Council and shall withdraw from the meeting
20 when the matter is taken up. The minutes shall reflect the disclosure made
21 and the retirement of the member concerned from the meeting.
22

23 **SECTION 20. *Committees of the Council.*** – The Council shall have
24 Committees that shall act as its primary advisory bodies.
25

26 These Committees shall be the main coordinating mechanism that ensures
27 that the policy environment is conducive to the promotion of rapid, inclusive,
28 and sustained economic growth.
29

30 The President shall designate the respective Chairpersons of the
31 Committees. DEPD shall serve as the Secretariat of all Committees, unless
32 otherwise provided by this Act.
33

34 The President may revise the membership and reorganize the structures
35 and functions of the Committees, and establish new committees, as deemed
36 necessary.
37

38 **SECTION 21. – *Development Budget Coordination Committee***
39 ***(BudgetCom).*** – BudgetCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of the
40 Department of Budget and Management, Department of Economic Planning
41 and Development, and the Department of Finance, the Executive Secretary,
42 and the Governor of BSP.
43

44 A technical committee of the BudgetCom, composed of duly designated
45 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
46 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
47 BudgetCom. The Department of Budget and Management shall serve as the
48 Secretariat of the BudgetCom.
49

50 BudgetCom shall recommend for final approval of the Council:
51

- a. The level of annual government expenditures and the ceiling of government spending for economic and social development, national defense, and government debt service;
- b. The budget to be allocated for current operating expenditures and capital outlays of government programs and projects;
- c. A strategic multi-year fiscal program which supports the long-term and medium-term development objectives of the country; and
- d. A domestic and foreign borrowing program.

SECTION 22. – *Investment Coordination Committee (InvestmentCom).* – InvestmentCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of Department of Finance, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Department of Trade and Industry, the Executive Secretary and the Governor of the BSP.

A technical committee of InvestmentCom, composed of duly designated Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by InvestmentCom.

InvestmentCom shall discharge the following functions:

- a. Ensure the efficient and effective evaluation of major capital programs and projects of the country by determining levels of acceptability and viability relative to overall economic and fiscal conditions of the country;
- b. Recommend for final approval of the Council:
 - i. The timetable of the implementation of major capital programs and projects on a regular basis;
 - ii. Public-private partnerships, privatization, and other funding options to augment government's financing capacity;
 - iii. Modalities of development financing and capital market development in support of long-term programs and projects for both national and local government, and GOCCs; and
 - iv. Specific major programs and projects found viable in terms of economic and social benefits, and viability.
- c. Submit to the President of the Philippines a status of the fiscal, monetary and balance of payment (BOP) implications of major capital programs and projects.

1 **SECTION 23.** *Economic Development Committee (EconDevCom).* –
2 EconDevCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of
3 Economic Planning and Development, Department of Finance, Department of
4 Budget and Management, Department of Public Works and Highways,
5 Department of Transportation, Department of Information and
6 Communications Technology, Department of Energy, Department of Science
7 and Technology, Department of Tourism, Department of Agriculture, and
8 Department of Interior and Local Government, the Executive Secretary, and
9 the Governor of BSP.

10
11 A technical committee of EconDevCom, composed of duly designated
12 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
13 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
14 EconDevCom.

15
16 EconDevCom shall recommend for final approval of the Council:

- 17
18 a. Policies that ensure equitable and sustainable distribution of economic
19 opportunities and benefits to Filipinos;
20
21 b. Policies towards the development of agriculture, industry, and services
22 that are vital to food security, and equitable and sustainable growth;
23 and
24
25 c. Policies and measures to promote national productivity, competition,
26 and competitiveness.

27
28 **SECTION 24.** *Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom).* – InfraCom shall
29 be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of Public Works and
30 Highways, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Department
31 of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, Department of
32 Information and Communications Technology, Department of Transportation,
33 Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Energy, Department of
34 Agriculture, and Department of Tourism, and the Executive Secretary.

