

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3214



Introduced by **Representative STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**

**AN ACT
CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been more than 2 years since the COVID-19 pandemic devastated the Philippines. At the onset of the pandemic in 2020, the country recorded an overall contraction rate of 9.0 percent, which is equivalent to P3.2 trillion in losses. As the economy continues to reopen, the country is also beginning to recover. In Q1 2022, the Philippines registered an 8.27-percent growth rate, higher than all of our ASEAN contemporaries.

However, the Philippines still faces many risks in its path towards economic recovery. As of March 2022, the national government's total debt is at 12.68 trillion pesos, equivalent to a 63.5-percent debt-to-GDP ratio, which raises issues of fiscal sustainability or any further response and recovery interventions moving forward. Overall inflation as of June 2022 is at 6.1 percent, which is the highest level of inflation since October 2018.

Amidst all these risks, it is essential that the State becomes the prime mover of economic recovery in the country. The government must use its power to encourage growth and innovation among businesses, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), therefore laying the groundwork for the creation of more high-quality jobs and increased investments, as well as promoting fiscal sustainability. Increases in job opportunities and continued productivity are pathways to inclusive and sustained economic growth, which in turn will allow the government to fund targeted social protection for the marginalized and to elevate the lives of families living in poverty. Evidently, there is need for an independent institution that shall implement the long-term, integrated, and coordinated programs and policies for national development.

This bill seeks to further strengthen NEDA by turning it into a Department that shall be the lead integrator of economic development programs and policies, as stated by Section 9, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. The Department of Economics and Development Planning (DEDP) shall direct the government's planning and investment programs towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth, equitable distribution of income and opportunities, and increased productivity. The DEDP shall further ensure that policies across all government organizations and national and subnational development plans are well-coordinated and aligned.

This bill was filed during the 18th Congress and was approved by the House on 3rd Reading. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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CHAPTER 1
ARTICLE I
TITLE AND POLICY

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

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies and Principles.* – The State shall adopt and implement continuing, integrated, and coordinated policies, plans, and programs towards equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth; ensure a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and expand productivity to raise the quality of life for all.

It is therefore vital that major programs and projects of different government agencies must be properly reviewed by and coordinated by a national government agency to ensure their consistency with established national and subnational priorities; that the linkage between development planning, programming and budgeting shall be of highest priority in identifying programs, activities, and projects; and that the public and private sectors at the national and subnational levels participate in the process of formulating, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating policies, plans, and programs.

The State recognizes that, pursuant to the Section 9, Article XII of the Constitution, Congress may establish an independent economic and planning agency headed by the President of the Philippines, which shall, after consultations with the appropriate public agencies, various private sector groups, and local government units (LGUs), recommend priority legislative measures to Congress.

ARTICLE II
THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

SEC. 3. *The Department of Economics and Development Planning.* – There is hereby created the Department of Economics and Development Planning, hereinafter to be referred to as the DEDP, which shall serve as the primary government agency tasked to prepare and recommend national economic development goals, policies, and programs, and monitor the implementation of the same. the DEDP shall take over the powers, duties, and functions of the National Economic and Development Authority.

SEC. 4. *Mandate of the DEDP.* – The DEDP shall be the agency that shall direct the government's planning and investment programming processes towards sustainable and inclusive economic growth; equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; and increased productivity. As such, it shall formulate the country's continuing, integrated, and coordinated policies, plans, and programs for development; foster a culture of planning across all government organizations; ensure the vertical and horizontal alignment and coherence of national and subnational policies, plans, programs, and projects; ensure alignment of appropriations for programs with national and subnational development plans towards optimal use of financial resources; and oversee the country's public investment program.

SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the DEDP.* – In accordance with Chapter I Article III of this Act, the DEDP shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) Visioning and plan formulation;
- (b) Harmonization of plans;
- (c) Investment programming;
- (d) Linkage of planning with budgeting;
- (e) Policy advisory;
- (f) Project appraisal;
- (g) Monitoring and assessment;
- (h) Evaluation;
- (i) Independent review;
- (j) Research;
- (k) Knowledge management and communication;
- (l) Transparency and accountability reports;
- (m) Capacity building of development planning;
- (n) Economic and financial literacy;
- (o) Innovation and futures thinking, or the creative processing, exploration, and management of change as a component of strategy and policy development; and
- (p) Secretariat support to the Economics and Development Planning Council.

SEC. 6. *Stakeholder Engagement.* – In the discharge of these functions, the DEDP shall undertake consultations with appropriate public agencies, civil society organizations, non-government organizations, people's organizations, academe, private sector, and LGUs to incorporate their respective priority needs in the formulation of policies, plans, programs and projects.

SEC. 7. *Organization of the DEDP.* – The DEDP shall consist of the Office of

1 the Secretary, the offices of the undersecretaries and assistant secretaries, technical
2 and sectoral staff, operations support staff, and regional offices.

3
4 **SEC. 8. *The Secretary of Economics and Development Planning.*** – The
5 DEDP shall be headed by the Secretary who shall be appointed by the President of
6 the Philippines, subject to the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments, and
7 shall hereinafter be referred to as the Secretary. The Secretary, who shall serve as
8 the country's Chief Economist, shall have the following minimum qualifications: a
9 natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines: of good moral character; of
10 recognized probity, competence, and independence; must be professionally
11 distinguished in public, civic, or academic service in the field of economics; must have
12 been in active professional practice for at least ten years; and must not have been a
13 candidate for any elective national or local office in the immediately preceding
14 elections, whether regular or special.

