Basic Act on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

(Act No. 106 of July 16, 1999)

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Supplementary Provisions

Chapter I General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article 1 The purpose of this Act is to promote measures for food, agriculture and rural areas in a comprehensive and systematic manner, and thereby to stabilize and improve the lives of citizenry and achieve healthy growth of the national economy by providing for the basic principles and basic matters for the realization of those principles and by clarifying the responsibilities of the State and local governments with regard to the measures for food, agriculture and rural areas.

(Securing of a Stable Food Supply)

- Article 2 (1) Given the fact that food is essential for maintaining human survival and important for humans as a basis for a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle, a stable supply of high-quality food must be maintained into the future at a reasonable price.
- (2) Given the fact that the world's food supply and demand and trade is unstable, a stable supply of food to the citizenry must be maintained by increasing domestic agricultural production as a basis for a stable food supply and by combining the supply with import and stockpiling of food.
- (3) A supply of food must be maintained to meet the sophisticated and diversified public demand for food through achieving the sound development of agriculture and the food industry in a comprehensive manner, while encouraging an

increase in agricultural productivity.

(4) A minimum food supply required for the citizens must be secured so that the stability in the citizens' lives and the smooth operation of the national economy will not be affected even when the domestic food supply shortage occurs or is likely to occur for a reasonable period of time due to contingent factors such as poor harvests or imports that have been stopped.

(Fulfillment of Multiple Functions)

Article 3 Multiple functions other than the functions of supplying food and other agricultural products produced by agricultural production activities in rural areas, such as the conservation of national land, recharging of water resources, conservation of the natural environment, formation of favorable landscapes, and the passing down of culture (hereinafter referred to as "multiple functions") must be fulfilled in an appropriate and sufficient manner into the future, given the role played by the multiple functions in achieving the stability in the citizens' lives and the national economy.

(Sustainable Development of Agriculture)

Article 4 Considering the importance of the function of supplying food and other agricultural products and the multiple functions of agriculture, the sustainable development of agriculture must be maintained by maintaining necessary farmland, agricultural water, and other agricultural resources as well as the agricultural workforce, establishing a desirable agricultural structure combined with these elements according to the characteristics of the regions, and maintaining and improving the natural circulation function of agriculture (meaning the functionality of agricultural production activities that depends on and promotes the circulation of substances mediated by living things in nature; the same applies hereinafter).

(Development of Rural Areas)

Article 5 Given the fact that rural areas serve as the basis for sustainable development of agriculture for the reason that farming is operated in the areas where local residents, including farmers live, rural areas must be developed by improving the conditions required for agricultural production and improving their living environment and other welfare enhancement so that the function of supplying food and other agricultural products and the multiple functions of agriculture will be fulfilled in an appropriate and sufficient manner.

(Consideration Given to Fisheries and Forestry Industries)

Article 6 In implementing measures for food, agriculture and rural areas, necessary consideration is to be given for the promotion of fisheries and

forestry industries, given the fact that the measures are closely related to fisheries and forestry industries.

(Responsibility of the State)

- Article 7 (1) The State is responsible for comprehensively formulating and implementing measures for food, agriculture and rural areas, pursuant to the basic principles concerning measures for food, agriculture and rural areas prescribed in Articles 2 through 5 (hereinafter referred to as the "basic principles").
- (2) The State must endeavor to increase public understanding of the basic principles, by providing the public with information on food, agriculture and rural areas.

(Responsibility of Local Governments)

Article 8 Local governments are responsible for formulating and implementing measures for food, agriculture and rural areas in accordance with the natural, economic and social conditions of their respective areas based on the appropriate division of roles with the State, pursuant to the basic principles.

(Efforts of Farmers)

Article 9 Farmers and agricultural organizations are to voluntarily endeavor to realize the basic principles when they engage in farming and the relevant activities.

(Efforts of Business Operators)

Article 10 In engaging in their business activities, business operators in the food industry are to endeavor to secure a food supply for the citizens, pursuant to the basic principles.

(Support for Efforts Being Made by Farmers)

Article 11 In implementing measures for food, agriculture and rural areas, the State and local governments are to aim at providing support for the voluntary efforts being made by farmers, agricultural organizations and business operators in the food industry.

(Role of Consumers)

Article 12 Consumers are to deepen their understanding of food, agriculture and rural areas and play a positive role in improving their food consumption habits.

(Legislative Measures)

Article 13 The government must take the legislative, fiscal and financial

measures required to implement measures for food, agriculture and rural areas.

