

**[BAR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 16, S. 2013,
June 24, 2013]**

**IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS PURSUANT TO
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10089: "AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
RUBBER RESEARCH INSTITUTE (PRRL) TO DEVELOP THE
PHILIPPINE RUBBER INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE RUBBER RESEARCH
INSTITUTE ACT OF 2010"**

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine Rubber Research Institute Act of 2010."

Rule 1.1. Title - These Rules shall be known and cited as the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the Philippine Rubber Research Institute Act of 2010;

Rule 1.2. Purpose – These Rules are promulgated to prescribe the procedure and guidelines in the implementation of the Philippine Rubber Research Institute Act of 2010 to facilitate compliance therewith and achieve the objectives thereof;

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a. to develop self-reliant industries effectively controlled by Filipino;
- b. to encourage investments and provide incentives to private enterprise, promote employment and livelihood opportunities for the poor;
- c. to ensure well-balanced ecology in the use of natural resources for industrial purpose;
- d. to prioritize education and training particularly in science and technology for sustainable development;
- e. aim to comprehensively realize the goals of human empowerment and economic development in the country through programs and projects that will increase rubber production in the country;
- f. to improve quality of life especially in poor rural communities that depend primarily on this industry.

Rule 2.1. The main objective of these rules and regulations is to strengthen the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of RA 10089 in order to enhance the development and competitiveness of the Philippine rubber industry.

Rule 2.2. The rubber research and development (R&D) and all other aspects of the rubber industry shall be strengthened in order to increase rubber production and improve the quality of life of the rural communities that depend on this industry.

Rule 2.3. The mechanisms and strategies shall be instituted to promote livelihood opportunities for the poor by: a) providing access to quality budded rubber planting materials, modern production technologies, and other support services on production, processing, and marketing of rubber, and b) conducting trainings and capacity building for rubber stakeholders.

Rule 2.4. It shall also encourage investments and provide incentives to private enterprises by: a) providing training and accreditation to budders and tappers, b) providing technical support by experts for all sectors involved in rubber production, processing, and marketing, and c) promoting diversified cropping system, and ensuring good quality of rubber.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be defined in this Act as follows:

- a) "Philippine Rubber Research Institute" refers to the main institute for rubber at the Mindanao State University (MSU) to be based in the Municipality of Naga, Province of Zamboanga Sibugay and its satellite units as may be subsequently established whose mandate is to initiate and administer research and development program to improve quality and increase productivity of rubber especially for the benefit of smallholder rubber producers and processors.*
- b) "Rubber tree" refers to the robust, perennial tree crop which is the source of natural rubber, also scientifically known as Hevea brasiliensis.*
- c) "Latex" refers to a milky usually white fluid that is produced by bark cells of rubber trees, and is the raw material used in the manufacture of industrial, automotive and other latex products.*
- d) "Smallholder rubber producers" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations owning and/or cultivating five (5) hectares or less of rubber.*
- e) "Smallholder rubber processors" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations who maintain and/or operate small-scale processing plants of finished or semi finished rubber products and are capable of processing not more than fifty (50) metric tons of rubber annually.*
- f) "Rubber cooperatives" refer to duly organized and registered enterprises collectively owned and operated by groups of rubber products and/or processors who partake of and share among themselves the benefits and profits of their economic ventures.*
- g) "Big holder rubber producers" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations owning and/or cultivating more than five (5) hectares of rubber.*
- h) "Big holder rubber processors" refer to individuals, cooperatives or corporations that maintain and/or operate large-scale processing plants of finished or semi finished rubber products, capable of processing more than fifty (50) metric tons of rubber annually.*

Rule 3.1. As used in this IRR, the following words and phrases shall mean:

3.1.1. "Self-reliant industries" refer to established firms - capable of production, utilization and processing of rubber and rubber produce - that are classified as independent or highly unsubsidized by the government.

3.1.2. "Private enterprise" refers to any non-government owned

company or firm. This includes sole proprietorship, partnership, or a corporation recognized by the Securities Exchanged Commission (SEC) and is capable of investing and venturing into rubber production and processing.

