



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6229

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DURANO, ESCUDERO, RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), GONZALES (N.) APACIBLE, HERRERA-DY, GULLAS, ALCALA, CO, BATOCABE, GARBIN, CAJAYON, SAKALURAN, GOLEZ (A.), TEODORO AND YAP (S.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2204

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AN ACT REORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE, ENTITLED "REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Philippine  
2 Statistical Act of 2012".

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to  
4 effect the necessary and proper changes in the organizational and functional  
5 structures of the Philippine Statistical System (PSS), its agencies and  
6 instrumentalities, in order to rationalize and promote efficiency and  
7 effectiveness in the delivery of statistical services, maintain an integrated  
8 statistical system characterized by independence, objectivity and integrity so as  
9 to enhance responsiveness to the requirements of equitable national  
10 development, promote the orderly development of a statistical system capable  
11 of providing timely, accurate and useful data for the government and the  
12 public, and support decentralization through the establishment of the statistical

1 infrastructure necessary to service the statistical needs of local development  
2 planning.

3 SEC. 3. *Reorganization.* – The Philippine Statistical System,  
4 hereinafter referred to as the PSS, shall be reorganized structurally and  
5 functionally, in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

6 SEC. 4. *Philippine Statistical System (PSS).* – The PSS shall consist  
7 of statistical organizations at all administrative levels, the personnel therein  
8 and the national statistical program. This includes a policy-making body, a  
9 coordinating body with primary data collection capability, a statistical research  
10 and training institute, and all executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies  
11 and instrumentalities of the national and local governments and all  
12 government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) and their  
13 subsidiaries that are engaged in statistical activities either as their primary  
14 functions or as part of their administrative or regulatory functions. The PSS  
15 shall remain decentralized with a strong coordination feature to be achieved  
16 through postings of trained personnel and closer linkage between statistical  
17 programming and budgeting.

18 SEC. 5. *Philippine Statistics Authority.* – There shall be created a  
19 Philippine Statistics Authority, hereinafter referred to as the PSA, attached to  
20 the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for purposes of  
21 policy coordination. It shall be comprised of the PSA Board and offices on  
22 sectoral statistics, censuses and technical coordination, civil registration and  
23 central support and field statistical services.

24 The PSA Board shall be the highest policy-making body on statistical  
25 matters. The data produced by the PSA shall be the official and controlling  
26 statistics of the government. The PSA shall be primarily responsible for all  
27 national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics, consolidation of selected  
28 administrative recording systems and compilation of the national accounts.

1           The PSA shall be constituted from among the existing personnel of the  
2 major statistical agencies engaged in primary data collection and compilation  
3 of secondary data, i.e., the National Statistics Office, herein referred to as the  
4 NSO; the Technical Staff of the National Statistical Coordination Board,  
5 herein referred to as the NSCB; the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, herein  
6 referred to as the BAS; and the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics,  
7 herein referred to as the BLES.

8           The Department of Economic Statistics of the Bangko Sentral ng  
9 Pilipinas (BSP) will continue to take charge of banking and financial statistics,  
10 including the Balance of Payments (BOP) and flow of funds.

11           SEC. 6. *Functions of the PSA.* – The PSA shall have the following  
12 functions:

13           (a) Serve as the central statistical authority of the Philippine  
14 government on primary data collection;

15           (b) Prepare and conduct periodic censuses on population, housing,  
16 agriculture, fisheries, business, industry and other sectors of the economy;

17           (c) Collect, compile, analyze, abstract and publish statistical  
18 information relating to the country's economic, social, demographic, political  
19 affairs and general activities and condition of the people;

20           (d) Prepare and conduct statistical sample surveys on all aspects of  
21 socioeconomic life including agriculture, industry, trade, finance, prices and  
22 marketing information, income and expenditure, education, health, culture and  
23 social situations as well as the government and the political sector for the use  
24 of the government and the public;

25           (e) Carry out, enforce and administer civil registration functions in the  
26 country as provided for in Act No. 3753, otherwise known as the Civil  
27 Registry Law;

1 (f) Collaborate with departments of the national government including  
2 GOCCs and their subsidiaries in the collection, compilation, maintenance and  
3 publication of statistical information, including special statistical data derived  
4 from the activities of those departments, corporations and their subsidiaries;

5 (g) Promote and develop integrated social and economic statistics and  
6 coordinate plans for the integration of those statistics, including the national  
7 accounts;

