

Chapter 1

Introduction

This handbook is intended to provide members of the Central Luzon Regional Development Council (RDC III) with information on various legal issuances related to the RDC and how the provisions of these can be operationalized.

Section 14, Article X of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "The President shall provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies composed of local government officials, regional heads of departments and other government offices, and representatives from non-governmental organizations within the regions for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the units therein and to accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the units in the region."

Executive Order (EO) No. 308 signed by President Corazon C. Aquino on November 5, 1987 reorganized the then existing Regional Development Councils in all administrative regions in order to make them more effective instruments for regional development. EO 308 s. 1987 was amended several times, the latest of which was on April 12, 1996 when the RDCs were again reorganized with the issuance of Executive Order 325 signed by President Fidel Ramos.

This Handbook is based on EO No. 325 "Reorganization of the Regional Development Councils [Repealing EO No. 308, series of 1987, as Amended by EO No. 318 s. 1988, 347 s. 1989, 366 s. 1989, 455 s. 1991 and 505 s. 1992] and its implementing rules and regulations as approved thru National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board Resolution No. 17 s. 1996 and other legal issuances issued thereafter regarding the RDCs.