

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10625, September 06, 2013]

AN ACT REORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE, ENTITLED "REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* . – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – It shall be the policy of the State to effect the necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional structures of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS), its agencies and instrumentalities, in order to rationalize and promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of statistical services, maintain an integrated statistical system characterized by independence, objectivity and integrity so as to enhance responsiveness to the requirements of equitable national development, promote the orderly development of a statistical system capable of providing timely, accurate and useful data for the government and the public, and support decentralization through the establishment of the statistical infrastructure necessary to service the statistical needs of local development planning.

SEC. 3. *Reorganization* . – The Philippine Statistical System, hereinafter referred to as the PSS, shall be reorganized structurally and functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Philippine Statistical System (PSS)* . – The PSS shall consist of statistical organizations at all administrative levels, the personnel therein and the national statistical program. This includes a policy-making body, a coordinating body with primary data collection capability, a statistical research and training institute, and all executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and instrumentalities of the national and local governments and all government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) and their subsidiaries that are engaged in statistical activities either as their primary functions or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions. The PSS shall remain decentralized with a strong coordination feature to be achieved through postings of trained personnel and closer linkage between statistical programming and budgeting.

SEC. 5. *Philippine Statistics Authority* . – There shall be created a Philippine Statistics Authority, hereinafter referred to as the PSA, attached to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for purposes of policy coordination. It shall be comprised of the PSA Board and offices on sectoral statistics, censuses and

technical coordination, civil registration and central support and field statistical services.

The PSA Board shall be the highest policy-making body on statistical matters. The data produced by the PSA shall be the official and controlling statistics of the government. The PSA shall be primarily responsible for all national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics, consolidation of selected administrative recording systems and compilation of the national accounts.

The PSA shall be constituted from among the existing personnel of the major statistical agencies engaged in primary data collection and compilation of secondary data, i.e., the National Statistics Office, herein referred to as the NSO; the Technical Staff of the National Statistical Coordination Board herein referred to as the NSCB; the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, herein referred to as the BAS; and the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics, herein referred to as the BLES.

The Department of Economic Statistics of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will continue to take charge of banking and financial statistics, including the Balance of Payments (BOP) and flow of funds.

SEC. 6. *Functions of the PSA.* – The PSA shall have the following functions:

- a. Serve as the central statistical authority of the Philippine government on primary data collection;
- b. Prepare and conduct periodic censuses on population, housing, agriculture, fisheries, business, industry and other sectors of the economy;
- c. Collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish statistical information relating to the country's economic, social, demographic, political affairs and general activities and condition of the people;
- d. Prepare and conduct statistical sample surveys on all aspects of socioeconomic life including agriculture, industry, trade, finance, prices and marketing information, income and expenditure, education, health, culture and social situations as well as the government and the political sector for the use of the government and the public;
- e. Carry out, enforce and administer civil registration functions in the country as provided for in Act No. 3753, otherwise known as the Civil Registry Law;
- f. Collaborate with departments of the national government including GOCCs and their subsidiaries in the collection, compilation, maintenance and publication of statistical information, including special statistical data derived from the activities of those departments, corporations and their subsidiaries;
- g. Promote and develop integrated social and economic statistics and coordinate plans for the integration of those statistics, including the national accounts;
- h. Develop and maintain appropriate frameworks and standards for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data;
- i. Coordinate with government departments and local government units (LGUs) on the promotion and adoption of statistical standards involving techniques,

methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications, and on the avoidance of duplication in the collection of statistical information;

j. Conduct continuing methodological, analytical and development activities, in coordination with the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI) to improve the conduct of censuses, surveys and other data collection activities;

k. Recommend executive and legislative measures to enhance the development of the statistical activities and programs of the government;

l. Prepare, in consultation with the PSA Board, a Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP);

m. Implement policies on statistical matters and coordination, as directed by the PSA Board; and

n. Perform other functions as may be assigned by the PSA Board and as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Composition of the PSA Board.* – The PSA Board shall be composed of the following: the NEDA Director-General, as Chairperson; the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) or the duly designated Undersecretary, as Vice Chairperson; National Statistician; one (1) representative each from the other departments in the national government; a representative of the BSP; the Executive Director of the PSRTI; a representative of the Philippine Statistical Association; a representative from the GOCCs; a representative each from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and the private sector to be appointed by the Chairperson of the PSA Board for a term of three (3) years, with reappointment, from a list of nominees submitted by the other members of the Board.

In the absence or temporary incapacity of the NEDA Director-General, the DBM Secretary or the duly designated Undersecretary shall act as the Chairperson of the Board.