8 (h) Develop and maintain appropriate frameworks and standards for the  
9 collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of data;

10 (i) Coordinate with government departments and local government  
11 units (LGUs) on the promotion and adoption of statistical standards involving  
12 techniques, methodologies, concepts, definitions and classifications, and on the  
13 avoidance of duplication in the collection of statistical information;

14 (j) Conduct continuing methodological, analytical and development  
15 activities, in coordination with the Philippine Statistical Research and Training  
16 Institute (PSRTI) to improve the conduct of censuses, surveys and other data  
17 collection activities;

18 (k) Recommend executive and legislative measures to enhance the  
19 development of the statistical activities and programs of the government;

20 (l) Prepare, in consultation with the PSA Board, a Philippine Statistical  
21 Development Program (PSDP);

22 (m) Implement policies on statistical matters and coordination, as  
23 directed by the PSA Board; and

24 (n) Perform other functions as may be assigned by the PSA Board and  
25 as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

26 *SEC. 7. Composition of the PSA Board.* – The PSA Board shall be  
27 composed of the following: the National Statistician as Chairperson; the  
28 Director-General of the NEDA and the Secretary of the Department of Budget

1 and Management (DBM) or their duly designated Undersecretary, as Vice  
2 Chairperson; one (1) representative each from the other departments in the  
3 national government; a representative of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; the  
4 Executive Director of the PSRTI; a representative of the Philippine Statistical  
5 Association; a representative from the GOCCs; a representative each from the  
6 Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) and the private sector to  
7 be appointed by the Chairperson of the PSA Board for a term of three (3)  
8 years, with reappointment, from a list of nominees submitted by the other  
9 members of the Board.

10 In the absence or temporary incapacity of the National Statistician, the  
11 NEDA Director-General shall act as the Chairperson of the Board. In the  
12 absence of both the National Statistician and the NEDA Director-General, the  
13 DBM representative shall act as the Chairperson of the Board.

14 The PSA Board shall constitute five (5) sections, each with a maximum  
15 of seven (7) members. Each section shall meet as often as possible to  
16 deliberate on matters to be discussed by the PSA Board. These sections are  
17 the following:

18 (a) Agriculture, Industry, Trade and Services, Environment and Natural  
19 Resources, Prices and National Accounts;

20 (b) Labor and Employment, Population, Women and Gender, Health  
21 and Welfare, Education, Science and Technology and other Socioeconomic  
22 Sectors;

23 (c) Census and Survey Design;

24 (d) Theoretical Statistics and Statistical Modeling; and

25 (e) Statistical Information System and Information Technology.

26 The Board may create sections as deemed necessary and appropriate.

27 SEC. 8. *Meeting and Compensation.* – The PSA Board shall:

1 (a) Conduct its first organizational meeting within forty-five (45) days  
2 from the effectivity of this Act; and

3 (b) Hold regular quarterly meetings and have as many special meetings  
4 as may be necessary on call of the Chairperson or upon request of any fifteen  
5 (15) members thereof.

6 The members of the Board, except for the *ex officio* members, shall each  
7 receive *per diem* at rates to be determined by the DBM in accordance with  
8 existing rules and regulations: *Provided, however,* That the total *per diem*  
9 collected each month shall not exceed the equivalent *per diem* for four (4)  
10 meetings.

11 SEC. 9. *Powers and Functions of the PSA Board.* – The PSA Board  
12 shall have the following powers and functions:

13 (a) Establish appropriate mechanisms to promote and maintain an  
14 efficient and effective statistical system in the government;

15 (b) Formulate policies on all matters relating to government statistical  
16 operations, standards and classifications;

17 (c) Review the statistical programs of the departments and agencies of  
18 the national government and the LGUs and rationalize responsibilities in these  
19 government organizations on matters relating to such statistical programs;

20 (d) Review budgetary proposals involving statistical operations and  
21 submit an integrated budget for the PSS to the DBM;

22 (e) Prescribe appropriate frameworks for the improvement of statistical  
23 coordination and establish mechanisms for statistical coordination at the  
24 regional and LGU levels;

25 (f) Provide technical assistance and exercise supervision over major  
26 government statistical activities;

1 (g) Recommend executive and legislative measures to enhance the  
2 development and efficiency of the system, including the internal structure of  
3 statistical agencies; and

4 (h) Approve the Philippine Statistical Development Program.

