



Republic of the Philippines
Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council

RESOLUTION NO. 01
Series of 2020

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 114 of 06 May 2020 institutionalizes the “Balik Probinsya, Balik Pag-asa (BP²)” Program and created the BP² Council to oversee its implementation;

WHEREAS, Section 3(a) of EO No. 114 requires the Council to formulate and adopt within thirty (30) days from its issuance, guidelines necessary to implement the said Order, including the BP² Program Framework;

WHEREAS, among the principal objectives of the Council is to provide overall direction in the implementation of the BP² Program, as well as ensure the attainment of the policy objectives of the BP² Program Framework such as empowerment of local industries, food security and agricultural productivity, social welfare, health and employment, and development of infrastructure; and

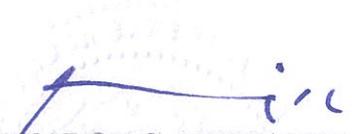
WHEREAS, determining policy priorities and identifying key agencies to implement specific components of the BP² Program will enable the Council to manage its resources effectively and efficiently, and maximize the impact and benefits of its component programs and activities;

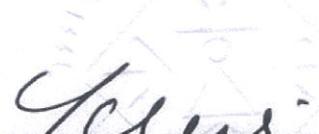
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the National Economic Development Authority and the designated Technical Working Group, the BP² Council APPROVES and ADOPTS the *Implementing Guidelines of EO No. 114*, subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations;

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Implementing Guidelines shall be subject to a continuing review, and the BP² Council may revise, amend or modify the same or any component thereof; and

RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Implementing Guidelines approved herein shall be reported to the Office of the President, through the Executive Secretary.

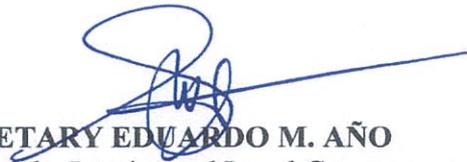
APPROVED, this 4th day of June 2020, during the meeting of the BP² Council via video conference.


SECRETARY SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary
Chairperson

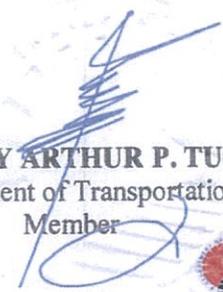

SECRETARY KARL KENDRICK T. CHUA
National Economic and Development Authority
Vice Chairperson

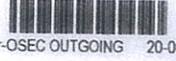





SECRETARY EDUARDO M. AÑO
 Department of the Interior and Local Government,
 Member




SECRETARY ARTHUR P. TUGADE
 Department of Transportation
 Member

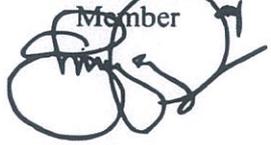


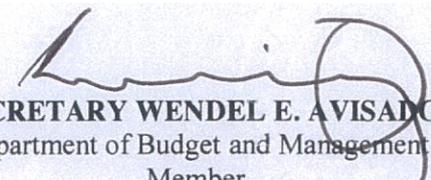
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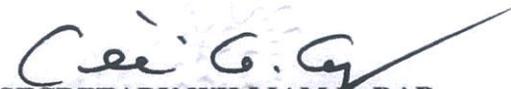


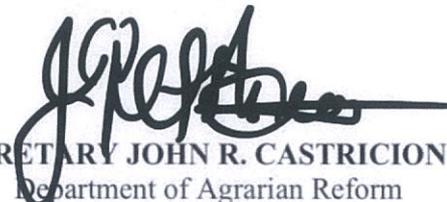

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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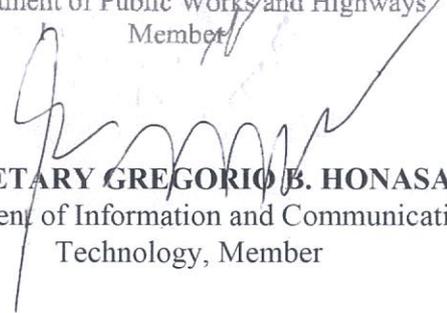

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 Member

Department of Public Works and Highways
 Office of the Secretary
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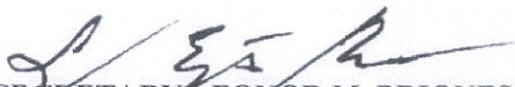

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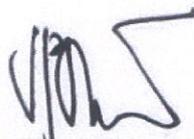

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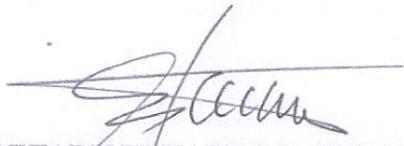

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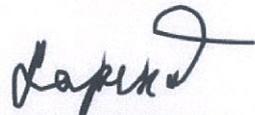

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SECRETARY LEONOR M. BRIONES
 Department of Education
 Member


CHAIRPERSON J. PROSPERO E. DE VERA III
 Commission on Higher Education
 Member

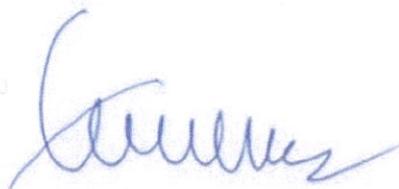

SECRETARY EDUARDO D. DEL ROSARIO
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 Urban Development, Member


SECRETARY ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA
 Technical Education and Skills Development
 Authority, Member


CHAIRPERSON ORLANDO R. RAVANERA
 Cooperative Development Authority
 Member


SECRETARY EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
 Mindanao Development Authority
 Member

ATTESTED BY:


GENERAL MANAGER MARCELINO P. ESCALADA, JR.
 National Housing Authority
 Executive Director, BP2 Council Secretariat

Implementing Guidelines of Executive Order No. 114

Institutionalizing the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* Program as a Pillar of Balanced Regional Development, Creating a Council Therefore, and for Other Purposes

4 June 2020

Pursuant to Section 3(a) of Executive Order (EO) No. 114, the following implementing guidelines are hereby issued.