15
16 **SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the Secretary of Economics and***
17 ***Development Planning.*** – The Secretary shall have the following powers and
18 functions:

19
20 (a) Advise the President of the Philippines on the promulgation of executive or
21 administrative orders and other issuances, and ~~on~~ the formulation of regulatory
22 and legislative proposals, pertaining to matters of national economic and social
23 development;

24
25 (b) Render a report on the status of implementation of national and subnational
26 plans as inputs to the State of the Nation Address by the President of the
27 Philippines;

28
29 (c) Serve as Vice-Chairperson of the Economics and Development Planning
30 Council, created under Section 43 of this Act;

31
32 (d) Lead the discourse on futures thinking in the public sector, and pursuant
33 thereto, consider the latest trends, strategic issues, and key developments in
34 the country in order to assist government agencies better anticipate and
35 address their implications;

36
37 (e) Direct the conduct of research on development matters, examine evaluation
38 results, and gather current information and data for evidence-based formulation
39 of broad policies, plans and relevant programs;

40
41 (f) Exercise executive direction, control, and supervision over the entire
42 operations of the DEDP, and its agencies, bureaus, officers, and personnel;

43
44 (g) Establish policies and standards for the effective, efficient, and economical
45 operations of the DEDP, in accordance with the programs of the government;

46
47 (h) Promulgate rules and regulations, and exercise other powers as may be
48 required to implement the objectives of this Act; and

49
50 (i) Perform other functions as may be provided by law or as may be assigned

1 by the President of the Philippines.

2
3 **SEC. 10. *The Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries.*** – The Office of
4 the Secretary of Economics and Development Planning shall be composed of at least
5 four (4) undersecretaries and eight (8) assistant secretaries.
6

7 The undersecretaries and assistant secretaries shall be appointed by the
8 President of the Philippines, upon the recommendation of the Secretary, subject to the
9 rules and regulations promulgated by the Career Executive Service Board. The
10 Secretary shall have the flexibility to determine the respective assignments of the
11 Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries and to reorganize the DEDP, depending
12 on the DEDP's strategic directions and on emerging development trends affecting the
13 country's economy. As the duties and responsibilities of the DEDP are expanded, the
14 number of Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries may be increased as deemed
15 necessary.
16

17 **SEC. 11. *Offices and Staff.*** – The DEDP shall be composed of the following
18 technical and sectoral staff, administrative and support staff, and regional offices for
19 the following offices:
20

- (a) Macroeconomics;
- (b) Trade, services, and industry;
- (c) Agriculture, natural resources, and environment;
- (d) Governance;
- (e) Social development;
- (f) Strategic foresight and futures;
- (g) Innovation;
- (h) Public investment;
- (i) Social infrastructure;
- (j) Connectivity infrastructure;
- (k) Spatial planning and regional development;

- (l) Program evaluation;
- (m) Project monitoring;
- (n) Knowledge management and communication;
- (o) Development planning training;
- (p) Administrative;
- (q) Human resource development;
- (r) Financial planning and management;
- (s) Information and communications technology;
- (t) Legal;
- (u) Internal audit service;
- (v) Legislative liaison office; and
- (w) Regional offices.

1 The Secretary shall recommend to the Department of Budget and Management
2 (DBM) for approval, the creation of additional offices, positions, or staffing
3 modifications as may be necessary.
4

5 The DEDP's organizational structure and staffing requirements shall be
6 submitted to the DBM for review and approval. It shall adopt a position classification
7 and compensation structure consistent with the existing policies, rules and regulations.
8

9 **SEC. 12. DEDP Regional Offices.** – The DEDP Regional Offices, hereinafter
10 referred to as DROs, shall have the following functions:

- 11 (a) Ensure that regional and local development priorities are integrated in the
12 national and subnational plans;

(b) Ensure the alignment of the provincial development and physical framework and the comprehensive development plans of highly urbanized cities and independent component cities with the national and regional development plans;

(c) Oversee the integration of plans and programs of regional agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), special development bodies, and local government units (LGUs) into the regional and national plans. The DROs shall provide assistance to regional line agencies, LGUs, SUCs and special development bodies in identifying and developing programs and projects;

(d) Evaluate and review proposed policies, land use plans, programs and projects in the region;

(e) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of plans, policies, programs and projects;

(f) Provide technical and secretariat support to their respective Regional Development Councils (RDCs);

(g) Undertake research and ensure knowledge utilization for regional development and productivity; and

(h) Provide technical assistance to development partners in the region in accordance with the functions of the DEDP.

SEC. 13. *Attached Agencies.* – The agencies currently attached to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) shall hereinafter be attached to the DEDP and shall continue to operate and function in accordance with their respective charters, laws, or orders creating them, except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Administrative Code of 1987, and subsequent laws.

The following agencies shall be attached to the DEDP for policy and program coordination purposes:

(a) Commission on Population and Development, created pursuant to Republic Act No. 6365, otherwise known as the "Population Act of 1971, as Amended."

(b) Philippine Institute for Development Studies, created pursuant to Presidential Decree 1201 dated September 26, 1977;

(c) Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, created pursuant Executive Order 635, series of 1980;

(d) Philippine Statistics Authority, created pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625, otherwise known as the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013"; and

(e) Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute, created pursuant to Republic Act No. 10625.

