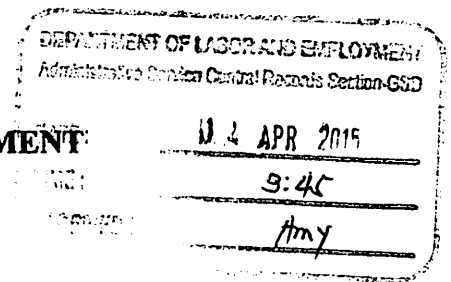


Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila



DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 142-15
Series of 2015

**STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL REINTEGRATION CENTER
FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (NRCO)**

In the interest of the service, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10022, which amends the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 and in view of the need to ensure coherence and efficiency of the policies, programs and initiatives on the sustainable return and reintegration of Filipino migrant workers, the following shall constitute the guidelines to strengthen the operations of the NRCO:

I. Nature of the Center

In collaboration with partner agencies in the government and non-government sector, the NRCO shall develop, promote and implement a national agenda on sustainable return and reintegration to address the multi-faceted reintegration needs of returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families, including the development of their hometowns and/or communities.

The NRCO, in consultation with its partners, shall be a fully functioning and operational Reintegration Services Center providing OFWs and their families the necessary **reintegration assistance anchored on the concept of full utilization of the migrants' capacities and resources coupled with strategies for enhancing reintegration preparedness.**

II. Clientele of the NRCO

The primary clientele of the NRCO are returning OFWs who are classified as follows:

- a) Undocumented Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs);
- b) Displaced, distressed and repatriated OFWs;
- c) Returning OFWs or OFWs who return to the Philippines on a temporary basis with the intention of going back abroad;
- d) OFW returnees or OFWs who return to the Philippines with the intention to stay in the country on a permanent basis; and
- e) Families of returning OFWs.

III. Policy Objectives

The NRCO shall, in partnership and synergy with government agencies, private institutions, and other stakeholders, build, budget for, a national, inclusive and ideally, progressive and responsive reintegration program for OFWs and their families, which is attuned

to their needs, realities and priorities by **harnessing the financial and human capital OFWs earned overseas, and the social capital established among themselves** to maximize the benefits of migration and positively contribute to the development of their home communities.

The NRCO shall, based on a program framework which maximizes returning OFWs' financial, social and human capitals, develop and implement innovative approaches to service delivery, its expansion and enhancement, including improvement in data collection and evaluations systems, through effective coordination and facilitation of a network of cooperating stakeholders and service providers.

The NRCO shall maintain a policy of promoting broad-based social protection for returning OFWs and their families to mitigate and counteract all the sources of vulnerability; while at the same time aligning them with available reintegration assistance and various initiatives that empower and increase their motivation and engagement to reintegrate successfully either for local employment, professional practice, or as investors and/or entrepreneurs.

IV. Functions and Basic Services of the NRCO

The NRCO shall, among others, undertake the following basic reintegration services under the enhanced reintegration framework of migration for development, covering three pillars, namely, Financial Capital, Human Capital and Social Capital:

- a) Develop, implement and evolve a program that will effectively raise visibility, awareness and recognisability of available reintegration assistance in the form of, including but not limited to, information and advocacy campaigns and/or the use of digital marketing and social media in coordination with relevant stakeholders and service providers;
- b) Develop, tailor, and evolve reintegration programs, services and initiatives specific to the needs of returning OFWs that will harness their **financial capital** with a view to contribute to the economic and social development of their families and communities. Services include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Undertake mapping of investible projects along priority sectors identified in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and along the returning OFWs' career or area of expertise;
 - Facilitate individual or collective investments by prospective OFW investors along these investment areas, and
 - Offer start-up assistance and enterprise incubation and enable access to credit to help returning OFWs overcome the barriers in putting up businesses.
- c) Develop, tailor, and evolve reintegration programs, services and initiatives specific to the needs of returning OFWs that will harness their **human capital** in the form of, including but not limited to, brain gain initiatives that promote the transfer and use of their knowledge, skills and capacities either for local employment, professional practice, or as investors and/or entrepreneurs. The following services shall be undertaken, among others:

- Develop and evolve programs, projects and activities to harness skills and capacities developed by returning OFWs which can be beneficial to the development of the home country;
 - Initiate, through processes of transfer and exchange either through return and reintegration in the home country or through distant forms of transnational engagement, programs, projects and activities to maximize OFWs' human capital;
 - Network and link OFWs with Overseas Filipinos (OFs) who are either permanent residents or immigrants of other countries; and
 - Document successful stories and cases of transfer of knowledge and brain gain activities involving highly skilled or expert returning OFWs.
- d) Develop, tailor, and evolve reintegration programs, services and initiatives specific to the needs of returning OFWs that will harness their **social capital** in the form of, including but not limited to, networking and coordinating activities with migrant communities and home-town societies and associations with a view of promoting Filipino culture and heritage and as platforms for diaspora philanthropy. This refers to interventions that encourage the return and reintegration of OFWs and for them to be able to share their knowledge, skills and resources for the development of the home country;
- e) Establish a regional reintegration network with a view to strengthening societal stakeholders' coordination in the delivery of reintegration services, including but not limited to, referrals and assistance to returning OFWs. A one-region, one network of partners and stakeholders shall serve as an alliance of people and organizations in the public and private sector working together to enhance and facilitate equitable access to reintegration services by returning OFWs and their families.
- f) Undertake and/or utilize research and studies in all areas of return and reintegration policy and administration, including but not limited to, developing research programs and projects in collaboration with other national agencies to enhance the Department's capability to participate in national decision - and policy - making.

V. Organizational Structure

The NRCO shall operate under the Office of the DOLE Secretary; and shall be headed by a Center Director who shall exercise direct supervision and overall coordination of the operations of the Center.

The NRCO shall have three (3) Divisions, namely: (1) Policy and Program Development Division; (2) Workers' Reintegration and Technical Support Division; and (3) Program Coordination and Monitoring Division. A support Administrative Unit shall backstop the Center's day-to-day coordination and administration of personnel and services.

At the Regional Offices. The NRCO shall have presence of at least one (1) Reintegration Officer whose immediate superior shall be the Chief of the Technical Support and Services Division (TSSD) in support of the reintegration services provided by the regional office.

At the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs). The Assistant Labor Attaché, under the supervision of the Labor Attaché, shall be the person in charge of reintegration services at the POLO, including the task of providing the Labor Secretary and the NRCO Director, labor market intelligence reports containing information on OFWs who are willing to return home either for local employment, professional practice, entrepreneurship or philanthropic/voluntary service. In Posts with no Assistant Labor Attaché, the Labor Attaché shall assume the designation as person in charge of reintegration services abroad.

VI. NRCO Funding Requirements


All funds for the NRCO programs, salaries and allowances of personnel, maintenance and operating requirements and capital outlay of the NRCO shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act (GAA). In all instances, the NRCO shall seek to draw support of the private sector in addressing the reintegration needs, realities and priorities of returning Filipino migrants.

VII. Repealing Clause

Any rules, guidelines and procedures inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

VIII. Effectivity

This Department Order shall take effect immediately.


ROSALINDA DIMAPILIS-BALDOZ
Secretary

15 April 2015