

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency

Creation of PDEA

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) was created by virtue of Republic Act 9165, otherwise known as "The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002." It was signed into law on June 7, 2002 and took effect on July 4, 2002. RA 9165 defines more concrete courses of action for the national anti-drug campaign and imposes heavier penalties to offenders.

The enactment of RA 9165 reorganized the Philippine drug enforcement system with the new Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) that serves as the policy and strategy formulating body and the establishment of a single mission drug agency – the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) as its implementing arm.

With the creation and activation of the PDEA, the Secretariat of the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center or DEP Center was absorbed by the new agency. Under the new set-up, the Narcotics Group of the PNP, the Narcotics Division of the NBI and the Narcotics Interdiction Unit of the Bureau of Customs was also abolished.

The PDEA was officially activated on July 30, 2002 when its first Director General was appointed with a rank equivalent to an Undersecretary.

The PDEA is a regular law enforcement agency responsible for the efficient and effective law enforcement against any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemicals.

Vision

To be a professional, effective and well-respected agency working for a drug-free Philippines.

Mission

To be the lead agency in the enforcement of the anti drug law; to serve as the principal implementing arm of the DDB; to exercise operational supervision over drug enforcement units of other law enforcement agencies; and to coordinate the participation of other sectors in the national anti-drug campaign.

Core Values

Honor

We are committed to pursue the highest degree of integrity by conducting ourselves in a manner that would earn the respect, trust and confidence of the people.

Commitment

We are dedicated to undertake prevention, control and elimination of dangerous drugs over and above personal interest and take full accountability and responsibility for all our actions.

Respect for Human Dignity

Our outmost concern is respect for human dignity. In the fulfillment of our duties, we uphold human rights, treating each person with respect, justice and fairness.

Excellence and Competence

We strive to attain the highest standard in the quality of our work through continuous training and education in order to meet the expectations and ultimately gain the active support of the community.

Functions

As the lead agency in the fight against illegal drugs, the law confers PDEA with the following functions to attain its mission:

1. Implement or cause the efficient and effective implementation of the national drug control strategy formulated by the Board thereby carrying out a national drug campaign which shall include drug law enforcement, control and prevention campaign with the assistance of concerned government agencies;
2. Undertake the enforcement of the provisions of Article II of this Act relative to the unlawful acts and penalties involving any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical and investigate all violators and other matters involved in the commission of any crime relative to the use, abuse or trafficking of any dangerous drug and/or controlled precursor and essential chemical as provided for in this Act and the provisions of Presidential Decree 1619;
3. Administer oath, issue subpoena and subpoena duces tecum relative to the conduct of investigation involving the violations of this Act;

4. Arrest and apprehend as well as search all violators and seize or confiscate, the effects or proceeds of the crimes as provided by law and take custody thereof, for this purpose the prosecutors and enforcement agents are authorized to possess firearms, in accordance with existing laws;
5. Take charge and have custody of all dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals seized, confiscated or surrendered to any national, provincial or local law enforcement agency, if no longer needed for purposes of evidence in court;
6. Establish forensic laboratories in each PNP office in every province and city in order to facilitate action on seized or confiscated drugs, thereby hastening its destruction without delay;
7. Recommend to the DOJ the forfeiture of properties and other assets of persons and/or corporations found to be violating the provisions of this Act and in accordance with pertinent provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001;
8. Prepare for prosecution or cause the filing of appropriate criminal and civil cases for violation of all laws on dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals, and their similar controlled substances, and assist, support and coordinate with other government agencies for the proper and effective prosecution of the same;
9. Monitor and if warranted by circumstances, in coordination with the Philippine Postal Office and the Bureau of Customs, inspect all air cargo packages, parcels and mails in the central post office, which appear from the package and address itself to be a possible importation of dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals, through on-line or cyber shops via the internet or cyberspace;
10. Conduct eradication programs to destroy wild or illegal growth of plants from which dangerous drugs may be extracted;
11. Initiate and undertake the formation of a nationwide organization which shall coordinate and supervise all activities against drug abuse in every province, city, municipality and barangay with the active and direct participation of all such local government units and nongovernmental organizations, including the citizenry, subject to the provisions of previously formulated programs of action against dangerous drugs;
12. Establish and maintain a national drug intelligence system in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, other government agencies/offices and local government units that will assist in its apprehension of big-time drug lords;
13. Establish and maintain close coordination, cooperation and linkages with international drug control and administration agencies and organizations, and implement the applicable provisions of international conventions and agreements related to dangerous drugs to which the Philippines is a signatory;
14. Create and maintain an efficient special enforcement unit to conduct an investigation, file charges and transmit evidence to the proper court, wherein members of the said unit shall possess suitable and adequate firearms for their protection in connection with the performance of their duties: Provided, That no previous special permit for such possession shall be required;
15. Require all government and private hospitals, clinics, doctors, dentists and other practitioners to submit a report to it, in coordination with the Board, about all dangerous drugs and/or controlled precursors and essential chemicals which they have attended to for data and information purposes;
16. Coordinate with the Board for the facilitation of the issuance of necessary guidelines, rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act;
17. Initiate and undertake a national campaign for drug prevention and drug control programs, where it may enlist the assistance of any department, bureau, office, agency or instrumentality of the government, including government-owned and/or controlled corporations, in the anti-illegal drugs drive, which may include the use of their respective personnel, facilities, and resources for a more resolute detection and investigation of drug related crimes and prosecution of the drug traffickers;
18. Submit an annual and periodic reports to the Board as may be required from time to time, and perform such other functions as may be authorized or required under existing laws and as directed by the President himself/herself or as recommended by the congressional committees concerned.