1
2 The following agencies shall be attached to the DEDP for administrative
3 purposes:
4

5 (a) Public-Private Partnership Center of the Philippines, created pursuant
6 Executive Order No. 8 series of 2010 as amended by Executive Order No.
7 136, series of 2013; and
8

9 (b) Tariff Commission (TC), created pursuant to Republic Act No. 10863,
10 otherwise known as the “Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA)”.
11

12 **SEC. 14. Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.** – The DEDP
13 shall serve as the principal secretariat of the Legislative-Executive Development
14 Advisory Council (LEDAC), pursuant to Republic Act No. 7640, otherwise known as
15 “An Act Constituting the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council”. As
16 principal secretariat, the DEDP shall oversee and coordinate the provision of overall
17 technical and administrative support to the LEDAC, and shall have the following duties
18 and responsibilities, consistent with Article III, Section 2 of the rules and regulations
19 issued to implement Republic Act No. 7640:
20

21 (a) Provide technical and administrative support to the LEDAC and its sub-
22 committees, if any;
23

24 (b) Determine and prepare the agenda of the LEDAC meetings, and prepare
25 the minutes of each meeting;
26

27 (c) Serve as venue for the initial processing and discussion of the work of the
28 LEDAC;
29

30 (d) Receive and prepare communications pertinent to the work of the LEDAC;
31

32 (e) Manage and maintain the official records of the LEDAC;
33

34 (f) Prepare the annual budget of the LEDAC;
35

36 (g) Prepare reports as required by the LEDAC; and
37

38 (h) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the LEDAC.
39
40

41 **ARTICLE III** 42 **POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF DEDP** 43

44 **I. Visioning and Plan Formulation** 45

46 **SEC. 15. Visioning.** – The DEDP shall formulate a long-term vision, hereinafter
47 referred to as the Vision, which embodies the long-term aspirations of all Filipinos. It
48 shall be data-driven and evidence-based, encompassing all dimensions of economic,
49 social, and environmental development. The Vision shall undergo a review every ten
50 (10) years in consideration of changing aspirations and preferences.

1
2 **SEC. 16. Long-term Development Framework.** – The DEDP shall formulate
3 the country's long-term development framework, hereinafter referred to as the
4 Framework. The Framework is a high-level and broad strategy spanning twenty-five
5 (25) years that shall guide the nation towards sustainable growth and development
6 and the attainment of the Vision. It shall serve as a tool to coordinate, guide, and inform
7 the preparation and consideration of future, more detailed national and subnational
8 development plans, national and subnational public investment programs, and
9 sectoral and inter-sectoral plans and programs. It shall embody the development goals
10 and milestones to serve as the basis for the overall direction of government policies,
11 programs, and projects across political administrations.
12

13 **SEC. 17. Physical Planning Framework.** – The DEDP shall formulate the
14 National Framework for Physical Planning (NFPP), which shall provide policies and
15 principles to achieve efficient settlement, production, service delivery systems, and
16 sustainable use of land and other physical resources in the country. At the subnational
17 level, the DEDP
18

19 Regional Offices, in consultation with their respective RDCs, shall formulate the
20 regional spatial and physical framework (RSPF) which shall encompass an
21 implementation period of twenty-five (25) years. The RSPF shall define the objectives
22 and indicative uses of land and the physical resources in the region.
23

24 The NFPP and RSPF shall serve as the main reference documents in the
25 preparation of the provincial development and physical framework plans and land use
26 plans of cities and municipalities.
27

28 The NFPP and RSPF shall undergo a review every ten (10) years in
29 consideration of physical changes, economic and demographic trends, as well as
30 climate projections.
31

32 **SEC. 18. Planning Call.** – The DEDP shall issue a Planning Call to government
33 agencies and shall provide the standards and guidelines for preparing the national and
34 subnational development plans and public investment programs. Within one (1) month
35 from the approval of the Philippine Development Plan by the Economics and
36 Development Planning Council, national government agencies shall submit to the
37 DEDP their respective short-term development plans and investment programs.
38

39 **SEC. 19. Philippine Development Plan and Regional Development Plans.**
40 – The DEDP, in consultation with public agencies, civil society organizations, non-
41 government organizations, people's organizations, academe, private sector, and
42 LGUs, shall formulate within six (6) months from the assumption of office of the
43 President of the Philippines a national economic and development blueprint, known
44 as the Philippine Development Plan, hereinafter referred to as the PDP, which shall
45 be anchored on the Framework.
46

47 The PDP shall establish a set of measurable goals and objectives with
48 corresponding strategies, in terms of policies, programs, and projects, that shall be the
49 basis for each political administration's pursuit of its economic and development
50 agenda. At the subnational level, this shall be known as the Regional Development

1 Plan, hereinafter referred to as the RDP, which shall be formulated by the DEDP
2 Regional Offices within six (6) months from the assumption of office of the President
3 of the Philippines, in consultation with public agencies, civil society organizations, non-
4 government organizations, people's organizations, the academe, the private sector,
5 and local government units.
6

7 The RDP shall be aligned with the PDP, defining the region's development
8 direction. The PDP and the RDPs shall undergo a midterm review and updating in
9 consideration of accomplishments, and emerging trends and developments.
10

11 **SEC. 20. Coordination with Autonomous and Administrative Regions.** –
12 The DEDP shall ensure effective coordination with autonomous and administrative
13 regions that have separate planning offices in the formulation of the PDP and in the
14 conduct of other relevant planning activities affecting said regions.
15

16 **II. Harmonization of Plans**

17

18 **SEC. 21. Harmonization of Plans.** – The DEDP shall direct the government's
19 planning cycle to ensure the harmonization and coherence of national, subnational,
20 sectoral, and spatial plans and programs by prescribing standards, guidelines,
21 compliance, and accountability mechanisms. Moreover, the DEDP shall review the
22 short-term development plans submitted by the agencies as stipulated in Section 18
23 of this Act in order to recommend appropriate action.
24

25 **III. Investment Programming**

26

27 **SEC. 22. Investment Programming.** – The DEDP shall direct and oversee
28 the government's investment programming process to ensure that the plans are
29 translated into programs and projects by prescribing standards and guidelines, as well
30 as compliance and accountability mechanisms, especially considering the results of
31 relevant evaluation studies, and their conformity to the NFPP and RSPF which are the
32 main reference for land use and physical framework plans as mandated under Section
33 17 of this Act.
34

