



OFFICE OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND (102ND) SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM 34/F LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES PLAZA, 1598 M.H. DEL PILAR CORNER DR. J. QUINTOS STREETS, MALATE, MANILA 23 OCTOBER 2019

Present:

Hon. WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.	-	Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture and Chairman, NTA Governing Board
Hon. ROBERT L. SEARES, M.D.	-	NTA Administrator/Vice-Chairman
Hon. RODOLFO F. SALANGA	-	Member, Tob. Manufacturing Sector
Hon. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ	-	Member, Tobacco Farmers Sector
Hon. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL	-	Member, Tobacco Farmers Sector
Hon. NESTOR C. CASELA	-	Member, Academic Community
Hon. DANILO C. TRONGCO	-	Member, Tobacco Farmers Sector
Hon. WILSON R. VICTORIO	-	Member, Tob. Traders/Exporters Sector

Others Present:

Atty. ROBERT A. AMBROS	-	Dept. Manager III, Regulation Dept. & Acting Board Secretary V
Mr. ENRIQUE G. DELA CRUZ	-	Consultant, Office of USec. Evelyn G. Laviña, HVCRC
Ms. GICEL JAM GARCIA	-	Staff, Office of Usec. Laviña
Dr. CRISTINA C. LOPEZ	-	Dept. Manager III, Administrative Dept.
Ms. IMELDA N. RIÑEN	-	Dept. Manager III, FTSD
Engr. ABRAHAM C. DELA PEÑA	-	Supply Officer IV, Administrative Dept.
Ms. ALONA A. MANGANAAN	-	Executive Assistant IV
Mr. DEEVID JOHN BRIOSOS	-	Private Secretary II
Mr. RAMON R. MUNCAL	-	Stenographer II

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

I. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was led by Ms. Alona A. Manganaan.

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 A.M., with the Honorable Secretary William D. Dar, Ph.D., presiding.

1 **III. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

2
3 The Acting Board Secretary declared that there is a quorum for the meeting with
4 the presence of more than majority of the Members of the NTA Governing Board.
5 The Acting Board Secretary noted the presence of the following, to wit:
6

- 7 1. Secretary WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.;
- 8 2. Adm. ROBERT L. SEARES, M.D.;
- 9 3. Dir. RODOLFO F. SALANGA;
- 10 4. Dir. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ;
- 11 5. Dir. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL;
- 12 6. Dir. NESTOR C. CASELA;
- 13 7. Dir. DANILO C. TRONGCO; and
- 14 8. Dir. WILSON R. VICTORIO.

15
16 Other DA and NTA officials and staff present during the meeting were likewise
17 recognized.
18 -----

19
20 **IV. AGENDA OF THE 102ND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING**
21 **BOARD HELD THIS 23 OCTOBER 2019 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, 34/F**
22 **LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES PLAZA, 1598 M.H. DEL PILAR**
23 **CORNER DR. J. QUINTOS STREETS, MALATE, MANILA**
24

25 Secretary Dar presented the Agenda for the 102nd Special Meeting held
26 this 23 October 2019. He asked the Members of the Board if there are
27 any other matter they would want to include in the Agenda. There being
28 none, Dir. Quintal moved for the approval of the Agenda. Dir. Salanga
29 seconded the motion. The board then adopted the following resolution, to
30 wit:
31

32 **RESOLUTION NO. 1150-2019**

33
34 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
35 **that the NTA Governing Board approves the Agenda for the**
36 **One Hundred and Second (102nd) Special Meeting** of the
37 **NTA Governing Board held this 23rd day of October 2019 at**
38 **the Conference Room, 34/F Land Bank of the Philippines**
39 **Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets.,**
40 **Malate, Manila.**

41
42 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
43 -----

44
45 **V. FOR APPROVAL/CONFIRMATION/CONSIDERATION:**

- 46
47 **A. MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH (129TH)**
48 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD HELD ON 11**
49 **OCTOBER 2019 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, OFFICE OF THE**
50 **SECRETARY-DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (OSEC-DA),**
51 **ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY**

