

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 137, May 24, 2021]

ACCELERATING AND HARMONIZING AID AND HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT DURING DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution provides that the promotion of the general welfare is essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy;

WHEREAS, the Philippines is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, including sea level rise, increased frequency of extreme weather events, rising temperatures and heavy rainfalls, which account for significant losses, both tangible and intangible;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 922 (s. 2020) declared a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country due to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and enjoined all government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent and appropriate responses and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the COVID-19 threat;

WHEREAS, consistent with the declared policy under Section 2(b) of Republic Act (RA) No. 10121 or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010," it is the duty of the State to provide for an effective, integrated and fiscally responsible aid and humanitarian support to the Filipino people in times of emergency and during disaster as a critical component of recovery and rebuilding efforts;

WHEREAS, there is a need to accelerate and harmonize aid and humanitarian assistance provided by the National Government to the most affected and vulnerable sectors and communities, enhance agency coordination in the distribution thereof, and establish a unified beneficiary database using digital platforms and technologies for a faster and more reliable delivery of social protection programs and services of the Government; and

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 17 of the Constitution vests in the President the power of control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and existing laws, do hereby order: .

Section 1. Institutionalizing the AHON Convergence Program. The "Aid and Humanitarian Operations Nationwide" (AHON) Convergence Program is hereby institutionalized as a platform for an enhanced and unified delivery of social amelioration services, with the following component programs:

a. Food and non-food relief items to be provided as immediate response by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), as well as through the Assistance to Individuals/Families in Crisis Situation (AICS) program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

b. Livelihood assistance and/or interventions under the: (i) Sustainable Livelihood Program of the DSWD; (!i) "*Kaplt-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive* and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAH! CIDSS)" of the DWSD, provided through the *Balik-Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* (BP2) Program under Executive Order No. 114 (s. 2020); (iii) "*Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa*"and" Livelihood Seeding Program - *Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay*" of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI); (iv) Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Programs of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); and (v) the Cash and Food Subsidy for Marginal Farmers and Fisherfolks of the DA;

c. Educational assistance in the form of cash allowance to qualified students through the DSWD - AICS;

d. Burial assistance through the DSWD - AICS;

e. Transportation assistance provided by the DSWD under the BP2 Program and AICS;

f. Employment assistance through the Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program of the DOLE, and the Sustainable Development Program through the Employment Facilitation Track, and the Cash-for-Work and Skills Training and Capacity Building under the BP2 Program;

g. Medical and health assistance through the Department of Health (DOH), and provision of cash and/or guaranty letters under the DSWD - AICS; :

h. Direct financial assistance such as the enhanced financial grant under the "*Katuwang sa Diwa at Gawa para sa Masaganang Ani*" Program of the DA and the DSWD-AICS; and

i. Infrastructures for preparedness and rehabilitation phase such as the community-identified sub-projects and service facilities through the KALAH! CIDSS, and the advance information and communications infrastructures of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

The concerned implementing agency shall be responsible for the full implementation of its programs, and shall promulgate rules on the qualifications of beneficiaries which shall riot be unduly burdensome and shall be kept at the barest minimum to ensure accessibility and wider coverage.

Nothing in this Order shall be construed to prevent any national government agency or LGU from affording assistance and taking such other action in the event of any emergency or disaster prior to the inclusion of such intervention to the AHON Convergence Program.