35
36 **SEC. 23. Public Investment Program and Regional Development**
37 **Investment Program.** – The DEDP, in consultation with public agencies, shall
38 formulate the Public Investment Program, hereinafter referred to as the PIP, which
39 shall identify the priority programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that are responsive
40 to the sectoral goals and outcomes of the PDP, for implementation through national
41 government funds or the General Appropriations Act (GAA), Official Development
42 Assistance (ODA), Public-Private Partnership (PPP), joint ventures, and other viable
43 implementation and financing options. At the subnational level, this shall be known as
44 the Regional Development Investment Program, hereinafter referred to as the RDIP,
45 which shall be formulated by the DROs in consultation with their respective RDCs.
46

47 **IV. Linkage of Planning with Budgeting**

48

49 **SEC. 24. Linkage of Planning with Budgeting.** – The DEDP shall recommend
50 to the Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) the priorities for budget

1 expenditure policies including sectoral and regional allocations. Together with the
2 DBM and other relevant government oversight agencies, the DEDP shall ensure that
3 the annual and multi-year appropriations for programs and projects are aligned with
4 the development strategies in the PDP and RDPs.

5 6 **V. Policy Advisory**

7
8 **SEC. 25. Policy Advisory.** – The DEDP shall undertake policy reviews to
9 provide objective, evidence-based, critical analyses of development issues and policy
10 alternatives and report findings and recommendations to the President of the
11 Philippines, the Congress of the Philippines, or the Economics and Development
12 Planning Council, created under Sec. 43 of this Act, as appropriate.

13 14 **VI. Project Appraisal**

15
16 **SEC. 26. Project appraisal.** – The DEDP shall appraise proposed programs
17 and projects as provided by existing laws and regulations, and as may be determined
18 by the Economics and Development Planning Council in terms of economic and
19 societal benefits and viability. The DEDP shall adopt and implement appropriate
20 evaluation measures and criteria to determine the viability of programs and projects.
21 Only programs and projects that have been found viable by the DEDP shall be
22 endorsed to the Economics and Development Planning Council through the
23 appropriate inter-agency committee.

24 25 **VII. Monitoring and Assessment**

26
27 **SEC. 27. Monitoring and Assessment.** – The DEDP shall monitor and
28 assess the progress of implementation of priority national and subnational programs
29 and projects, as defined by the Economics and Development Planning Council, with
30 respect to physical and financial performance, among others. The DEDP shall also
31 identify implementation bottlenecks and facilitate resolution of problems. The
32 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall complement the
33 monitoring, reporting, and facilitation of programs and projects at the sub-regional
34 level. Moreover, the DEDP shall determine the continued viability of national programs
35 or projects and recommend corresponding measures to the Economics and
36 Development Planning Council.

37
38 **SEC. 28. Philippine Development Report and Regional Development**
39 **Reports.** – The DEDP and its Regional Offices shall formulate annually the Philippine
40 Development Report (PDR) and Regional Development Reports (RDRs). The PDR
41 and RDRs shall serve as monitoring reports on the implementation of the PDP and
42 RDPs, respectively. The results from such monitoring activities shall serve as inputs
43 to policy and decision makers in the formulation of policies, budgeting, and
44 implementation of programs and projects. To this end, the PDRs and RDRs shall
45 contain the latest data and information pertaining to the goals, policies, and strategies,
46 as specified in the PDP.

47
48 **SEC. 29. Official Development Assistance Portfolio Review.** – The DEDP
49 shall review the status of all projects funded by ODA pursuant to Republic Act No.
50 8182, otherwise known as the “Official Development Assistance Act of 1996”.

VIII. Evaluation

SEC. 30. *Evaluation.* – The DEDP shall formulate a medium-term national evaluation agenda to assess the impact and outcomes of programs and projects. It shall oversee the conduct of evaluation studies consistent with the agenda, in support of good governance, transparency, accountability, and evidence-based decision-making.

IX. Independent Review

SEC. 31. *Independent Review.* - In the course of its monitoring and assessment of programs and projects, the DEDP may independently review and evaluate facts and circumstances as a means of determining whether sufficient cause exists to initiate appropriate legal action, in which case, a report shall be prepared and referred to the proper agency or body.

X. Development Research

SEC. 32. *Research.* – The DEDP shall conduct research, special surveys, and related studies as inputs to the formulation of policies and plans, and the design of programs and projects. The DEDP shall establish a Development Research Program so that broad policies, plans, and relevant programs can be formulated based on a sound analysis of data and evidence.

XI. Knowledge Management and Communication

SEC. 33. *Knowledge Management and Communication.* – The DEDP shall develop and maintain knowledge management systems, applications, and tools for timely and effective dissemination, accessibility, and comprehensibility of information and knowledge on economics and development planning issues. It shall develop and sustain communication and stakeholder engagement platforms towards well-informed and cost-effective public and private sector participation in the development process.

XII. Transparency and Accountability Reports

SEC. 34. *Transparency and Accountability Reports.* – Within the first quarter of every year, the DEDP shall submit a report to the President of the Philippines, Cabinet, Congress, and the Filipino people through the mass media, on the economic performance of the country. The report shall include the status and the directions of the fiscal and monetary policies of the government in coordination with the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, the Department of Finance (DOF) and the DBM; macroeconomic outlook and labor market prospects; and other relevant information that may be requested, for purposes of transparency and accountability.

