



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM AND SACRIFICE OF THE FIVE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS OF THE PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE OF BULACAN WHO DIED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY, AND CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT BOTH AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS**

**NDRRMC RESOLUTION NO. 15, s. 2022**

**WHEREAS**, Section 2(l) of Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, provides that it is the policy of the State to recognize and strengthen the capacities of LGUs and communities in mitigating and preparing for, responding to, and recovering from the impact of disasters;

**WHEREAS**, on the dark and stormy night of September 25, 2022, at the height of Super Typhoon Karding's onslaught, five experienced and well-trained members of Team Alpha of the elite Bulacan Rescue emergency and disaster response unit, of the Bulacan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, were dispatched to Barangay Camias, San Miguel, Bulacan to rescue residents stranded in the flood. Consequently, enroute to their objective, the truck they were aboard got stuck in the flooded streets. Undeterred by such quandary, the team audaciously transferred to a *banca* in order to reach their destination and fulfill their noble objective. Unfortunately, the raging flood waters made it very difficult to steer the boat, and when they were passing by a gasoline station, a portion of its heavy, concrete fence gave way to the strong surface water current and collapsed on or very near the boat they were on. The weight of the collapsed, concrete fence created a large water displacement which caused the boat to capsize with its passengers thrown into the dark, murky and debris-laden water;

**WHEREAS**, the five brave emergency responders were believed to have been carried by the strong current of the surface water flood; and the turbulent flow, aggravated by abundant surface and undercurrent debris, may have made it impossible for them to survive their ordeal;

**WHEREAS**, the lifeless remains of the five emergency responders were retrieved in Sitio Banga Banga, Barangay Camias early the following morning;

**WHEREAS**, these five courageous and noble emergency responders have zealously, steadfastly and faithfully dedicated themselves towards helping their fellow Filipinos through long years of arduous training to attain the desired skills and levels of proficiency that will ensure the safety of the community. In pursuit thereof, the five brave individuals led or participated in various search and rescue operations in Bulacan and in other parts of the country, particularly under the dangerous conditions of swift water rescue, and in the process have consciously and voluntarily placed

themselves in harm's way, thus, selflessly offered their own lives so that others may live. These brave men were:

- **JERSON LOPEZ RESURRECCION**, Leader, Team Alpha, born on October 18, 1989; of Barangay Catmon, Santa Maria, Bulacan;
- **TROY JUSTIN PAPA AGUSTIN**, born on July 2, 1992; of Barangay Sta. Rita, Guiguinto, Bulacan;
- **MARBY BAUTISTA BARTOLOME**, born on October 9, 1985; of Barangay Bulihan, City of Malolos, Bulacan;
- **NARCISO ROBLES CALAYAG, JR.**, born on August 10, 1989; of Barangay Mojon, City of Malolos, Bulacan;
- **GEORGE ENRIQUEZ AGUSTIN**, born on August 4, 1977; of Barangay Iba O'Este, Calumpit, Bulacan.

**WHEREAS**, their selflessness, dedication to duty, indomitable courage and steadfast determination shall eternally serve as a luminous beacon of inspiration for those who live after them, those who practice the same profession and cloth others with the same zeal and dedication as them, and for the future Filipino generations to believe that there is no greater love than laying down one's own life for his fellowmen;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Jerson Lopez Resurreccion, Mr. Troy Justin Papa Agustin and Mr. George Enriquez Agustin were casual employees, while Mr. Marby Bautista Bartolome and Narciso Robles Calayag, Jr. were employed as job order workers, of the provincial government of Bulacan, and given the position nomenclature of Project Development Assistant despite the true nature of their work;

**WHEREAS**, casual employees and job order workers in the government service do not enjoy the usual benefits due to regular employees, and in the case of these fallen Bulacan heroes, and the tens of thousands of others like them serving in the field and practice of disaster and emergency management, this unfortunate incident has opened the door of opportunity for the government to look into the plight of the men and women in the disaster and emergency management sector, and afford them the appropriate respect and rightful treatment they deserve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, to officially recognize the selflessness, dedication to duty, indomitable courage and steadfast determination demonstrated by **JERSON LOPEZ RESURRECCION, TROY JUSTIN PAPA AGUSTIN, MARBY BAUTISTA BARTOLOME, NARCISO ROBLES CALAYAG, JR. and GEORGE ENRIQUEZ AGUSTIN** in performing their assigned tasks as emergency responders to save lives during the onslaught of Super Typhoon "Karding", which unfortunately led to their untimely death.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the concerned national government agencies and all local government units are called to review the existing practice of hiring, appointing, training and assigning men and women who will serve as emergency responders, and institutionalize a professionalized system that will provide opportunities for career growth, standardized salaries and other emoluments, medical and life insurance, and disability benefits;

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the national government agencies and local government units must: improve the training and capacity building of the emergency response teams and accredited community disaster volunteers (ACDVs); provide and enhance the equipment and other resources necessary in disaster response operations to reduce the risk emergency responders are constantly faced with; never allow any person who lacks the required technical training and proficiency to participate in emergency response operations to avoid endangering the lives of others, and immediately provide financial, and other forms of assistance and benefits to the concerned emergency responder, or their families, in case of injuries or death while in the performance of their duties.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the NDRRMC, Department of Budget and Management, and Department of the Interior and Local Government Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 dated March 25, 2013 with the subject "*Allocation and Utilization of Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF)*" be reviewed, amended or updated by the NDRRMC through an NDRRMC Memorandum Circular to keep it up-to-date and aligned with the current trends, as well as to make it flexible enough to enable LGUs to program and/or invest based on their local settings.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that copies of this Resolution be furnished to the Civil Service Commission and the Government Service Insurance System for them to study how to enable disaster risk reduction and management workers to access such benefits as hazard pay, medical and life insurance, death benefits, and other monetary and non-monetary benefits, develop policies, and submit their recommendations for the NDRRMC.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the Committee on Disaster Resilience of the House of Representatives to aid in the early passage of the Magna Carta for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Workers.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that an original signed copy of this Resolution be furnished to each family of the fallen five emergency responders.

**RESOLVED FINALLY**, that the Chairperson of the NDRRMC, or his duly designated representative, is hereby authorized to sign this Resolution for and on behalf of all the members.

Done this 4th day of November 2022 at the Department of National Defense, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

**JOSE C. FAUSTINO, JR.**  
Chairperson, NDRRMC  
Senior Undersecretary/Officer-in-Charge,  
Department of National Defense