5 The PSA Board shall act on and decide matters before it by a majority  
6 vote of all its members. A majority of the members of the PSA Board shall  
7 constitute a quorum in the conduct of its day to day affairs and business.

8 All agencies of government are hereby mandated to comply with any  
9 and all directives requested by the PSA Board, either *motu proprio* or through  
10 the PSA. Failure, without justifiable reason, by any agency to comply with this  
11 mandate shall result in the filing of administrative and criminal cases against  
12 the erring government personnel and the immediate superior concerned without  
13 prejudice to violation of any other law or regulation. In a criminal case, the  
14 penalties provided in the second paragraph of Section 27 hereof shall apply.

15 SEC. 10. *Inter-Agency Committees on Statistics.* -- The following  
16 inter-agency statistical committees (IACs) shall be created by the PSA Board  
17 to coordinate and resolve agency and sectoral concerns on statistical matters.  
18 The IAC shall serve as a forum for discussion of the issues raised by concerned  
19 producers, users and other stakeholders of sectoral and agency-specific  
20 statistics:

21 (a) Committee on Agriculture;

22 (b) Committee on Trade and Industry Statistics;

23 (c) Committee on Infrastructure;

24 (d) Committee on Financial Statistics;

25 (e) Committee on Social Statistics;

26 (f) Committee on Gender Statistics;

27 (g) Committee on Environment and Natural Resources;

28 (h) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

- 1 (i) Committee on Science and Technology;
- 2 (j) Committee on Governance;
- 3 (k) Committee on Migration;
- 4 (l) Committee on Fiscal Matters; and
- 5 (m) Committee on PSS Resources.

6 The PSA Board may create IACs to assist in the exercise of its functions  
7 or abolish them as appropriate. It shall define the functions and terms of  
8 reference of the IACs which will allow flexibility and the ability to respond to  
9 future emerging statistical concerns on various sectors.

10 The membership of the IACs may be increased or decreased as the  
11 exigencies of the work require: *Provided*, That these shall be authorized by  
12 the PSA Board. The IACs may create subcommittees or working groups as the  
13 need arises in the work to be done. Membership of said subcommittees or  
14 working groups shall come from the technical staff of the government agencies  
15 represented and other private entities.

16 The IACs shall submit to the PSA Board their work programs and report  
17 on the progress of their work, including findings and recommendations on  
18 technical issues referred to them.

19 SEC. 11. *The National Statistician.* – The National Statistician, as  
20 head of the PSA, must possess experience in the management of data  
21 collection and at least a Master's degree in Statistics. The National Statistician  
22 shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from  
23 among a list of nominees submitted by a Special Committee. The Special  
24 Committee shall be composed of representatives from the Philippine Statistical  
25 Association, the University of the Philippines' School of Statistics (UPSS),  
26 the University of the Philippines-Los Baños Institute of Statistics  
27 (UPLB-INSTAT), the Department of Economic Statistics of the BSP and the  
28 NEDA.

1           The National Statistician shall serve for a term of five (5) years and may  
2 be reappointed.

3           The National Statistician shall perform the following duties:

4           (a) Direct and supervise the general administration of the PSA;

5           (b) Prescribe rules and regulations, instructions, schedule and form of  
6 business of the PSA in the collection, compilation and dissemination of  
7 statistics and other information and in the conduct of any census;

8           (c) Provide overall direction in the implementation of the Civil  
9 Registry Law and related issuances and exercise technical supervision over the  
10 local civil registrars as Civil Registrar General;

11           (d) Direct and manage the implementation and execution of policies,  
12 standards, rules and regulations formulated by the PSA Board;

13           (e) Issue appointments of PSA personnel below the rank of Director;

14           (f) Represent PSA as signatory to all contracts, researches and other  
15 awards;

16           (g) Represent the Philippines in regional and international conferences  
17 and meetings as the country's highest authority with respect to statistical  
18 matters;

19           (h) Submit a report to the President of the Republic of the Philippines  
20 through the NEDA Director-General on the activities of the PSA in the  
21 preceding year. Such report shall also be submitted separately in the annual  
22 report to Congress during the presentation of the President's budget; and

23           (i) Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the PSA  
24 Board.

