

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 114, May 06, 2020]

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK PROBINSYA, BAGONG PAG-ASA PROGRAM AS A PILLAR OF BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CREATING A COUNCIL THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region (NCR) accounted for the largest share of the country's Gross Domestic Product at 36 percent based on the 2018 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, while its population of 12,877,253 accounted for about 12.8 percent of the Philippine population per the 2015 census;

WHEREAS, the epicenters of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Philippines are congested areas located in the NCR;

WHEREAS, the uncontrolled upsurge of population in the NCR brings to the fore longstanding issues on the lack of viable and sustainable employment opportunities in the countryside, unbalanced regional development, and unequal distribution of wealth;

WHEREAS, Sections 9 and 21, Article II of the Constitution declare the State policies of: (i) promoting a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all; and (ii) promoting comprehensive rural development;

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article XII of the Constitution states that the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth, and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged; thus, the State shall promote full employment based on sound agricultural development and the empowerment and creation of local industries that make full and efficient use of human and natural resources, and ensure that all sectors of the economy and all regions of the country have optimum opportunities to develop;

WHEREAS, the promotion of value chain development to increase agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and tourism, as well as the use of science and technology to enhance innovation and creative capacity towards self-sustaining, inclusive development are key strategies in attaining the Ten-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of this Administration;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 espouses the strategies of spatial development which aims to decongest the NCR and direct growth to key centers throughout the country, improve linkages by connecting rural areas to growth centers or strengthening urban-rural linkages, and make growth more

inclusive by creating more opportunities for production and employment in the lagging regions, thereby reducing poverty;

WHEREAS, countryside development is one of the priority sectors in building a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society in the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*;

WHEREAS, to reverse migration to the NCR and other congested metropolises, as well as to attain rural prosperity through equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities, a balanced regional development program to foster socially cohesive, resilient and sustainable rural communities needs to be institutionalized;

WHEREAS, under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11469 or the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," the President is granted the temporary emergency authority to, among others, undertake such measures as may be reasonable and necessary to carry out the declared national policy under the same law, and reprogram, reallocate and realign from savings on other items of appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2020 General Appropriations Act in the Executive Department, as may be necessary and beneficial to fund measures that address and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including social amelioration for affected communities; and

WHEREAS, under Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution, the President shall have the power of control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and ensure the faithful execution of laws;

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

Section 1. Policy of Balanced Regional Development. The State shall ensure balanced regional development and equitable distribution of wealth, resources and opportunities through policies and programs that boost countryside development and inclusive growth, provide adequate social services, and promote full employment, industrialization and an improved quality of life in rural areas. Towards this end, the "*Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* (BP²) Program" shall be institutionalized.

Section 2. Creation of the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council. To ensure whole-of-government action on the implementation of the BP² Program, the Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council ("Council") is hereby created, to be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Executive Secretary;
Vice Secretary for Socio-Economic Planning and Director-
Chairperson: General, National Economic and Development Authority
Members: Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local
Government;
Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development
(DSWD);
Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA);
Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform;
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry;

Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
Secretary, Department of Health;
Secretary, Department of information and Communications Technology;
Secretary, Department of Finance;
Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways;
Secretary, Department of Transportation;
Secretary, Department of Tourism;
Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development;
Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd);
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
Chairperson, Mindanao Development Authority; and
Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority.

A member of the Council shall designate a permanent and alternate representative, who is fully authorized to decide for and on behalf of his or her respective department, agency, or office and perform the functions as hereafter provided.

The Council shall be assisted by a Secretariat, to be headed by the General Manager of the National Housing Authority (NHA) as Executive Director, which shall provide technical and administrative support to the Council. The Secretariat shall be composed of personnel from the NHA and : as may be necessary, from member agencies of the Council.

Section 3. Powers and Functions of the Council. The Council shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Formulate within thirty (30) days from the issuance hereof, the guidelines necessary to implement this Order, including the BP² Program Framework as defined herein;
- b. Provide overall direction in the implementation of the BP² Program, including guidance and technical assistance to government agencies and local government units (LGUs) in its implementation;
- c. Approve or modify key areas and components of the BP² Program, as well as ensure the compliance of government agencies involved in its implementation;
- d. In coordination with the Presidential Communications Operations Office, develop a strategic communications plan to educate the people and advocate for supportive policies in the local level;