



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SPECIAL ORDER

No. 208

Series of 2025

SUBJECT : DESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY PAZ J. BENAVIDEZ II AS HEAD OF THE INTERIM AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY REGULATORY SUPPORT PROGRAM UNIT

In the exigency of service, and pursuant to Department Order (DO) No. 13, series of 2024, **Atty. Paz J. Benavidez II**, Assistant Secretary for Policy and Regulations, is hereby designated as **HEAD, AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY REGULATORY SUPPORT PROGRAM (AFRSP) UNIT** in concurrent capacity with her regular functions, duties, and responsibilities, and other designations.

As such, she shall perform the following functions, duties, and responsibilities:

1. Exercise control and supervision over the Agriculture and Fishery Regulatory Support Program (AFRSP) Unit in the conduct of its day-to-day activities as the designated office within the Department mandated to provide technical support and assistance in the implementation of the regulatory policies, programs, and activities of the operating units (OUs) under the Program;
2. Direct the performance of activities relevant to the formulation, finalization, implementation, and review of the Plans and Budget Proposals (PBP) of the OUs under the AFRSP pursuant to the Program Expenditure Classification (PREXC) system such as, but not limited to, the conduct of the Midyear and Year-End Assessment Workshops;
3. Harmonize the implementation of regulatory services at the field level with the policies and issuances of the DA Regulatory Agencies, including the rationalization and alignment of budgetary resources between and among the OUs under the AFRSP;
4. Provide guidance, in coordination with the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations, to the Regulatory Divisions under the DA Regional Field Offices;
5. Supervise the activities of the AFRSP relevant to its role as the focal office for the Regulatory Functional Cluster pursuant to Special Order (SO) No. 1772, series of 2024, *"Amendment to Special Order No. 1087, Series of 2024 re: Creation of the Steering Committee and Technical Management Team Focal Agency for the Institutionalization of Clustering by Functions within the Department of Agriculture"*;

6. Provide leadership in efforts to institutionalize the DA Regulations Service as a service-level regular office of the Department pursuant to Department Order No. 13, series of 2024 and in view of the ongoing review of the organizational structure of the Department pursuant to SO No. 1681, series of 2024;
7. Evaluate and recommend to the Secretary, Undersecretary for Administration, or the Chair of the Review Committee on the Selection, Hiring, and Adoption of the Compensation System for Contract of Service Personnel for approval the necessary revisions to the structure of the Unit to strengthen its role as the interim staff office coordinating the regulatory portfolio in the DA Central Office in the absence of a staff-level Regulations Office; and,
8. Perform such other functions, duties, and responsibilities inherent to the designation and as may be directed by the Secretary.

She is entitled to traveling expenses, per diem, and incidental expenses that may be incurred in the performance of her functions, duties, and responsibilities in view of this designation, chargeable against OSEC funds, subject to existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

All officials and employees of the Department, including its Bureaus, Attached Agencies and Corporations, and the Regional Field Offices are hereby advised of this designation and directed to give their full support and cooperation to Assistant Secretary Benavidez in the performance of her duties and responsibilities.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in force unless revoked in writing. All orders, memoranda, and issuances inconsistent with herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 4th day of FEBRUARY 2025.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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