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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Quezon City*

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1106



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Introduced by Representative  
LEODY "ODIE" F. TARRIELA

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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The island of Mindoro was previously referred to in some Chinese Chronicles as the land "Ma'I" where residents were believed to be trading with merchants from other parts of the archipelago and Southeast Asia. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the province of Occidental Mindoro is an agricultural area devoted to the production of crops like rice, corn, onions, garlic, and other fruits which contributed to its income. Strategically located at the south of province of Batangas in Southern Luzon, the province is considered as one of the major gateways to Visayas and Mindanao as thousands of goods and people traverse within the province to deliver goods and commodities.

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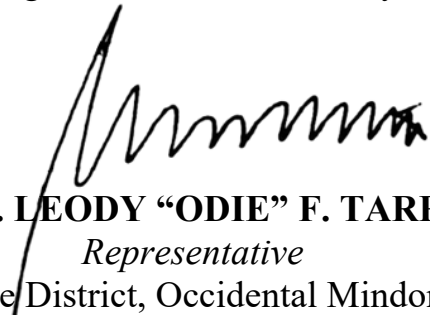
Special Economic Zones or ECOZONES are selected areas with highly developed or which have the potential to be developed into agro-industrial, industrial, tourist/recreational, commercial, banking, investment and financial centers. An ECOZONE may contain any or all of the following: industrial estates (IEs), export processing zones (EPZs), free trade zones, and tourist/recreational centers.<sup>1</sup> Its objective is to promote the flow of investors, both foreign and local, into special economic zones which would generate employment opportunities and establish backward and forward linkages among industries in and around the economic zones.

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 4, R.A. No. 7916.

1 This bill provides the establishment of Occidental Mindoro Special  
2 Economic Zone within the Municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Sta. Cruz and  
3 Mamburao, which is situated at the center of the province, in order to  
4 encourage investors to explore countryside investments and provide economic  
5 stimulus throughout the province. With this bill, the Province of Occidental  
6 Mindoro will be transformed into a highly developed agro-industrial,  
7 industrial, commercial, tourist, banking, investment, and financial centers,  
8 where highly trained workers and efficient services will be available to  
9 commercial enterprises.

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11 In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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**HON. LEODY "ODIE" F. TARRIELA**  
*Representative*  
Lone District, Occidental Mindoro

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Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Quezon City*

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1106

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE  
LEODY "ODIE" F. TARRIELA

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE  
MUNICIPALITIES OF ABRA DE ILOG, STA. CRUZ AND  
MAMBURAO PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO,  
CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO  
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY  
(OMSEZA), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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CHAPTER I

3

GENERAL PROVISIONS

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**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Occidental  
Mindoro Special Economic Zone and Freeport Authority Act."

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**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is declared the policy of the State to  
encourage, promote, and accelerate the sound and balanced industrial,  
economic, and social development of the country. The establishment of  
special economic zones shall attract legitimate and productive foreign  
investments in strategic locations in the country. It shall generate employment,  
enhance productivity, and increase individual and family incomes, thereby  
enhancing the quality of life of the Filipino people.

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## CHAPTER II

### CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE

**SEC. 3. *Creation of the Occidental Mindoro Special Economic Zone.***

- In accordance with the foregoing declared policy and subject to the concurrence of the local government units (LGUs) of the MUNICIPALITIES OF ABRA DE ILOG, STA. CRUZ AND MAMBURAO, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, there is hereby established a special economic zone, hereinafter referred to as the Occidental Mindoro Special Economic Zone or Occidental Mindoro Ecozone. The Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall cover a particular area in the Municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Sta. Cruz and Mamburao, Province of Occidental Mindoro, the specific metes and bounds of which shall be more particularly defined in a presidential proclamation that shall be issued for this purpose: *Provided*, That the lands embraced therein shall be contiguous to one another.