52
53 Secretary Dar presented the Minutes of the 129th Regular Meeting of the
54 NTA Governing Board held on 11 October 2019 for their consideration. On



ew

1 motion of Dir. Casela, duly seconded by Dir. Quintal, the board adopted
2 the following resolution, to wit:

3
4 **RESOLUTION NO. 1151-2019**

5
6 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
7 that the NTA Governing Board approves the Minutes of the
8 **One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth (129th) Regular Meeting**
9 of the NTA Governing Board held on 11 October 2019 at the
10 Conference Room, Office of the Secretary-Department of
11 Agriculture (OSEC-DA), Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon
12 City.

13
14 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
15 -----

16
17 **B. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

18
19 **1. CONCURRENCE OF THE DPWH ON THE COST OF DEMOLITION**
20 **OF THE OLD NTA BUILDING**

21
22 The Vice-Chairman informed the Members of the Board that the
23 DPWH already responded to the costings for the demolition of the old
24 NTA building, with proposed revisions. He said that the Project
25 Engineer is now working for the revision of the costing and to resubmit
26 the amended costing to the DPWH.

27
28 Secretary Dar instructed the NTA Management to submit to the board
29 an action plan and time line of the major activities to be undertaken for
30 the construction of the NTA building, as well as, the detailed
31 engineering and design for deliberation before undertaking the public
32 bidding.

33
34 **2. INITIAL FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW NTA**
35 **BUILDING**

36
37 Dr. Cristina C. Lopez informed the NTA Governing Board that the DBM
38 has approved the initial funding of P164.28 Million for the first phase of
39 the construction project. She said that the DBM capitalized other
40 incidental costs which increased the total project cost to P2.529 Billion
41 which will now require the prior approval of the NEDA. She further
42 said that the long process of review by the NEDA may hamper the
43 implementation of the project. However, she said that if the NTA will
44 proceed with the preparation of the detailed engineering and design
45 and reduce the total project cost to less than P2.5 Billion, the approval
46 of NEDA is no longer necessary. She then requested from the NTA
47 Governing Board for the NTA to proceed with the public bidding for
48 hiring of a consultant to prepare the detailed engineering and design
49 with the estimated budget of P72 Million to be charged from the
50 corporate funds.

51
52 Secretary Dar asked why the funds for the detailed engineering and
53 design will come from the corporate funds instead from R.A. 4155. Dr.
54 Lopez replied that since the initial funding of P164.28 Million was

1 specifically allocated by the DBM for building foundation and
2 basements 1 & 2 only and it cannot be used for the payment for the
3 services of a consultant in the preparation of the detailed engineering
4 and design.
5

6 Dr. Lopez further reported that the DBM in its letter raised as an issue
7 on the propriety of constructing a building which will include the leasing
8 of some of the office spaces which is beyond the mandate of the NTA.
9 However, she said that during the 2007 Rationalization Plan of the
10 NTA, the DBM approved the NTA's strategic shift from purely service
11 oriented entity to a financially viable one by rendering services for a
12 fee, making business investments and conducting proprietary
13 activities. Secretary Dar opined that the issue was only an observation
14 of the DBM as long as it favorably approved the project proposal and
15 provided the funds therefor.
16

17 On motion of Dir. Martinez, duly seconded by Dir. Casela, the board
18 adopted the following resolution, to wit:
19

20 **RESOLUTION NO. 1152-2019**

21
22 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
23 that the NTA Governing Board approves the request of NTA
24 Management for the conduct of public bidding for the hiring
25 of consultant for the preparation of the Detailed Engineering
26 and Design (DED) for the project: “Construction of 27-Storey
27 NTA Building with Retail Facilities” with an Approved Budget
28 for the Contract (ABC) in the amount of Php72,000,000.00,
29 chargeable against the Corporate Funds of the NTA for FY
30 2019.
31

32 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
33 -----
34

35 **3. FORMULATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE TOBACCO INDUSTRY**
36 **ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (TIEP)**
37

