

# [ EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 120, November 18, 2020 ]

## **STRENGTHENING REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY EFFORTS IN TYPHOON-HIT AREAS THROUGH THE CREATION OF THE *BUILD BACK BETTER* TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, Section 16, Article II of the Constitution declares it a policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act (RA) No. 10121 or the "Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010," declares it a policy of the State to adopt a disaster risk reduction and management approach that is holistic, comprehensive, integrated and proactive in lessening the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of disasters including climate change, and one that promotes the involvement and participation of all sectors and all stakeholders concerned, at all levels, especially the local community;

**WHEREAS**, under Sections 3 (aa) and (ee) of RA No. 10121, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan 2011 to 2028, Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation (DRRM) aims to restore and improve facilities, livelihood and living conditions, and organizational capacities of affected communities, and reduce disaster risks in accordance with the *Build Back Better* principle;

**WHEREAS**, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), as the highest policy making body on disaster management, and based on the lessons learned from Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) and other disasters that hit the country, approved in 2019 the Rehabilitation and Recovery Planning Guide (RRPG), which provides a comprehensive framework in planning and expediting processes for post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery;

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines, being located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific, is hit by an average of twenty (20) tropical cyclones per year, with some of the strongest recorded making landfall;

**WHEREAS**, under RA No. 10121, the NDRRMC responds to both natural and human-induced disasters, and is in charge of four (4) thematic areas of the DRRM system, particularly (i) Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, (ii) Disaster Preparedness, (iii) Disaster Response and (iv) Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery;

**WHEREAS**, while RA No. 10121 and RA No. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991," have given local government units (LGUs) primacy on disaster rehabilitation and recovery response within their respective jurisdictions, the Philippines' experience has demonstrated that typhoons usually affect several political jurisdictions, and the magnitude of devastation and huge amount of resources needed to restore normalcy in affected areas may overwhelm local government resources and manpower;

**WHEREAS,** current and future DRRM demands, and the realities in the bureaucratic framework, warrant a high-level institutional platform and a more permanent body that will allow the National Government to work in a sustained and integrated manner, with a clear unity of command, during a typhoon's post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation phase; and

**WHEREAS,** Section 17, Article VII of the Constitution vests in the President the power of control over all executive departments, bureaus and offices, and the mandate to 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. Creation.** There is hereby established the *Build Back Better* Task Force for post-disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts in areas affected by typhoons, which will be composed of the following:

Chairperson: Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Co-Chairperson: Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);

Members: Chairperson, NDRRMC and Secretary, Department of National Defense;

Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development;

Socio-economic Planning Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority;

Secretary, Department of Transportation;

Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government;

Secretary, Department of Energy;

Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry;

Secretary, Department of Agriculture;

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM);

Secretary, Department of Finance;

Secretary, Department of Education;

Secretary, Department of Health;

Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development;

Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment;

Secretary, Department of Science and Technology;

General Manager, National Housing Authority;

Administrator, Land Registration Authority;

Administrator, Local Water Utilities Administration;

Administrator, National Electrification Administration;

Administrator, National Irrigation Administration;

Administrator, Philippine Coconut Authority; and

Chairman, Cooperative Development Authority.

As may be necessary, the Task Force may call on other relevant government