Section 1. Legal Bases

- a. Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, State Policies on poverty alleviation and improved quality of life for all;
- b. Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, State Policies on protection and promotion of health;
- c. Section 20, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, State Policies on the role of the private sector;
- d. Section 21, Article II of the 1987 Constitution, State Policies on rural development;
- e. Sections 4, Article X of the 1987 Constitution, on the President's general supervision over local government units (LGUs);
- f. Section 14, Article X of the 1987 Constitution, on the participation of regional development councils (RDCs);
- g. Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution, on the national economic goal of more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth;
- h. Section 1, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, on the right of all citizens to quality education;
- i. Section 3, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution, on the rights of families;
- j. Section 16 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, on the promotion of general welfare by the LGUs;

- k. Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, on the provision of essential services and facilities by the LGUs;
- l. RA No. 11469, otherwise known as the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act
- m. EO No. 114, Series of 2020

Section 2. Purpose of the Program. The *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* (BP²) program is institutionalized to 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.

Section 3. The *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* (BP²) Program Framework. The multidimensional program framework emphasizes facilitation of rural environments to boost sustainable countryside development and promote more inclusive growth; thereby enabling all constituents, including the BP² beneficiaries and locals, to invest in themselves and their communities, and improve their general welfare.

The BP² Program framework also emphasizes the development of sustainable communities to achieve long-term growth driven by the people and for the people. It espouses a vibrant local economy that promotes sustainable production and consumption and enhances the countryside's resilience to climate change, natural disasters, and other economic and health risks.

The framework espouses social inclusion by encouraging effective participation of all stakeholders to ensure that the projects and activities to be undertaken respond to articulated priorities at the local level. The priorities shall be initially financed by line departments and special programs and over time transferred to the local government units (LGU) to ensure sustainability.

Finally, the program framework encourages integration by designing effective mechanisms to achieve the desired synergy for rural growth and development. This mechanism includes the identification of priority activities, how they are implemented, and how the integration will be accomplished. To this end, the program seeks the active participation of all stakeholders to improve coordination, understanding, and support for the program.

3.1. The Program's Key Results Areas. The Program Framework consists of four (4) key results areas to ensure more inclusive and balanced urban and rural development, and resilient and sustainable communities.

3.1.1. Empowerment of local industries. A sustainable program for public sector investments and private sector participation shall be introduced to encourage the transfer or expansion of medium and large businesses to provincial economic hubs and promote regional development. To ensure sustainability and competitiveness, the program shall promote local industries with clear comparative advantage in the locality, leveraging on local skills and resources, and the proactive and efficient services of the LGU.

Moreover, enabling support shall be provided to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to promote their continued growth. This includes programs to further ease doing business, particularly in the areas of starting, maintaining, and closing businesses, accessing credit, securing permits and licenses, and paying taxes. Further, a system of fiscal or tax incentives that is performance-based, targeted, time-bound, and transparent may be provided in accordance with the national policy on tax incentives. Forward and backward linkages shall be strengthened in export- and domestic-oriented enterprises through increased access to markets, use of e-commerce, and accelerated integrated value chains. Finally, other programs and thrusts to achieve this policy objective shall be developed in accordance with emerging priorities.

3.1.2. Food security and agricultural productivity. The transformation of local economies hinges on a productive and resilient agriculture value-chain. To achieve this, innovations and technologies that are conducive to long-term and sustainable rural development shall be encouraged and facilitated for agricultural modernization, such as modern rice farming techniques, high-yield seed production, and farm mechanization. Local agricultural industries shall be supported and strengthened through infrastructure, logistical support, and value chain development. In addition, financial support shall be extended to farmers, such as but not limited to loans sourced from the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund. Furthermore, measures to promote economies of scale in agricultural production, promote value chain development, increase farm incomes, and improve the quality of life of farmers, shall be sustainably pursued. Finally, other programs and thrusts to achieve this policy objective shall be developed in accordance with emerging priorities.

3.1.3. Housing, social welfare, health, employment, and human resource development. The health and education of the people in their home provinces, particularly the program beneficiaries, are important underpinnings for the success of this program. To this end, comprehensive assistance packages shall

be designed to encourage the voluntary and immediate movement of BP² beneficiaries to their respective home provinces, including workers and overseas Filipino workers, especially those stranded in the National Capital Region (NCR) due to the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Inclusive access to basic services such as social welfare, health, employment, affordable education, and decent housing shall be provided for the BP² beneficiaries. These shall include the following:

- a. Housing and Settlements. Development of a housing and settlements upgrading program that will offer affordable, disaster-resilient, livable, sustainable, and gender-sensitive housing. This shall also include new modalities for delivery, such as usufruct and rental housing, farm-lot subdivision projects and agrarian urbanism development, housing microfinance, and employee housing programs.

