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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. 9146

(In Substitution of HB Numbered 2258 & 3953)

Introduced by Representatives ANNA KATRINA "TRINA" M. ENVERGA, ELISA T. KHO, DEOGRACIAS B. RAMOS, JR., RODANTE D. MARCOLETA, FERNANDO V. GONZALES, EVELINA G. ESCUDERO, ALLEN JESSE C. MANGAOANG, WILFREDO S. CAMINERO, PETER JOHN D. CALDERON, WILTER WEE PALMA II, NOEL L. VILLANUEVA, RODEL M. BATOCABE, LEOPOLDO N. BATAOIL, ORESTES T. SALON, MA. LOURDES R. AGGABAO, FEDERICO S. SANDOVAL II, JOSE ANTONIO "KUYA JONATHAN" R. SY-ALVARADO, ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE, MICHAEL JOHN R. DUAVIT, CORAZON NUÑEZ-MALANGYAON, CARLOS O. COJUANGCO, CELSO L. LOBREGAT, MARK AERON H. SAMBAR, EMI G. CALIXTO-RUBIANO, JESULITO A. MANALO, ISAGANI S. AMATONG, EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO, ENRICO A. PINEDA, JOSEPHINE RAMIREZ-SATO, JULIETTE T. UY AND NOEL L. VILLANUEVA

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

*Be 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
2 *Initiative Act.*"

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

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

- 10 (a) The Department of Agriculture (DA)-Department of Agrarian Reform
11 (DAR)-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)-
12 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) (DA-DAR-DENR-
13 DILG). National Convergence shall be treated as an institutionalized
14 complementation strategy between and among these four (4) rural
15 development departments. The Convergence shall work with other
16 national line agencies, donor agencies, international and local non-
17 government organizations (NGOs), people's organizations (POs) mentioned
18 in Section 6 hereof;
- 19 (b) The implementation of a national convergence strategy shall in no way
20 alter and/or impair the respective mandates of the four (4) rural
21 development departments;
- 22 (c) The critical role of local government units (LGUs) as the integrating and
23 converging force for sustainable rural development at the local level shall
24 be emphasized;
- 25 (d) The participatory approach shall be adopted in all phases of development:
26 from planning and budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and
27 evaluation;
- 28 (e) Complementation of resources and expertise of the concerned departments
29 and LGUs shall take primordial consideration in the implementation of
30 the Convergence Initiative;
- 31 (f) Convergence shall be mainstreamed in all programs, projects and
32 activities of the national government departments and concerned LGUs;

1 (g) Instituting relevant measures for an enabling environment to encourage
2 investment by the private sector, cooperatives and other NGOs.

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

7
8 **CHAPTER II**
9 **DEFINITION**

10
11 SEC. 4. **Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act:

12 (a) *Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs)* refer to landless farmers and
13 regular farm workers, irrespective of tenurial arrangement, who were
14 awarded lands as evidenced by an Emancipation Patent (EP) or a
15 Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) under Presidential Decree
16 (PD) No. 27, or the Republic Act (RA) No. 6657, as amended, otherwise
17 known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988." ARBs also
18 include the leaseholders to the landowners' retained areas who represent
19 the ARB group which are not awarded with lands but whose tenurial
20 rights have been strengthened through the registration of leasehold
21 contracts.

22 (b) *Agricultural lands* refer to lands devoted to or suitable for agricultural
23 activity and not classified by law as mineral, forest, residential,
24 commercial or industrial land.

25 (c) *Agro-based cluster* refers to the concentration of producers, agribusiness
26 and institutions that are engaged in the same agricultural or agro-
27 industrial sub-sector, and inter-connect.

28 (d) *Coastal areas* refer to a band of dry land and the adjacent ocean space
29 (water and submerged land) in which terrestrial processes and uses
30 directly affect oceanic process and uses, and vice versa. For purposes of
31 initiating and implementing the Convergence Initiative, it shall include
32 foreshore land.

