

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 634, July 03, 2007]

**CREATING THE BICOL CALAMITY ASSISTANCE AND
REHABILITATION EFFORT COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, funding for the River Basin and Watershed Management Project, a project funded by the National Government with a World Bank loan, is now available;

WHEREAS, the project has two major components, namely: 1) Bicol River Basin Management Component; and 2) Water Resources Management Component;

WHEREAS, the Bicol River Basin Management Component which will pilot the integrated water resources management approach on the ground is further subdivided into four subcomponents. These are: 1) Institutional Strengthening, 2) Watershed Development and Management to be led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and co-implemented by the Local Government Units (LGUs) within the Bicol River basin; 3) Irrigation Management to be implemented by the National Irrigation Administration; and 4) Flood Mitigation to be implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways;

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated at \$30 Million, around \$22 Million of which is expected to be borrowed from the World Bank;

WHEREAS, the Bicol Region has been adversely affected by a series of massive typhoons particularly Caloy, Milenyo, Reming and Seniang;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 9401 or the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2007 sets the parameters as to the allocation for the Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Effort (CARE) of Eight Billion Pesos (P8,000,000,000.00) under the Calamity Fund and Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000.00) under the Department of Education (DepEd), the implementing/recipient departments and agencies and use of the fund;

WHEREAS, to date, the Department of Budget and Management has released some P5.2 Billion under the Calamity Fund and the P2.0 Billion under the DepEd for school buildings in typhoon stricken areas or a total of P7.2 Billion to various implementing departments and agencies specified in the GAA, as follows:

Department of Agriculture (DA)	P1.0 Billion
Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Energy/National Electrification Administration (DOE/NEA)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Social Welfare	P0.500

and Development (DSWD)	Billion
Department of Education (DepEd)	P2.0 Billion
National Housing Authority (NHA)	P0.500 Billion
Department of Health (DOH)	P0.300 Billion
Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)	P1.425 Billion
State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)	P0.400 Billion
Local Government Units (LGUs)	P0.126 Billion

WHEREAS, prior to the release of funds, work program of the individual implementing agencies were submitted to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), an inter-agency body with the Office of Civil Defense as the technical Secretariat. The said Council serves as the clearing house for all claims/request and upon consolidation/evaluation, the requests are endorsed and recommended to the Office of the President (OP) for approval. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is notified of the OP approval as basis for the release of the fund.

WHEREAS, the NDCC normally handles calamity funds of about Two Billion Pesos (P2,000,000,000) to coordinate calamity response all over the country;

WHEREAS, the Ten Billion (P10,000,000,000.00) allocated for CARE is many times bigger than what the NDCC normally handles;

WHEREAS, a wholistic approach is needed in the implementation of government rehabilitation, repair and reconstruction works and activities in order to immediately mitigate the devastation caused by the aforementioned typhoons;

WHEREAS, some components of the Bicol River Basin and Watershed Management may interface or overlap with CARE;

WHEREAS, there is a need to establish relationships to synchronize the operations of existing government structures in order to strengthen synergy and efficiency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation. – The Bicol CARE Commission (B CARE C) is hereby created.

SEC. 2. Mandate. – The B CARE C shall integrate relief, rehabilitation, resettlement, recovery, livelihood and development efforts in the different areas of the Bicol Region particularly affected by typhoons Caloy, Milenyo, and Reming. It shall likewise ensure that public funds allocated for victims of said disasters shall be spent judiciously and effectively through efficient prioritization of programs and consistent monitoring of projects. It shall replace NDCC as the clearing house for all claims/requests. Upon consolidation/evaluation, it shall approve the appropriate requests. It shall notify the DBM of its approval as a basis for the release of the fund.