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MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. ###

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF DEAD BODIES AND MISSING PERSONS DURING NATURAL DISASTERS AND CATASTROPHE.

WHEREAS, it is a basic human right that every individual deserves a proper and dignified management of his/her remains regardless of creed, ethnicity, race and religious beliefs;

WHEREAS, Section 2 (j) of R.A. 10121 declares it a policy of the State to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change measures are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems, and respectful of “human rights;”

WHEREAS, each year the Philippines is beset with natural disasters some of which is of such magnitude as to cause huge damages and mass deaths. Oftentimes, the nation was overwhelmed by the devastation leading to difficulties in handling mass casualties;

WHEREAS, the management of the dead is one of the most difficult part of disaster management. As such, there is a need to develop a systematic and universal approach in handling dead bodies from their recovery, identification, transfer and final disposal in consideration of the legal requisites, cultural and religious beliefs and norms which will guarantee the respect for the dignity of the deceased and the rights of their respective families;

WHEREAS, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) in the exercise of its power and function of policy-making under Section 6 (I) of R.A. 10121 is mandated to formulate a national institutional capability building program for disaster risk reduction and management to address the “specific weaknesses of various government agencies and LGUs,” based on the results of a biennial baseline assessment and studies;

WHEREAS, the Office of Civil Defense as operating arm of the NDRRMC under Section 9 of R.A. 10121 shall develop and ensure the implementation of national standards in carrying out disaster risk reduction programs

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including preparedness, mitigation, prevention, response and rehabilitation works;

WHEREAS, a national policy framework shall be provided which shall served as guide to an efficient and well coordinated action in managing the dead and missing persons during emergencies and disasters, strengthen coordination among various government agencies and stakeholders and provide guidelines, standards, systems and procedures in the management of the dead and missing persons;

NOW, THEREFORE I, BENIGNO SIMEON C. AQUINO III, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Framework for MDM. The NDRRMC shall formulate a national policy framework which shall provide for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to the management of the dead and missing persons during disasters and national emergencies.

SECTION 2. National Guideline. The OCD shall develop a national guideline that will be adopted by the Council which shall apply to the latter, LGUs, NGOs, private organizations and all other stakeholders whose activities contributes to the MDM.

SECTION 3. Technical Group. A technical management group is hereby created as may be designated by the Council that shall assess the implementation of the guidelines and shall coordinate and effectively manage the national efforts on the MDM.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. This order shall take effect immediately.

Done in the City of Manila, this 14th day of February in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.

Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III

By the President;

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93 **Paquito N. Ochoa, Jr.**
94 **Executive Secretary**