The government shall consider settlements model (e.g., Department of Science and Technology – University of the Philippines or DOST-UP PLANADES’ model, EXODUS for Progress, and Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH)) in determining future housing supply and demand, and the suitable location of housing projects especially in emerging growth centers.

- b. Social welfare. Provision of targeted and time-bound assistance packages and social preparation through comprehensive family case management prior to transfer and throughout the program implementation.
- c. Health. Strengthening of the local health systems to provide access to comprehensive quality health services to all members of the community by upgrading local health facilities, capacity enhancement of health workers, and organization of healthcare provider networks, including the assignment of individuals to a primary care provider of choice.
- d. Employment. Creation of employment opportunities through sustainable livelihood programs, active labor market policies to match skills with jobs, time-bound emergency employment, and retooling, reskilling, and upskilling of workers to address the emerging requirements of industries; exploring the conversion of idle lands into science or technology parks in line with the regional spatial development framework and comprehensive land use plan of the concerned city or municipality.

- e. Education and Training. Establishment of quality educational institutions in rural areas that offer Science, Technology, Engineering, and

Mathematics, technical, and vocational courses to create a base of workers ready to be tapped for manufacturing and digital-industries; and increase investments in learning management systems and e-learning resources.

Finally, other programs and thrusts to achieve this policy objective shall be developed in accordance with emerging priorities.

3.1.4. Infrastructure development. A key success factor for the program is taking advantage of economic geography to ensure connectivity of localities to economic hubs and the rest of the world. This would help ensure the efficient movement of goods, services, and people to take advantage of markets and new opportunities. To this end, the Build Build Build program, both at the national and local levels, shall be pursued.

Infrastructure such as transportation and telecommunications, power resources, and irrigation facilities which support the operation and development of other economic sectors shall be developed in all regions of the country. The completion of existing and future national road, highways, and railway projects to facilitate the movement of people, the creation and improvement of transport terminals, and the construction of public markets, logistics chains, and cold storage in communities, shall be prioritized. Finally, other programs and thrusts to achieve this policy objective shall be developed in accordance with emerging priorities.

3.2. Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Components. Short-, medium-, and long-term programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) in support of BP² shall be implemented. The short-term PAPs shall include those that will be implemented from 2020 until 2022 and other short-gestating PAPs thereafter. The medium- and long-term PAPs will be implemented from 2020 and can extend beyond 2022.

3.2.1. Short term. The short-term PAPs shall include the immediate activities meant to assist the relocation of BP² beneficiaries who are ready to return to the provinces. Annex A provides the guidelines for the proper conduct of relocation, with procedures before departure and during dispatch of selected BP² beneficiaries from the sending LGUs and upon their arrival in the receiving LGUs.

There shall also be a transition phase where existing supportive PAPs with available funds or appropriations are implemented to facilitate the repatriation of beneficiaries and start strengthening the local economies to provide sources of income for beneficiaries. These PAPs shall ensure strict adherence to health protocols to prevent the spread of SARS-Cov-2 during this COVID-19 pandemic.

During this transitory period, convergence points are critical to ensure a holistic and integrated delivery of social services, including the creation of common targeting systems, particularly for basic services. Strong coordination with LGU local housing offices for assistance and monitoring of housing program beneficiaries shall be pursued.

PAPs that enhance agriculture production, strengthen existing agri-based enterprises, help develop new agri-based enterprises, and provide other livelihood and employment packages shall also be immediately rolled out. Relevant training programs shall be conducted to develop skills that match the available and potential employment in the locality.

Funded PAPs that enhance connectivity, power, and communication in the receiving LGUs shall also be implemented.

3.2.2. Medium term. In the medium term, the relocation of BP² beneficiaries shall continue following the same relocation protocols described in Annex A. Likewise, existing PAPs with available funds or appropriations supportive of the BP² program shall continue to be implemented. PAPs for funding in 2021 shall also be pursued to facilitate the implementation of other critical projects. These PAPs shall include the development of new housing projects to ensure the BP² beneficiaries' access to permanent housing. The housing sites shall be identified based on a set of criteria defined in Annex B. To this end, the concerned government agencies shall submit to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) a budget proposal in line with this program.

The relocation of enterprises, including start-ups and new enterprises, shall also be pursued by offering a combination of tax and non-tax incentives. Any tax and fiscal incentives to be given shall conform to the national policy that all incentives given shall be performance-based, targeted, time-bound, and transparent. In addition to national government tax incentives, the LGUs may also provide counterpart incentives. Non-tax incentives shall cover areas such as ease of doing business, access to credit, access to utilities, and other related needs of the enterprises. Considering price and quality, enterprises to be established shall make use of skills and local products to help the local community expand their markets and add to the value of their products.

3.2.3. Long term. In the long term, given initial support from the national government, LGUs would be more equipped to attract relocators with little or no national government assistance.

PAPs that require longer time horizons to implement but require initial steps to be undertaken by national government agencies (NGAs) shall be considered. These include the proposed decentralization of powers and moving the seat of governance, priority legislation on rationalized, transparent, targeted, and results-based tax and non-tax incentives, and the creation of new urban centers outside of the NCR and existing major urban centers.

The emerging PAPs by duration are provided in more detail in Annex C.

3.3. Target Beneficiaries. The BP² Council shall issue the necessary resolutions confirming and identifying the basic set of criteria for the target beneficiaries, in coordination with the relevant implementing agency.