35
36 A technical committee of InfraCom, composed of duly designated
37 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
38 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
39 InfraCom.

40
41 InfraCom shall discharge the following functions:

- 42
43 a. Recommend for the final approval of the Council a national
44 infrastructure development strategy;
45
46 b. Advise the Council on all matters concerning infrastructure
47 development; and
48
49 c. Coordinate the activities of agencies, including government-owned and
50 controlled corporations involved in infrastructure development.
51

1 **SECTION 25. *Social Development Committee (SocialDevCom).*** –
2 SocialDevCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of
3 Social Welfare and Development, Department of Economic Planning and
4 Development, Department of Budget and Management, Department of
5 Education, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Agriculture,
6 Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government,
7 Department of Labor and Employment, and the Executive Secretary.

8
9 A technical committee of SocialDevCom, composed of duly designated
10 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
11 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
12 SocialDevCom.

13
14 SocialDevCom shall have the following functions:

- 15
16 a. Recommend for final approval of the Council policies and programs
17 that enhance the welfare and reduce the risks of Overseas Filipino
18 Workers, older persons, differently-abled persons, children, women,
19 indigenous peoples, marginalized farmers and fisherfolk, and informal
20 urban and upland settlers; and
21
22 b. Advise the Council on matters concerning social development and
23 delivery of social services.

24
25 **SECTION 26. *Committee on Trade and Related Matters (TradeCom).*** –
26 TradeCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of Trade
27 and Industry, Department of Economic Planning and Development,
28 Department of Agriculture, Department of Budget and Management,
29 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Finance,
30 Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Information and
31 Communications Technology, and Department of Transportation, the
32 Executive Secretary, the Governor of the BSP, and the Chairperson of the
33 Tariff Commission.

34
35 A technical committee of TradeCom, composed of duly designated
36 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
37 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
38 TradeCom.

39
40 TradeCom shall discharge the following functions:

- 41
42 a. Recommend for final approval of the Council a continuous
43 rationalization policy and program for the country's tariff structure;
44
45 b. Advise the Council on trade and related matters, as well as the effects
46 of various international developments on the country; and
47
48 c. Coordinate government agency positions and recommend national
49 positions for international economic negotiations.
50

1 **SECTION 27. *Regional Development Committee (RDCom).*** – RDCom
2 shall be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of Economic Planning
3 and Development, Department of Interior and Local Government,
4 Department of Budget and Management, and Department of Trade and
5 Industry, three (3) Regional Development Council Chairpersons representing
6 Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, and a representative from the Union of Local
7 Authorities of the Philippines.

8
9 A technical committee of RDCom, composed of duly designated
10 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
11 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
12 RDCom.

13
14 RDCom shall discharge the following functions:

- 15
16 a. Formulate and monitor the implementation of policies that reduce
17 regional development disparities;
18
19 b. Promote equitable allocation of resources among regions by providing
20 recommendations to BudgetCom on the guidelines for the regional
21 allocation of budgetary resources; and
22
23 c. Periodically review the viability of the regional configuration of the
24 country, and recommend to the Council the re-delineation of regions,
25 as may be necessary.

26
27 **SECTION 28. – *Marine Resources and Land Use Committee***
28 (***MaRLUCom***). – MaRLUCom shall be composed of the Secretaries of the
29 Department of Economic Planning and Development, Department of Agrarian
30 Reform, Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of
31 Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Interior and Local
32 Government, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Tourism,
33 and Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the
34 Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the
35 Chairperson of the National Coast Watch Council, and the presidents of
36 leagues of provinces, municipalities, and cities.

37
38 A technical committee of MaRLUCom, composed of duly designated
39 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to
40 conduct a technical review of matters that require appropriate action by
41 MaRLUCom.