SEC. 35. *Inter-generational Report.* – The DEDP shall submit an Inter-Generational Report (IGR) to the President of the Philippines and Congress every six (6) years. The IGR shall be an assessment of the long-term sustainability of existing government policies over the next 25 years, taking into account projected demographic, environmental and other changes.

XIII. Capacity Building of Development Planners

SEC. 36. *Capacity Building of Development Planners.* – The DEDP, in coordination with appropriate institutions including state universities and colleges, subject to accreditation procedures, shall establish and implement a capacity building program on development planning for national and local planners to build, strengthen, and continually update the technical competencies of development planners in the country. The capacity building program shall also serve as a platform for wider dissemination of the country's vision, development plans, policies, and programs.

SEC. 37. *Technical Assistance to Development Planners.* – The DEDP shall provide technical assistance to the LGUs on how to localize national development strategies, particularly in planning and investment programming to ensure alignment of local development plans and strategies with the PDP and RDP.

XIV. Economic and Financial Literacy

SEC. 38. *Economic and Financial Literacy.* – The DEDP shall lead the participation of government agencies and instrumentalities, including LGUs, government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and educational institutions, in the conduct of knowledge-expanding activities on economic and financial literacy, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10922, otherwise known as the "*Economic and Financial Literacy Act*".

XV. Innovation and Futures Thinking

SEC. 39. *Innovation.* – The DEDP shall provide secretariat support, and prepare and recommend priorities, policies, programs, projects, strategies, and other outputs to the National Innovation Council to realize the country's strategic vision for innovation, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11293, or the "*Philippine Innovation Act*".

SEC. 40. *Futures Thinking.* – The DEDP shall continually undertake scenario planning exercises, anticipating future trends or discontinuities, and recommend responsive measures to the President of the Philippines and the Congress, as appropriate.

SEC. 41. *Foresight Tools.* – The DEDP shall employ or develop, as circumstances warrant, foresight tools to deal with emergent trends, understand plausible future states, craft corresponding strategies, and monitor relevant indicators of anticipated futures.

XVI. Technical and Secretariat Support

SEC. 42. *Technical and Secretariat Support.* – The DEDP shall serve as the Secretariat to the Economics and Development Planning Council and its Committees, the RDCs, and the National Innovation Council. In this capacity, the DEDP shall ensure that all policies, programs, and projects approved by these bodies are strictly aligned with the PDP and RDP. As secretariat support, it shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- (a) Provide technical and administrative support;
- (b) Determine and prepare the agenda;
- (c) Prepare the minutes of the meeting;
- (d) Manage and maintain the official records; and
- (e) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the said bodies.

Furthermore, the DEDP shall provide technical inputs, review, appraisal, or evaluation as applicable, for all programs and projects as defined by existing and subsequent laws, or those which may be defined by the Economics and Development Planning Council prior to the endorsement of such programs and projects to the Council for approval. At the subnational level, the DEDP Regional Offices shall provide prior technical inputs, review, appraisal, or evaluation for endorsement of programs and projects to RDCs for approval.

The DEDP shall also provide advisory services to these bodies.

CHAPTER 2

ARTICLE I

THE ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING COUNCIL

SEC. 43. *The Economics and Development Planning Council.* – The Economics and Development Planning Council is hereby established, hereinafter referred to as the Council. The Council shall be headed by the President of the Philippines, shall be an 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.

SEC. 44. *Composition of the Council.* – The Council shall be composed of the following:

- (a) President of the Philippines as Chairperson;
- (b) Executive Secretary;
- (c) Secretary of Economics and Development Planning as Vice-Chairperson;
- (d) Principals of the agencies chairing the Committees of the Council;
- (e) National of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines; and
- (f) Governor of the BSP, as a resource institution.

The President of the Philippines may, however, revise the membership of the Council whenever the same is deemed necessary for the effective performance of the Council's function.

All members of the Council, except the Governor of the 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.

SEC. 45. *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

1 that would promote economic development and address development
2 concerns of national importance;

3
4 (b) Approve the PDP, PIP, and their respective midterm updates;

5
6 (c) Approve the level of annual government expenditures, as well as
7 projections, forecast, resource requirement, and the ceiling of government
8 spending for social and economic development, national defense, government
9 debt service, and the proper allocation of expenditures for each development
10 activity between current operating expenditures and capital outlay;

11
12 (d) Approve the level of expenditure program of national government agencies
13 by region, in accordance with the approved RDPs and RDIPs;

14
15 (e) Define cost threshold and other criteria for priority programs and projects
16 that shall require Council approval, unless already provided by existing laws,
17 rules and regulations;

18
19 (f) Approve projects, programs, and plans, as endorsed by the DEDP, as
20 required under existing laws, orders, rules and regulations, and other
21 issuances;

22
23 (g) Initiate the formulation of proposals for the enactment of laws that may be
24 necessary for the integration and implementation of economic and
25 development policies, plans and programs or any of their component parts;

26
27 (h) Issue rules and regulations necessary for the effective discharge of the
28 powers and functions vested on the Council; and

29
30 (i) Direct the reorganization, or establishment of Committees of the Council,
31 including the modification of their respective membership, structures, powers,
32 and functions.

33
34 **SEC. 46. Meetings.** – The Council shall meet at least once every quarter. A
35 special meeting of the Council may be convened by the President of the Philippines
36 to address urgent concerns, or emergencies, such as natural disasters, calamities, or
37 other extraordinary circumstances which would affect the economy or and national
38 development.

39
40 The DEDP shall maintain and preserve a complete record of the proceedings
41 and deliberations of the Council, including the recordings and transcripts thereof,
42 either in their original form, or in any secured format made available by existing
43 technology, such as digital formatting.

