



## JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 001-2021

### CONSTITUTING THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE ON THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY STRATEGY 2021-2023

**WHEREAS**, Article XIII Section 3 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all;

**WHEREAS**, Article III of the Labor Code of the Philippines declares that the State shall afford protection to labor, promote full employment, ensure equal work opportunities regardless of sex, race or creed, and regulate the relations between workers and employers;

**WHEREAS**, the spread of COVID-19 was declared as a pandemic by the World Health Organization prompting governments around the world to impose strict lockdowns that adversely affected the economy and labor markets;

**WHEREAS**, the outbreak of COVID-19 constitutes an emergency that threatens public health and national security which requires a whole-of-government response including the implementation of urgent and critical measures to mitigate its effects and impact to the community, and prevent serious disruption of the functioning of government and the community;

**WHEREAS**, considering the adverse impact of the global health crisis to the labor force, there is a need to create a national employment campaign that will revitalize the economy through the promotion and implementation of job generating programs of various government agencies;

**WHEREAS**, the government crafted the ReCharge Ph and Philippine Development Plan Midterm Update 2017-2022 to serve as the country's roadmap to economic recovery in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) is anchored on the said plans to ensure alignment of strategies and efficient use of resources;

**WHEREAS**, the Task Group on Economic Recovery was organized under the National Task Force against COVID19 Recovery Cluster to engage businesses and the workforce in the fight against COVID19 and expand economic opportunities amid the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) recognize the urgency to harmonize the employment, livelihood,

and training programs of the government to contribute in the recovery of the Philippine economy;

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of the current Trabaho Negosyo Kabuhayan Blueprint for Decent Employment and Entrepreneurship is being sought to include training opportunities for workers to improve their employability and meet the demands of the labor market amidst the lingering pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, a whole-of-society approach, with participation of other relevant stakeholders is also key to develop a holistic employment recovery plan that addresses social and economic issues arising from the pandemic;

**WHEREFORE**, with the foregoing premises considered, this Joint Memorandum Circular (the “Circular”) is hereby issued to constitute the Inter-Agency Task Force on the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS), which is designed to encourage the generation of employment opportunities, improve employability and productivity of workers, and provide support to existing and emerging businesses.

**Section 1. Objective.** The Joint Memorandum Circular aims to constitute a Task Force (TF) that will implement the National Employment Recovery Strategy from 2021 to 2023, in response to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to the labor market.

**Section 2. NERS Description.** NERS 2021-2023 is a medium-term plan, anchored on the updated Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 and ReCharge PH, by expanding the Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan initiative, taking into consideration the changes in the labor market brought by the pandemic and the fast adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution (FIRe) technologies, through:

1. Creation of a policy environment that encourages generation and improved access of employment, livelihood and training opportunities;
2. Improvement of employability and productivity of workers and take advantage of the opportunities in the labor market under the new normal; and
3. Provision of support to existing and emerging businesses, and security and preservation of employment.

**Section 3. Composition and Organization of the Task Force.** The TF shall be composed of the following agencies and shall engage relevant stakeholders in the private sector, as needed:

Chair	:	Department of Trade and Industry
Co-Chairs:		Department of Labor and Employment
		Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
Members :		Commission on Higher Education
		Department of Agrarian Reform
		Department of Agriculture
		Department of Education
		Department of Environment and Natural Resources
		Department of Information and Communications Technology

Department of the Interior and Local Government  
Department of Public Works and Highways  
Department of Science and Technology  
Department of Social Welfare and Development  
Department of Tourism  
Department of Transpiration  
National Security Council  
Secretariat: Department of Labor and Employment

Oversight Committee:

Office of the Cabinet Secretary; and Department of Finance,  
National Economic and Development Authority, and Department  
of Budget and Management, through the National Task Force –  
Recovery Cluster

**Section 4. Duties and Responsibilities.** The following are the duties and responsibilities of the TF:

- a. Formulate the NERS to address recovery and prevailing employment problems/issues in the labor market;
- b. Harmonize the employment, livelihood, and training programs of concerned government agencies;
- c. Foster strong partnerships that will complement and sustain the efforts of the stakeholders to restart the economy, recover employment and rebuild the labor market
- d. Enroll, as applicable, relevant programs on employment, livelihood, training and other support mechanisms in consonance with this Circular;
- e. Prepare and submit periodic reports on the enrolled programs to the Chairperson through the online monitoring platform copy furnished the Secretariat;
- f. Advocate NERS and relevant programs of TF with partner stakeholders to expand the reach of the national employment campaign; and
- g. Report to the Office of the President on the progress, accomplishment and implementation of the NERS.

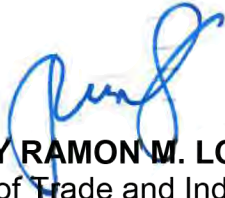
**Section 5. NERS Action Plan –** The Task Force shall formulate an Action Plan in support of the four outcomes of the NERS, namely: a) restarting the economy, b) restoring business confidence, c) upgrading and retooling the workforce, and d) facilitating labor market access. Members of the TF shall identify programs in their respective agencies and enroll the same through the Secretariat.

**Section 6. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation.** A joint evaluation of the TF member-agencies shall be conducted every three (3) months after its commencement to determine the soundness of the policies and effectiveness of the programs. Regular meetings shall be conducted to discuss and resolve issues and problems arising from the program implementation.

**Section 7. Separability Clause.** If any portion or provision of this Circular is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions thereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

**Section 8. Effectivity.** This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect three (3) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of February 2021



**SECRETARY RAMON M. LOPEZ**  
Department of Trade and Industry



**SECRETARY SILVESTRE H. BELLO III**  
Department of Labor and Employment

**SECRETRAY ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA**  
Technical Education and Skills Development  
Authority



**ACTING SEC. KARL KENDRICK T. CHUA**  
National Economic and Development Authority



**SECRETARY KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES**  
Office of the Cabinet Secretary



**SECRETARY WENDEL E. AVISADO**  
Department of Budget and Management



**SEC. CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ**  
Department of Finance



**SEC. HERMOGENES C. ESPERON, JR.**  
National Security Council

**CHAIRPERSON J. PROSPERO DE VERA III**  
Commission on Higher Education

**SECRETARY JOHN R. CASTRICIONES**  
Department of Agrarian Reform



**SECRETARY LEONOR M. BRIONES**  
Department of Education

**SECRETARY WILLIAM D. DAR**  
Department of Agriculture

**SECRETARY GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**  
Department of Information and  
Communications Technology

**SECRETARY ROY A. CIMATU**  
Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources

**SECRETARY MARK A. VILLAR**  
Department of Public Works and Highways

  
**USEC. BERNARDO C. FLORECE, JR.**  
Officer-in-Charge   
Department of the Interior and Local  
Government

**SECRETARY ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA**  
Department of Social Welfare and  
Development

  
**SECRETARY FORTUNATO T. DE LA PEÑA**  
Department of Science and Technology

  
**SECRETARY ARTHUR P. TUGADE**  
Department of Transportation

  
**SECRETARY BERNADETTE ROMULO-PUYAT**  
Department of Tourism 