1 (e) *Convergence Area* refers to the physical areas where the National
2 Convergence Initiative – Sustainable Rural Development is implemented.

3 (f) *Ecosystem* refers to the complex relationships among the living resources,
4 habitats, and residents of an area. It includes plants, trees, animals, fish,
5 birds, micro-organisms, water, soil, and people.

6 (g) *Enhanced National Convergence Initiative (Enhanced NCI)* refers to the
7 National Convergence Initiative Strategy provided for under DA-DAR-
8 DENR Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, Series of 2010 and the DA-
9 DAR-DENR-DILG Joint Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2015.

10 (h) *Farmers* refer to natural persons whose primary livelihood is cultivation of
11 land or the production of agricultural crops, agro-forestry products,
12 livestock and/or fisheries, either by himself/herself, or primarily with the
13 assistance of his/her immediate farm household, whether the land is
14 owned by him/her or by another person under a leasehold or share tenancy
15 agreement or arrangement with the owner thereof.

16 (i) *Fisherfolk* refers to people directly or personally and physically engaged in
17 taking and/or culturing and processing fishery and/or aquatic resources.

18 (j) *Good agricultural practices* refer to applied knowledge and practices
19 geared at addressing environmental, economic and social sustainability
20 dimensions for on-farm production and post-production processes,
21 resulting in safe and quality food and non-food agricultural products.

22 (k) *Mangrove forests* refer to silt-rich, saline (brackish water) habitat
23 generally found along large rivers, deltas, and estuaries in the coastal
24 areas. It is characterized by low tree diversity with a low broken canopy. It
25 serves as barrier to strong tidal waves and habitat of various aquatic
26 species.

27 (l) *National Convergence Initiative (NCI)* refers to the complementation of
28 efforts and resources between and among the DA, DAR, DENR, DILG, and
29 LGUs that seek to promote sustainable rural development. It is a response
30 to the fragmented and sometimes overlapping delivery of agriculture and
31 rural development services.

1 (m) *Primary forests or old growth forests* refer to untouched, pristine forest
2 that exists in its original condition and has been relatively unaffected by
3 human activity.

4 (n) *Ridge-to-Reef strategy* refers to the development approach to improve the
5 lives of the ARBs and small farmers, indigenous peoples, marginalized
6 dwellers and fisherfolks from upland and forest areas, in middle and
7 lowland areas, down to the coastal areas.

8 (o) *Rural development departments* in this Act refer to the DA, the DAR, the
9 DENR, and the DILG.

10 (p) *Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones (SAFDZ)* refer to
11 areas within the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-
12 industrial Development (NPAAAD) identified for production, agro-
13 processing and marketing activities to help develop and modernize, with
14 the support of the government, the agriculture and fisheries sectors, in an
15 environmentally and socio-culturally sound manner.

16 (q) *Secondary growth forests* refer to the largest and most dynamic natural
17 forest ecosystem in the Philippines. Further, it shall refer to an area
18 which has been disturbed in some way, naturally or unnaturally created in
19 a number of ways such as degraded forest recovering from the effects of
20 selective logging or areas cleared by slash-and-burn agriculture or
21 "kaingin" that have been reclaimed by forest growth. It is also
22 characterized by a less developed canopy structure, smaller trees, and less
23 diversity.

24 (r) *Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)* refers to the development objectives
25 of meeting the needs of the present generation in the rural communities,
26 without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own
27 needs consistent with the principles of social equity, efficiency and
28 environmental integrity.

29 (s) *Upland or forest ecosystems* refer to areas or at least an 18% slope that
30 provides ecological benefits and support to agricultural production,
31 industries, water, and power needs. Timber production as well as agro

1 forestry activities may be promoted in these areas to maximize their
2 utilization.

3 (t) *Watershed* refers to a topographically delineated area of land from which
4 rainwater can drain as surface run-off vis-à-vis a specific stream or river
5 system to a common outlet point which may be a dam, irrigation system or
6 urban water supply take-of point, or where the stream discharges into a
7 river, lake or the sea.

8 9 CHAPTER III 10 PHYSICAL FRAMEWORK 11

12 SEC. 5. ***Guiding Framework.*** The convergence strategy shall adopt the
13 watershed and integrated ecosystem management (IEM) and integrated area
14 development (IAD) approaches as the intervention framework in the convergence
15 areas. This is primarily because the "ridge to reef" convergence strategy is an
16 environmentally sustainable approach to development since human
17 interventions in the forest and upland areas would impact on the lowland areas,
18 and this in turn would affect the coastal and marine areas. Selection of
19 convergence zones shall likewise take into consideration the SAFDZ provision of
20 Republic Act No. 8435 otherwise known as the "Agriculture and Fisheries
21 Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997".
22

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

25 (a) Adequacy of ecosystem zones. - The convergence sites should cut across the
26 various ecosystems or should be a combination of two (2) or more
27 ecosystems;

28 (b) Key production zones, agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and clusters
29 with connectivity for increased productivity and income.- The convergence
30 sites should be current key production areas or with potential to
31 substantially expand and scale-up production. As such, the area may
32 transform from mono-cropping to integrated, multi-cropping or high value

1 farming system. In terms of connectivity, the key production zone may be
2 linked with surrounding areas for allied industries or services, or for
3 backward linkages;

4 (c) Combination of sites across major poverty groups. - The convergence sites
5 must cover a significant number of small farmers, agricultural workers
6 including actual and potential ARBs, fisherfolk, indigenous people, and
7 rural women and upland dwellers;

8 (d) The convergence sites should involve LGUs and local chief executives
9 (LCEs) who are willing to support the convergence initiative;

10 (e) The convergence sites should have active POs and/or NGOs that can be
11 tapped to support the convergence initiative. Presence of private, business,
12 academic, and research institutions that are willing to partner within the
13 convergence framework shall be an advantage.

14 15 CHAPTER IV

16 NCI TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWGs) AND COMPONENTS

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

26 (a) The TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management shall address the
27 issues and concerns pertaining to the use and management of coral reefs,
28 sea grasses and algal beds, brackish wetland areas, mangroves and beach
29 forests ecosystems. The TWG shall be composed of concerned
30 departments/units of the DA, DAR, DENR and the DILG. Other
31 government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private sector or business

1 groups, and other associations may also be part of the TWG whenever
2 necessary.

3 (b) The TWG on Sustainable Lowland Agriculture shall address issues and
4 concerns on the use and management of agricultural ecosystems through
5 application of good agricultural practices. The TWG shall be composed of
6 concerned departments / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG. Other
7 government agencies, NGOs / POs, the academe, private sector or business
8 groups / associations may also be part of the TWG whenever necessary.

9 (c) The TWG on Forestry and Upland Development shall address issues and
10 concerns on the use and sustainable management of the upland areas and
11 forests ecosystems through conservation of biodiversity, protection of
12 primary or old growth forests and secondary growth forest, and
13 rehabilitation of degraded and denuded ecosystems. The TWG shall be
14 composed of concerned departments / units of the DA, DAR, DENR, and
15 DILG. Other government agencies, NGOs/ POs, the academe, private
16 sector or business groups / associations may also be part of the TWG
17 whenever necessary.

18
19 **SEC. 8. Components of the NCI.** The following shall serve as cross
20 cutting components of the three (3) TWGs.

21 (a) Policy and Advocacy. The component shall address the issues and
22 problems of conflicting, overlapping, and other unclear policies related to
23 land administration, regulatory, framework, operational strategies and
24 jurisdictional boundaries.

25 (b) Agro-Enterprise and Agribusiness Development. The component shall
26 facilitate enterprise development and agribusiness within the convergence
27 sites through the establishment of agro-enterprise clusters in all provinces.
28 These clusters shall be the focus for agribusiness initiatives based on the
29 potential of the areas especially those designated as strategic zones as
30 identified by the SAFDZ maps.