(Annual Reports)

- Article 14 (1) Each year, the government must submit a report on the trends of food, agriculture and rural areas to the Diet and on the measures for food, agriculture and rural areas implemented by the government.
- (2) Each year, the government must prepare and submit a document describing the measures to be implemented by considering the trends of food, agriculture and rural areas pertaining to the report referred to in the preceding paragraph.
- (3) When preparing a document describing the measures to be implemented referred to in the preceding paragraph, the government must hear the opinions of the Council for Policies on Food, Agriculture and Rural Area.

Chapter II Basic Measures Section 1 Basic Plan for Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

- Article 15 (1) The government must establish a basic plan for food, agriculture and rural areas (hereinafter referred to as the "basic plan") in order to promote the measures for food, agriculture and rural areas in a comprehensive and systematic manner.
- (2) The basic plan is to be established for the following matters:
 - (i) the basic policy for formulating measures for food, agriculture and rural areas;
 - (ii) the target rate of food self-sufficiency;
 - (iii) measures for food, agriculture and rural areas to be implemented by the government in a comprehensive and systematic manner; and
 - (iv) beyond what is set forth in the preceding three items, matters necessary to promote measures for food, agriculture and rural areas in a comprehensive and systematic manner.
- (3) The target rate of food self-sufficiency set forth in item (ii) of the preceding paragraph is to be established by identifying the issues to be tackled by farmers and other relevant persons, with the aim of improving the rate, as a guideline for domestic agricultural production and food consumption.
- (4) The part of the basic plan pertaining to measures for rural areas must be harmonized with the plan for comprehensive use, development and conservation of national land established by the State.
- (5) When intending to establish a basic plan pursuant to the provision of paragraph (1), the government must hear the opinions of the Council for Policies on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas.
- (6) When a basic plan is established pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1), the government must report it to the Diet and publicize it without delay.

- (7) The government is to revise the basic plan approximately every five years, by taking into consideration the changes in circumstances surrounding food, agriculture and rural areas, and also based on an evaluation of the effects of the measures for food, agriculture and rural areas.
- (8) The provisions of paragraphs (5) and (6) apply mutatis mutandis to the revision of the basic plan.

Section 2 Measures for Securing a Stable Food Supply

(Enhancement of Measures for Food Consumption)

- Article 16 (1) The State is to ensure food safety and improve food quality while implementing measures to sophisticate food sanitation management and quality management, and to standardize food labeling, and other necessary measures so as to help consumers make reasonable choices.
- (2) The State is to implement measures to formulate guidelines for a healthy diet, spread of knowledge and provision of information concerning food consumption, and other necessary measures, in order to contribute to the improvement of food consumption and effective use of agricultural resources.

(Sound Development of the Food Industry)

Article 17 Considering the importance of the role played by the food industry in supplying food, the State is to implement measures to enhance the business infrastructure, promote collaboration between the food industry and agriculture, streamline the distribution system and other necessary measures, so as to ensure the sound development of the industry, while giving consideration to the reduction of the impact on the environmental caused by business activities and ensuring effective utilization of resources.

(Measures concerning Import and Export of Agricultural Products)

- Article 18 (1) The State is to take necessary measures for securing the imports of agricultural products whose demands cannot be met by domestic production in a stable manner, and if imports of agricultural products cause or are likely to cause a serious damage to the production of agricultural products competing against such imports and, the State is to implement measures to adjust the tariff rate, restrict the imports or other necessary measures, if such measures are urgently needed.
- (2) In order to promote the exports of agricultural products, the State is to implement measures to strengthen the competitiveness of agricultural products, to put more effort in market research, to provide information, to reinforce dissemination of information and advertising, and other necessary measures.

(Food Security in Emergencies)

Article 19 In the case prescribed in Article 2, paragraph (4), if the State finds it necessary to secure a minimum food supply required for the citizens, the State is to implement measures to increase the production of food, to restrict distribution and other necessary measures.

(Promotion of International Cooperation)

Article 20 In order to contribute to a stable food supply into the future around the world, the State is to endeavor to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of agriculture and rural areas in developing regions, food aid to these regions, and to promote other international cooperation.

Section 3 Measures for Sustainable Development of Agriculture

(Establishing Desirable Agricultural Structures)

Article 21 In order to develop efficient and stable agricultural management and to establish agricultural structures in which agricultural management plays a major role in agricultural production, the State is to promote the development of the agricultural production infrastructure, expand the scale of agricultural management, and implement other necessary measures to promote the enhancement of the agricultural management infrastructure according to the farm types and characteristics of the regions.