25           SEC. 12. *Organizational Structure of the PSA.* – The PSA offices  
26 shall be composed of the Sectoral Statistics Office, Censuses and Technical  
27 Coordination Office, Civil Registration and Central Support Office, Field

1 Statistical Services comprising of the regional offices and provincial statistical  
2 offices.

3 The PSA shall be headed by a National Statistician and assisted by three

4 (3) Deputy National Statisticians:

5 (a) Deputy National Statistician for Sectoral Statistics;

6 (b) Deputy National Statistician for Censuses and Technical  
7 Coordination; and

8 (c) Deputy National Statistician for Civil Registration and Central  
9 Support.

10 There shall be established, directly under the Office of the National  
11 Statistician, the following support units:

12 (1) Legal Services;

13 (2) Statistical Methodology;

14 (3) International Cooperation; and

15 (4) Management and Corporate Planning.

16 The Deputy National Statistician for Sectoral Statistics shall supervise  
17 three (3) Assistant National Statisticians (ANS), who shall oversee the  
18 following offices:

19 (1) Macroeconomic Accounts Statistics – shall be responsible for the  
20 development and maintenance of national accounts, regional accounts, satellite  
21 accounts, input/output tables and other related macroeconomic accounts;

22 (2) Economic Sector Statistics – shall be responsible for the production  
23 of primary data on agriculture, industry, trade, services, environment and  
24 natural resources, prices and other related economic statistics; and

25 (3) Social Sector Statistics – shall be responsible for the production of  
26 primary data on labor and employment, population, women and gender, health  
27 and welfare, education, science and technology, housing and urbanization,  
28 emerging concerns and other related social statistics.

1           The Deputy National Statistician for Censuses and Technical  
2 Coordination shall supervise three (3) Assistant National Statisticians, who  
3 shall oversee the following offices:

4           (1) National Censuses – shall be responsible for the planning and  
5 production of data from censuses on population and housing, agriculture,  
6 fisheries and economic activities; and development and maintenance of  
7 sampling frames and geographic information on population and housing,  
8 agriculture, fisheries and economic activities;

9           (2) Standards – shall be responsible for the formulation and monitoring  
10 of statistical development programs, formulation of standards and  
11 classification, including glossary of statistical terms and geographic  
12 classification; and

13           (3) Information Technology (IT) and Dissemination – shall be  
14 responsible for the development and maintenance of IT systems and programs,  
15 IT operations, statistical data archives, communication and information  
16 services.

17           The Deputy National Statistician for Civil Registration and Central  
18 Support shall supervise two (2) Assistant National Statisticians, who shall  
19 oversee the following offices:

20           (1) Civil Registration – shall be responsible for the civil registry  
21 document management and archiving, data center, policy advocacy and  
22 research on civil registration matters, outlet and customer services and other  
23 civil registration concerns; and

24           (2) Central Support – shall be responsible for the general  
25 administration, financial services, human resource management, human  
26 resource development and procurement.

27           SEC. 13. *Sectoral Statistics Office.* -- The Sectoral Statistics Office  
28 shall:

1 (a) Provide technical staff support to the PSA in the areas of  
2 agriculture, natural resources, agrarian reform, mining and quarrying,  
3 manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, energy, construction, foreign and  
4 domestic trade, services, science and technology, finance, investment,  
5 population, women and gender, health, nutrition, education, labor and  
6 employment, social welfare, governance, public order and justice;

7 (b) Provide technical staff support to the PSA in generating the national  
8 accounts and the development and maintenance of economic and social  
9 accounts;

10 (c) Plan and conduct surveys as may be required, in accordance with  
11 the approved statistical calendar; and

12 (d) Perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the National  
13 Statistician.

14 SEC. 14. *Censuses and Technical Coordination Office.* – The  
15 Censuses and Technical Coordination Office shall:

16 (a) Prepare, conduct, process and disseminate census results in  
17 accordance with the approved statistical calendar;

18 (b) Maintain and develop statistical standards and classification  
19 systems;

20 (c) Provide technical assistance to other concerned government offices  
21 to meet their statistical requirements for policy-making, planning and  
22 programming;

23 (d) Coordinate the activities of the Regional Statistical Services;

24 (e) Provide information technology systems and programming and IT  
25 operations support for the PSA projects;

26 (f) Provide other PSA offices with cartographic services;

27 (g) Maintain archives and communication and information services of  
28 PSA generated data;

1 (h) Provide the data center for statistics and civil registration; and

2 (i) Perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the National  
3 Statistician.