In general, the BP² program shall benefit low-income families who opt to move out of NCR or other highly urbanized cities, and return or relocate to other provinces due to but not limited to the following circumstances: (a) voluntary decision to return to the provinces; (b) loss of job or other sources of income; (c) unsafe current dwelling places; or (d) exposure to health and safety risks and other environmental hazards.

The preliminary details of selecting the target beneficiaries are provided under Annex D.

3.4. Development of Housing Sites for the BP² Program. The BP² Council shall issue the necessary resolutions confirming and identifying the criteria for selection of relocation areas. A preliminary set of criteria for selection of housing areas and relocation process is provided under Annex B.

Section 4. The Program Governing Council

4.1. The Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Council

4.1.1 Composition of the Council. To ensure a more coordinated whole-of-government approach on the implementation of the BP² Program, the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* Council shall be composed of the following:

Chairperson:	Executive Secretary
Vice-Chairperson:	Secretary, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)
Members:	Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);

Secretary, Department of Agriculture (DA);
Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR);
Secretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
Secretary, Department of Health (DOH);
Secretary, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT);
Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF);
Secretary, Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
Secretary, Department of Transportation (DOTr);
Secretary, Department of Tourism (DOT);
Secretary, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD);
Secretary, Department of Education (DepEd);
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
Chairperson, Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA); 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 provided in EO No. 114 s. 2020.

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.

The Council may amend the list of members and call upon other government agencies and private sector groups to advise the Council or help implement the program.

4.1.2 Powers and functions of the Council

The following powers and functions provide details and nuances to the powers and function of the Council as stated in EO No. 114 s. 2020.

- a. Provide overall direction in the implementation of the BP² Program, including guidance and technical assistance to government agencies and LGUs;
- b. Approve or modify key areas and components of the BP² program, and ensure the compliance of government agencies involved in its implementation;
- c. Develop a strategic communications plan to educate the people and advocate for supportive policies in the local level, in coordination with the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO);
- d. Identify legislative, regulatory, and policy changes to promote balanced regional development, and recommend to Congress and advocate for the enactment of such reforms into law;
- e. Engage, consult, and coordinate with LGUs in the formulation of policies, and implementation of the components of the BP² program that will allow for resource-sharing arrangements among the national and local governments through, among others, co-financing mechanisms with development partners;
- f. Enlist the support and assistance of other government agencies, instrumentalities, government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), and state universities and colleges (SUCs), and consult and provide avenues for the private sector, relevant stakeholders, advocacy groups, and non-government organizations (NGOs) to participate in the attainment of the objectives of EO No. 114 s. 2020;
- g. Create sub-groups, technical working groups, or committees as necessary, to implement the objectives of EO No. 114 s. 2020;
- h. Adopt mechanisms, such as but not limited to the establishment of an online platform and BP² desks in all offices of member agencies, to facilitate accessibility to the public, enhance monitoring of implementation, and ensure the compliance of beneficiaries;
- i. Issue supplemental guidelines amending policies through Council resolutions if and when necessary;
- j. By the end of each year, produce a compendium of resolutions and codify the guidelines-related resolutions into an Omnibus Guidelines and disseminate the same to all stakeholders;
- k. Assign particular agencies to perform specific functions that will facilitate more effective implementation of the program; and

1. Perform other functions and activities as necessary to carry out the provisions of EO 114 s. 2020, or as the President may direct.

4.1.3 Roles and functions of member agencies. Member agencies shall provide strong and coordinated support to the objectives of the BP² consistent with their respective mandates and shall identify and implement sustainable programs that contribute to the said objective, in accordance with relevant laws, rules, and regulations. Implementing agencies shall constantly coordinate with the Council regarding their programs, and shall provide updates and reports as required by the Council. The member agencies shall have the following primary roles and functions in accordance with their respective mandates, and subject to relevant laws, rules, and regulations. Additional roles and functions may be provided by the Council to carry out emerging and priority programs.

a. National Housing Authority

- i. As the designated Secretariat of the Council, the NHA shall manage the BP² enrollment system and database for applicants and beneficiaries. It shall coordinate the establishment of local BP² Centers where applicants can manually apply and operate the online portal *balikprobinsya.ph*. It shall also initially provide the necessary BP² personnel needed for processing and other coordinating activities;
- ii. Coordinate with other NGAs on the actual transfer arrangements of approved applicants, and the provision of benefits and assistance packages to transferees; and
- iii. Assign Regional Coordinators from its staff to provide regular updates and feedback to NEDA Regional Offices on developments from the BP² National Council.

b. Department of the Interior and Local Government

- i. Assist NGAs in coordinating with LGUs in the implementation of the program on various phases;
- ii. Ensure that all efforts, updates, and developments at the national level are properly cascaded to the LGUs;
- iii. Ensure that potential constraints faced by LGUs are properly evaluated, channeled to, and addressed by concerned NGAs;
- iv. In coordination with concerned NGAs, provide necessary assistance and support to LGUs in performing their responsibilities and functions accordingly;
- v. Develop and implement initiatives that shall address policy, governance, and operational gaps in the implementation of the BP² program at the local level;

- vi. Ensure that governance principles such as transparency, accountability, and citizens empowerment are embedded in the program implementation at the local level; and
- vii. Assist in monitoring the progress of program implementation in the concerned LGUs.