(Growth of Farm Businesses Run by Practical Farmers)

Article 22 Given the fact that it is important to enable full-time farmers and other motivated farmers to run a unique and creative farm business, the State is to establish requirements that help streamline the operations and management of agriculture, that help the growth of farm businesses and smooth farm business succession, and make efforts to revitalize family farming, and also the State is to implement necessary measures to encourage farm businesses to be incorporated.

(Securing of Farmland and Its Effective Use)

Article 23 In order to secure farmland required for domestic agricultural production and to promote its effective use, the State is to implement measures to ensure land for agricultural use that should be used as farmland, promote the integration of farmland used by those who run efficient and stable farm business, promote the efficient use of farmland, and other necessary measures.

(Development of Agricultural Production Infrastructure)

Article 24 In order to increase agricultural productivity by securing farmland and agricultural water that meet most requirements for farming, the State is to expand farmland area, create multipurpose paddy fields, maintain or enhance the functions of drainage facilities, and implement other necessary measures for improving the agricultural production infrastructure, according to the characteristics of the regions, with the aim of encouraging efficient farm business while giving consideration to farming in harmony with the environment.

(Training for Farmers and Securing a Sufficient Workforce)

- Article 25 (1) In order to provide training for farmers who will manage efficient and stable farm business, the State is to implement measures to improve the agricultural skills and business managerial skills of farmers, and to encourage those who intend to start farming to learn agricultural skills and management methods, and other necessary measures.
- (2) The State is to implement measures to promote education on agriculture and other necessary measures so that citizens will deepen their understanding and interest in agriculture.

(Promoting Women's Participation in Agriculture)

Article 26 Given the fact that it is important to secure opportunities for men and women to participate in all kinds of activities as equal members of society, the State is to properly evaluate women's roles in farm business, and promote the development of an environment that allows women to have opportunities to participate in farm business and other related activities by their own volition.

(Encouraging Activities by Elderly Farmers)

Article 27 The State is to promote the development of an environment that allows elderly farmers to participate in agriculture-related activities to live a worthwhile life according to their roles in local agriculture business and their skills and abilities, and is to help improve welfare of elderly farmers.

(Encouraging Activities of Agricultural Production Organizations)

Article 28 In order to help secure efficient agricultural production in local agriculture business, the State is to implement measures necessary to promote the activities of farmers organizations based on rural communities, other farmers organizations that jointly carry out agricultural production activities, and organizations entrusted with farm work, etc.

(Development and Dissemination of Technology)
Article 29 In order to effectively promote research and development and

dissemination of technology related to agriculture, food processing and distribution, the State is to implement measures to clearly set the goal for the research and development of the relevant technology, to strengthen collaboration between national and prefectural research and development institutes, universities and private sector, etc., to promote projects for disseminating agriculture-related technology according to the characteristics of the region, and other necessary measures.

(Price Formation of Agricultural Products and Stable Business)

- Article 30 (1) In order to encourage agricultural production that meets consumer demand, the State is to implement necessary measures so that prices of agricultural products appropriately reflecting the supply and demand situation and quality evaluation may be formed.
- (2) The State is to implement necessary measures for mitigating the effects of significant fluctuations in prices of agricultural products on the agricultural businesses that should be promoted by it.

(Compensation for Losses Caused by Agricultural Disasters)

Article 31 In order to prevent agricultural reproduction from being impaired by disasters and to ensure the stable farm business, the State is to implement measures to provide reasonable compensation for losses caused by disasters and other necessary measures.

(Maintenance and Enhancement of Functions of Natural Circular Agriculture) Article 32 In order to maintain and enhance the functions of natural circular agriculture, the State is to implement measures to secure the proper use of agricultural chemicals and fertilizers, and improve soil fertility through the effective use of livestock manure, etc., and implement other necessary measures.

(Streamlined Production and Distribution of Agricultural Materials)

Article 33 In order to help reduce the cost of agricultural materials used in agricultural business, the State is to implement measures to promote the streamlined production and distribution of agricultural materials, and other necessary measures.

Section 4 Measures for Development of Rural Areas

(Comprehensive Development of Rural Areas)

Article 34 (1) The State is to systematically promote measures for the development of agriculture and other comprehensive development of rural

- areas, with consideration given to coordination between land use for agriculture and other uses in rural areas.
- (2) In order to encourage the sound development of agriculture in regions and to create bountiful and livable rural areas with beautiful landscapes, the State is to implement necessary measures to comprehensively encourage the improvement of agricultural production infrastructure, and the improvement of the living environment, such as transport, information and communications, public health, education and culture, and the enhancement of welfare according to the characteristics of the regions.