The PSA Board shall constitute five (5) sections, each with a maximum of seven (7) members. Each section shall meet as often as possible to deliberate on matters to be discussed by the PSA Board. These sections are the following:

a. Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Services, Environment and Natural Resources, Prices and National Accounts;

b. Labor and Employment, Population, Women and Gender, Health and Welfare, Education, Science and Technology and other Socioeconomic Sectors;

c. Census and Survey Design;

d. Theoretical Statistics and Statistical Modeling; and

e. Statistical Information System and Information Technology.

The Board may create sections as deemed necessary and appropriate.

SEC. 8. *Meeting and Compensation* . – The PSA Board shall:

- a. Conduct its first organizational meeting within forty-five (45) days from the effectivity of this Act; and
- b. Hold regular quarterly meetings and have as many special meetings as may be necessary on call of the Chairperson or upon request of any fifteen (15) members thereof.

The members of the Board, except for the *ex officio* members, shall each receive *per diem* at rates to be determined by the DBM in accordance with existing rules and regulations: *Provided, however,* That the total *per diem* , collected each month shall not exceed the equivalent *per diem* for four (4) meetings.

SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the PSA Board* . – The PSA Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Establish appropriate mechanisms to promote and maintain an efficient and effective statistical system in the government;
- b. Formulate policies on all matters relating to government statistical operations, standards and classifications;
- c. Review the statistical programs of the departments and agencies of the national government and the LGUs and rationalize responsibilities in these government organizations on matters relating to such statistical programs;
- d. Review budgetary proposals involving statistical operations and submit an integrated budget for the PSS to the DBM;
- e. Prescribe appropriate frameworks for the improvement of statistical coordination and establish mechanisms for statistical coordination at the regional and LGU levels;
- f. Provide technical assistance and exercise supervision over major government statistical activities;
- g. Recommend executive and legislative measures to enhance the development and efficiency of the system, including the internal structure of statistical agencies; and
- h. Approve the Philippine Statistical Development Program.

The PSA Board shall act on and decide matters before it by a majority vote of all its members. A majority of the members of the PSA Board shall constitute a quorum in the conduct of its day to day affairs and business.

All agencies of government are hereby mandated to comply with any and all directives requested by the PSA Board, either *motu proprio* or through the PSA. Failure, without justifiable reason, by any agency to comply with this mandate shall result in the filing of administrative and criminal cases against the erring government personnel and the immediate superior concerned without prejudice to violation of any other law or regulation. In a criminal case, the penalties provided in the second paragraph of Section 27 hereof shall apply.

SEC. 10. *Inter-Agency Committees on Statistics*. – The following inter-agency statistical committees (IACs) shall be created by the PSA Board to coordinate and resolve agency and sectoral concerns on statistical matters. The IAC shall serve as a forum for discussion of the issues raised by concerned producers, users and other stakeholders of sectoral and agency-specific statistics:

- a. Committee on Agriculture;
- b. Committee on Trade and Industry Statistics;
- c. Committee on Infrastructure;
- d. Committee on Financial Statistics;
- e. Committee on Social Statistics;
- f. Committee on Gender Statistics;
- g. Committee on Environment and Natural Resources;
- h. Committee on Information and Communications Technology;
- i. Committee on Science and Technology;
- j. Committee on Governance;
- k. Committee on Migration;
- l. Committee on Fiscal Matters; and
- m. Committee on PSS Resources.

The PSA Board may create IACs to assist in the exercise of its functions or abolish them as appropriate. It shall define the functions and terms of reference of the IACs which will allow flexibility and the ability to respond to future emerging statistical concerns on various sectors.

The membership of the IACs may be increased or decreased as the exigencies of the work require: *Provided*, That these shall be authorized by the PSA Board. The IACs may create subcommittees or working groups as the need arises in the work to be done. Membership of said subcommittees or working groups shall come from the technical staff of the government agencies represented and other private entities.

The IACs shall submit to the PSA Board their work programs and report on the progress of their work, including findings and recommendations on technical issues referred to them.

SEC. 11. *The National Statistician* . – The National Statistician, as head of the PSA, must possess experience in the management of data collection and at least a Master's degree in Statistics. The National Statistician shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from among a list of nominees submitted by a Special Committee. The Special Committee shall be composed of representatives from the Philippine Statistical Association, the University of the Philippines' School of Statistics (UPSS), the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Institute of Statistics (UPLB-INSTAT), the Department of Economic Statistics of the BSP and the NEDA.

The National Statistician shall serve for a term of five (5) years and may be reappointed.

The National Statistician shall perform the following duties:

- a. Direct and supervise the general administration of the PSA;