

JOINT MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 07
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNIFIED ACTION OF THE AGENCIES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN AGRIBUSINESS TO ADDRESS THE URGENT NEED FOR SOURCES OF LIVELIHOOD AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT OF REPATRIATED OFWs AND TO DEVELOP THE SECTOR

WHEREAS, on 8 April 2020, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), issued Resolution No. 22, adopting the recommendation of the National Security Council, thereby activating the Food Security Subgroup under the Technical Group of Resource and Logistics Management of the National Task Force (NTF Food Security Subgroup) headed by the Department of Agriculture (DA) with member agencies: Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

WHEREAS, on 17 April 2020, the IATF, through Resolution No. 25, resolved that the NTF Food Security Subgroup be reorganized into the NTF Task Group on Food Security (TGFS) with the DA as Chair, and the DTI, NEDA, DSWD, DBM, Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the National Security Council (NSC), DILG, and such other agencies as may be determined by the chair, as members;

WHEREAS, on 13 August 2020, the TGFS resolved that the institutionalization of a Sub Task Group on Agribusiness (STGA) is critical in increasing the level of food security, and that the farmers, fishers, the small and medium entrepreneurs and the agripreneurs are among the stakeholders supported by the government as one nation;

WHEREAS, on even date, it was resolved that the DTI will take the lead as the Chairperson of the STGA with DA as co-chairperson and DOST, TESDA, and NEDA as members;

WHEREAS, the different agencies have several projects being implemented and research studies being conducted to support agribusiness development and that a platform of collaboration between and among the agencies is very important in creating a favorable enabling environment for agribusiness to grow;

WHEREAS, there are about 331,145¹ repatriated OFWs in the country, 16% of which are located in the CALABARZON, followed by 14% in the Western Visayas, 11% in the National Capital Region, 10% in Central Luzon, and 9% in Central Visayas while the rest are based in other regions;

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¹ OWWA – Management Information System Division (MISD) as of 22 November 2020

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WHEREAS, an estimated 110,000² are still expected to come back to the country as a result of the lockdowns in their respective countries of deployment;

WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has issued the directive to intensify government support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and displaced workers, particularly returning OFWs;

WHEREFORE, upon the conduct of series of STGA meetings and consultations, it has been agreed that agencies heretofore named will work as one in addressing the urgent need for sources of livelihood and gainful employment of repatriated OFWs by integrating the agribusiness-related programs, projects and services under the *Agri-Negosyo Para Sa OFWs* Program, and to grow and develop agribusiness to ensure food security, and ultimately, contribute to economic growth in the country.

1. Purpose

This Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) is issued to serve as the basis for the integration of the programs, projects, and services of concerned government agencies for the unified action to address the urgent need for sources of livelihood and gainful employment of returning OFWs in the short-term under the banner *Agri-Negosyo Para Sa OFWs* Program, and to transform traditional agriculture to a modern, high-value agribusiness in the long-term.

2. Coverage

This JMC covers programs, projects, services and initiatives of the DA, DOST, DTI, TESDA, and other agribusiness-related activities of other government agencies as may be applicable and made part of the Program, in line with the strategies espoused in the Recharge PH³, the Enhanced Midterm update of the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022, Plant Plant Plant Program, Inclusive Innovation Industrial Strategy (i3S), and agri- agro plans of the respective agencies.

3. Unified Action of the Agencies

A. *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs*


The *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* is a one-stop shop of information for OFWs, offering a menu of agriculture and agribusiness-related programs and services of the various agencies all under one roof.



² Report of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), cited by OWWA-National Center for Reintegration of OFWs (NCRO)

³ Recharge PH seeks to refocus, sharpen the design and accelerate the implementation of programs under the 2020 General Appropriations to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and help get the Philippine economy recover from the sharp decline in the second quarter of the year. Recharge PH builds on the work of the IATF Technical Working Group for Anticipatory and Forward Planning, also led by NEDA, which produced the *We Recover as One* report containing the initial assessment of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.




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It will offer full service information to OFWs in terms of starting an agribusiness, provide investment opportunities, assist in crafting business plans and studies, facilitate access to financing programs, trainings, available technology, and build network and linkages in all stages of the agriculture and agribusiness value chain.

The *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* will provide OFWs with convenient access to the efficient delivery of programs and services of government. A website will be developed for the *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* to facilitate ease of access to the different agribusiness programs and services of the various Departments. The Program may also be advertised through infomercials via TV, radio and social media platforms.

B. Agribusiness Portfolio

The *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* will publish the Agribusiness Portfolio, a joint publication of the agencies that will serve as a manual of operation in starting and operating an agribusiness venture. It will contain basic information that will guide a person regarding the business registration process, qualifications in availing of the most applicable credit facilities, available technical and entrepreneurial trainings and seminars, contact details of persons or offices in charge, and other relevant information.

The Portfolio will be distributed in airports, provinces and municipalities where repatriated OFWs are mainly located. It will also be available online to facilitate ease of access and inquiries.



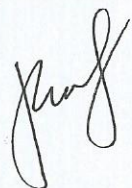


C. Responsibilities

The agencies involved will share agriculture and agribusiness-related policies, programs, and other necessary information with the STGA. To spur the activities of the STGA and in the interest of time, considering the urgency of the need to assist repatriated OFWs, DTI will be in charge of the preparation and initial cost of the limited printing of the Agribusiness Portfolio and initiate the creation and maintenance of the *Agri-Negosyo* homepage.

The STGA may undertake other related and necessary activities not specifically mentioned in this JMC for which all concerned agencies will share in the corresponding costs and responsibilities. The agencies will also render support for the dissemination of the *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* Program through their respective Regional Offices.

D. Implementation

The STGA will coordinate with concerned agencies to facilitate implementation of the *Agri-Negosyo Para sa OFWs* Program, such as, but not limited to, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), DILG, Local Government Units (LGUs), and other






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concerned agencies in the identification of expatriated OFWs, monitoring and following up on execution of interventions covered by this JMC.

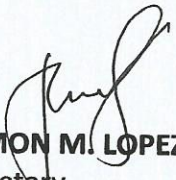
E. Reporting and Evaluation

The STGA will put in place a reporting and evaluation mechanism that will serve as guide for the concerned agencies in ensuring the efficient delivery of services to the target beneficiaries.

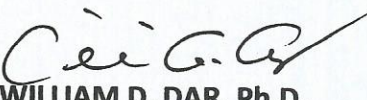
4. Effectivity

This Joint Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately upon publication.

HEREUNTO, signed and agreed upon by:

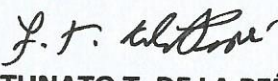

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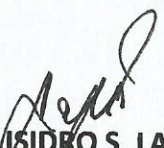
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