



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE**



# Restructuring the Philippine Statistical System in Response to New Challenges: Redefining the Role of the National Statistics Office in the System

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# Outline



- **Background: The 2007 Strategic review of the PSS**
- **NSCB Resolution No. 4 (Special Committee of experts was set up to conduct an external review of the PSS)**
- **Major Findings/Recommendations of the Special Committee**
- **Reactions/Legislative Actions**
- **Highlights of the Consolidated Bill**
- **Conclusion**



# Background



- **2007 Strategic review of the PSS**
  - A national statistical system provides economic, demographic, social, environmental, and related information required by the general public, and the government and private sectors.
  - To ensure that its products and services match what its clients expect, it needs to occasionally undergo an exhaustive evaluation of its performance according to certain parameters.
  - Although an assessment may be done from within the statistical system, the review becomes more credible when carried out by an independent external team.
- **Special Committee of experts was set up to conduct an external review of the PSS (NSCB Resolution No. 4)**



## NSCB Resolution No. 4 (Highlights)

- **Current setup of the PSS in planning, coordinating, and managing statistical activities;**
- **Functions and mandates of the major statistical agencies (MSAs) vis-à-vis their outputs, products, and services;**
- **Adequacy of legal frameworks governing the operations of the system;**
- **Integrity and completeness of the national statistical programs;**



## NSCB Resolution No. 4 (Highlights)

- **Mechanisms that facilitate access to data and other materials generated by the system;**
- **Methods of archiving the generated data;**
- **Best practices of selected statistical systems in Europe, North America, and Australia that may be adopted in the Philippines**



## The Committee's major findings and recommendations

- The Committee recognized that while the PSS is engaged in a number of good practices, there is ample scope for improving its current organizational structure and processes toward enhancing the quality of its products and services.
- The Committee reported that there are a number of structural limitations in the current setup of the PSS.



## The Committee's major findings and recommendations

- **These limitations, coupled with constraints on financial, physical, human, and other resources, have hindered the PSS from responding quickly to users' requirements and criticisms, especially regarding the vast need for statistics for local development planning.**



## The Committee's major findings and recommendations

- Improving methodologies for better measurements
- Consolidating primary data collection
- Establishing a Statistics Policy Council
- Strengthening statistical training and research
- Improving subnational statistics
- Allocating adequate resources to the PSS





## Reactions



- **The Committee first presented its findings to the heads of the Major Statistical Agencies (MSAs), and their respective department secretaries.**
- **Other stakeholders within and outside of the PSS, including members of Congress and their staff, were also invited to dissemination forums.**



## Reactions



- Legislators, both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, as well as the legislative staff, on the other hand, were appreciative of the comprehensive review undertaken by the Committee.
- A bill in Congress has been sponsored both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate



# Work Ahead

## *Background: HB 6229*

- Introduced by Representatives Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Salvador H. Escudero III, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr. , Neptali M. Gonzales II, and Tomas Apacible
- House Bill 6229 - consolidated from House Bills Nos. :
  - 1382 (as filed) by Rep. R. Durano VI;
  - 3334 (as filed) by Rep. N. Gonzales II;
  - 2205 (as filed) by Rep. S. Escudero III;
  - 3220 (as filed) by Reps. R. Rodriguez and M. Rodriguez, Jr.

**“AN ACT REORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE ENTITLED “REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**

**Approved by Congress on June 2012**



## *Declaration of Policy*



- Rationalize and promote efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of statistical services;
- Maintain an integrated statistical system characterized by independence objectivity and integrity so as to enhance responsiveness to the requirements of equitable national development;



## *Declaration of Policy*



- Promote the orderly development of a statistical system capable of providing timely, accurate and useful data for the government and the public;
- Support decentralization through the establishment of the statistical infrastructure necessary to service the statistical needs of local development planning.



# *The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*



- To be attached to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for purposes of policy coordination.
- It shall be comprised of the **PSA Board** and **PSA offices on sectoral statistics, censuses and technical coordination, civil registration and central support and field statistical services.**



# *The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*



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



# *The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*



- The PSA shall be constituted from among the existing personnel of the major statistical agencies engaged in primary data collection and compilation of secondary data:
  - ✦ **National Statistics Office (NSO)**
  - ✦ **Technical Staff of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB)**
  - ✦ **Bureau of Agricultural Statistics (BAS)**
  - ✦ **Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES)**





# *The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)*



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



## *The National Statistician*



- The **National Statistician**, as head of the PSA, shall have the rank and emoluments of an undersecretary.
- **Qualifications:**
  - Possesses reasonable experience in the management of data collection, and at least a Masters degree in Statistics.