4 SEC. 15. *Civil Registration and Central Support Office.* – The Civil  
5 Registration and Central Support Office shall provide technical and support  
6 services to the various units of the PSA in the areas of administrative services,  
7 financial management services and human resources. It shall likewise provide  
8 technical and support services for the efficient functioning of civil registration  
9 system and perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the National  
10 Statistician.

11 SEC. 16. *Field Statistical Services.* – A Regional Statistical Services  
12 Office (RSSO) and Provincial Statistical Office (PSO) shall be established in  
13 each of the administrative regions and provinces, respectively. The RSSO and  
14 PSO shall:

15 (a) Provide technical staff support to the PSA;

16 (b) Provide technical assistance as may be required by the  
17 implementing agencies and local governments in the regions and provinces;  
18 and

19 (c) Perform such other tasks as may be assigned by the National  
20 Statistician.

21 SEC. 17. *Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute*  
22 *(PSRTI).* – The PSRTI is hereby created and shall be attached to the NEDA  
23 for purposes of policy coordination. As such, the Statistical Research and  
24 Training Center (SRTC) is hereby abolished and all SRTC assets and  
25 liabilities, appropriations, records and personnel, if any, shall be transferred to  
26 the PSRTI.

27 SEC. 18. *Functions of the PSRTI.* – The PSRTI shall carry out the  
28 following functions:

1 (a) Develop a comprehensive and integrated research and training  
2 program on the theories, concepts and methodologies for the promotion of the  
3 statistical system;

4 (b) Undertake research on statistical concepts, definitions and methods;

5 (c) Promote collaborative research efforts among members of the  
6 academic community, data producers and users;

7 (d) Conduct nondegree training programs to upgrade the quality of  
8 statistics personnel and expand the statistics human resource base in support of  
9 the needs of the PSS;

10 (e) Provide scholarships, financial and other forms of assistance to  
11 build statistical manpower and enhance training and statistical research and  
12 development;

13 (f) Serve as repository of all statistical researches and studies to be  
14 generated by the PSA as well as back-up/duplicate files of data archives and  
15 other statistical databases of the PSS; and

16 (g) Invest its funds in such undertaking as it may deem wise or  
17 necessary to carry out its objectives with due consideration to existing  
18 guidelines on investing government funds.

19 SEC. 19. *Composition of the PSRTI.* – The PSRTI shall be headed by  
20 an Executive Director, who shall be nominated by the PSA Board and  
21 appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines. The PSRTI  
22 Executive Director shall possess a Master’s degree in Statistics.

23 The PSRTI shall have a governing board that shall formulate policies  
24 for its management and operations. The PSA Board Chairperson shall be the  
25 Chairperson of the PSRTI Governing Board, with the following as members:  
26 Dean of the University of the Philippines’ School of Statistics, Executive  
27 Director of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), a representative of  
28 the NEDA and the Executive Director of the PSRTI, as *ex officio* members.

1 The PSA Board Chairperson may appoint two (2) representatives from the  
2 private sector to the PSRTI Governing Board from among a list of nominees  
3 submitted by the Board.

4 The PSRTI Governing Board shall meet at least every semester to  
5 discuss and formulate policies for the management and operations of the  
6 PSRTI. The PSRTI shall provide reasonable allowances to its Governing  
7 Board.

8 SEC. 20. *PSRTI Fellows and Associates.* – The PSRTI shall be  
9 authorized to engage professionals either as fellows or associates, for purposes  
10 of conducting training sessions and researches for the PSRTI. Fellows should  
11 have experience in research or training and have preferably earned a doctorate  
12 degree in Statistics, Economics, Social Sciences, Computer Sciences or related  
13 disciplines while associates should have earned at least a Masteral degree in  
14 these fields. Those so engaged by the PSRTI shall be issued appointments and  
15 paid fees as determined by the PSRTI, and as approved by the PSA Board.

16 SEC. 21. *PSRTI Endowment Fund.* – The existing SRTC Endowment  
17 Fund shall be transferred to the PSRTI and serve as the initial PSRTI  
18 endowment fund. The PSRTI is authorized to accept into its endowment fund  
19 any contributions, donations, bequests, grants and loans from domestic and/or  
20 foreign sources, government appropriations and other incomes accruing from  
21 the operations of the PSRTI, for purposes of executing its mandate and  
22 functions.