44
45 **SEC. 47. Full Disclosure Rule.** – In addition to the requirements of Republic
46 Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the “*Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for*
47 *Public Officials and Employees*”, any member of the Economics and Development
48 Council with personal and pecuniary interest in any matter in the agenda of the Council
49 shall disclose the interest to the Economics and Development Council and shall
50 withdraw from the meeting when the matter is taken up. The decision taken on the

1 matter shall be made public.

2
3 The minutes shall reflect the disclosure made and the retirement of the member
4 concerned from the meeting.

5
6 **ARTICLE II**
7 **COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**
8

9 **SEC. 48. *Committees of the Economics and Development Council.*** – The
10 Economics and Development Council shall have committees that shall act as its
11 primary advisory bodies.

12
13 These Committees shall be the main coordinating mechanism that ensures that
14 the policy environment is conducive to the promotion of rapid, inclusive, and sustained
15 economic growth that raises the quality of life for all.

16
17 The President of the Philippines shall designate the respective Chairpersons of
18 the Committees. The DEDP shall serve as the Secretariat for all Committees, unless
19 otherwise provided in this Act. The Council may create new committees, modify or
20 abolish existing ones with respect to their structures, composition, powers, and
21 functions. It may also create sub-committees, whenever appropriate, for the purpose
22 of dispensing with any of their respective functions. To avoid duplication and ensure
23 policy coherence, no other inter-agency body with the same or similar mandates to the
24 Council's Committees shall be created.

25
26 Members of Congress may, upon invitation of the President of the Philippines,
27 serve as resource persons in any of the Committees.

28
29 **SEC. 49. *Development Budget Coordination Committee (BudgetCom).*** –
30 The Development Budget Coordination Committee (BudgetCom) shall be composed
31 of the Secretaries of the DBM, the DEDP, the DOF, the Executive Secretary, and the
32 Governor of the BSP.

33
34 A technical committee of the BudgetCom, composed of duly designated
35 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a
36 technical review of matters that require appropriate action by BudgetCom. The
37 BudgetCom shall discharge the following functions:

38
39 (a) Endorse for final approval of the Council:

- 40 (1) The level of annual government expenditures and the ceiling of
41 government spending for economic and social development, national
42 defense, and government debt service;
43 (2) The budget to be allocated for current operating expenditures and
44 capital outlays of government programs and projects;
45 (3) A strategic multi-year fiscal program which supports the long-term
46 and medium-term development objectives of the country; and
47 (4) A domestic and foreign borrowing program.

48
49 (b) Assess the overall economic situation of the country, which includes
50 economic growth, monetary, fiscal, and possible economic risks which may

1 require policy reforms;

2
3 (c) Ensure that the regional allocations are responsive to poverty, development
4 gaps, and economic opportunities; and

5
6 (d) Conduct periodic review of fiscal and macroeconomic targets, and the
7 revenue and expenditure projections of the government, including general
8 examination of costs, accomplishments and performance standards applied in
9 undertaking development projects; and

10
11 (e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
12 mandates of the BudgetCom.

13
14 The DBM shall serve as the Secretariat to the BudgetCom.

15
16 **SEC. 50. *Investment Coordination Committee (InvestmentCom).*** – The
17 Investment Coordination Committee (InvestmentCom) shall be composed of the
18 Secretaries of the DOF, the DEDP, the DBM, the DILG, the DTI, the Executive
19 Secretary, and the Governor of BSP.

20
21 A technical committee of the InvestmentCom, composed of duly designated
22 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a
23 technical review of matters that require appropriate action by InvestmentCom. The
24 InvestmentCom shall discharge the following functions:

25
26 (a) Ensure the efficient and effective evaluation of major capital programs and
27 projects of the country by determining levels of acceptability and viability relative to
28 overall economic and fiscal conditions of the country;

29
30 (b) Endorse the following to the Council for its approval:

31 (1) Timetable of the implementation of major capital programs and
32 projects on a regular basis;

33 (2) Public-private partnerships, privatization, and other funding options
34 to augment government's financing capacity;

35 (3) Modalities of development financing and capital market development
36 in support of long-term programs and projects for both national and local
37 government, and GOCCs;

38
39 **SEC. 51. *Economic Development Committee (EconDevCom).*** – The
40 Economic Development Committee (EconDevCom) shall be composed of the
41 Secretaries of the DEDP, the DOF, the DTI, the DBM, the Department of Public Works
42 and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Department of
43 Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the Department of Energy
44 (DOE), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of
45 Tourism (DOT), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Labor and
46 Employment (DOLE), , the DILG, the Governor of BSP, and the Executive Secretary.

47
48 A technical committee of the EconDevCom, composed of duly designated
49 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a
50 technical review of matters that require appropriate action by EconDevCom. The

EconDevCom shall endorse for approval of the Council:

(a) Policies that would ensure equitable and sustainable distribution of economic opportunities and benefits to Filipinos;

(b) Specific major programs and projects with respect to technical, financial, economic, social, environmental, legal, institutional, feasibility, and viability as well as from the context of sectoral plans and geographical strategies, as may be required by law, orders, and other legal issuances; and

(c) Major capital projects based on a cost threshold or other criteria as may be set by the Council.

(d) 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; and

(e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the InvestmentCom.

(f) Policies towards the development of agriculture, industry, and services which are vital to achieving food security and more equitable and sustainable growth;

(g) Policies for the improvement of national productivity, competition and competitiveness of domestic products and services;

(h) Policies and measures to promote an environment conducive to the growth and competitiveness of private enterprises and the creation of jobs that will empower people and provide them with opportunities to rise above poverty to improve the quality of their lives; and

(i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the EconDevCom.

