

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 140, June 25, 2021]

ADOPTING THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY STRATEGY (NERS) 2021-2022 AND REINFORCING JOB-GENERATING PROGRAMS THROUGH THE NERS TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, Section 3, Article XIII of the Constitution provides that the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all;

WHEREAS, Article III of the Labor Code of the Philippines declares it a policy of the State to afford full protection to labor, promote full employment, ensure equal work opportunities regardless of sex, race or creed, and regulate the relations between workers' and employers;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted the imposition of lockdowns and other quarantine restrictions which have greatly affected the global economy and labor markets;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 response requires a whole-of-government approach in the implementation of urgent and critical measures to mitigate its adverse impact to society, especially to the micro, small and medium enterprises, and the entire labor force;

WHEREAS, recent diverse technologies such as mobile internet, cheaper, smaller and stronger sensors, and artificial and machine learning, are anticipated to result in labor displacements in some sectors of the economy, as a consequence of automation, likely involving clerical, routine and low-skilled positions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to revitalize the economy and create a national employment campaign that will promote and implement job-generating programs of various government agencies under the new normal;

WHEREAS, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are key strategies in developing a holistic employment recovery plan that addresses social and economic issues arising from the pandemic, as well as the challenges and opportunities brought about by new technologies; and

WHEREAS, a national strategy which aims to stimulate the economy and employment, support enterprises, jobs and incomes, protect workers in the workplace, and emphasize the importance of social dialogue in conflict resolution, consistent with the pillars and principles of the International Labour Organization, is necessary to ensure the responsiveness of government policies and programs to the situation of the country;

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

Section 1. National Employment Recovery Strategy 2021-2022. The National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) 2021-2022 is hereby adopted, and the *Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan* initiative shall be expanded, taking into consideration the changes in the labor market caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the fast adoption of new technologies. The NERS shall focus on the following:

- a. Creation of a policy environment that encourages generation of more employment opportunities with improved access to employment, livelihood and training opportunities;
- b. Improvement of employability, wellness and productivity of workers, and maximization of opportunities in the labor market under the new normal; and
- c. Provision of support to existing and emerging businesses, and security and preservation of employment.

Section 2. Constitution of the NERS Task Force. A Task Force is hereby created, for the implementation of the NERS 2021-2022, in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the adoption of new technologies to the labor market. It shall be composed of the following government agencies and shall engage relevant stakeholders in the private sector as may be necessary:

- Chair : Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry
- Co-Chairs : Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- Members : Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education
Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform
Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Secretary, Department of Budget and Management
Secretary, Department of Education
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Secretary, Department of Finance
Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology
Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government
Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways
Secretary, Department of Science and Technology
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
Secretary, Department of Tourism
Secretary, Department of Transportation
Director-General, National Economic and Development Authority
Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretariat
National Security Adviser

The Task Force members may designate their representatives, who must be next-in-