

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 111, April 27, 2020]

RECONSTITUTING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON, ABOLISHING THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING OFFICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Administration to protect, promote and abide by the highest standards of free expression and respect for press freedom, as well as to nurture a well-informed and enlightened citizenry;

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the Office of the President (OP) to provide true, correct and accurate information to the public, and to utilize and consolidate its information resources to ensure effective and efficient information dissemination;

WHEREAS, it is imperative to improve the awareness of the public of activities, actions, pronouncements and policies of the President and his Administration;

WHEREAS, Memorandum Order (MO) No. 32 (s. 1986) created the Office of the Press Secretary, headed by a Press Secretary who acted as the official spokesperson of the President;

WHEREAS, by virtue of Executive Order (EO) No. 4 (s. 2010) and other issuances, the Office of the Press Secretary was reorganized, and the task of informing and communicating to the people the policies, programs, official activities and achievements of the OP and the Executive Department, as well as the development and implementation of communication strategies, were shared between the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and its attached agencies, the Presidential Communications Development and Strategic Planning Office (PCDSPO), and the Presidential Spokesperson;

WHEREAS, there is a *need* to update and harmonize the functions of the said communications offices under the OP to ensure the efficient and effective performance of their common mandate, and to streamline the release of relevant information to the public; and

WHEREAS, under Section 31, Chapter 10, Title III, Book III of EO No. 292 (s.1987) or the Administrative Code of 1987, the President has the continuing authority to reorganize the administrative structure of the OP;

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

Section 1. Office of the Presidential Spokesperson. The Office of the Presidential Spokesperson (OPS) is hereby reconstituted under the OP. It shall be headed by a Presidential Spokesperson, who shall have the rank and emoluments of a Cabinet Secretary.