SEC. 52. Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom). – The Infrastructure Committee (InfraCom) shall be composed of the Secretaries of the DPWH, the DEDP, the DBM, the DOF, the DICT, the DOTr, the DTI, the DOE, the DA, the DOT, and the Executive Secretary.

A technical committee of InfraCom, 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 InfraCom.

The InfraCom shall discharge the following functions:

(a) Endorse for Council approval a national infrastructure development strategy that will coordinate, integrate and accelerate the development initiatives across all infrastructure sub sectors in the country;

(b) Advise the Council on all matters concerning infrastructure development,

1 including roads, highways, and bridges; airports, seaports, offshore
2 infrastructure and shore protection; railways and subways; power generation,
3 transmission and distribution; ICT, telecommunications; irrigation, flood control
4 and drainage; water supply, sewerage and sanitation; national buildings for
5 government offices; hospitals and related buildings; state colleges and
6 universities, elementary and secondary school buildings; reclamation; and
7 other public works, whether procured or financed through traditional means,
8 public-private partnerships, or any other method;

9
10 (c) Coordinate the activities of agencies, including GOCCs involved in
11 infrastructure development; and

12
13 (d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
14 mandates of the InfraCom.

15
16 **SEC. 53. Social Development Committee (SocialDevCom).** – The Social
17 Development Committee (SocialDevCom) shall be composed of the Secretaries of the
18 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the DEDP, the DBM, the
19 Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Agrarian Reform, the DA, the
20 Department of Health, the DILG, the DOLE, and the Executive Secretary.

21
22 A technical committee of SocialDevCom, composed of duly designated
23 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a
24 technical review of matters that require appropriate action by SocialDevCom. The
25 SocialDevCom shall discharge the following functions:

26
27 (a) Endorse for approval of the Council policies and programs that enhance the
28 welfare and reduce risks of Overseas Filipino Workers, older persons,
29 differently-abled persons, children, women, indigenous peoples, marginalized
30 farmers and fisher folk, and informal urban and upland settlers;

31
32 (b) Advise the Council on matters concerning social development, including
33 education, skills development, health and nutrition, population and family
34 planning, housing, human settlements, social protection, and the delivery of
35 other social services; and

36
37 (c) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the
38 mandates of the SocialDevCom.

39
40 **SEC. 54. Committee on Trade and Related Matters (TradeCom).** – The
41 Committee on Trade and Related Matters (TradeCom) shall be composed of the
42 Secretaries of the DTI, DEDP, DA, DBM, the Department of Environment and Natural
43 Resources (DENR), DOF, Department of Foreign Affairs, DICT, DOTr, the Executive
44 Secretary, the Governor of BSP, and the Chairperson of the Tariff Commission.

45
46 A technical committee of TradeCom, composed of duly designated
47 Undersecretaries of the same member agencies, is hereby established to conduct a
48 technical review of matters that require appropriate action by TradeCom. The
49 TradeCom shall discharge the following functions:

(a) Endorse for approval of the Council a continuous rationalization policy and program for the country's tariff structure;

(b) Advise the Council on trade and related matters, as well as the effects of various international developments on the country;

(c) Coordinate government agency positions and recommend national positions for international economic negotiations; and

(d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the TradeCom.

SEC. 55. *Regional Development Committee (RDCom).* – The Regional Development Committee (RDCom) shall be composed of the Secretaries of the DEDP, DILG, DBM, DTI, three (3) RDC Chairpersons representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and one (1) representative from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

A technical committee of RDCom, 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 RDCom.

The RDCom shall discharge the following functions:

(a) Formulate and monitor the implementation of policies that reduce regional development disparities;

(b) Promote equitable allocation of resources among regions by providing recommendations to the DBCC on the guidelines for the regional allocation of budgetary resources;

(c) Periodically review the viability of the regional configuration of the country, and recommend to the Council the re-delineation of regions, as may be necessary; and

(d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the RDCom.

SEC. 56. *Marine Resource and Land Use Committee (MaRLUCom).*– The Marine Resource and Land Use Committee (MaRLUCom) shall be composed of the Secretaries of the DEDP, the DAR, the DA, the DOE, the DENR, the DILG, the DOST, the DOT, and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, the Chairperson of the National Coast Watch Council, and the presidents of the League of Provinces, the League of Municipalities, and the League of Cities.

A technical committee of MaRLUCom, 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 MaRLUCom.

The MaRLUCom shall discharge the following functions:

(a) Advise the Council on matters concerning Marine Resource Use Planning and Land Use Physical Planning;

(b) Endorse for approval of the Council the NFPP as provided in Section 17 of this Act that guides the rational utilization and management of the country's marine resources, land resources, and other physical resources, and the preparation of sub-national physical framework plans;

(c) Endorse for approval of the Council resolutions concerning marine resource use and land use policy conflicts among agencies of the national government;

(d) Ensure the integration of marine resource use, land use and physical planning policies, plans, and programs, including disaster risk management, into national socioeconomic plans and programs; and

(e) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the MaRLUCom.

SEC. 57. Governance Committee (GovCom). – The Governance Committee (GovCom) shall be composed of the Secretaries of the DBM, the DEDP, the DILG, the DOF, the DTI, the Executive Secretary, the Department of Justice, the Chairperson of the Commission on Audit, the Director General of the Anti-Red Tape Authority, and the Chairperson of the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

A technical committee of GovCom, 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 GovCom.

The GovCom shall endorse for approval of the Council:

(a) Policies that promote transparency, accountability, and participatory governance;

(b) Policies that strengthen public institutions to effectively and efficiently implement their respective mandates;

(c) Policies, plans, and programs that improve policy and regulatory environment to reduce cost of doing business and promote market competition; and

(f) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the mandates of the GovCom.

