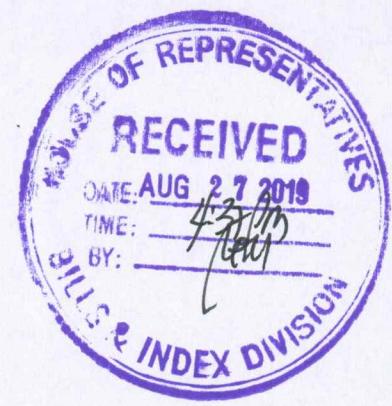


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4198

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

National government agencies are tasked to formulate and implement national policies, programs, and strategies for national development. Conversely, when it comes to urban and rural development, it is the role of Local Government Units (LGUs) to foster partnerships with the national government agencies and other institutions to facilitate such.

In an attempt to consolidate and coordinate rural development efforts, our government has pursued a convergence strategy through the National Convergence Initiative (NCI) since 1999.

This proposed measure refers to NCI as the complementation of efforts and resources between and among the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and LGUs to promote sustainable rural development. The NCI, under this bill, is a response to the fragmented and sometimes overlapping delivery of agriculture and rural development services.

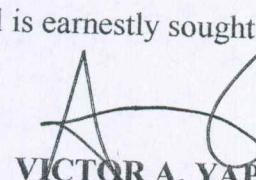
This bill specifically provides for the following:

1. A convergence strategy that adopts the watershed and integrated ecosystem management (IEM) as well as integrated area development (IAD) approaches as the intervention framework in the convergence area;
2. NCI implementation that will be done through Technical Working Groups in an ecosystem, which will ensure that the objectives of the NCI as a means of improving institutional efficiencies in the governance of sustainable rural development are achieved;
3. Creation of NCI Executive Board to serve as the policymaking body of the NCI that particularly directs the implementation of the provisions of the measure;
4. Establishment of the NCI-Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG) to serve as the advisory and recommendatory body to the Board on matters related to the implementation of the NCI;
5. Parallel NCI-TWGs to be established in the Regional, Provincial, and Municipal levels.

It is declared the policy of the State to promote agricultural development to ensure food security and alleviate poverty especially among the rural folks. In order to achieve this, the State shall endeavour to develop and operationalize a common framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable rural development through the convergence of the resources of the principal rural development departments to maximize its impact.

This bill generally aims to institutionalize the convergence strategy for sustainable rural development as well as provide the implementing mechanisms necessary for its success.

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



VICTOR A. YAP

Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 4198

Introduced by Representative Victor A. Yap

**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CONVERGENCE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS
THEREFOR**

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

**CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*National Convergence Initiative*
2 *Act.*”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies and Objectives.** – It is policy of the State to promote
4 agricultural development as a means to ensure food security and alleviate poverty especially
5 among the rural folks. Towards this end, the State shall develop and operationalize a common
6 framework for equitable, inclusive, and sustainable rural development through the convergence
7 of the resources of the principal rural development departments to maximize its impact.

8 The implementation of the National Convergence Strategy be guided by the following
9 principles:

- 10 a) The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)- Department of Interior
12 and Local Government (DILG)... (DA-DAR-DENR-DILG). National Convergence
13 shall be treated as an institutionalized complementation strategy between and among
14 these four (4) rural development departments. The Convergence shall work with
15 other national line agencies, donor agencies, international and local non-government
16 organizations (NGOs), people’s organizations (POs) mentioned in the Section 6
17 hereof;
- 18 b) The implementation of National Convergence strategy shall in no way alter and/or
19 impair the respective mandates of the four (4) rural developments departments;

- c) The critical role of local government units (LGUs) as the integrating and converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall be emphasized;
 - d) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development from planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation;
 - e) Complementation of resources and expertise of the concerned departments and LGUs shall take primordial consideration in the implementation of the Convergence Initiative;
 - f) Convergence shall be mainstreamed in all programs, projects and activities of the national government departments and concerned LGUs;
 - g) Instituting relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage investment by the private sector, cooperatives and other NGOs

SEC. 3. Scope. This Act shall apply to all rural development areas primarily inhabited targeted beneficiaries – the marginalized farmers (both agrarian reform beneficiaries and agrarian reform beneficiaries), fisherfolks, upland dwellers, and indigenous people.

CHAPTER II

DEFINITION

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act:

- a) *Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs)* refer to landless farmers and regular farm workers, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who were awarded lands as evidence by an Emancipation Patent (EP) or a Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27, or the Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the “Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988.” ARBs also include the leaseholders to the landowners’ retained areas who represent the ARB group which are not awarded with lands but whose tenurial rights have been strengthened through the registration of leasehold contracts.
 - b) *Agricultural lands* refer to lands devoted to or suitable for agricultural activity and not classified by law as mineral, forest, residential, commercial or industrial land.
 - c) *Agro-based cluster* refer to the concentration of producers, agribusiness and institutions that are engaged in the same agricultural or agro-industrial sub-sector, and inter-connect.
 - d) *Coastal areas* refer to a band of dry land and the adjacent ocean space (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses directly affect oceanic process and uses, and vice versa. For purposes of initiating and implementing the Convergence Initiative, it shall include foreshore land.
 - e) *Convergence Area* refers to the physical areas where the National Convergence Initiative — Sustainable Rural Development is implemented.

- 1 f) *Ecosystem* refers to the complex relationships among the living resources, habitats,
2 and residents of an area. It includes plants, trees, animals, fish, birds, micro-
3 organisms, water, soil, and people.
- 4 g) *Enhanced National Convergence Initiative (Enhanced NCI)* refers to the National
5 Convergence Initiative Strategy provided for under DA-DAR-DENR Joint
6 Memorandum Circular No 01, Series of 2010 and the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG Joint
7 Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2015.
- 8 h) *Farmers* refer to natural persons whose primary livelihood is cultivation of land or
9 the production of agricultural crops, agro-forestry products, livestock and/or
10 fisheries, either by himself/herself, or primarily with the assistance of his/her
11 immediate farm household, whether the land is owned by him/her or by another
12 person under a leasehold or share tenancy agreement or arrangement with the owner
13 thereof.
- 14 i) *Fisherfolks* refers to people directly or personally and physically engaged in taking
15 and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources.
- 16 j) *Good agricultural practices* refer to applied knowledge and practices geared at
17 addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability dimensions for on-
18 farm production and post-production processes, resulting in safe and quality food
19 and non-food agricultural products.
- 20 k) *Mangrove forests* refer to silt-rich, saline (brackish water) habitat generally found
21 along large rivers, deltas, and estuaries in the coastal areas. It is characterized by low
22 tree diversity with a low broken canopy. It serves as barrier to strong tidal waves and
23 habitat of various aquatic species.
- 24 l) *National Convergence Initiative (NCI)* refers to the complementation of efforts and
25 resources between and among the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, and LGUs that seek to
26 promote sustainable rural development. It is a response to the fragmented and
27 sometimes overlapping delivery of agriculture and rural development services.
- 28 m) *Primary forests or old growth forests* refer to untouched, pristine forest that exists in
29 its original condition and has been relatively unaffected by human activity.
- 30 n) *Ridge-to-Reef strategy* refers to the development approach to improve the lives of the
31 ARBs and small farmers, indigenous peoples, marginalized dwellers and fisherfolks
32 from upland and forest areas, in middle and lowland areas, down to the coastal areas.
- 33 o) *Rural development departments* in this Act refer to the DA, the DAR, the DENR,
34 and the DILG.
- 35 p) *Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ)* refer to areas
36 within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-industrial
37 Development (NPAAAD) identified for production, agro-processing and marketing
38 activities to help develop and modernize, with the support of the government, the

1 agriculture and fisheries sectors, in an environmentally and socio-culturally sound
2 manner.

- 3 q) *Secondary growth forests* refer to the largest and most dynamic natural forest
4 ecosystem in the Philippines. Further, it shall refer to an area which has been
5 disturbed in some way, naturally or unnaturally created in a number of ways such as
6 degraded forest recovering from the effects of selective logging or areas cleared by
7 slash-and-burn agriculture or "kaingin" that have been reclaimed by forest growth. It
8 is also characterized be a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less
9 diversity.
- 10 r) *Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)* refers to the development objectives of
11 meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities, without
12 compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs consistent
13 with the principles of social equity, efficiency and environmental integrity.
- 14 s) *Upland or forest ecosystems* refer to areas or at least an 18% slope that provides
15 ecological benefits and support to agricultural production, industries, water, and
16 power needs. Timber production as well as agro forestry activities may be promoted
17 in these areas to maximize their utilization.
- 18 t) *Watershed* refers to a topographically delineated area of land from which rainwater
19 can drain as surface run-off vis-à-vis a specific stream or river system to a common
20 outlet point which may be a dam, irrigation system or urban water supply take-of
21 point, or where the stream discharges into a river, lake or the sea.

CHAPTER III

PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK

24 **SEC. 5. Guiding Framework.** The convergence strategy shall adopt the watershed and
25 integrated ecosystem management (IEM) and integrated area development (IAD) approaches as
26 the intervention framework in the convergence areas. This is primarily because the "ridge to
27 reef" convergence strategy is an environmentally sustainable approach to development since
28 human interventions in the forest and upland areas would impact on the lowland areas, and this
29 in turn would affect the coastal and marine areas. Selection of convergence zones shall likewise
30 take into consideration the SAFDZ provision of Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the
31 "Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997".

32 **SEC. 6. Criteria for Selection of Convergence Areas.** The following criteria shall guide
33 the selection of convergence for the agro-enterprise cluster:

- 34 a) *Adequacy of ecosystem zones.* - The convergence sites should cut across the various
35 ecosystems or should be a combination of two (2) or more ecosystems;
- 36 b) *Key production zones, agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and clusters with
37 connectivity for increased productivity and income.* - The convergence sites should
38 be current key production areas or with potential to substantially expand and scale-

- 1 up production. As such, the area may transform from mono-cropping to integrated,
2 multi-cropping or high value farming system. In terms of connectivity, the key
3 production zone may be linked with surrounding areas for allied industries or
4 services, or for backward linkages;
- 5 c) *Combination of sites across major poverty groups.* - The convergence sites must
6 cover a significant number of small farmers, agricultural workers including actual
7 and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, indigenous people, and rural women and upland
8 dwellers;
- 9 d) The convergence sites should involve LGUs and local chief executives (LCEs) who
10 are willing to support the convergence initiative;
- 11 e) The convergence sites should have active POs and/or NGOs that can be tapped to
12 support the convergence initiative. Presence of private, business, academic, and
13 research institutions that are willing to partner within the convergence framework
14 shall be an advantage.

15 CHAPTER IV

16 NCI TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND COMPONENTS

17 **SEC. 7. Technical Working Groups of NCI.** The implementation of the NCI shall be
18 done through Technical Working Groups in an ecosystem. The three (3) working groups are
19 equally important and shall be mutually re-enforcing. They shall ensure that the objectives of
20 the NCI as a means of improving institutional efficiencies in the governance of sustainable rural
21 development are achieved. Infrastructure development shall form part of the improvement of the
22 ecosystem and shall sufficiently consider the impact of such development on ecosystem
23 services.

- 24 a) The TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management shall address the issues
25 and concerns pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs, sea grasses and
26 algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach forests ecosystems. The
27 TWG shall be composed of concerned departments/units of the DA, DAR, DENR
28 and the DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private sector
29 or business groups, and other associations may also be part of the TWG whenever
30 necessary.
- 31 b) The TWG on Sustainable Lowland Agriculture shall address issues and concerns on
32 the use and management of agricultural ecosystems through application of good
33 agricultural practices. The TWG shall be composed of concerned departments /
34 units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs /
35 POs, the academe, private sector or business groups / associations may also be part
36 of the TWG whenever necessary.
- 37 c) The TWG on Forestry and Upland Development shall address issues and concerns
38 on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and forests ecosystems

1 through conservation of biodiversity, protection of primary or old growth forests
2 and secondary growth forest, and rehabilitation of degraded and denuded
3 ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of concerned departments/units of the
4 DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/POs, the
5 academe, private sector or business groups/associations may also be part of the
6 TWG whenever necessary.

7 **SEC. 8. Components of the NCI.** The following shall serve as cross cutting components

8 of the three (3) TWGs.

- 9 a. Policy and Advocacy. The component shall address the issues and problems of
10 conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to land administration,
11 regulatory, framework, operational strategies and jurisdictional boundaries.
- 12 b. Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development. The component shall facilitate
13 enterprise development and agribusiness within the convergence sites though the
14 establishment of agro-enterprise clusters in all provinces. These clusters shall be the
15 focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the potential of the areas especially those
16 designated as strategic zones as identified by the SAFDZ maps.
- 17 c. Capacity Development. The component shall ensure the organizational preparedness
18 of the three agencies and capability of the implementers and other stakeholders to
19 implement the convergence initiative.
- 20 d. Knowledge Management. The component shall ensure that NCI programs, projects
21 and initiatives are implemented and monitored in an efficient and effective manner.
22 It shall likewise ensure that innovations are documented for possible adoption,
23 expansion and scaling up.

24 **CHAPTER V**

25 **IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM**

26 **Article One**

27 **National Policy Administration**

28 **SEC. 9. NCI Executive Board.** The NCI shall have an Executive Board hereinafter
29 referred to as the Board which shall act as the policy making body of the NCI. The Board shall
30 direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

31 The Board shall be composed of four (4) voting members:

- 32 a. The Secretary of the DA as Chairperson;
- 33 b. The Secretaries of the DENR, DAR and DILG as members; and The Executive
34 Director of the NCI Secretariat and as ex-officio member. The Department
35 Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent alternate representatives
36 whose rank shall not be lower than Undersecretary.

37 **SEC. 10. Powers and Functions.** The NCI Executive Board shall assume the following

38 powers and functions:

- 1 a. Provide overall policy directions for the implementation of programs/projects
2 and other related activities under the NCI;
- 3 b. Approve/ratify implementing rules and regulations, programs, projects and plans
4 pertaining to the operation of the NCI;
- 5 c. Appoint the National Focal Person (NFP) with a rank of Assistant Secretary and
6 a Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP) with a rank of Director IV to spearhead
7 the NCI Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG) and oversee and supervise NCI
8 operations.
- 9 d. Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders, and
10 partner agencies on policies and major programs related to sustainable rural
11 development;
- 12 e. Approve of Memorandum of Agreements with investors and funding agencies
13 being recommended for approval by the NCI National Focal Person;
- 14 f. Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCI, including the
15 membership of the National Convergence Initiative, Technical Working Group
16 (NCI-TWG), the three (3) NCI—Ecosystem Technical Working Groups (NCI-
17 ETWG) and the four (4) NCI- Component Working Groups (NCI-CWG),
18 through a Joint Special Order;
- 19 g. Allocate resources to carry out the plans, programs, projects, and other related
20 activities of the NCI;
- 21 h. Regularly advise the President on all matters concerning the implementation of
22 convergence initiative strategies;

23 **SEC. 11. Meetings of the Board.** The Board shall meet on a quarterly basis and may
24 hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Secretary of the DA shall act as Lead Convenor
25 while the Secretaries of the DAR, DENR and DILG shall act as Co-Convenors. In the absence
26 of the Lead Convenor and/or Co-Convenor of the host department, the present principal
27 members may decide or choose between themselves who will be the Chairperson of the
28 meeting. Furthermore, the NCI-Executive Board meetings may be done in rotation amongst the
29 five (5) departments;

30 **SEC. 12. National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person.** A National Focal
31 Person, who shall have a has a rank of Assistant Secretary, shall be appointed by the NCI
32 Executive Board to spearhead the NCI- Technical Working Group (NCI- TWG) and supervise
33 NCI operations. The National Focal Person assisted by a *Deputy National Focal Person*, shall
34 have a rank of Director IV. The NFP shall also convene the members of the NCI-TWG to
35 discuss updates/status on programs, projects and activities before the conduct of NCI Board
36 meetings. The NFP shall come from the lead agency (DA) while the DNFP shall come from any
37 of the three (3) co-convenor rural development departments.

1 **SEC. 13. The National Convergence Initiative-Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG)**—The NCI-TWG shall serve as the advisory and recommendatory body to the NCI Executive Board on matters related to the implementation of the NCI.

4 **SEC. 14. Composition of the NCI-TWG.** The NCI -TWG to be convened by the NCI
5 National Focal Person shall have the following members:

- 6 a. Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management
- 7 b. Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management
- 8 c. Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development
- 9 d. Convergence Focal Person, DA (Agro-Enterprise Development)
- 10 e. Convergence Focal Person, DAR (Policy and Advocacy)
- 11 f. Convergence Focal Person, DENR (Knowledge Management)
- 12 g. Convergence Focal Person, DILG (Capacity Development)
- 13 h. Executive Director, NCI Secretariat Office

14 **SEC. 15. Agency Convergence Focal Persons.** Each agency shall designate a
15 Convergence Focal Person who shall be responsible for the coordination and management of the
16 convergence program in their respective departments (national and field levels). The
17 Department Convergence Focal Person shall likewise be a member of the NCI-TWG.

18 **SEC. 16. Creation of NCI Secretariat Office.** A permanent NCI Secretariat shall be
19 created with the corresponding plantilla positions for its administrative and technical staff
20 compliment. Filling up of permanent personnel shall be based on the current and existing NCI
21 Secretariat organizational structure. The NCI Secretariat Office shall be headed by an Executive
22 Director who shall be appointed by the DA Secretary.

23 The NCI Secretariat shall be strengthened with detailed personnel coming from the
24 secretariat of the four (4) NCI core departments on top of the designated coordinators of each
25 working group. The NCI Secretariat shall work closely with the NCI National Focal Person and
26 Deputy National Focal Person, the Chairperson of the different Working Groups and the
27 Agency Convergence Focal Persons.

28 **SEC. 17. Functions of the NCI Secretariat.** The NCI Secretariat shall have the
29 following functions:

- 30 a. Coordinate the conduct of the NCI-Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and
31 workshops, writeshops, seminars, fora and consultations;
- 32 b. Provide administrative, logistics, and technical support to the NCI- NSC and NCI-TWG;
- 33 c. Document, prepare, and disseminate the highlights of the proceedings of NCI
34 Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;
- 35 d. Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during NCI
36 Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;

- e. Submit monitoring/progress reports to the NCI Executive Board and NCI-TWG and other oversight bodies;
- f. As coordinators, follow up on the activities to be conducted by the three (3) NCI-ETWGs and four (4) NCI-CWGs. Ensure that the timelines for the activities are strictly followed.
- g. Coordination with KM-TWG in management of convergence areas' database; and
- h. Perform other functions as the NCI Executive Board may direct. There shall be a satellite secretariat office to be established in the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG Department. Each satellite secretariat office shall be composed of staff from the offices of the Departments' respective Alternate Board Representatives.

Article Two

Sub-National Level Administration

SEC. 18. *Regional Convergence Initiative—Technical Working Group (RCI-TWG).*

Parallel to the NCI-TWG, the RCI-TWG shall manage and supervise the programs, projects, and other related activities at the regional level. The RCI-TWG shall be the regional arm of the NCI Executive Board in carrying out its functions.

SEC. 19. *Duties and Responsibilities*

- a. Work closely with other government line agencies and offices and with the Regional Development Council (RDC) and concerned Provincial Development Council (PDC) to ensure that the enhanced convergence - initiative interventions are aligned with the regional development agenda and initiatives;
- b. Facilitate complementation of efforts and resources for greater impact;
- c. Coordinate and work closely with the Provincial LGUs in the implementation of the NCI plans, programs, projects, and other related activities. The Regional Directors of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG may enter into an agreement with the Provincial Governor or LGU leagues, as necessary;
- d. Meet monthly or as deemed necessary.

SEC. 20. *Composition of the RCI-TWG.* The RCI-TWG shall be composed of:

- a. DA, DA, DENR or DILG Regional Directors, who may act as Chairperson;
- b. Depending on the result of the election of Chairperson, the three other rural development department directors will act as Co-Chairpersons;
- c. Regional Focal Persons for all the departments and Head RCI-TWG Secretariat as Members.

The Chairperson of the RCI-TWG shall be a convergence champion and shall be decided by and among the Regional Directors of DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Upon the completion of the RCI-TWG composition, a resolution to that effect shall be submitted to the NCI Secretariat. Membership of the RCI-TWG may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other agencies as deemed necessary.