**SEC. 4. *Creation of the Occidental Mindoro Special Economic Zone***

***and Freeport Authority.*** - There is hereby created a body corporate to be known as the Occidental Mindoro Special Economic Zone Freeport Authority, hereinafter referred to as the OMSEZA which shall manage and operate the Occidental Mindoro Economic Zone, in accordance with the provisions of this Act. The corporate life of the OMSEZA shall be perpetual, unless its articles of incorporation provide otherwise. It shall be organized within one hundred eighty (180) days after the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Governing Principles.*** - The OMSEZA shall manage and operate the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone, under the following principles:

- a) Within the framework and limitations of the Constitution and applicable

1 provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code, as  
2 amended, the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall be developed into and  
3 operated as a decentralized, self-reliant and self-sustaining industrial,  
4 commercial, trading, agro-industrial, tourist, banking, financial, and  
5 investment center with suitable residential areas;

6  
7 b) The Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall be equipped with transportation,  
8 telecommunications, and other facilities needed to attract legitimate and  
9 productive investments, generate linkage industries and employment  
10 opportunities for the people of MUNICIPALITIES OF ABRA DE  
11 ILOG, STA. CRUZ AND MAMBURAO, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO  
12 and those neighboring towns and cities;

13  
14 c) The Occidental Mindoro Ecozone may establish mutually beneficial  
15 economic relations with other entities or enterprises within the country  
16 or, subject to the administrative guidance of the Department of Foreign  
17 Affairs, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), and the  
18 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with foreign entities or  
19 enterprises;

20  
21 d) Foreign citizens and companies owned by non-Filipinos in whatever  
22 proportion may set up enterprises in the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone,  
23 either by themselves or in a joint venture with Filipinos in any sector of  
24 industry, international trade and commerce within the Occidental  
25 Mindoro Ecozone;

26  
27 e) The Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall be managed and operated as a  
28 separate customs territory thereby ensuring the free flow or movement of  
29 goods and capital within, into and out of its territory, and shall likewise

1 provide incentives subject to Title XIII of the National Internal Revenue  
2 Code, as amended. However, exportation or removal of goods from the  
3 territory of the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone to the other parts of the  
4 Philippine territory shall be subject to customs duties and taxes under  
5 Republic Act No. 10863, otherwise known as the “Customs  
6 Modernization and Tariff Act” and other relevant tax laws of the  
7 Philippines;

8  
9 f) The areas comprising the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone may be expanded  
10 or reduced when necessary through a presidential proclamation issued for  
11 the said purpose. For this purpose, the OMSEZA in consultation with the  
12 LGUs, shall have the power to acquire either by purchase, negotiation or  
13 condemnation proceedings, any private land within or adjacent to the  
14 Occidental Mindoro Ecozone for the following purposes: (1)  
15 consolidation of lands for zone development; (2) acquisition of right of  
16 way to the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone; and (3) the protection of  
17 watershed areas and natural assets valuable to the prosperity of the  
18 Occidental Mindoro Ecozone;

19  
20 g) Goods manufactured by an Occidental Mindoro Ecozone enterprise may  
21 be made available for immediate retail sale in the domestic market,  
22 subject to the payment of corresponding taxes on raw materials and other  
23 regulations that may be formulated by the OMSEZA, in coordination  
24 with the PEZA, the Bureau of Customs, the Bureau of Internal Revenue,  
25 and the DTI. However, in order to protect domestic industries, a  
26 Negative List of industries shall be drawn up and regularly updated by  
27 the PEZA. Enterprises engaged in industries included in such Negative  
28 List shall not be allowed to sell their products locally; and

29

1 h) The defense and security of the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone and its  
2 perimeter fence shall be the responsibility of the national government, in  
3 coordination with the OMSEZA and the concerned LGUs.  
4

5 **SEC. 6. *Development Goals of the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone.*** - The  
6 OMSEZA shall determine the development goals of the Occidental Mindoro  
7 Ecozone within the framework of national development plans, policies, and  
8 goals. The Chairperson-Administrator shall, upon approval by the Board of  
9 the OMSEZA, submit the plans, programs, and projects of the Occidental  
10 Mindoro Ecozone to the Regional Development Council for inclusion in the  
11 regional development plan.  
12