38 Secretary Dar noted that above matter as an on-going activity with the
39 information from Vice-Chairman Seares that the Operations Group
40 conducted initial meetings on 16 & 21 October 2019 for further
41 identification of additional programs and projects. For presentation to
42 the board upon finalization of the TIEP.
43 -----
44

45 **4. REPORT ON THE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES OF**
46 **THE FARM TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES DEPARTMENT (FTSD)**
47

48 Ms. Riñen was recognized to present the above matter. Ms. Riñen
49 reported the activities undertaken by the FTSD on the following:

- 50 a. Tobacco Germplasm Collection, Purification, Maintenance and
51 Characterization;
52 b. Tobacco Seed Production and Distribution;
53 c. Evaluation of Commercial Varieties of Batek Tobacco;

- 1 d. Verification Trial of Fertilizers Recommended for Tobacco
2 Production;
3 e. Evaluation of the Effect of 14-14-14 on the Quality of Flue-Cured
4 Tobacco;
5 f. Monitoring of Soil and Water Quality;
6 g. Evaluation of Coconut Husk/Shell as Fuel Supplement for Flue-
7 Curing;
8 h. Quick Response System on Tobacco Pests;
9 i. Identification of Dominant Cropping Patterns; and
10 j. Protocol Research.

11
12 Ms. Riñen likewise reported on the following research proposals for CY
13 2020:

- 14 a. Integrated Farming and Other Income Generating Activities Project
15 (IFOIGAP);
16 b. Renewable Fulewood Energy Farm Development Project and
17 Restoration of Ecological Integrity;
18 c. Tobacco Extension and Regulation Activities in North Cotabato and
19 Maguindanao, Northern Mindanao (Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon,
20 Zamboanga Sibugay and Agusan del Sur);
21 d. Farmers Organizational Development; and
22 e. Search for Tobacco Grower of the Year.

23
24 Secretary Dar asked if NTA is still breeding tobacco varieties. Ms.
25 Riñen replied that NTA is no longer breeding varieties but is purifying
26 the seeds through adaptive research. She said that applied/strategic
27 researches were not continued when the defunct Philippine Tobacco
28 Research and Training Center (PTRTC) was merged into the NTA.

29
30 Secretary Dar said that without strategic research, the industry will fail
31 in the future due to climate change and new plant pests/diseases. He
32 said that NTA should have technical capability on those aspects and to
33 formulate crop improvement program to include plant breeding, among
34 other issues. He instructed Ms. Riñen to prepare the proposal for
35 presentation in the next board meeting. He suggested that NTA
36 should hire the services of expert consultants and may jointly
37 undertake its research programs/projects with state colleges and
38 universities.

39
40 Secretary Dar also required the FTSD to establish benchmark of
41 tobacco production per hectare with other countries. He further
42 suggested that funds for research and development should be
43 increased.

44
45 On motion of Dir. Martinez, duly seconded by Dir. Victorio, the board
46 adopted the following resolution, to wit:

47
48 **RESOLUTION NO. 1153-2019**

49
50 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
51 **that the NTA Governing Board directs the NTA Management**
52 **to undertake relevant strategic research and development**
53 **projects and to develop research agenda for the next five (5)**
54 **years, including the increase of budgetary requirements,**



1 such as but not limited to plant breeding, gene bank, plant
2 protection, agro-ecological studies, biotechnology, agronomy
3 socio-economics, training, and communications for the
4 improvement of the tobacco crop adaptable and/or resistant
5 to climate change and tobacco pests and diseases, as well
6 as, addressing high cost of production and low agricultural
7 productivity.

8
9 **RESOLVED, FURTHER,** that the NTA shall
10 undertake applied and strategic research programs in
11 collaboration with the state colleges and universities and
12 stakeholders of the tobacco industry to promote partnership
13 and fostering information exchange and communication
14 systems through strengthening human resources capacity,
15 strengthening regional research and training capacity,
16 coordination mechanisms for related policy issues,
17 partnerships and stakeholder ownership of the collaborative
18 research programs; and dissemination of research results
19 and technology transfer and adoption by the tobacco
20 farmers.