SEC. 58. Regional Development Council. – The Regional Development Councils (RDCs) are the regional counterparts of the Council. Each RDC shall be composed of the provincial governors, the city mayors, the mayors of the municipalities designated as provincial capitals, the presidents of the provincial league of mayors, the mayors of municipalities designated as regional centers, the regional directors of the agencies represented in the Council, the regional directors of the

1 DepEd, the DSWD, and the DOT, and the private sector representatives who shall
2 comprise one-fourth (1/4) of the members of the fully constituted RDC.

3
4 The President of the Philippines shall appoint the Chairperson and Vice-
5 Chairperson of the RDC. The DROs shall serve as secretariat of the RDCs.

6
7 **CHAPTER 3**
8 **TRANSITORY AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**
9

10 **SEC. 59. *Transitory Provision.*** – The National Economic and Development
11 Authority (NEDA) is hereby abolished. The powers and functions, applicable funds
12 and appropriations, records, files, equipment, facilities, supplies, property, and
13 personnel of the NEDA are hereby transferred to and absorbed by the DEDP. All
14 current officials and employees of the NEDA shall be retained under the DEDP. Any
15 reference to the NEDA, or to the Director General of the NEDA or the Secretary of
16 Socio-economic Planning in any existing law, Executive Order, Administrative Order,
17 or Presidential Proclamation, rules and regulations, and other issuances with respect
18 to any duty or function assumed by the DEDP created in this Act, shall be deemed
19 hereinafter to be referenced to the DEDP or to the Secretary of Economics and
20 Development Planning, respectively.

21
22 Within six (6) months upon effectivity of this Act, the DEDP shall prepare the
23 25-year Framework. For this purpose, the amount necessary to carry out the
24 necessary preparation of the Framework shall be provided for in the General
25 Appropriations Act. All programs and projects submitted to the NEDA for appraisal and
26 those endorsed by the current Investment Coordination Committee for the approval of
27 the NEDA Board prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be processed by the DEDP and
28 the Economics and Development Council, respectively, subject to the prevailing laws,
29 rules and regulations, guidelines, and issuances at the time of submission or
30 endorsement.

31
32 **SEC. 60. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations.*** – The DEDP shall, by virtue of
33 this Act, be subrogated to all the rights and assume all the obligations of the NEDA,
34 and all its liabilities that pertain to its pertinent funds and appropriations, records, files,
35 equipment, facilities, supplies, property, and personnel, including unexpended
36 portions of its members' respective salaries.

37
38 **SEC. 61. *Separation and Retirement from Service.*** – The NEDA employees
39 who are separated from service as a result of the consolidation and reorganization
40 under the provisions of this Act, shall be entitled to the following applicable separation
41 incentives:

42
43 (a) One half (1/2) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year of service,
44 for those who have rendered less than eleven (11) years of service;

45
46 (b) Three-fourths (3/4) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year of
47 service, computed starting from the first year, for those who have rendered
48 eleven (11) to less than twenty-one (21) years of service;

49
50 (c) The actual monthly basic salary for every year of service, computed starting

1 from the first year, for those who have rendered twenty-one (21) to less than
2 thirty-one (31) years of service; and
3

4 (d) One and one-fourth (1¼) of the actual monthly basic salary for every year
5 of service, computed starting from the first year, for those who have rendered
6 thirty-one (31) years of service and above.
7

8 The NEDA employees who opt to retire under existing retirement laws shall also
9 be entitled to the above incentives in addition to the retirement benefits to which they
10 may be entitled under applicable laws and issuances: *Provided*, That personnel who
11 avails of the separation incentives under this Act shall not be re-employed in any
12 agency of the executive branch for a period of five (5) years, except as a teaching or
13 medical staff in educational institutions and hospitals, respectively: *Provided, further*,
14 That retired or separated personnel who are re-employed within the prohibited period
15 shall refund the separation incentives received on a pro-rated basis:
16

17 For purposes of the additional separation incentives, the actual monthly basic
18 salary shall refer to the salary of the affected personnel as of the date of approval of
19 the department's organizational structure and staffing pattern by the DBM.
20

21 **SEC. 62. Other Benefits of Retired and Separated Personnel.** – The
22 affected personnel who shall retire or are separated from the service shall, in addition
23 to the applicable benefits abovementioned, be entitled to the following:
24

25 (a) Refund of Pag-IBIG contributions, both personal and government, pursuant
26 to existing rules and regulations of the home development mutual fund; and
27

28 (b) Commutation of unused vacation and sick leave credits of the affected
29 personnel in accordance with existing rules and regulations.
30

31 **SEC. 63. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to cover the initial
32 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations
33 of the NEDA. Thereinafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued and
34 effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.
35

36 Such sums as may be necessary to implement the Capacity Building Program
37 of the DEDP, DEDP Research Program and DEDP Evaluation Program shall also be
38 included in the annual GAA.
39

40 **SEC. 64. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety days (90)
41 days after the effectiveness of this Act, the DEDP shall promulgate the rules and
42 regulations, as well as the necessary issuances required for the proper implementation
43 of the provisions of this Act.
44

45 **SEC. 65. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or portion of this Act is
46 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not thereby
47 affected shall remain in full force and effect.
48

49 **SEC. 66. Repealing Clause.** – Executive Order No. 230, Series of 1987,
50 entitled "Reorganizing the National Economic and Development Authority," and Book

1 V, Title II, Subtitle C, entitled “The National Economic and Development Authority” of
2 Executive Order No. 292, Series of 1987, otherwise known as the “Administrative
3 Code of 1987,” are hereby repealed. All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules,
4 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are contrary or inconsistent
5 with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
6

7 **SEC. 67. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,