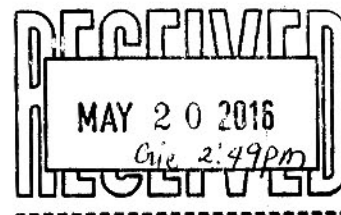




Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
Philippines



18 March 2016

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 18
Series of 2016

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SUBJECT : EXPIRATION OF MORATORIUM FOR VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE TO THIRD PARTY CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, Section 17 of the Republic Act No. 10068 otherwise known as the Organic Agriculture Act (OAA) of 2010 states that only third party certification is allowed to be labelled as organically produced;

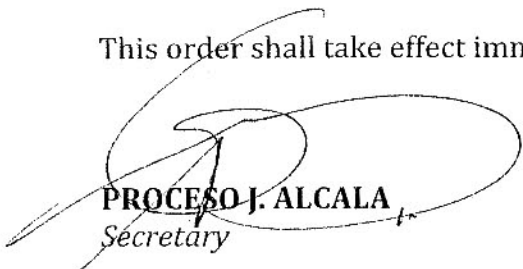
WHEREAS, Administrative Order No. 08 Series of 2013 amended Rules 15.1 and 17.1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of the Organic Agriculture Act (OAA) of 2010 declaring that there shall be a period of voluntary compliance to Third Party Certification until 01 April 2016;

WHEREAS, there is a need to protect the consumer from fraud and mislabelling of organically agriculture products; and to protect the integrity of certified products in conjunction with Republic Act No. 7394 otherwise referred to as the Consumer Act of the Philippines series of 1992;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute:

1. That only third party certified products are allowed to be labelled as organically produced pursuant to Section 17 of the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010;
2. The officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA), head of attached bureaus and agencies, Regional Executive Directors (REDs), and Organic Agriculture (OA) and BAFS Focal Persons at the DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs) shall conduct information dissemination activities to appropriately inform the stakeholders on the lifting of moratorium, and compliance with mandatory third party organic certification; and
3. That through the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), a Task Force for Organic Labeling Enforcement (TFOLE) shall be established in collaboration with the concerned offices and stakeholders in order to develop the Guidelines.

This order shall take effect immediately.


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary

