



BAGONG PILIPINAS



Masaganang Agrikultura,  
Maunlad na Ekonomiya

Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
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## DEPARTMENT ORDER

No. 19

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT : RECONSTITUTION OF THE TRADE REMEDIES OFFICE (TRO) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – POLICY RESEARCH SERVICE (DA-PRS)**

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**WHEREAS**, Article XII, Section 19 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and enhance the welfare of its citizens, including ensuring fair competition and protecting domestic industries from unfair trade practices;

**WHEREAS**, the State enacted into law Republic Act (RA) No. 8751 (Countervailing Act of 1999), RA No. 8752 (Anti-Dumping Act of 1999), and RA No. 8800 (Safeguard Measures Act of 2000) as trade remedy laws to provide mechanisms to safeguard domestic industries, including those in the agriculture sector from unfair trade practices and import surges;

**WHEREAS**, the Department recognizes the importance of safeguarding the agricultural and fishery sector from unfair trade practices and import surges that adversely affect local producers and stakeholders;

**WHEREAS**, the DA, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Tariff Commission, are mandated to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the above-mentioned laws by the creation of a special unit within each agency to undertake the functions relative to the disposition of trade remedy cases;

**WHEREAS**, the current organizational structure of the existing Trade Remedies Unit (TRU) within the DA has integrated it into the broader organizational framework, which has resulted in challenges related to its effectiveness and efficiency in handling complex trade remedy cases; and,

**WHEREAS**, the necessity for the TRO to operate as a specialized and dedicated office has been recognized in order to comply with the legal and administrative requirements and enhance its capacity to address trade remedy matters with greater focus and efficiency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and other issuances, do hereby order:

**Section 1. *Institutionalization of the TRO.*** The TRU is hereby reconstituted as the TRO which shall be an ad-hoc unit under the direct technical and administrative control and supervision of the Director of the DA-PRS.

**Section 2. *Mandate and Functions.*** The TRO shall:

- a. Act on all matters concerning the implementation of trade remedy laws as it applies to agriculture and fishery products in coordination with DTI, Tariff Commission, and relevant stakeholders which includes but not limited to the following:
  - i. acceptance, review, and assessment of trade remedy cases;
  - ii. collection, consolidation, processing, management, review, analysis, and verification of relevant data and information; and
  - iii. investigation, enforcement, review, and monitoring and evaluation of trade remedy cases and corresponding measures taken.
- b. Serve as the DA central data and information repository of local and international trade statistics and trade remedies, supply and demand, production and prices, industry profiles, market studies, and similar data and information sources, for the efficient and effective implementation of trade remedies.
- c. Act as the technical and administrative Secretariat of the Oversight Committee for the Remedies Fund; and
- d. Manage the prudent and appropriate utilization of the Remedies Fund based on prescribed allowable expense items.

**Section 3. *Organizational Structure.*** Pending approval by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) of an organic division within the DA to be composed of permanent plantilla personnel, the Office shall be composed of three sections:

- a. *Trade Remedies Data Management, Research, and Advocacy Section.* This section is mandated to collect and manage data and information, conduct policy research, build capacity of relevant stakeholders, and provide information, education, and communication with respect to trade remedies. It shall have the following specific functions:
  - i. Collect, consolidate, process, and manage all relevant data and information needed for trade remedies;
  - ii. Design, establish, and maintain an electronic database management system, to be attached to or a subset of the DA National Information Network (NIN), in partnership with the DA-Information and Communications Technology Service (ICTS), DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS), other data-generating operating units of the Departments, and relevant government agencies, such as the Philippine Statistical Authority (PSA), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Tariff Commission, and Bureau of Import Service (BIS);