1 (c) Capacity Development. The component shall ensure the organizational
2 preparedness of the three agencies and capability of the implementors and
3 other stakeholders to implement the convergence initiative.

4 (d) Knowledge Management. The component shall ensure that NCI programs,
5 projects and initiatives are implemented and monitored in an efficient and
6 effective manner. It shall likewise ensure that innovations are documented
7 for possible adoption, expansion and scaling up.

8 9 CHAPTER V

10 11 IMPLEMENTING STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM

12 Article One

13 National Policy Administration

14
15 SEC. 9. **NCI Executive Board.** The NCI shall have an Executive Board
16 hereinafter referred to as the Board which shall act as the policy making body of
17 the NCI. The Board shall direct the implementation of the provisions of this Act.

18
19 The Board shall be composed of four (4) voting members:

- 20 (a) The Secretary of the DA as Chairperson;
21 (b) The Secretaries of the DENR, DAR and DILG as members ; and
22 (c) The Executive Director of the NCI Secretariat and as *ex-officio* member.

23 The Department Secretaries may appoint their respective permanent
24 alternate representatives whose rank shall not be lower than
25 Undersecretary.

26
27 SEC. 10. **Powers and Functions.** The NCI Executive Board shall assume
28 the following powers and functions:

- 29 (a) Provide overall policy directions for the implementation of
30 programs/projects and other related activities under the NCI;
31 (b) Approve/ratify implementing rules and regulations, programs, projects and
32 plans pertaining to the operation of the NCI;

1 (c) Appoint the National Focal Person (NFP) with a rank of Assistant
2 Secretary and a Deputy National Focal Person (DNFP) with a rank of
3 Director IV to spearhead the NCI Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG)
4 and oversee and supervise NCI operations.

5 (d) Consult with other concerned national government agencies, stakeholders,
6 and partner agencies on policies and major programs related to
7 sustainable rural development;

8 (e) Approve of Memorandum of Agreements with investors and funding
9 agencies being recommended for approval by the NCI National Focal
10 Person;

11 (f) Approve the implementation and coordination structure of the NCI,
12 including the membership of the National Convergence Initiative
13 Technical Working Group (NCI-TWG), the three (3) NCI-Ecosystem
14 Technical Working Groups (NCI-ETWG) and the four (4) NCI- Component
15 Working Groups (NCI-CWG), through a Joint Special Order;

16 (g) Allocate resources to carry out the plans, programs, projects, and other
17 related activities of the NCI;

18 (h) Regularly advise the President on all matters concerning the
19 implementation of convergence initiative strategies;

20
21 **SEC. 11. Meetings of the Board .** The Board shall meet on a quarterly
22 basis and may hold special meetings as deemed necessary. The Secretary of the
23 DA shall act as Lead Convenor while the Secretaries of the DAR, DENR and
24 DILG shall act as Co-Convenors. In the absence of the Lead Convenor and/or Co-
25 Convenor of the host department, the present principal members may decide or
26 choose between themselves who will be the Chairperson of the meeting.
27 Furthermore, the NCI-Executive Board meetings may be done in rotation
28 amongst the five (5) departments;

29
30 **SEC. 12. National Focal Person and Deputy National Focal Person.**

31 A National Focal Person, who shall have a has a rank of Assistant Secretary,
32 shall be appointed by the NCI Executive Board to spearhead the NCI- Technical

1 Working Group (NCI- TWG) and supervise NCI operations. The National Focal
2 Person assisted by a *Deputy National Focal Person*, shall have a rank of Director
3 IV. The NFP shall also convene the members of the NCI-TWG to discuss
4 updates/status on programs, projects and activities before the conduct of NCI
5 Board meetings. The NFP shall come from the lead agency (DA) while the DNFP
6 shall come from any of the three (3) co-convenor rural development departments.