1 The RCI-Secretariat shall be composed of representatives from the regional offices of
2 DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. The RCI Secretariat shall be headed by the Regional Focal
3 Person. The Regional Focal Person and the members of the RCI Secretariat shall be designated
4 by the Chairperson of RCI-TWG.

5 **SEC. 21. Provincial Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (PCI-TWG).**

6 The PCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans, programs, projects, and other related
7 activities of the NCI at their respective provinces in collaboration with RCI-TWG. The PCI-
8 TWG shall identify or determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services
9 needed such as, but not limited to infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and
10 institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and programs.

11 The Chairperson of the PCI-TWG shall be the Provincial Governor and the Provincial
12 heads of DAR, DENR and DILG shall be the Co-Chairpersons. The members of the PCI-TWG
13 are the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian
14 Reform Officer (PARO), Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), Provincial Planning and
15 Development Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Government — Environment and Natural
16 Resources Officer (PG-ENRO), the DA's Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO)
17 and Provincial Interior and Local Government Officer (PILGO). The respective interface
18 mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, DENR and DILG providing technical and
19 operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted to spearhead or manage the
20 convergence initiatives at the LGU level.

21 **SEC. 22. Municipal Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (MCI-TWG).**

22 The MCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans, programs, projects, and other
23 related activities of the NCI at their respective municipalities in collaboration with the PCI-
24 TWG. The MCI-TWG that identify or determine appropriate interventions, resources, and
25 support services needed such as, but not limited to, infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs,
26 lands, and institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and programs.

27 The Chairperson of the MCI-TWO shall be headed by the Municipal/City Mayor and the
28 Municipal head of DAR, DENR and DILG shall be the Co-Chairpersons. The members of the
29 MCI-TWG are the Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO),
30 City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Officer (C/MENRO), Municipal Agrarian
31 Reform Officer (MARO), Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO), concerned City/Municipal
32 Planning and Development Coordinator (C/MPDC), City/Municipal Interior and Local
33 Government Officer (C/MILGO) and a designated DA regional field office representative.

34 The respective interface mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, DENR and
35 DILG providing technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms may be adopted
36 to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU level.

Article Three

Monitoring and Evaluation

SEC. 23. A monitoring and evaluation system based on performance indicators set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be developed and strictly implemented and managed, and a regular reporting system shall be installed in an open and transparent manner, in accordance with the Management for Development Results (MDR) principles. The monitoring and evaluation report shall contain gaps and issues experienced during the implementation of the NCIs, the learnings on convergence as an approach to sustainable rural development, and proposed policy recommendations

CHAPTER VI

TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 24. *Convening of NCI Secretariat Office.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the NCI Secretariat Office. The current head of the Enhanced NCI Secretariat shall sit temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCI Secretariat Office until such time that a regular Executive Director has been appointed.

SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The implementing rules and regulations of this Act shall be drafted and approved by the NCI departments concerned within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 26. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.* Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCI Executive Board shall formulate and submit the NCI Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern to the President for final approval through the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

The DA shall assist in the preparation of the Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern of the NCI Secretariat Office with corresponding number of plantilla positions as well as budgetary requirements to effectively carry out its mandated functions under this Act.

SEC. 27. Appropriations. Funds necessary to carry out the implementation of the NCI shall be taken from the available funds of the DA, DAR, DENR and DILG under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the NCI Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of NCI plans and programs shall be included in the respective annual budget of the aforementioned Departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Other sources of funds such as grants, donations, and other forms of assistance from donor agencies and other public or private entities may be tapped and facilitated by NCI Executive Board to support the program, subject to regular auditing guidelines and procedures. Cost-sharing or counter parting schemes among national government and LGUs is also encouraged to support the implementation of the NCIs.

1 **SEC. 28. *Non-Impairment Clause.*** Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to
2 diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or available to marginalized or basic
3 sectors under existing laws including Republic Act Nos. 8371, 8550 and 6657.

4 **SEC. 29. *Separability Clause.*** If for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of this
5 Art shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof,
6 which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect

7 **SEC. 30. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or
8 parts or provisions thereof that are not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
9 modified accordingly.

10 **SEC. 31. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
11 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12
13 Approved.
14