- 3.1.3. "Livelihood opportunities" refer to the income-generating activities as direct or indirect results of proposed and/or existing rubber-related programs and policies.
- 3.1.4. "Well-balanced ecology" refers to a sustained healthy environment despite of human interventions and activities.
- 3.1.5. "Poor rural communities" refer to the groups of marginalized and underprivileged people in the society, having little or less knowledge and access to livelihood opportunities, who primarily depend but could be potentially tapped for the establishment of the rubber industry.
- 3.1.6. "Village-based rubber enterprises" refer to private- or government-owned firms engaged in rubber production and processing within a rural community, thereby providing livelihood opportunities to members of the community.
- 3.1.7. "Technical know-how" refers to the practical and scientific knowledge on the principles, practices and processes involved in rubber production and processing.
- 3.1.8. "Academic boards" refer to the Technical Working Group (TWG) or committee established in state universities and colleges (SUCs) that are responsible in planning, monitoring and implementing agriculture R&D programs.
- 3.1.9. "Satellite units" refer to research stations, under the DA or SUCs, other than the main PRRI office, where rubber research, development, and extension programs are being implemented.
- 3.1.10. "Managerial competencies" refer to the qualification of an excellent director having strong leadership and management skills.
- 3.1.11. "Information services" refer to the necessary communication, education, and extension materials and methods for proper and efficient dissemination of information to the recipients.
- 3.1.12. "Public-private partnership" refers to the collaboration between the government and non-government sectors with the aim of uplifting and promoting the Philippine rubber industry.

SECTION 4. Creation of the Philippine Rubber Research Institute. - There is hereby created the Philippine Rubber Research Institute, hereinafter referred to as the PRRI which shall be under the control and supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Rule 4.1. In the absence of MSU in Naga, Zamboanga Sibugay, the DA shall utilize the Zamboanga Peninsula Integrated Agricultural Research Center (ZAMPIARC) as the transition site of the PRRI.

Rule 4.2. An interim Executive Director of PRRI shall be appointed by the DA Secretary as mentioned in Section 6 of this Act.

SECTION 5. Powers and Functions of the PRRI. - The PRRI shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Propagate and promote the planting, maintenance, as well as wise utilization of rubber trees as source of latex and finished rubber products;*
- b. Enable rubber producers and processors, especially the smallholders, to have access to quality rubber buddings, modern production techniques and other support services from production to marketing of rubber;*
- c. Undertake training and capacity-building programs for rubber producers, processors and cooperatives in order to increase production of quality rubber and raise level of income especially of poor smallholders;*
- d. Aid in the establishment of village-based rubber enterprises to generate livelihood opportunities;*
- e. Promote cooperative development among stakeholders and provide them access to resources, technical know-how, as well as decision-making processes for the enhancement of their rubber enterprises and the protection of their welfare;*
- f. Initiate research and development projects on rubber production and processing in order to address technology and policy gaps in promoting a robust rubber industry, ensuring standard in production and meeting demands for quality rubber in both domestic and international trade; and*
- g. Enter into memoranda of agreement and receive grants from local and foreign funding agencies through the DA upon the recommendation of the PRRI Advisory Board; or through the respective academic boards of satellite units housed in concerned state universities and colleges upon the recommendation of the PRRI Advisory Board.*

Rule 5.1. Jurisdiction - PRRI shall formulate and ensure quality standards for the rubber industry such as protocols in the establishment and management of rubber plantations, harvesting and post-harvest management that will improve the quality of Philippine rubber products in coordination with the existing rubber research institutes, but not limited to the following:

- 1. Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR)**
- 2. Department of Agriculture - Zamboanga Peninsula Integrated Agricultural Research Center (DA-ZAMPIARC)**
- 3. University of Southern Mindanao - Philippine Industrial Crops Research Institute (USM-PICRI)**
- 4. University of the Philippines Los Baños - College of Forestry and Natural Resources (UPLB-CFNR)**

Rule 5.2. PRRI shall serve as a training center to develop highly competent manpower of the rubber industry.

Rule 5.3. PRRI shall provide laboratory services to all sectors of the industry. The laboratory services shall include, but not limited to the following: a) Rubber product standards quality testing; b) Chemical analysis; c) Biotechnology laboratory; and d) Plant disease laboratory.