## *The National Statistician*



- **Shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines from among a list of nominees which shall be submitted by a Special Committee. The Special Committee shall be composed of representatives from the:**
  - Philippine Statistical Association (PSA),
  - University of the Philippines' School of Statistics (UPSS),
  - University of the Philippines- Los Baños Institute of Statistics (UPLB-INSTAT),
  - Department of Economic Statistics of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and
  - NEDA.
- **The National Statistician shall serve for a term of five (5) years with reappointment.**



## *The National Statistician*



- Direct and supervise the general administration of the PSA;
- Prescribe rules and regulations, instructions, schedule and form of business of the PSA in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and other information and in the conduct of any census;



## *The National Statistician*



- Provide overall directions in the implementation of the Civil Registry Law and related issuances and exercise technical supervision over the Local Civil Registrars as **Civil Registrar General;**



## *The National Statistician*



- **Direct and manage the implementation and execution of policies, standards, rules and regulations formulated by the PSA Board;**
- **Issue appointments of PSA personnel below the rank of Director;**



## *The National Statistician*



- Represent PSA as signatory to all contracts, researches and other awards.
- Represent the Philippines in regional and international conference and meetings as the country's highest authority with respect to statistical matters;



## *The National Statistician*



- **Submit a report to the President of the Republic of the Philippines through the NEDA Director-General on the activities of the PSA in the preceding year. Such report shall also be submitted separately in the annual report to Congress during the presentation of the President's budget; and**
- **Perform such other functions as may be assigned by the PSA Board.**