c. Department of Social Welfare and Development

- i. Coordinate with the referring LGUs and the BP² Secretariat in the identification, profiling, and assessment of target families, conduct of social preparation and psychosocial intervention, and facilitation of family development plans;
- ii. Ensure linkages of beneficiary list with other targeting databases, such as the conditional cash transfer program, unconditional cash transfer program, rice subsidy program, indigent senior citizen pension, among others;
- iii. Provide immediate relocation and transitional packages to help BP² beneficiaries settle in their new environment;
- iv. Facilitate community-driven development initiatives in the settlement areas by providing technical and other appropriate forms of support to concerned LGUs; and
- v. Facilitate and manage the implementation of community-based interventions that will support livelihood and develop opportunities for the validated eligible families, including the provision of capacity building interventions to enhance their livelihood and employability skills; and livelihood settlement grants to start their microenterprises or support pre-employment requirements.

d. Department of Agriculture

- i. Provide BP² beneficiaries training in innovative, highly productive, and profitable climate resilient food or farm production practices; assistance in integrating agri-fisheries organizations; assistance in obtaining credit and other available assistance packages; assistance in linking to markets; and assistance in achieving household food security;
- ii. Identify new agri-fisheries areas in public lands in collaboration with the DENR;
- iii. Provide the infrastructure support for developing food production areas in collaboration with relevant government agencies, such as the National Irrigation Administration, the DPWH, and the LGUs;
- iv. Assist in the creation of rural industries through farm consolidation and transformation of producers' organization into viable business enterprises, or linking producers' organizations with established enterprises;

- v. Assist in promoting rural tourism; and
 - vi. Assist food or farm producers in actively participating in the value chain.
- e. **Department of Agrarian Reform**
- i. Fast-track the distribution of individual titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries on private agricultural and government-owned lands;
 - ii. Organize agrarian reform beneficiaries to establish mega farms and facilitate their development;
 - iii. Coordinate the provision of the needed assistance for production and processing; and
 - iv. Facilitate productive and sustainable agribusiness partnership between the Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations and business partners such as the private sector.
- f. **Department of Trade and Industry**
- Undertake a needs assessment of MSMEs to:
- i. Link BP² beneficiaries to available business or employment opportunities from MSME clients of the respective DTI Regional Offices;
 - ii. Provide guidance to local chief executives in implementing appropriate incentives; and
 - iii. Advise national government on further policy adjustments.
- g. **Department of Labor and Employment**
- i. Provide livelihood and emergency employment assistance to beneficiaries; and
 - ii. Provide active labor market programs to match available skills with jobs, such as through job fairs, in coordination with the local business chamber.
- h. **Department of Health**
- i. Provide the necessary technical assistance to LGUs and their health facilities for the efficient implementation of guidelines on health service delivery and health systems strengthening; and
 - ii. Assist in the smooth integration of returning residents to the LGUs through its Centers for Health Development (CHDs) and the Ministry of Health in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).
- i. **Department of Information and Communications Technology**
- i. Develop and promote ICT in education and respond to the human resources needs of the ICT and ICT-enabled services sectors;

- ii. Provide regulations for the establishment, operations, and maintenance of ICT infrastructures in unserved and underserved areas especially in identified locations for BP² beneficiaries;
 - iii. Assist, guide, and support ICT-related activities and initiatives to support countryside economic development; and
 - iv. Ensure universal access to ICT services and infrastructure to generate investments and opportunities in the rural area.
- j. **Department of Finance**
Assist in creating a conducive environment for investments and enterprise development in the regions through the identification, formulation, and institutionalization of necessary tax and other fiscal reforms.
- k. **Department of Budget and Management**
 - i. Identify sources of funds for the PAPs to be implemented by relevant agencies; and
 - ii. Monitor and assess the use of funds and physical accomplishments of the program.
- l. **Department of Public Work and Highways**
Together with DTI, and in coordination with the respective LGUs, jointly identify and implement industry-promoting and growth-driving infrastructure projects in the countryside.
- m. **Department of Transportation**
 - i. In coordination with the concerned government agencies and the private sector, establish a seamless and demand-responsive, intermodal transport network, including appropriate railway systems, that connects provinces to growth centers; and ensure efficient logistics and supply chains, and unimpeded flow of people, goods, services, disaster response equipment, relief goods, and basic commodities in times of emergencies; and
 - ii. Strengthen convergence in agriculture, industry, trade, and tourism development by ensuring that these economic sectors are provided with adequate transport infrastructure support and services.
- n. **Department of Tourism**
 - i. Develop tourism-specific and tourism-related socioeconomic projects and activities to generate local employment for BP² beneficiaries; and

- ii. Provide technical assistance to LGUs with identified BP² beneficiaries in tourism development that provides local employment.
- o. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development**
- i. Facilitate matching and access of identified program beneficiaries to available housing projects or house financing programs of its key shelter agencies;
 - ii. Facilitate planning and program convergence budgeting for the development of new resettlement sites and township projects to ensure provision of adequate basic services and facilities to the project beneficiaries;
 - iii. Identify idle government lands that are suitable as housing sites for the BP² program;
 - iv. Propose incentives and provide technical assistance to LGU-led housing projects that are in support of the BP² program;
 - v. Expand existing and develop new programs to promote community-driven housing and relocation projects aligned with the BP² program;
 - vi. Assist LGUs in the review and updating of their comprehensive land use plans (CLUPs) to support the objectives of the BP² program; and promote the development of regional growth centers and sub-regional growth centers by providing incentives and subsidies to developers; and
 - vii. Promote the development of regional centers and sub-regional centers by formulating policies that will provide incentives and subsidies to developers.
- p. Department of Education**
- i. Implement and coordinate programs and projects in formal and non-formal basic education to support returning learners;
 - ii. Supervise the transfer of all returning learners in elementary and secondary education institutions in the provinces; and
 - iii. Supervise all elementary and secondary education institutions, including alternative learning systems in the provinces.
- q. Commission on Higher Education**
- i. Formulate and recommend development plans, policies, priorities, and programs on higher education that BP² beneficiaries can access; and
 - ii. Develop criteria for allocating additional resources such as scholarships and other similar programs intended for the BP² beneficiaries.

