



PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

18 June 2021

GOVERNOR JOSE R. RIANO

Chairperson

Regional Development Council, Region IV-B

Subject : **Establishment of Public Ecozone in Every Region**

Dear **Chairperson Riano**:

Greetings!

We refer to Administrative Order No. 18 entitled "Accelerating Rural Progress through Robust Development of Special Economic Zones in the Countryside", which specifically directed PEZA and other concerned government agencies to provide needed interventions to strengthen ecozones in the countryside, and ensure the development of backward and forward linkages of industries in and around such ecozones.

This is consistent with PEZA's mandate to encourage investments, generate exports, jobs and other economic opportunities in the countryside by developing economic zones in as many provinces as possible, based on the potential of the LGU to host the following type of economic zones: Tourism, Agro-Industrial, Manufacturing, IT Parks/Buildings, Agro-Forestry/Aquamarines, Mineral Processing Ecozone; Knowledge, Innovation, Science and Technology (KIST Parks); Medical Ecozone and Retirement Villages.

We therefore request the assistance of the Regional Development Council (RDC), in providing us a list of public lands in Region IV-B with vicinity map and location size. We intend to propose the same for declaration by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in addition to existing Mactan Economic Zone, Baguio City Economic Zone, Pampanga Economic Zone and Cavite Economic Zone.

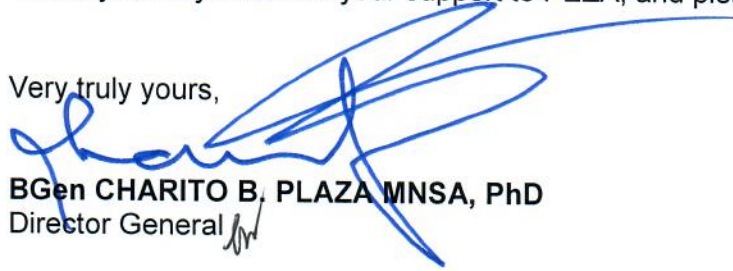
It is noteworthy to mention that these public ecozones of PEZA became catalysts for economic growth, alleviated poverty and generated substantial employment to host local government units. The success of these public ecozones had resulted to the creation of more ecozones predominantly initiated by the private developers/operators with various objectives which include export promotion, attracting Foreign Direct Investments, establishing global manufacturing, developing logistics services, liberalizing trade, and promoting regional complementation and global trade networks, among others.

As part of the country's economic recovery plan, it is also the intent of creating additional public ecozones to cater to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), effectively enhancing linkages and integrating MSMEs into the global value chains. These ecozones will also be promoted to attract relocating companies from China and other big-ticket investors as part of diversification strategy and strengthening value chain resilience.

By utilizing government lands that have remained idle for a long time and make them as driver of economic growth, the objectives of Administrative Order No. 18 can be best served. As such, likewise we have collaborated with PSALM, DENR, PMO, NCIP, State Universities and Colleges (SUC), Mindanao Development Authority, and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, to explore utilizing their unproductive lands. However, developing these lands can be fast-tracked through the issuance by the Office of the President of an Executive Order declaring all unutilized government lands as ecozones under PEZA, thereby creating a mega-ecozone with at least one ecozone for every region.

Thank you very much for your support to PEZA, and please always be safe. God Bless!

Very truly yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to BGen Charito B. Plaza MNSA, PhD. The signature is fluid and extends across the line of the closing "Very truly yours,".

BGen CHARITO B. PLAZA MNSA, PhD
Director General

cc: **MS. MA. LOURDES G. FERRER, CESO III**
DENR Regional Executive Director

MR. AGUSTIN C. MENDOZA
NEDA OIC Regional Director