42
43 MaRLUCom shall discharge the following functions:

- 44
45 a. Advise the Council on matters concerning marine resource use
46 planning and land use physical planning;
47
48 b. Recommend for final approval of the Council the national and
49 sub-national framework for physical planning;

- 1 c. Recommend for final approval of the Council resolutions concerning
2 marine resource use and land use policy conflicts among national
3 government agencies; and
4
5 d. Ensure the integration of marine resource use, land use and physical
6 planning, including disaster risk management, into national
7 development policies, plans and programs.
8

9 **SECTION 29. *Regional Development Council (RDC).*** – The Regional
10 Development Council are the regional counterparts of the Council. Each RDC
11 shall be composed of provincial governors, city mayors, mayors of
12 municipalities designated as provincial capitals, presidents of the provincial
13 league of mayors, mayors of municipalities designated as regional centers,
14 regional directors of the agencies represented in the Council, regional
15 directors of the Department of Education, Department of Social Welfare and
16 Development, and Department of Tourism, and private sector representatives
17 who shall comprise one-fourth of the members of the fully constituted RDC.
18

19 The President of the Philippines shall appoint the Chairperson and Vice
20 Chairperson of the RDC. The DEPD Regional Offices shall serve as Secretariat
21 of the RDCs.
22

23 **CHAPTER 3.** 24 **TRANSITORY AND OTHER** 25 **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS** 26 27

28 **SECTION 30. *Transitory Provision.*** – By virtue of this Act, NEDA is
29 hereby abolished and DEPD shall be subrogated to all the rights and assume
30 all the liabilities of NEDA, all its funds, records, property, assets, equipment,
31 and such personnel as necessary, including unexpended appropriations
32 and/or allocations. All contracts and liabilities of NEDA are hereby
33 transferred to and assumed by DEPD and shall be acted upon in accordance
34 with the Auditing Code and other pertinent laws, rules, and regulations. All
35 current officials and employees of NEDA shall be retained under and absorbed
36 by DEPD.
37

38 Any reference to NEDA or to the Secretary of NEDA in any existing law,
39 Executive Order, Administrative Order, or Presidential Proclamation, rules
40 and regulations, and other issuances with respect to any duty or function
41 assumed by DEPD created under this Act, shall be deemed hereafter to be
42 referenced to DEPD or to the Secretary of Economic Planning and
43 Development, respectively.
44

45 All programs and projects submitted to NEDA for appraisal and/or those
46 endorsed by the current Investment Coordination Committee for NEDA Board
47 approval prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be processed by DEPD and the
48 Council, respectively, subject to the prevailing laws, rules and regulations,
49 guidelines, and issuances at the time there were submitted or endorsed.
50

1 **SECTION 31. *Separation and Retirement from Service.*** – NEDA
2 employees who are separated from service as a result of the consultation
3 and/or reorganization, under the provisions of this Act, shall receive
4 separation benefits to which they may be entitled under existing laws:
5 *Provided*, That those who are qualified to retire under existing retirement
6 laws shall be allowed to retire and receive retirement benefits to which they
7 may be entitled under applicable laws and issuances.

8
9 **SECTION 32. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to cover the
10 initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
11 appropriations of NEDA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
12 effective and continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the
13 annual General Appropriations Act

14
15 **SECTION 33. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety
16 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, DEPD shall promulgate the rules and
17 regulations, as well as the necessary issuances required for the proper
18 implementation of this Act.

19
20 The implementing rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days
21 after the completion of its publication in two (2) newspapers of general
22 circulation. Within three (3) days from its effectivity date, three (3) certified
23 copies of the published implementing rules and regulations shall be furnished
24 to the University of the Philippines Office of the Law Center pursuant to Book
25 VII, Chapter 2, Section 3 of the Administrative Code of 1987.

26
27 **SECTION 34. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is
28 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such
29 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

30
31 **SECTION 35. *Repealing Clause.*** – Executive Order No. 230, Series of
32 1987, and Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4, Subtitle C, Title II, Book V of Executive
33 Order No. 292, Series of 1987, are hereby repealed. All laws, executive orders,
34 administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are
35 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

36
37 **SECTION 36. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days
38 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
39 circulation.

40
41
42 Approved,
43
44
45