- r. **Department of Environment and Natural Resources**

Guide and monitor the implementation of BP² projects to ensure that natural resource endowments are protected and that environmental management services such as solid waste management services are provided.
- s. **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority**
 - i. Provide relevant training and scholarships interventions, including entrepreneurship training, to ensure livelihood and employment opportunities of the target beneficiaries and the community;
 - ii. Implement technical vocational education and training (TVET) program offerings that aligned with the needs of the priority sectors of provinces; and
 - iii. Capacitate beneficiaries to be TESDA-certified workers and possible trainers and assessors on their areas of expertise.
- t. **Mindanao Development Authority**
 - i. Provide Mindanao-wide integrated peace and development perspective and initiatives of the BP² program;
 - ii. Coordinate inter-regional or Mindanao-wide BP² programs and projects and provide technical support as needed;
 - iii. In coordination with concerned LGUs, agencies, and the relevant Mindanao RDCs, identify and select suitable pilot relocation sites for BP² beneficiaries;
 - iv. In coordination with concerned LGUs, Mindanao RDCs, BP² member agencies, and other relevant institutions, initiate the preparation of pilot relocation sites, assist host LGUs and concerned agencies in social mobilization, and facilitate inter-agency support for the development of the identified BP² sites; and
 - v. Mobilize assistance of the development partners and other private and public entities for the BP² program in Mindanao.
- u. **Cooperative Development Authority**
 - i. Mobilize medium and large cooperatives (with total assets of PHP 50 million and above) to assist, as a possible conduit, in the implementation of the program;
 - ii. In coordination with other implementing agencies, conduct social preparation among the willing beneficiaries to organize them as cooperative; and
 - iii. Coordinate inter-regional BP² programs and projects needing cooperative intervention, and provide technical assistance as needed.

4.2. The *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa* Regional Council. The RDCs shall be the counterparts of the Council in the regions. In the case of the BARMM, the Bangsamoro Economic and Development Council (BEDC) shall be the counterpart of the Council.

The Presidential Advisers for Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Bicol, and Visayas shall provide strategic advice to the RDCs in the implementation of the BP² program. In the case of Mindanao, the MinDA shall provide strategic advice to RDCs in as far as inter-regional and Mindanao-wide perspectives in BP² implementation is concerned.

4.2.1. Relationship of the RDCs and BEDC with the BP² Council

- a. To ensure consistency and harmony in carrying out the BP² program, all activities shall be under the guidance of the BP² Council. All initiatives and agreements made by the RDCs shall be consistent with policies, rules, and guidelines issued by the Council.
- b. The RDCs and BEDC may involve the regional counterpart agencies of the Council, including non-RDC or BEDC members, in the BP²-related activities.

4.2.2. Powers and functions of the RDCs and BEDC in the BP² Program

- a. Formulate the Regional BP² Action Plan and engage the participation of concerned LGUs, GOCCs, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts in the implementation of BP² programs and projects;
- b. Provide technical guidance to agencies, LGUs, and other private organizations in conceptualizing, designing, and financing of BP² projects;
- c. Promote market investment destinations in the region to bring in more agri-business, manufacturing, industrial, information technology-business process outsourcing, service, and tourism ventures, ultimately providing more opportunities for employment and livelihood in the countryside;
- d. Assess the progress of the implementation of the BP² Program in the region using the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES), and other mechanisms such as but not limited to, an online platform and a tracer system that will track programs and projects availed by beneficiaries;

- e. Undertake problem-solving sessions or consultative meetings to resolve issues, problems, bottlenecks, and other concerns in the implementation of BP² programs;
- f. Recommend measures that will further strengthen the effectiveness of the BP² program introduced at the regional and local levels;
- g. Create a team of information officers that will develop a strategic regional BP² communications strategy to inform the public of goals and objectives of the program, highlighting new initiatives in the region;
- h. Advocate and promote gender sensitivity, respect for the elderly, protection of children, preservation of heritage, protection of natural resources, and disaster risks reduction and climate change adaptation in all interventions under the BP² program; and
- i. Perform other related functions and activities as necessary to ensure the success of the BP² Program.

4.2.3. The RDC and BEDC BP² Committees

- a. **For the RDCs.** The RDC shall create a special BP² Committee to coordinate BP² activities in the region and act on matters needing immediate attention as it receives guidance and instructions from the BP² Council. It shall also advise the RDC on resolutions that need to be formulated to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the Regional BP² Action Plan.