21
22 **RESOLVED, STILL FURTHER,** that the NTA
23 Management is hereby directed to review and propose
24 revision of the NTA Organizational Structure and Staffing
25 Pattern (OSSP) by strengthening the manpower
26 requirements for the expansion of its research undertakings.

27
28 **RESOLVED, FINALLY,** that the NTA Management is
29 authorized to hire the services of expert consultant/s for its
30 research and development programs and projects
31 expansion.

32
33 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
34 -----

35
36 **5. TOBACCO TRIPARTITE CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE**

37
38 Atty. Ambros informed Secretary Dar that the NTA is just awaiting for
39 the response of the Philippine Tobacco Institute (PTI) on their final
40 proposal to increase the Floor Prices of tobacco for Trading Years
41 2020 and 2021. He said that the response of the PTI will be
42 disseminated to the Tobacco Farmers Group and if they agree, both
43 parties will again sit down to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.

44
45 Secretary Dar then inquired if there will be no agreement on the
46 increase of floor prices. Atty. Ambros replied that there will be a
47 deadlock and the old prices will be carried over to the next tobacco
48 trading season which, however, did not happen for the past tripartite
49 conferences.

50
51 Secretary Dar recommended that NTA should tap the services of the
52 Philippines Institute of Developmental Studies (PIDS) to formulate an
53 objective formula of determining the floor prices of tobacco.
54



1 On motion of Dir. Martinez, duly seconded by Dir. Trongco, the board
2 adopted the following resolution, to wit:

3
4 **RESOLUTION NO. 1154-2019**

5
6 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
7 that the NTA Governing Board hereby directs the NTA
8 Management to engage the services of the Philippine
9 Institute of Developmental Studies (PIDS) for the objective
10 determination of tobacco floor prices, the terms of reference
11 of such engagement shall be submitted to the board for its
12 approval.
13

14 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
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16
17 **C. RATIFICATION OF TRAVEL ORDERS PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TO THE**
18 **MEMBERS OF THE NTA GOVERNING BOARD FOR THEIR OFFICIAL**
19 **LOCAL TRAVELS**
20

21 Secretary Dar said that he is amenable for the ratification of the Travel
22 Orders previously issued by the Vice-Chairman/Administrator, however,
23 he emphasized that the subject ratification shall apply only to Travel
24 Orders issued prior to October 2019. However, he noted that the some of
25 the purpose of the said travels are purely operational matters which are
26 best left undertaken by the NTA Management. He again emphasized that
27 the responsibility of the Members of the Board should be limited to policy
28 making.
29

30 On motion of Dir. Salanga, duly seconded by Dir. Casela, the Board
31 adopted the following resolution, to wit:

32
33 **RESOLUTION NO. 1155-2019**

34
35 **“BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED,**
36 that the NTA Governing Board hereby ratifies the Travel
37 (Special) Orders signed by the Vice-Chairman/Administrator
38 to the Members of the NTA Governing Board in their official
39 local travels.
40

41 **RESOLVED, FURTHER,** that this ratification shall
42 cover only the Travel (Special) Orders issued until 30
43 September 2019 and that the Members of the Board are
44 hereby reminded to strictly comply with mandatory
45 provisions of Executive Order No. 77 dated 15 March 2019
46 and shall submit all requests for Travels for approval by the
47 DA Secretary as the Chairman of the NTA Governing Board.
48

49 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.....”**
50 -----

51
52 **D. CONFIRMATION OF THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE**
53 **PROJECT: “SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FERTILIZERS FOR THE**
54 **INTEGRATED FARMING AND OTHER INCOME GENERATING**



1 PROJECTS – TOBACCO CONTRACT GROWING SYSTEM (IFOIGAP-
 2 TCGS) CY 2019-2020 (LOT NOS. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)” IN FAVOR OF
 3 UNIVERSAL HARVESTER INC. WITH THE SINGLE CALCULATED
 4 AND RESPONSIVE BID IN THE AMOUNT AS FOLLOWS:
 5

	APPROVED BUDGET	BID AMOUNT
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The Vice-Chairman/Administrator requested for the approval of the award of contract (Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) for the above project.