23 The amount necessary to augment the endowment fund shall be included  
24 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

25 SEC. 22. *PSRTI Operating Funds.* – The amount appropriated for the  
26 operating fund of the SRTC under the current General Appropriations Act  
27 shall constitute the initial operating fund of the PSRTI. Thereafter, the  
28 government contribution necessary to support the research and training

1 programs of the PSRTI shall be determined based on the annual financial plan  
2 approved by its Governing Board and submitted to the DBM.

3       SEC. 23. *Posting of Statistical Personnel in Government Offices.* – In  
4 the exercise of its functions and in accordance with the priorities set by the  
5 PSA Board, the PSA may post teams of its statistical personnel in other  
6 government offices to carry out the work program to be drawn up in  
7 coordination with the host offices. The posted teams shall be proportional to  
8 the size and needs of the government offices. Personnel posted in a  
9 government office shall be supervised by the Deputy National Statistician for  
10 Sectoral Statistics and shall render fortnightly statistical reports to the Office of  
11 the National Statistician. The heads of the host offices shall submit periodic  
12 performance evaluation reports on posted personnel to the National  
13 Statistician.

14       SEC. 24. *Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP).* – The  
15 Philippine Statistical Development Program shall consist of all statistical  
16 activities to be undertaken by the PSS in response to the requirements of  
17 development planning and policy formulation.

18       SEC. 25. *Obligation to Provide Information.* – The National  
19 Statistician shall determine whether a statistical inquiry or survey to be  
20 conducted is with or without an obligation to provide information. If such  
21 obligation is stipulated, all respondents whether natural or legal persons shall  
22 be liable to reply to the statistical inquiry or survey. This section applies to all  
23 statistical inquiries or surveys conducted by other statistical offices in the PSS.

24       The respondents under this Act are required to give truthful and  
25 complete answers to statistical inquiries or surveys of the PSA and other  
26 statistical offices of the PSS. The respondent is considered to have complied  
27 with the obligation only upon receipt of the duly completed statistical inquiry

1 or survey forms. The government shall provide franking privileges, charges  
2 and postings to the survey offices, unless otherwise disallowed by law.

3 The PSA is authorized to gather data from other government agencies  
4 for statistical purposes.

5 SEC. 26. *Confidentiality of Information.* – Individual data furnished  
6 by a respondent to statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses of the PSA shall  
7 be considered privileged communication and as such shall be inadmissible as  
8 evidence in any proceeding.

9 The PSA may release aggregated information from statistical inquiries,  
10 surveys and censuses in the form of summaries or statistical tables in which no  
11 reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or  
12 business enterprise shall appear.

13 The National Statistician and all staff of the PSA shall take a solemn  
14 oath regarding confidentiality of information. However, confidentiality of  
15 information does not apply to:

16 (a) Information in the form of a list or index of individual business  
17 firms, establishments or organizations that contain any or all of the following  
18 information:

19 (1) The name, address and telephone numbers;

20 (2) The business and products that they are engaged in; and

21 (3) The specific ranges of number of employees.

22 (b) Microdata from statistical inquiries or survey  
23 form/questionnaire/schedule prepared by the PSA for purposes of research,  
24 with care to ensure that identities of a particular person, business or  
25 organization will not be disclosed in whatever form; and

26 (c) Access to census data after one hundred (100) years for historical,  
27 genealogical, scientific or other research purposes.

1           SEC. 27. *Penalties.* – Respondents of primary data collection activities  
2 such as censuses and sample surveys are obliged to give truthful and complete  
3 answers to statistical inquiries. The gathering, consolidation and analysis of  
4 such data shall likewise be done in the most truthful and credible manner.

5           To ensure compliance, any violation of this Act shall result in the  
6 imposition of the penalty of one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of One  
7 hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00). In cases where the respondent who  
8 fails to give a truthful and complete answer to such statistical inquiries is a  
9 corporation, the above penalty shall be imposed against the responsible officer,  
10 director, manager and/or agent of said corporation. In addition, such erring  
11 corporation or any other juridical entity, depending on the category of the  
12 enterprise or business concerned whether small, medium or large, shall be  
13 imposed a fine ranging from One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) to  
14 Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00).

15           Any person, including parties within the PSA Board and the PSA, who  
16 breach the confidentiality of information, whether by carelessness, improper  
17 behavior, behavior with malicious intent, and use of confidential information  
18 for profit, are considered guilty of an offense and shall be liable to fines as  
19 prescribed by the PSA Board which shall not be less than Five thousand pesos  
20 (P5,000.00) nor more than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) and/or  
21 imprisonment of three (3) months but not to exceed one (1) year, subject to the  
22 degree of breach of information.