The RDC special BP² Committee shall be chaired by the designated Cabinet member under the Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) system and vice-chaired by the NEDA Regional Director as ex-officio RDC vice-chair and shall have the following members:

- i. Provincial governors
- ii. Mayors of cities/municipalities hosting BP² programs
- iii. RDC sectoral committee chairpersons/co-chairpersons
- iv. DILG
- v. DA
- vi. DTI
- vii. DENR
- viii. DSWD
- ix. DHSUD
- x. DOH
- xi. DPWH
- xii. DBM
- xiii. NHA

- xiv. DOLE
- xv. CDA
- xvi. TESDA

The RDC special BP² Committee shall utilize and align the key program areas with the following RDC sectoral committees:

BP² Key Results Areas	RDC Sector Committee
Empowerment of local industries	Economic Development Committee
Food security and agricultural productivity	Economic Development Committee
Housing, social welfare, health, employment, and human resource development	Social Development Committee
Infrastructure development	Infrastructure Development Committee

Good governance for all the key program areas shall be monitored by the RDC’s Development Administration Committee.

- b. **For the BEDC.** The BEDC shall determine the appropriate structure and mechanism for coordination of BP² activities within the BARMM.

4.2.4. The BP² Regional Secretariat

- a. **For the RDCs.** The NEDA Regional Offices, as Secretariat of the RDCs, shall continue to provide technical and administrative support to the RDC BP² Committee.
- b. **For the BEDC.** The Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority shall provide technical and administrative support to the BEDC BP² structure.

4.2.5. Role of the LGUs

- a. **Management of the COVID–19 and other pandemics.** All concerned sending and receiving LGUs shall properly observe and follow the prescribed DOH guidelines and protocols for the management of COVID- 19 and other pandemics as specified in Annex E, particularly during the immediate phase of the program. The DOH, in coordination

with other concerned agencies, may propose amendments or specific guidelines to the BP² Council.

- b. **Advocacy and information dissemination.** LGUs shall assist in the advocacy and information dissemination on the benefits of the program to their constituents in terms of economic, infrastructure, and social service development, and document best practices of LGUs as a program offshoot;
- c. **Assistance to beneficiaries.** In coordination with the national government, provide necessary assistance to the beneficiaries in various phases of the program;
- d. **Governance processes and systems.** Continue improving governance processes and systems to attract investments and business which is critical to program sustainability; actively engage the private sector to offer more employment and livelihood opportunities to their constituents and the BP² beneficiaries. Monitor the progress and status of beneficiaries within their respective jurisdiction who have availed of the program and cooperate with the national government to ensure program sustainability;
- e. **Local Development Council (LDC).** All concerned LGUs at all levels, through their respective LDCs shall oversee the implementation of the program within their respective areas of jurisdiction. The LDCs, consistent with their respective mandates, and subject to relevant laws, rules and regulations shall:
 - i. Identify relevant PAPs consistent with Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, that support the achievement of the BP² overall objectives;
 - ii. Ensure convergence of all local efforts undertaken by national and regional agencies, the private sector, and other key partners in the locality;
 - iii. Ensure vertical alignment of PAPs to the national and sub-national priorities.
 - iv. Facilitate and assist the concerned national and regional line agencies, the private sector, and all key partners in the effective implementation of PAPs;
 - v. Ensure proper handling and management of local investment incentives; and

- vi. Monitor the program implementation in their respective localities and immediately raise to appropriate the offices those that need inter-agency or inter-LGU attention.

Section 5. Strategic Program Communication. Strategic communication shall be developed and implemented to educate the people; advocate for supportive policies at the national and local levels; enlist the support of government agencies, instrumentalities, GOCCs, SUCs, and development partners; and provide venues for feedback and consultation with the private sector, NGOs, and advocacy groups.

5.1 Specific communication objectives

5.1.1. Emphasizing shared goals. Find a common ground and communicate higher-level goals and aspirations shared by majority of the population that the BP² supports, including *AmBisyon Natin 2040* and those mentioned in EO 114 s. 2020.

5.1.2. Informing and educating the public on BP². Make the public, particularly settlers in the NCR, understand the specific elements of the program to help in their decision to relocate to the provinces;

5.1.3. Preparing the provinces. Make the implementing agencies and target receiving LGUs understand the short-, medium- and long-term requirements for attracting and retaining investors, entrepreneurs, employers, employees, and residents or settlers;

5.1.4. Engaging stakeholders. Generate and process public and stakeholder sentiment and feedback on the program as input to BP² Council policies, operations, and risk management; and

5.1.5. Managing expectations. Manage stakeholder and public expectations on the BP² program in line with the program components with specific progress points categorized into short, medium, and long term.

5.2 Institutional Arrangement

5.2.1. To develop a communication strategy and implement a communication plan, a BP² Communication Group (ComGroup) shall be created as follows:

Lead Convenor:	NEDA
Co-convenor:	DHSUD
Spokesperson:	PCOO

Secretariat: PCOO
Members: DOT, DILG, DOTr, DOLE, DA, DTI, DICT, DAR, NHA

5.3 Functions of the BP² ComGroup

NEDA, as the lead convenor, shall set the strategic direction for communication and advocacy of the BP² program. It shall convene the BP² ComGroup, set meeting agenda, facilitate discussion and approval of overall communication and advocacy strategy. It shall also ensure coherence of all official communication materials to the overall messaging, and coordinate the development of a strategic communication and advocacy plan for the BP².

DHSUD, as co-convenor, shall establish mechanisms for feedback and consultation on policy issues and program design at the national and regional levels, and communicate feedback and issues generated to the BP² Council to facilitate resolution and align messaging accordingly.