## *Organizational Structure of the PSA*

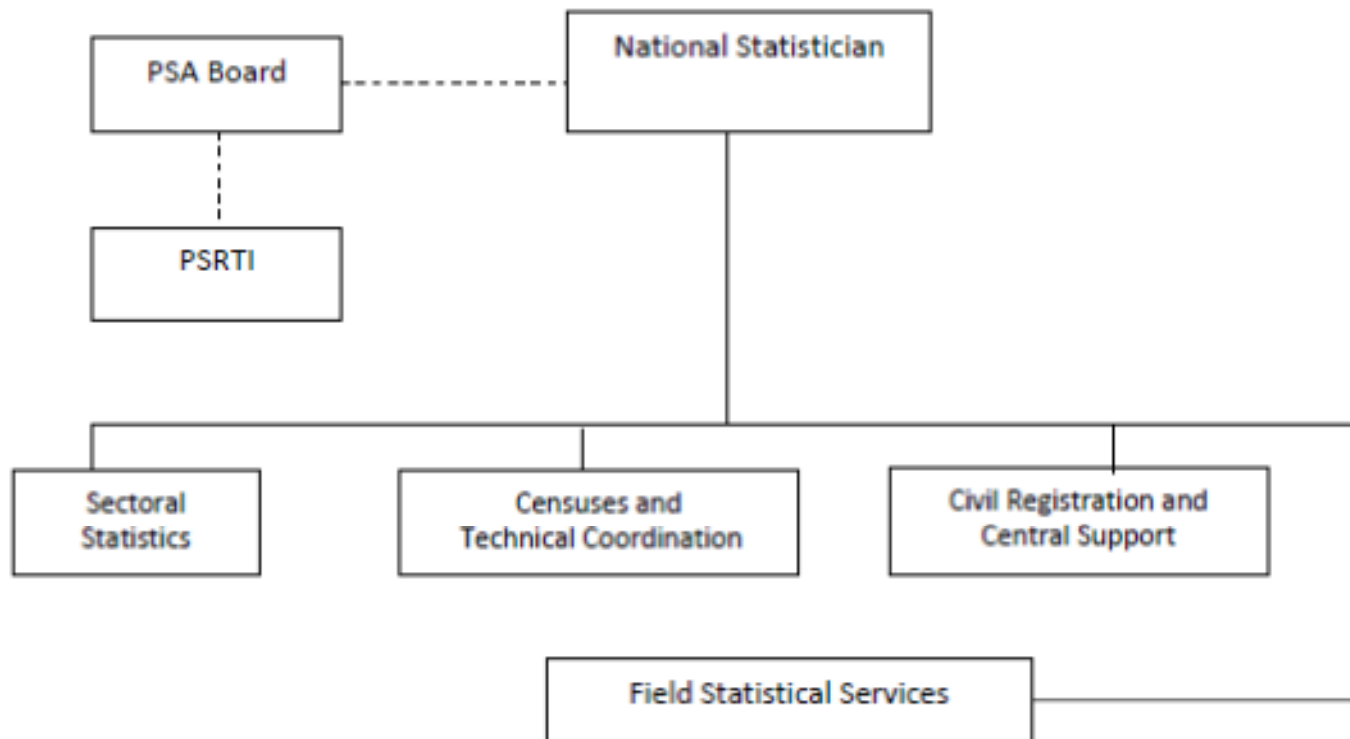


- **The **PSA offices** shall be composed of the:**
  - Sectoral Statistics Office,
  - Censuses and Technical Coordination Office,
  - Civil Registration and Central Support Office,
  - Field Statistical Services comprising of the Regional Offices and Provincial Statistical Offices.



# Organizational Structure of the PSA

## PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)





## *Organizational Structure of the PSA*



- **Support departments under the Office of the National Statistician**
  - 1) Legal Services;
  - 2) Statistical Methodology;
  - 3) Internal Audit;
  - 4) Corporate Affairs; and
  - 5) Management and Corporate Planning.



## *Organizational Structure of the PSA*



- The National Statistician shall directly supervise Field Statistical Services comprising of the Regional Offices and Provincial Statistical Offices.



## *The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)*

- The Philippine Statistical Research & Training Institute (PSRTI) shall be attached to the NEDA for purposes of policy coordination.
- SRTC shall be abolished and all SRTC assets and liabilities, if there be any, shall be transferred to PSRTI.



## *The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)*

- The PSRTI shall be headed by an Executive Director with rank and emoluments equivalent to an Assistant Secretary, who shall be nominated by the PSA Board and appointed by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.
- The PSRTI Executive Director shall have at least a Master's degree in Statistics.



## *The Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)*

- The PSRTI shall have a governing board that shall formulate policies for its management and operations.
- The PSA Board Chairperson shall be the Chairperson of the PSRTI Governing Board, with the following as members: Dean of the University of the Philippines' School of Statistics, Executive Director of the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), a representative of the NEDA and the Executive Director of the PSRTI as ex-officio members.
- The PSA Board Chairperson may appoint two representatives from the private sector to the PSRTI Governing Board from among a list of nominees submitted by the Board.



## *Posting of Statistical Personnel in Government Offices*

- The PSA may post teams of its statistical personnel in other government offices to carry out the work program to be drawn up in coordination with the host offices.
- The posted teams shall be proportional to the size and needs of the said government offices.





## *Posting of Statistical Personnel in Government Offices*

- Personnel posted in a government office shall be supervised by the Deputy National Statistician for Sectoral Statistics and shall render fortnightly statistics reports to the Office of the National Statistician.
- The heads of the host offices shall submit periodic performance evaluation reports on the posted personnel to the National Statistician.



## *The Philippine Statistical Development Program (PSDP)*

- **The PSDP shall consist of all statistical activities to be undertaken by the PSS in response to the requirements of development planning and policy formulation**



## *Obligation to Provide Information*



- **The National Statistician shall determine whether a statistical inquiry or survey to be conducted is with or without an obligation to provide information.**
- If such obligation is stipulated, all respondents whether natural or legal persons shall be liable to reply to the statistical inquiry or survey.
- This applies to all statistical inquiries or surveys conducted by other statistical offices in the PSS.