23           Failure to comply with the survey clearance provision shall be penalized  
24 by a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to One hundred thousand pesos  
25 (P100,000.00), depending on the gravity and seriousness of such  
26 noncompliance.

1           SEC. 28. *Abolition of Existing Government Bodies.* – The NSO, the  
2 BAS of the Department of Agriculture, the BLES of the Department of Labor  
3 and Employment, and the NSCB shall be abolished and their appropriations,  
4 records, properties and personnel shall be transferred to the PSA.

5           SEC. 29. *Transitory Provisions.* – The PSA shall carry out the  
6 reorganization of the PSS in such a manner that personnel of the agencies  
7 absorbed by the PSA shall continue to perform their respective duties and  
8 responsibilities in a holdover capacity so as not to unduly delay the production  
9 of statistics from ongoing censuses, surveys and processing of administrative  
10 records.

11          SEC. 30. *Early Retirement, Separation Pay and Other Benefits.* –  
12 Personnel of the merged agencies who will not be absorbed into the new  
13 staffing pattern due to redundancy or failure to comply with the standards of  
14 competence and proficiency, or who will be offered positions under the new  
15 staffing pattern but who decline such appointment by reason of diminution in  
16 rank, benefits and work conditions, or who are offered positions under the new  
17 staffing pattern without any diminution in rank, benefits and work conditions  
18 but who decline such appointment, if qualified, shall be given the option to  
19 avail themselves of any of the following, whichever is beneficial to them:

20           (a) Retirement gratuity provided under Republic Act No. 1616 (An Act  
21 Further Amending Section Twelve Of Commonwealth Act Numbered One  
22 Hundred Eighty-Six, As Amended, By Prescribing Two Other Modes Of  
23 Retirement And For Other Purposes), as amended, payable by the last  
24 employer of the affected personnel, plus the refund of retirement premiums  
25 payable by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), without the  
26 incentive herein provided.

1 (b) Retirement benefit under Republic Act No. 660 (An Act to Amend  
2 Commonwealth Act Numbered One Hundred and Eighty-Six, Entitled "An Act  
3 To Create And Establish A Government Service Insurance System, To Provide  
4 For Its Administration, And To appropriate The Necessary Funds Therefor,"  
5 And To Provide Retirement Insurance And For Other Purposes) or applicable  
6 retirement, separation or unemployment benefit provided under Republic Act  
7 No. 8291 (An Act Amending Presidential Decree No. 1146, As Amended,  
8 Expanding And Increasing The Coverage And Benefits Of The Government  
9 Service Insurance System, Instituting Reforms Therein And For Other  
10 Purposes) if qualified, plus the following applicable incentives:

11 (b.1.) 1/2 month of the present basic salary for every year of  
12 government service and a fraction thereof, for those who have rendered twenty  
13 (20) years of service and below;

14 (b.2.) 3/4 month of the present basic salary for every year of  
15 government service and a fraction thereof, computed starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> year,  
16 for those who have rendered twenty-one (21) to less than thirty-one (31) years  
17 of service; and

18 (b.3.) 1 month of the present basic salary for every year of government  
19 service and a fraction thereof, computed starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> year, for those  
20 who have rendered thirty-one (31) years of service and above.

21 In addition, the affected personnel shall be entitled to the refund of  
22 PAG-IBIG contributions, and the commutation of unused vacation and sick  
23 leave credits.

24 SEC. 31. *Funds For Reorganization.* – The amount necessary for the  
25 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be taken from funds  
26 available to the agencies enumerated in Section 28 hereof. Additional  
27 requirements shall be charged to the appropriations under the current General

1 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be needed for the continued  
2 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
3 Appropriations Act.

4 SEC. 32. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The PSA Board  
5 together with the PSA, the PSRTI, the NEDA and other concerned agencies of  
6 government that may be determined by the PSA Board, shall formulate the  
7 implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days after its  
8 approval. Such rules and regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

10 SEC. 33. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of  
11 this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, no other parts, sections or  
12 provisions hereof shall be affected thereby.

13 SEC. 34. *Repealing Clause.* – Executive Order No. 121 is hereby  
14 repealed. All other laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, other  
15 issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
16 repealed or modified accordingly.

17 SEC. 35. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect upon its  
18 approval.

Approved,

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