7
8 **SEC. 13. *The National Convergence Initiative-Technical Working***
9 ***Group (NCI-TWG)***—The NCI-TWG shall serve as the advisory and
10 recommendatory body to the NCI Executive Board on matters related to the
11 implementation of the NCI.

12
13 **SEC. 14. *Composition of the NCI-TWG.*** The NCI -TWG to be convened
14 by the NCI National Focal Person shall have the following members:
15 (a) Chairperson, TWG on Coastal and Marine Resources Management
16 (b) Chairperson, TWG on Lowland Resources Management
17 (c) Chairperson, TWG on Forestry and Upland Development
18 (d) Convergence Focal Person, DA (Agro-Enterprise Development)
19 (e) Convergence Focal Person, DAR (Policy and Advocacy)
20 (f) Convergence Focal Person, DENR (Knowledge Management)
21 (g) Convergence Focal Person, DILG (Capacity Development)
22 (h) Executive Director, NCI Secretariat Office

23
24 **SEC. 15. *Agency Convergence Focal Persons.*** Each agency shall
25 designate a Convergence Focal Person who shall be responsible for the
26 coordination and management of the convergence program in their respective
27 departments (national and field levels). The Department Convergence Focal
28 Person shall likewise be a member of the NCI-TWG.

29
30 **SEC. 16. *Creation of NCI Secretariat Office.*** A permanent NCI
31 Secretariat shall be created with the corresponding plantilla positions for its
32 administrative and technical staff compliment. Filling up of permanent

1 personnel shall be based on the current and existing NCI Secretariat
2 organizational structure. The NCI Secretariat Office shall be headed by an
3 Executive Director who shall be appointed by the DA Secretary.

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

10

11 **SEC. 17. *Functions of the NCI Secretariat.*** The NCI Secretariat shall
12 have the following functions:

- 13 (a) Coordinate the conduct of the NCI-Executive Board and NCI-TWG
14 meetings and workshops, writeshops, seminars, fora and consultations;
15 (b) Provide administrative, logistics, and technical support to the NCI- NSC
16 and NCI-TWG;
17 (c) Document, prepare, and disseminate the highlights of the proceedings of
18 NCI Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;
19 (d) Ensure that appropriate actions are taken on agreements reached during
20 NCI Executive Board and NCI-TWG meetings and activities;
21 (e) Submit monitoring/progress reports to the NCI Executive Board and NCI-
22 TWG and other oversight bodies;
23 (f) As coordinators, follow up on the activities to be conducted by the three (3)
24 NCI-ETWGs and four (4) NCI-CWGs. Ensure that the timelines for the
25 activities are strictly followed.
26 (g) Coordination with KM-TWG in management of convergence areas'
27 database; and,
28 (h) Perform other functions as the NCI Executive Board may direct.

29 There shall be a satellite secretariat office to be established in the DA,
30 DAR, DENR and DILG Department. Each satellite secretariat office shall
31 be composed of staff from the offices of the Departments' respective
32 Alternate Board Representatives.

1 DILG. Upon the completion of the RCI-TWG composition, a resolution to that
2 effect shall be submitted to the NCI Secretariat. Membership of the RCI-TWG
3 may be expanded to include representatives from the Provincial LGUs and other
4 agencies as deemed necessary.

5 The RCI-Secretariat shall be composed of representatives from the
6 regional offices of DA, DAR, DENR and DILG. The RCI Secretariat shall be
7 headed by the Regional Focal Person. The Regional Focal Person and the
8 members of the RCI Secretariat shall be designated by the Chairperson of RCI-
9 TWG.

10
11 **SEC. 21. Provincial Convergence Initiative Technical Working**
12 **Group (PCI-TWG).** The PCI-TWG shall be responsible in implementing plans,
13 programs, projects, and other related activities of the NCI at their respective
14 provinces in collaboration with RCI-TWG. The PCI-TWG shall identify or
15 determine appropriate interventions, resources, and support services needed
16 such as, but not limited to infrastructure, logistics, extension, inputs, lands, and
17 institutional development for the implementation of the NCI plans and
18 programs.