13 **SEC. 7. *Capitalization.*** - The OMSEZA shall have an authorized  
14 capital stock of two billion (2,000,000,000) no par shares with a minimum  
15 issue of Ten pesos (Php10.00) each, the majority shares of which shall be  
16 subscribed and paid for by the national government and the LGUs embracing  
17 the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone. The Board of Directors of the OMSEZA  
18 may, with the written concurrence of the Secretary of Finance, sell shares  
19 representing not more than forty *per centum* (40%) of the capital stock of the  
20 OMSEZA to the general public under such policy as the Board and the  
21 Secretary of Finance may determine. The national government and the LGUs  
22 of the Municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Sta. Cruz and Mamburao shall in no  
23 case own less than sixty *per centum* (60%) of the total issued and outstanding  
24 capital of the OMSEZA.  
25

26 The amount necessary to subscribe and pay for the shares of the national  
27 government to the capital stock of the OMSEZA shall be included in the  
28 General Appropriations Act. For the LGUs of the Municipalities of Abra de  
29 Ilog, Sta. Cruz and Mamburao, the funds shall be taken from their internal

1 revenue allotment and other local funds.

2  
3 **SEC. 8. *Principal Office of the OMSEZA.*** - The OMSEZA shall  
4 maintain its principal office in the Municipality of Mamburao, Province of  
5 Occidental Mindoro, but it may establish liaison offices within the Philippines  
6 as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its business.

7  
8 **SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the OMSEZA.*** - The OMSEZA  
9 shall have the following powers and functions:

10  
11 a) To operate, administer, manage, and develop the Occidental Mindoro  
12 Ecozone according to the principles and provisions set forth in this Act;

13  
14 b) To register, regulate, and supervise the enterprises in the Occidental  
15 Mindoro Ecozone in an efficient and decentralized manner, subject to  
16 existing laws;

17  
18 c) To coordinate with the LGUs and exercise general supervision over the  
19 development plans, activities, and operations of the Occidental Mindoro  
20 Ecozone;

21  
22 d) To regulate and undertake the establishment, construction, operation, and  
23 maintenance of public utilities, other services, and infrastructure in the  
24 Occidental Mindoro Ecozone such as light and power, shipping, barging,  
25 stevedoring, cargo handling, hauling, warehousing, storage of cargo, port  
26 services or concessions, piers, wharves, bulkheads, bulk terminals,  
27 mooring areas, storage areas, roads, telecommunications, transport,  
28 bridges, terminals, conveyors, water supply and storage, sewerage,  
29 drainage, port operations in coordination with Philippine Ports Authority,

1 airport operations in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority of  
2 the Philippines, and such other services or concessions or infrastructure  
3 necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of the objectives of this  
4 Act;

5  
6 e) To construct, acquire, own, lease, operate, and maintain on its own or  
7 through contracts, franchise, licenses, bulk purchase from the private  
8 sector or permits under any of the schemes allowed in Republic Act No.  
9 6957, otherwise known as the “Build-Operate-Transfer Law”, as  
10 amended, or joint venture, adequate facilities and infrastructure required  
11 or needed for the operation and development of the Occidental Mindoro  
12 Ecozone, in coordination with appropriate national and local government  
13 authorities and in conformity with applicable laws;

14  
15 f) To approve plans, programs, and projects of the Occidental Mindoro  
16 Ecozone to be submitted to the Regional Development Council for  
17 inclusion in the regional development plan;

18  
19 g) To operate on its own, either directly or through licenses to others,  
20 tourism-related activities, including games, amusements, recreational  
21 and sports facilities, subject to the approval and supervision of the  
22 Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation;