- **The respondents under this Act are required to give truthful and complete answers to statistical inquiries or surveys of the PSA and other statistical offices of the PSS.**
- The respondent is considered to have complied with the obligation only upon receipt of the duly completed statistical inquiry or survey forms.
- The government shall provide franking privilege, charges, and postings, to the survey offices, unless otherwise provided in any legal provision.
- **The PSA is authorized to gather data from other government agency for statistical purposes.**



## *Confidentiality of Information*



- Individual data furnished by a respondent to statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses of the PSA shall be considered privileged communication and as such shall be inadmissible as evidence in any proceeding.
- PSA may release aggregated information from statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses in the form of summaries or statistical tables in which no reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall appear.
- The National Statistician and all staff of PSA shall take a solemn oath regarding confidentiality of information



# *Confidentiality of Information*



- **Confidentiality of information does not apply to:**
  - Information in the form of a list or index of individual business firms, establishments or organizations that contain any or all of the following information:
    - ✦ 1) the name, address, and telephone numbers;
    - ✦ 2) the business and products that they are engaged in; and
    - ✦ 3) the specific ranges of number of employees;



# *Confidentiality of Information*



- **Confidentiality of information does not apply to:**
  - Microdata from statistical inquiries or survey form/questionnaire/ schedule prepared by PSA for purposes of research, with care to ensure that identities of a particular person, business or organization will not be disclosed in whatever form; and
  - Access to census data after 100 years for historical, genealogical, scientific or other research purposes.



## *Penalties*



- Respondents of primary data collection activities such as censuses and sample surveys are obliged to give truthful and complete answers to statistical inquiries.
- The gathering, consolidation and analysis of such data shall likewise be done in the most truthful and credible manner.





## *Penalties*



- To ensure compliance, any violation shall result in the imposition of the penalty of one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of **Php 100,000.00.**



## *Penalties*



- In cases where the respondent who shall fail to give a truthful and complete answer to such statistical inquiries is a corporation, the penalty shall be imposed against the responsible officer, director, manager and/or agent of said corporation
  - Fine ranging from Php 100,000.00 to Php 500,000.00, depending on the category of the enterprise or business concerned whether small, medium or large, shall, on the other hand, be imposed against such erring corporation or any other juridical entity.



## *Penalties*



- Any person, including parties within PSA Board and PSA, who breach the confidentiality of information, whether by carelessness, improper behavior, behavior with malicious intent, and use of confidential information for profit, are considered guilty of an offense .
  - Shall be liable to fines as prescribed by the PSA Board which shall not be less than Php5,000.00 nor more than Php10,000.00, and/or imprisonment of three (3) months but not to exceed one (1) year, subject to the degree of breach of information.



## *Penalties*



- Failure to comply with the survey clearance provision shall result in the imposition of a fine of Php 50,000.00 to Php 100,000.00, depending on the gravity and seriousness of such non-compliance.



## *Abolition of Existing Government Bodies*



- The NSO, BAS of the Department of Agriculture, the BLES of the Department of Labor and Employment, and the NSCB shall be abolished and their appropriations, records, properties, and personnel shall be transferred to the PSA



## *Transitory Provisions*



- The PSA shall carry out the reorganization of the PSS in such a manner that personnel of the agencies absorbed by the PSA shall continue to perform their respective duties and responsibilities in a **holdover capacity** so as not to unduly delay the production of statistics from ongoing censuses, surveys and processing of administrative records



## *Concluding Notes*



- As to the legal framework of the PSS, there is a need to amend provisions of existing laws that govern the mandates of the agencies comprising the PSS, specifically those of NSO, as affected by Commonwealth Act 591 (1940), such as confidentiality of statistical inquiries and penalty provisions.



## *Concluding Notes*



- The proposed bill reorganizing the PSS is patterned after other Statistics Act of other countries
- Practically in all Statistics Act, provisions on compliance, offenses and penalties are all integral components of the Act, along with the confidentiality disclosures that will protect the identities of establishments or individuals involved in the survey.





## *Concluding Notes*



- **As to the structural and technical framework of the PSS, the proposed bill will ensure that the PSA has to pay particular attention**
  - to ensuring that census and survey standards in data collection, data processing as well as information materials, the analysis framework and the terminology of the statistical results disseminated are coherent and understandable for users and non-users alike especially in the case of diverging results compiled from different sources.



## *Concluding Notes*



- Statistical gaps in the collection and production of data on some sectors by other agencies in the PSS that may lead to data inconsistencies will be resolved as all primary data collection will be consolidated under one agency.
- Correspondingly, substantial measures are required to be put in place to sustain integrity of data and statistics being produced and disseminated.



## *Concluding Notes*



- The statistical agenda of the government can only be served better if there's a change in the legal, organizational and functional structure of the present PSS. The grounds for the restructuring are contained in the proposed legislative measure.



*Thank You.*



References:

- NSCB Resolution No. 4
- 2007 Strategic Review of the PSS
- House Bill 6229