PCOO shall be the spokesperson and secretariat of the BP² ComGroup. As a spokesperson, PCOO shall represent the BP² Council in media and public engagements and communicate to the media and the public all official information on the BP² program and ensure that these are aligned with the overall messaging. As secretariat, it shall provide technical, logistical, and administrative support to the convenors, including the preparation of agenda materials, meeting notes and minutes containing issues, concerns, and action points. It shall also monitor status of action points and emerging issues, in coordination with BP² ComGroup members. Moreover, it shall ensure smooth internal coordination and communication within the ComGroup.

Member agencies of the BP² ComGroup and other members of the Council shall provide inputs on communicating government programs and policies in their respective sectors in support of the objectives of the BP² program and shall come up with their own information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on their agencies' contribution to BP². They shall prepare IEC materials for their respective stakeholders and ensure alignment with overall messaging and communication strategy.

All other BP² Council member agencies shall prepare and disseminate IEC materials on BP². The BP² ComGroup shall form a speaker's bureau to promptly address sectoral issues or questions raised by stakeholders and the public on BP² that concern their respective agencies.

Section 6. Sources of funds. The PAPs for FY 2020 shall be charged from the available funds of the NGAs concerned. The NGAs, to the extent permitted by Law, are authorized to realign a portion of the budget of their enrolled PAPs. They shall always be required to perform steering functions to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the PAPs by the LGUs.

The PAPs for FY 2021 will be implemented under the Budget Priority Framework Tier 2. Concerned agencies shall submit budget proposal to implement the program for review and approval of the DBM.

The cost-sharing scheme between the National Government and the LGUs shall be applied only during the first two (2) years of implementation of EO No. 114 from FY 2020 to 2021.

Thereafter, the funding requirements for the implementation of the programs, projects, and activities under the BP² Program shall be funded by the LGUs out of their respective local funds.

Section 7. Accountability and Transparency

7.1. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Mechanism. Integral to the BP² program is ensuring delivery of commitments of implementing agencies under their respective programs, and ensuring that the beneficiaries meet the concomitant expectations from them to dwell productively in the provinces and housing sites. Thus, monitoring and evaluation under the BP² Program shall comprise of two (2) schemes:

7.1.1. Monitoring of beneficiaries by the NHA. A system of monitoring of and periodic reporting by beneficiaries shall be developed and implemented by the NHA as Council Secretariat. The NHA shall coordinate with the PCOO, DILG, and DICT for this purpose. Physical reporting of beneficiaries shall be explored, especially in areas without access to information technology.

7.1.2. Project monitoring through the Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES). The RPMES shall be utilized to monitor and assess the implementation of agencies' BP² programs and projects. The monitoring reports shall contain information on the following: (a) actual physical progress of programs and projects against the target accomplishments, including relevant information such as employment generated, initial observable results, problems encountered, and measures taken or to be taken to address such issues; and (b) actual expenditures or financial progress made by the project against its releases (funds utilization) or against the total amount for the project (funding support). Financial reports shall also account for factors

behind low disbursements. The integration of geo-tagged photos may also be required in the submission of reports to enhance M&E activities and for further transparency. The existing RPMES monitoring forms shall be adopted for this purpose (Annexes F and G).

Performance of the program will be monitored and evaluated based on these key results areas, the indicators for which are defined in the Results Matrix shown in Annex H.

7.2. Reporting

7.2.1. Submission of agency and RDC reports

- a. Agency reports. Each implementing agency shall submit to the Council, through the Secretariat, a report on its implementation of the relevant programs under the BP² framework including the over-all progress, issues and problems encountered, actions taken, and ways forward. Such report shall be at such frequency as may be prescribed by the Council.
- b. Regional reports. The RDCs and the BEDC shall submit a bi-annual report to the Office of the Executive Secretary on the status of implementation of regional programs and projects, summarizing the over-all progress of the BP² program, the issues and problems encountered, actions taken, and recommended ways forward.

7.2.2. The Council, through the Office of the Executive Secretary, shall submit to the President a bi-annual report on the implementation of the BP² program, including its accomplishments in terms of short-, medium-, and long- term goals and budget utilization. The Council shall review annually the effectiveness of the programs and projects. The preparation of the annual report shall be coordinated by the Council Secretariat and the lead agency for the bi-annual report shall rotate among the Council members.

7.3. Knowledge, Information, and Database Management. The BP² system and database (*balikprobinsya.ph*) being managed by the NHA shall be enhanced into a knowledge and database system. National agencies and LGUs shall agree on data sharing and access to the BP² enrolment system and database. This will also facilitate ease of reporting to agencies.

The regional repository of project reports shall be managed by the BP² Committee Secretariat, which can be accessed through the NEDA Regional Offices' official website (e.g., M&E dashboard).

Section 8. Miscellaneous Provisions

8.1. Mandatory Review of the Program. In view of Section 7 of EO No. 114 s. 2020 and Section 7.2 of this Implementing Guidelines, which require a bi-annual reporting by the Council to the President, and periodic reporting by the agencies to the Council, the mandatory review herein shall be undertaken every three (3) years from the effectivity of EO No. 114 s.2020.

8.2. Separability Clause. If any part or provision of this Implementing Guidelines is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining sections or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force or effect.

8.3. Effectivity. This Implementing Guidelines shall take effect immediately.