23  
24 h) To raise or borrow, within the limitation provided by law, and subject to  
25 the approval of the Monetary Board of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*  
26 (BSP), as the case may be, adequate and necessary funds from local or  
27 foreign sources, to finance its projects and programs under this Act and  
28 for this purpose, to issue bonds, promissory notes, and other forms of  
29 securities, and to secure the same by a guarantee, pledge, mortgage, deed

1 of trust or an assignment of all or part of its property or assets;

2  
3 i) To protect, preserve, maintain, and develop the forests, beaches, corals,  
4 and coral reefs, and maintain ecological balance within the Occidental  
5 Mindoro Ecozone. Notwithstanding the power of the OMSEZA to create  
6 rules for such purpose, the rules and regulations of the Department of  
7 Environment and Natural Resources and other government agencies  
8 involved in the above functions shall be implemented by the OMSEZA;

9  
10 j) To create, operate or contract to operate such functional units or offices  
11 of the OMSEZA as it may deem necessary;

12  
13 k) To adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal; contract, lease, buy, acquire,  
14 own or otherwise dispose of personal or real property of whatever nature;  
15 sue and be sued; and otherwise carry out its functions and duties as  
16 provided for in this Act;

17  
18 l) To issue certificates of origin for products manufactured or processed in  
19 the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone in accordance with prevailing rules of  
20 origin and the pertinent regulations of the PEZA, the DTI, and the  
21 Department of Finance (DOF);

22  
23 m) To establish one-stop shops for the issuance of all necessary permits,  
24 clearances, licenses, and other similar certifications to conduct such  
25 activities intended to improve the ease of doing business within the  
26 Occidental Mindoro Ecozone, in coordination with government agencies  
27 having jurisdiction over activities therein: *Provided*, That all government  
28 agencies are directed to provide and extend utmost and full cooperation  
29 to the OMSEZA in the establishment of such one-stop shops;

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- n) To ensure that the area covered by the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone is secure at all times: *Provided*, That the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) or the Philippine National Police (PNP) shall not interfere in the internal affairs of the OMSEZA except to provide the necessary security and defense, or law enforcement assistance, as the case may be: *Provided, finally*, That expenses of the AFP or the PNP in the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall be borne by the national government;
  
- o) To exercise such powers as may be essential, necessary or incidental to the powers granted to it by this Act, as well as those that shall enable it to carry out, implement and accomplish the purposes, objectives and policies set forth in this Act; and
  
- p) To issue rules and regulations consistent with the provisions of this Act as may be necessary to accomplish and implement the purposes, objectives, and policies provided herein.

**SEC. 10. Board of Directors of the OMSEZA.** - The powers of the OMSEZA shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following:

- a) A Chairperson, who shall at the same time be the administrator of the OMSEZA;
- b) A Vice-Chairperson who shall be elected from among the members of the Board of Directors;
- c) Members consisting of:
  - 1) The Governor of the Province of Occidental Mindoro or a duly-authorized representative from the Provincial Government of

- 1 Occidental Mindoro;
- 2 2) The mayors of the municipalities covered by the Occidental Mindoro
- 3 Ecozone;
- 4 3) One (1) representative from the investors' group; and
- 5 4) One (1) representative from among the workers in the Occidental
- 6 Mindoro Ecozone.

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8 The Governor or the Governor's duly authorized representative and the  
9 mayors of the municipalities of Abra de Ilog, Sta. Cruz and Mamburao shall  
10 serve as *ex officio* members of the Board, whose terms in the Board shall  
11 correspond to their terms as elected officials.

12

13 The Chairperson-Administrator and the members of the Board, except  
14 for the representatives of the investors and workers groups and the *ex officio*  
15 members, shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines to serve for a  
16 term of six (6) years, unless sooner separated from service due to death,  
17 voluntary resignation or removal for cause. In case of death, resignation or  
18 removal for cause, their replacements shall serve only the unexpired portion  
19 of the respective terms. No person shall be appointed as a member of the  
20 Board unless the person is a Filipino citizen, of good moral character, of  
21 proven probity and integrity, and a degree holder in any of the following  
22 fields: economics, business, public administration, law, management or their  
23 equivalent, and with at least ten (10) years relevant working experience,  
24 preferably in the field of management or public administration.

