

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 17, April 24, 2019 ]**

**CONSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR THE EXPO 2020 DUBAI**

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines has committed to participate in the Expo 2020 Dubai, which will be held in Jebel Ali, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, between 20 October 2020 and 10 April 2021, to promote before the world audience the heritage, talent and ingenuity of the Filipino people, as well as showcase the country's vibrant economy, tourist destinations and emerging technological innovations;

**WHEREAS**, the participation of the Philippines in the Expo 2020 Dubai provides an excellent opportunity to further enhance the country's presence in a global scale, and promote the country's commercial and public interests in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia region;

**WHEREAS**, with the theme, *"Connecting Minds, Creating the Future,"* the Expo 2020 Dubai offers a platform to foster creativity, innovation and global cooperation, which will contribute to the country's goal of vigorously advancing science, technology and innovation as a strategy for long-term growth, consistent with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017 - 2022;

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to facilitate the preparation and participation of the Philippines in the Expo 2020 Dubai through inter-agency collaboration and coordination; and

**WHEREAS**, Article VII Section 17 of the 1987 Constitution confers on 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. Creation.** The Philippine Organizing Committee (POC) for the participation of the Philippines in the Expo 2020 Dubai is hereby created to be composed of the following:

- a. Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as Chairperson and Commissioner-General;
- b. Secretary, Department of Tourism, as Vice Chairperson;
- c. Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs;
- d. Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- e. Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment;

- f. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; and
- g. Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology.

The POC members may designate their respective alternates to represent them in the committee. The alternates must have a rank of not lower than an Assistant Secretary or its equivalent, and must be fully authorized to decide on behalf of their respective principals. The designation of the alternates or representatives shall be in writing, and must be duly submitted to the POC Secretariat.

The POC Secretariat shall undertake and oversee the over-all preparation for and the day-to-day operation of the Philippine participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai. The Secretariat shall be complemented by personnel designated by the members of the POC from their respective departments.

**Section 2. Mandate.** The POC shall exercise the following functions and responsibilities:

- a. Formulate and implement a work plan, which contains the following:
  - i. appropriate theme, concept and message of the Philippines, which will present the country as an ideal destination for trade, tourism and investments, and showcase the best of Filipino culture and Heritage, while adhering to the over-all theme and sub-themes of the Expo 2020 Dubai;
  - ii. specific roles to be performed by relevant agencies under this Order, as well as programs, activities and other incidents of participation in the Expo 2020 Dubai; and
  - iii. proposed budget to cover expenses of participating in the Expo 2020 Dubai. "
- b. Act as coordinating body between the private sector and other government entities to ensure that all programs and activities indicated in the above work plan, and all other directives subsequently issued relative to the participation of the Philippines in the Expo 2020 Dubai are enforced;
- c. Ensure that the benefits of the Philippine participation are maximized through a concerted and cost-effective national approach;
- d. Employ and utilize sustainable architectural design, including materials that may be adapted for re-use, whenever applicable;
- e. Ensure the safety and protection of government properties, exhibit materials and equipment used for participating in the Expo 2020 Dubai;
- f. Accept or receive sponsorship and gratuitous title of funds, materials and devices essential for planning, implementing and managing the participation of the Philippines in the Expo 2020 Dubai, subject to relevant laws and existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations;