



NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BOARD

**Resolution No. 13
Series of 2017**

RECOMMENDING THE REVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 06 SERIES OF 2015 (REVISED GUIDELINES FOR OFFICIAL ACCREDITATION OF ORGANIC CERTIFYING BODIES) AMENDING SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE XII OR THE USE OF ORGANIC MARK

WHEREAS, Section No. 05 of Republic Act No. 10068 otherwise known as the "Organic Agriculture Act of 2010" established the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP or Program);

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board as the highest policy-making body provides general guidelines and direction towards the implementation of the Program;

WHEREAS, Section 15 of RA 10068 mandates the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) of the Department of Agriculture to grant official accreditation to organic certifying bodies (OCB) in accordance to the Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture and other relevant standards;

WHEREAS, the same section, particularly Rule 15.2 of the Implementing rules and regulations (IRR) authorizes the accreditation committee chaired by BAFS to revisit, update and regularly review the guidelines for official accreditation of OCB;

WHEREAS, Section 17 (*Labelling of Organic Produce*) of the Republic Act No. 10068 (RA No. 10068), otherwise known as Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (OAA) states that only third party certified products are allowed to be labelled as "Organic", and, that the label of certified organic produce shall contain the name, logo or seal of the organic certifying body and the official accreditation number issued by Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BAFS);

WHEREAS, in order to fully operationalize Sections 15 and 17 of RA 10068, the NOAB approved the Department Circular No. 06, Series of 2015 or the Revised Guidelines for the Official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies;

WHEREAS, Article XII of the Department Circular (DC) No. 6 s. of 2015, (*Revised Guideline on the official Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies*) states that the "Organic" mark issued by the DA-BAFS shall always accompany the logo of the Organic Certifying Bodies (OCBs) and its official accreditation number, and may appear only on organic certificate issuances, and on all certified products under its scope;



WHEREAS, based on international practices and due to economic reasons, the NOAB, during its 8th Regular Meeting held on July 06, 2017, recommended for the revision of the Department Circular No. 06 Series of 2015 to amend Article XII of the said guidelines stating the optional use of OCB logo accompanying the "Organic" mark issued by DA-BAFS;

NOW, THEREFORE, considering the foregoing, this Honorable Board, by virtue of the powers vested in it by RA 10068, has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to recommend the revision of the revised guidelines for the official accreditation of organic certifying bodies amending specifically Article XII or the Use of Organic Mark.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the BAFS together with the NCOA-OCB shall spearhead the activities (e.g. meetings, writeshops, public consultations) in line with the revision of the revised guidelines for the official accreditation of organic certifying bodies;

RESOLVED FINALLY, that should this recommendation be adhered to, the revised guidelines shall be presented by the BAFS to the NOAB for recommending approval and be endorsed to the Office of the Secretary for the final approval of the Department Secretary.

APPROVED by the following Members of the Board on July 06, 2017:



USEC BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT
Alternate Chairperson
Permanent Representative
Department of Agriculture (DA)

ASEC. EPIMACO V. DENSING III
Vice - Chairperson
Permanent Representative
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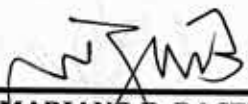


DIR. PILAR MARILYN PAGAYUNAN
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