Secretary Dar required the presentation of the specifications of fertilizers that will be supplied by the winning bidder, to include the number of bags and the prices for each kind, for the information of the board before approval of the matter. He further instructed the BAC to prepare the checklist of requirements complied by the BAC and the winning bidder/s for the succeeding requests for approval of award of contracts.

Dir. Victorio said that he would want to know the prices per bag in order to prevent the same issue encountered last tobacco season due to overpricing. Dr. Lopez explained that the BAC relied from the canvass of local prices by the different branch offices in determining the approved budget for the contract and the price monitor from the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA).

Secretary required Ms. Riñen to submit a write up on the use and benefits of using each kind of fertilizer for tobacco, to include micronutrients, if any. Dir. Casela added to submit to the board the result of the laboratory analysis for all the kind of fertilizers to be supplied by the winning bidder.

Meanwhile, Secretary Dar was informed that the farm inputs are provided as loan assistance, with 20% subsidy if the farmer-availees pay at least 85% of their production assistance. Dir. Salanga further informed Secretary Dar that tobacco farmers who are beneficiaries of LGU support are no longer provided with production assistance by the NTA, except for the cash portion for gas, oil and land preparation which are not provided by the LGUs. Secretary Dar then instructed the NTA Management, through the FTSD, to conduct analysis of the loan collections and to formulate ways and means to improve the collections to be able to know the annual collection performance with the average collection for the past three (3) as benchmark. He likewise instructed FTSD to conduct comparative study in terms of yield, quality, profitability and income between the tobacco farmers assisted by the Universal Leaf Philippines Inc. (ULPI) and those assisted by the NTA.

On motion of Dir. Quintal, duly seconded by Dir. Salanga, the board adopted the following resolution, to wit:

RESOLUTION NO. 1156-2019

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2
3 "BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY
4 **RESOLVED**, that the NTA Governing Board approves
5 the award of contracts for the project: "Supply and
6 Delivery of Fertilizers for the Integrated Farming and
7 Other Income Generating Activities Project – Tobacco
8 Contract Growing System (IFOIGAP-TCGS) Crop Year
9 2019-2020", Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 in favor of Universal
10 Harvester Incorporated with the Single Calculated and
11 Responsive Bid (SCRB) in the total amount of
12 P38,396,782.40.

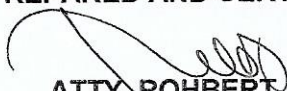
13
14 **RESOLVED, FURTHER**, that the NTA Bids and
15 Awards Committee is hereby directed to submit the
16 laboratory analysis of the fertilizers to be supplied by the
17 winning bidder.

18
19 **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED....."**
20 -----

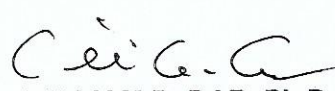
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22 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

23
24 There being no other matter to be taken up, the Chairman of the Board officially
25 adjourned the meeting at 12:35 P.M.
26 -----


27
28
29 **PREPARED AND CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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31 
32 **ATTY. ROHBERT A. AMBROS**
33 Department Manager III, Regulation Department
34 & Acting Board Secretary V

35
36
37 **ATTESTED:**

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39 
40 **Hon. WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**
41 Secretary, Department Agriculture
42 and Chairman, NTA Governing Board

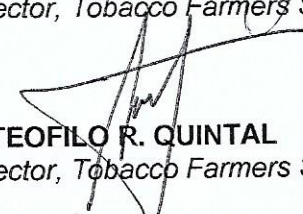
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45 
46 **Hon. ROBERT L. SEARES**
47 NTA Administrator
48 and Vice-Chairman, NTA Governing Board