25

26 The members of the Board, except the *ex officio* members, shall each  
27 receive a *per diem* allowance at rates to be determined by the Department of  
28 Budget and Management in accordance with existing rules and regulations:  
29 *Provided, however,* That the total *per diem* allowance collected each month

1 shall not exceed the equivalent of four (4) meetings unless and until the  
2 President of the Philippines has fixed a higher rate for the *per diem* allowance  
3 for the members of the Board, such allowance shall not be more than Ten  
4 thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for every Board meeting.

5  
6 **SEC. 11. *Organization and Personnel.*** – The Board of Directors of the  
7 OMSEZA shall provide for its organization and staff. The Board shall appoint  
8 and fix the remuneration and other emoluments of its officers and employees  
9 in accordance with existing laws on compensation and position classification.  
10 The Board shall have exclusive and final authority to promote, transfer,  
11 assign, reassign, or remove officers of the OMSEZA, any provision of existing  
12 law to the contrary notwithstanding. The Chairperson-Administrator shall  
13 execute the decisions of the Board.

14  
15 The officers and employees of the OMSEZA shall not engage directly  
16 or indirectly in partisan activities nor take part in any election, except to vote.

17  
18 No officer or employee of the OMSEZA shall be removed or suspended  
19 except for cause, as provided by civil service rules and regulations.

20  
21 **SEC. 12. *Powers and Duties of the Chairperson-Administrator.*** – The  
22 Chairperson-Administrator shall have the following powers and duties:

- 23  
24 a) To direct and manage the affairs of the OMSEZA in accordance with  
25 the policies of the Board;  
26  
27 b) To establish the internal organization of the OMSEZA under such  
28 conditions that the Board may prescribe;

- 1 c) To submit an annual budget and necessary supplemental budget to the  
2 Board for its approval;  
3
- 4 d) To submit within thirty (30) days after the close of each fiscal year an  
5 annual report to the Board and such other reports as may be required;  
6
- 7 e) To submit to the Board for its approval, policies, systems, procedures,  
8 rules, and regulations that are essential to the operation of the  
9 Occidental Mindoro Ecozone;  
10
- 11 f) To recommend to the Board the remuneration and other emoluments of  
12 its officers and employees in accordance with existing laws on  
13 compensation and position classification;  
14
- 15 g) To create a mechanism in coordination with relevant agencies for the  
16 promotion of industrial peace, the protection of the environment, and  
17 the advancement of the quality of life in the Occidental Mindoro  
18 Ecozone; and  
19
- 20 h) To perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board or which  
21 are necessary or incidental to the office.  
22

23 **SEC. 13. *Legal Counsel.*** - The OMSEZA shall have its own internal  
24 legal counsel who shall be under the supervision of the Government Corporate  
25 Counsel. When the exigencies of business and operations demand it, the  
26 OMSEZA may engage the services of an outside counsel either on a case-to-  
27 case or on a fixed retainer basis.  
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3 **CHAPTER III**  
4 **INCENTIVES TO ECOZONE ENTERPRISES AND INVESTORS**

5 **SEC. 14. *Investors Visa.*** - Any foreign national who invests an amount  
6 of Two hundred thousand US dollars (US\$200,000.00) in a registered  
7 enterprise, either in cash or equipment, shall be entitled to an investor's  
8 visa: *Provided*, That the foreign national has the following qualifications:

- 9
- 10 a) Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
  - 11 b) Must not have been convicted by final judgment of a crime involving  
12 moral turpitude;
  - 13 c) Must not be afflicted with any dangerous or contagious disease;
  - 14 d) Must not have been confined in an institution for any mental disorder or  
15 disability; and
  - 16 e) Must be financially capable as borne out by credible and verifiable  
17 evidence.