(Development of Hilly and Mountainous Areas)

- Article 35 (1) In mountainous areas, their surrounding areas, and other areas where the conditions required for agricultural production are not met due to geographical factors (hereinafter referred to as "hilly and mountainous areas"), the State is to increase job opportunities by revitalizing agriculture and other industries through the introduction of new crops and the production and sale of local specialty products, and by encouraging the residents to settle in the area through the improvement of the living environment, and implement other necessary measures according to the characteristics of the regions.
- (2) The State is to implement specific measures for securing the multiple functions of agriculture by providing support to farmers in hilly and mountainous areas to overcome the disadvantages of the conditions required for agricultural production so that those farmers may continue farming in an appropriate way.

(Rural-urban Interactions)

- Article 36 (1) In order to deepen public understanding and interest in agriculture and rural areas and to help the citizenry live a healthy and comfortable life, the State is to implement measures to encourage rural- urban interactions, to develop a community gardens, and other necessary measures.
- (2) With regard to agriculture in and around urban areas, the State is to implement necessary measures to encourage agricultural production that meets the demand of urban residents, utilizing the advantage of having a short distance to the consumption area.

Chapter III Administrative Organs and Relevant Organizations

(Restructuring of Administrative Organs)

Article 37 When implementing measures for food, agriculture and rural areas, the State and local governments are to work together and endeavor to restructure administrative organs and increase the efficiency and transparency

of administrative management.

(Reorganization of Relevant Organizations)

Article 38 The State is to implement necessary measures for efficient reorganization of organizations related to food, agriculture and rural areas in order to help realize the basic principles.

Chapter IV Council for Policies on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas

(Establishment of the Council)

Article 39 The Council for Policies on Food, Agriculture and Rural Areas (hereinafter referred to as the "Council") is hereby established in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

(Authority)

- Article 40 (1) In addition to handling the matters under the authority of the Council pursuant to the provisions of this Act, the Council studies and deliberates on important matters concerning the enforcement of this Act, in response to a request for consultation made by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries or relevant ministers.
- (2) The Council may state its opinions to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries or relevant ministers, on the matters prescribed in the preceding paragraph.
- (3) In addition to what is provided for in the preceding two paragraphs, the Council will handle the matters under its authority pursuant to the provisions of the Land Improvement Act (Act No.195 of 1949), the Act on Improvement and Increased Production of Livestock (Act No.209 of 1950), the Act on Domestic Animal Infectious Diseases Control (Act No.166 of 1951), the Feed Supply-and-Demand Stabilization Act (Act No.356 of 1952), the Act Concerning Dairy and Beef Cattle Production Promotion (Act No.182 of 1954), the Act on Special Measures Concerning Promotion of Fruit-growing Industry (Act No.15 of 1961), the Act on the Stabilization in Livestock Farming Operations (Act No.183 of 1961), the Act on Price Adjustment of Sugar and Starch (Act No.109 of 1965), the Act on Establishment of Agricultural Promotion Regions (Act No.58 of 1969), the Wholesale Market Act (Act No.35 of 1971), the Act on Special Measures Concerning Beef Calf Production Stabilization (Act No.98 of 1988), the Act on Promotion of Food Marketing Structure Improvement (Act No.59 of 1991), the Act on Stabilization of Supply, Demand and Prices of Staple Food (Act No.113 of 1994), the Act on the Promotion of Recycling of Resources from Wasted Food (Act No.116 of 2000), the Act on Payment of Grants to Farmers for Purpose of Stabilization of Farming Management (Act No. 88 of

2006), the Act on Promotion of Organic Agriculture (Act No. 112 of 2006), the Act on Promotion of Business Activities by Collaboration Between Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Operators and Operators of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (Act No. 38 of 2008), and the Act on Promotion of Use of Rice for New Purposes (Act No. 25 of 2009).

(Organization)

Article 41 (1) The Council is comprised of members not more than 30.

- (2) The members are appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries from among persons with relevant expertise on the matters prescribed in paragraph (1) of the preceding Article.
- (3) The members are to serve on a part-time basis.
- (4) In addition to what is provided for in paragraph (2), officials of the Council who are specified by Cabinet Order are to be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

(Request for Submission of Materials)

Article 42 When the Council finds it necessary to perform the functions under its authority, it may request the heads of the relevant administrative organs to submit materials, offer their opinions, provide an explanations or any other necessary support.

(Delegation Provisions)

Article 43 In addition to what is provided for in this Act, the matters necessary or the organization, functions under its authority, and administration of the Council are specified by Cabinet Order.

Supplementary Provisions [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the date of its promulgation.

(Repeal of the Agricultural Basic Act)

Article 2 The Basic Act on Agriculture (Act No. 127 of 1961) is to be abolished.

(Transitional Measures)

Article 3 (1) If the report referred to in Article 6, paragraph (1) of the Basic Act on Agriculture prior to its repeal under the provisions of the preceding Article (hereinafter referred to as the "Former Basic Act") in 1999 has not been submitted to the Diet on the date on which this Act comes into effect, prior laws continue to govern the submission of the report to the Diet referred to in

that paragraph.

- (2) If the report referred to in Article 6, paragraph (1) of the Former Basic Act has been submitted to the Diet pursuant to the provisions of that paragraph before this Act comes into effect or if the report referred to in that paragraph has been submitted to the Diet pursuant to the provisions of that paragraph that are governed by prior laws pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, such report is deemed to have been submitted to the Diet as the report referred to in Article 14, paragraph (1) pursuant to the provisions of that paragraph.
- (3) If the document referred to in Article 7 of the Former Basic Act in 1999 has not been submitted to the Diet when this Act comes into effect, prior laws continue to govern the submission of the document to the Diet referred to in that Article.
- (4) If the document referred to in Article 7 of the Former Basic Act has been submitted to the Diet pursuant to that Article before this Act comes into effect or if the document referred to in that Article has been submitted to the Diet pursuant to the provisions of that Article that are governed by prior laws pursuant to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, such document is deemed to have been submitted to the Diet as the document referred to in Article 14, paragraph (2) pursuant to the provisions of that paragraph.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No.102 of July 16, 1999] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the date on which the Partial Amendment to the Cabinet Act (Act No. 88 of 1999) comes into effect; provided, however, that the provisions set forth in the following items come into effect as of the dates specified respectively in those items:

(ii) Article 10, paragraphs (1) and (5), Article 14, paragraph (3), and Articles 23, 28 and 30 of the Supplementary Provisions: the date of promulgation

(Succession of the Positions of Officials)

Article 3 A persons who, on the date on which this Act comes into effect, have been an official of the former Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Construction or Ministry of Home Affairs (hereinafter referred to as a "Former Ministry or Agency" in this Article) (excluding chairpersons and members of the councils, etc. referred to in Article 8 of the National Government

Organization Act (Act No. 120 of 1948), members of the Disaster Management Council, the chairperson and members of the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee, and those specified by Cabinet Order as persons similar thereto) are to, unless otherwise appointed to another position, becomes an official corresponding to the position under the same working terms and conditions of the Cabinet Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, or Ministry of the Environment after this Act comes into effect (hereinafter referred to as the "New Ministry or Agency" in this Article) or a department or organization established thereunder, which is specified by Cabinet Order as the New Office or Ministry, or the department or organization established thereunder that corresponds to the Former Office or Ministry or the department or organization established thereunder to which said official belongs on the date on which this Act comes into effect.

(Transitional Measures Specified Separately)

Article 30 In addition to what is provided for in Article 2 through the preceding Article, any transitional measures necessary for the enforcement of this Act are specified separately by other Acts.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No.107 of June 2, 2000] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of October 1, 2000.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No.116 of June 7, 2000] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding one year from the date of its promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No.126 of December 4, 2002] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of April 1, 2003; provided, however, that the provisions of Articles 9 through 18 and Articles 20 through 25 of the Supplementary Provisions comes into effect as of October 1, 2003.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No.73 of June 11, 2003] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding three months from the date of its promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 89 of July 29, 2005] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding six months from the date of its promulgation (hereinafter referred to as the "effective date"); provided, however, that the provisions of the following paragraph and Article 27 of the Supplementary Provisions comes into effect as of the date of promulgation.

(Provisions Governed by Cabinet Order)

Article 27 In addition to what is provided for in these Supplementary Provisions, any transitional measures necessary for the enforcement of this Act are specified by Cabinet Order.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 88 of June 21, 2006] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of April 1, 2007; provided, however, that the provisions of the following Article, and the provisions of Articles 3 and 7 of the Supplementary Provisions come into effect as of the date of its promulgation, and the provisions of Article 4, paragraph (1) apply to income from agricultural products to which that provisions apply after the fiscal year 2007.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 89 of June 21, 2006] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of April 1, 2007; provided, however, that the provisions of Articles 4, 7 and 9 of the Supplementary Provisions comes into effect as of the date of its promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 112 of December 15, 2006] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

(1) This Act comes into effect as of the date of its promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 38 of May 23, 2008] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding six months from the date of its promulgation

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 25 of April 24, 2009] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect as of the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding six months from the date of its promulgation.