19 The Chairperson of the PCI-TWG shall be the Provincial Governor and the
20 Provincial heads of DAR, DENR and DILG shall be the Co-Chairpersons. The
21 members of the PCI-TWG are the Provincial Environment and Natural
22 Resources Officer (PENRO), Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO),
23 Provincial Agriculture Officer (PAO), Provincial Planning and Development
24 Coordinator (PPDC), Provincial Government – Environment and Natural
25 Resources Officer (PG-ENRO), the DA's Agricultural Program Coordinating
26 Officer (APCO) and Provincial Interior and Local Government Officer (PILGO).
27 The respective interface mechanisms shall be LGU-led with DA, DAR, DENR and
28 DILG providing technical and operational support. Existing LGU mechanisms
29 may be adopted to spearhead or manage the convergence initiatives at the LGU
30 level.

31

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

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

9 The Chairperson of the MCI-TWG shall be headed by the Municipal / City
10 Mayor and the Municipal head of DAR, DENR and DILG shall be the Co-
11 Chairpersons. The members of the MCI-TWG are the Community Environment
12 and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO), City/Municipal Environment and
13 Natural Resource Officer (C/MENRO), Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer
14 (MARO), Municipal Agriculture Officer (MAO), concerned City/Municipal
15 Planning and Development Coordinator (C/MPDC), City/Municipal Interior and
16 Local Government Officer (C/MILGO) and a designated DA regional field office
17 representative.

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

22
23 **Article Three**

24 **Monitoring and Evaluation**

25
26 SEC. 23. A monitoring and evaluation system based on performance
27 indicators set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall be
28 developed and strictly implemented and managed, and a regular reporting
29 system shall be installed in an open and transparent manner, in accordance with
30 the Management for Development Results (MDR) principles. The monitoring and
31 evaluation report shall contain gaps and issues experienced during the

1 implementation of the NCIs, the learnings on convergence as an approach to
2 sustainable rural development, and proposed policy recommendations.

3
4 **CHAPTER VI**
5 **TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

6
7 **SEC. 24. *Convening of NCI Secretariat Office.*** Within sixty (60) days
8 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall convene the
9 NCI Secretariat Office. The current head of the Enhanced NCI Secretariat shall
10 sit temporarily as Officer-in-Charge of the NCI Secretariat Office until such time
11 that a regular Executive Director has been appointed.

12
13 **SEC. 25. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The implementing
14 rules and regulations of this Act shall be drafted and approved by the NCI
15 departments concerned within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 26. *Structure and Staffing Pattern.*** Within sixty (60) days from
18 the effectivity of this Act, the NCI Executive Board shall formulate and submit
19 the NCI Secretariat Office's proposed organizational structure and staffing
20 pattern to the President for final approval through the Department of Budget
21 and Management (DBM).

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

26
27 **SEC. 27. *Appropriations.*** Funds necessary to carry out the
28 implementation of the NCI shall be taken from the available funds of the DA,
29 DAR, DENR and DILG under the current General Appropriations Act.
30 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the full operation of the NCI
31 Secretariat Office and the staggered implementation of NCI plans and programs

1 shall be included in the respective annual budget of the aforementioned
2 Departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

9
10 SEC. 28. **Non-Impairment Clause.** Nothing in this Act shall be
11 construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or
12 available to marginalized or basic sectors under existing laws including Republic
13 Act Nos. 8371, 8550 and 6657.

14
15 SEC. 29. **Separability Clause.** If for any reason or reasons, any part or
16 provision of this Act shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid,
17 other parts or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby shall continue to
18 be in full force and effect.

19
20 SEC. 30. **Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
21 regulations or parts or provisions thereof that are not consistent with this Act are
22 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

23
24 SEC. 31. **Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 Approved.