18

19 With an investor's visa, an alien shall be entitled to reside in the  
20 Philippines while the investment subsists. The alien investor shall submit an  
21 annual report in the form duly prescribed for the purpose of proving that the  
22 investment in the country subsists. Should said alien investor withdraw the  
23 investments from the Philippines, then the investor's visa issued to said alien  
24 shall automatically expire and be withdrawn.

25

26 The authority to issue visas and work permits shall remain with the  
27 Bureau of Immigration (BI) and the Department of Labor and Employment  
28 (DOLE), respectively: *Provided*, That the BI and the DOLE shall implement  
29 measures to expedite the processing of such visas and permits for workers in

1 the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone and coordinate closely with the OMSEZA  
2 to facilitate the conduct of business operations.

3  
4 **SEC. 15. *Fiscal Incentives.*** - Registered enterprises of the Occidental  
5 Mindoro Ecozone may be entitled to pertinent fiscal incentives granted under  
6 Title XIII (Tax Incentives) of the National Internal Revenue Code, as  
7 amended.

8  
9 **SEC. 16. *Imposition of a Tax Rate of Five Percent (5%) on Special***  
10 ***Corporate Income Tax.*** – No taxes, local and national, shall be imposed on  
11 business establishments operating within the OMSEZA Ecozone, including  
12 income tax, withholding tax, donor’s tax, percentage tax, and documentary  
13 stamp tax. In lieu thereof, and subject to Section 15 of this Act, said business  
14 establishments shall pay a five percent (5%) final tax on special corporate  
15 income tax: *Provided*, That the proceeds from such final tax shall be shared  
16 by instrumentalities of the government in accordance with the following  
17 schedule:

- 18 a) Three *per centum* (3%) to the National Government;
- 19 b) Two *per centum* (2%) shall be directly remitted by the business  
20 establishments to the treasurer’s office of the municipality where the  
21 enterprise is located.

22 The OMSEZA shall have the authority to grant income tax holiday and  
23 net operating loss carry over subject to Section 15 of this Act and conditions  
24 as it may have imposed pursuant to Section 15 of this Act.

25 **SEC. 17. *Banking Rules and Regulations Governing Banks and***  
26 ***Other Financial Institutions.*** – Banks and other BSP-supervised financial  
27 institutions to be established in the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall be

1 under the supervision of the BSP and subject to existing banking laws, rules  
2 and regulations.

3  
4 **SEC. 18. *Remittances.*** - In the case of foreign investments, a duly  
5 registered entity or enterprise within the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall  
6 have the right to remit earnings to its investors in the currency in which the  
7 investment was originally made and at the exchange rate prevailing at the time  
8 of remittance, subject to the provisions of Republic Act No. 7653, otherwise  
9 known as the “New Central Bank Act” as amended.

10  
11 **CHAPTER IV**  
12 **NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER ENTITIES**

13  
14 **SEC. 19. *Supervision and Control.*** - For purposes of policy direction  
15 and coordination, the OMSEZA shall be under the direct control and  
16 supervision of the Office of the President of the Philippines.

17  
18 **SEC. 20. *Relationship with Local Government Units.*** – Except as  
19 herein provided, the LGUs comprising the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone shall  
20 retain their basic autonomy and identity. The Municipalities of Abra de Ilog,  
21 Sta. Cruz and Mamburao, Province of Occidental Mindoro shall operate and  
22 function in accordance with the framework of the Constitution, the Local  
23 Government Code of 1991, as amended, and this Act.

24  
25 In case of any conflict among the OMSEZA, the LGUs and the national  
26 government on matters affecting the Occidental Mindoro Ecozone, other than  
27 national defense and security matters, the decision of the OMSEZA shall  
28 prevail.



1           **SEC. 25. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act shall be  
2 held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected  
3 shall remain in full force and effect.

4  
5           **SEC. 26. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive orders or issuances  
6 or any part thereof, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed or  
7 amended accordingly.

8  
9           **SEC. 27. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
10 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11  
12           Approved.