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52 **Hon. RODOLFO F. SALANGA**
53 Appointive Director, Tobacco Manufacturing Sector
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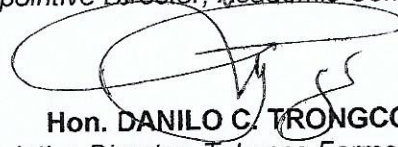
Hon. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ
Appointive Director, Tobacco Farmers Sector



Hon. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL
Appointive Director, Tobacco Farmers Sector



Hon. NESTOR C. CASELA
Appointive Director, Academic Community



Hon. DANILO C. TRONGCO
Appointive Director, Tobacco Farmers Sector



Hon. WILSON R. VICTORIO
Appointive Director, Tobacco Traders/Exporter Sector



ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND (102nd) SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF THE NTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, HELD AT THE LANDBANK MANILA, LANDBANK PLAZA, MALATE, MANILA
23 OCTOBER 2019

ATTENDANCE SHEET

PRESENT:

SIGNATURE

1. Hon. WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.
Acting Secretary
Department of Agriculture and
Chairman, NTA Governing Board



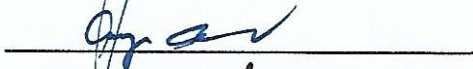
2. Undersecretary, EVELYN G. LAVIÑA
Department of Agriculture – High Value Crop
and Alternate Chairman, NTA Governing Board



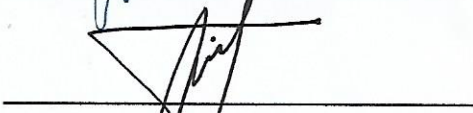
3. Hon. ROBERT L. SEARES, M.D.
Administrator/Vice-Chairman
of the NTA Governing Board



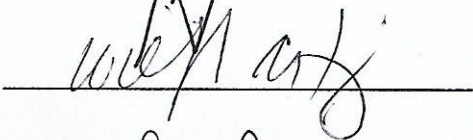
4. Hon. RODOLFO F. SALANGA
Member, NTA Board of Directors



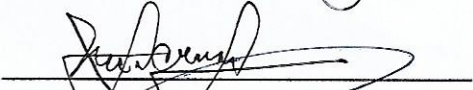
5. Hon. TEOFILO R. QUINTAL
Member, NTA Board of Directors



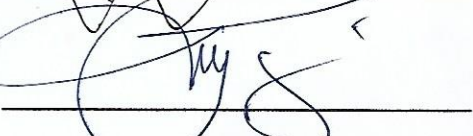
6. Hon. WILFREDO C. MARTINEZ
Member, NTA Board of Directors



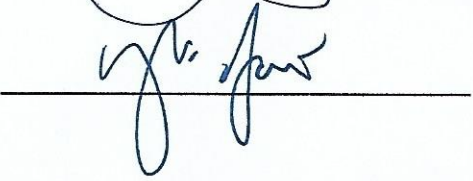
7. Hon. NESTOR C. CASELA
Member, NTA Board of Directors



8. Hon. DANILO C. TRONGCO
Member, NTA Board of Directors

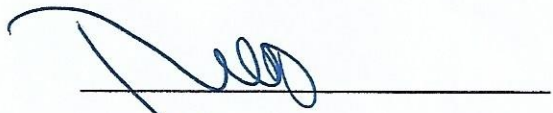


9. Hon. WILSON R. VICTORIO
Member, NTA Board of Directors



OTHERS PRESENT:

1. Atty. ROBERT A. AMBROS
Acting Board Secretary



2. Imelda Al Rines



3. RAMON MORALES



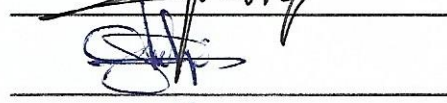
ATTENDANCE SHEET

OTHERS PRESENT:

4. ENRIQUE C. DELA Cruz



5. Abraham C. dela Pera



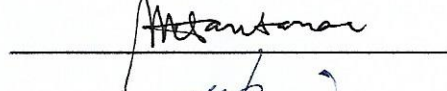
6. JICA Jim Cruz



7. Cristina C. Lopez



8. ALONA MANGAMBAAN



9. Deed John Rayze Brian



10. _____