- iii. Conduct data analytics, statistical analysis, policy research, and provide policy recommendations from the data and information collected to support trade remedy case investigations;
  - iv. Prepare periodic data summaries, technical reports, position papers, and case papers related to trade remedies;
  - v. Conduct regular information dissemination and advocacy activities on trade remedies to establish awareness among relevant stakeholders; and
  - vi. Build capacity of relevant DA personnel and other relevant stakeholders on trade remedies.
- b. *Trade Remedies Investigation, Enforcement, and Monitoring and Evaluation Section.* This section is mandated to conduct initial investigation of trade remedies cases, coordinate with the Tariff Commission on the final investigation of trade remedies cases, assist in the enforcement of trade remedy measures, and regularly review, monitor and evaluate the trade measures imposed. It shall have the following specific functions:
- i. Conduct preliminary investigations for possible review, imposition, or termination of anti-dumping, countervailing or safeguard measures including price-based and volume-based special safeguard (SSG) on agricultural imports;
  - ii. Assist in the final investigation of the Tariff Commission;
  - iii. Assist in the enforcement of any trade remedy measures;
  - iv. Prepare periodic reports and policy papers on any investigation, implementation, or review of any trade remedy cases and corresponding measures;
  - v. Monitor and review trade remedies imposed against Philippine agricultural and fisheries exports by other countries;
  - vi. Participate in other countries' trade remedy investigations that directly or indirectly affect the domestic industry;
  - vii. Participate in the development of rules at the national, bilateral, regional, and multilateral initiatives; and
  - viii. Act as the Secretariat of the Oversight Committee for the Remedies Fund.
- c. *Trade Remedies Fund Management and Administrative Support Section.* This section is mandated to provide financial and administrative support to the TRO. It shall have the following specific functions:
- i. Receive, review, and evaluate all funding requests in terms of alignment with the stated purpose of the Remedies Fund pursuant to the guidelines on the utilization and management of the Remedies Fund;
  - ii. Recommend approval of funding requests for endorsement by the DA-PRS Director to the Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and Regulations or the Oversight Committee for the Remedies Fund;

- iii. Prepare financial accomplishment reports and other relevant documents pertaining to the management of the Fund;
- iv. Prepare all relevant planning, budget, and financial plans;
- v. Procure all allowed expense items pursuant to guidelines on the utilization and management of the Remedies Fund;
- vi. Manage all financial/payment transactions of the Office;
- vii. Manage all personnel-related transactions;
- viii. Conduct all planning, budget, and financial activities; and
- ix. Provide administrative support to all activities of the Office.

**Section 4. Staffing Pattern.** The Office shall be headed by a Division Chief who shall be directly reporting to the DA-PRS Director. The Division Chief shall be designated by the Secretary from among the plantilla personnel of the Department. The Chief shall be assisted by three Section Chiefs. The Office shall adopt the staffing pattern indicated in Annex A of this Order.

**Section 5. Staff Complement.** The staff complement of the Office may be sourced from existing plantilla and Contract of Service (COS) positions in the Department. Further, the DA-PRS Director shall be authorized to engage the services of additional COS personnel in support of the operations of the Office.


**Section 6. Fund Source for Staff Compensation.** Salaries and other emoluments of plantilla personnel to be reassigned to the Office shall be chargeable against the usual Personnel Services (PS) allocations of the Department. Compensation for services rendered by COS personnel and consultants to be engaged by the Office shall be sourced from the Remedies Fund subject to the prevailing guidelines on the utilization of the Remedies Fund and the usual government accounting and auditing rules.

**Section 7. Separability.** If any part or provision of this Order shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 8. Repeal.** All other orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are also hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 9. Effectivity.** This Order shall take effect immediately upon approval and shall remain in force until revoked in writing.

Done this 8th day of October 2024.

  
FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.



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**Annex A. Staffing Pattern of the Trade Remedies Office**

<b>OFFICE OF THE DA-POLICY RESEARCH SERVICE</b>		
<b>TRADE REMEDIES OFFICE</b>		
<b>Chief</b> Development Management Officer IV/V SG 22/24 (Plantilla Position to be Detailed to the Trade Remedies Office)		
<b>Trade Remedies Data Management, Research, and Advocacy Section</b>  Development Management Officer IV (Economist) SG 22 (COS)	<b>Trade Remedies Investigation, Enforcement, and Monitoring and Evaluation Section</b>  Attorney IV (Legal Officer) SG 23 (COS)	<b>Trade Remedies Fund Management and Administrative Support Section</b>  Financial and Management Officer I (Planning, Budget, and Finance Officer) SG 22 (COS)
Development Management Officer III (Statistician) SG 18 (COS)	Development Management Officer III (Safeguard Measures Specialist) SG 18 (COS)	Administrative Officer V (Procurement and Human Resource Officer) SG 18 (COS)
Development Management Officer III (IT Specialist) SG 18 (COS)	Development Management Officer III (Countervailing Duties Specialist) SG 18 (COS)	Senior Administrative Assistant III SG 15 (COS)

Development Management Officer III (Learning and Development/Communications Specialist) SG 18 (COS)	Development Management Officer III (Antidumping Specialist) SG 18 (COS)	Administrative Aide VI (Driver) SG 6 (COS)
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