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**SUBJECT: Strengthening Regional
Offices' Involvement in the
Implementation of Daang
Maharlika Projects**

Recognizing the significance of **Daang Maharlika** as the primary national road connecting the archipelago from Ilocos to Mindanao and its showcase status as a flagship project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), this policy directive aims to ensure a common standard of implementation, thereby enhancing the efficiency and quality of its repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, improvement, widening, and preventive maintenance.

This policy directive authorizes the Regional Offices to lead in procuring and implementing the funds dedicated to Daang Maharlika based on the following:

- 1. Technical Expertise at the Regional Level:** The Regional Offices possess a wealth of highly specialized technical expertise, uniquely positioning them to spearhead the implementation of this flagship project, the Daang Maharlika. While acknowledging the capabilities of the technical personnel within the District Engineering Offices, it is essential to recognize that the scale and magnitude of Daang Maharlika demand a higher level of technical proficiency in all aspects of project management. With their extensive experience overseeing big-ticket projects spanning multiple provinces and political boundaries, the Regional Offices have cultivated a nuanced understanding of the varying local conditions and challenges that significantly influence infrastructure development.

Their capacity to work collaboratively with neighboring regions further strengthens the cohesive coordination necessary for the success of this interregional endeavor. Emphasizing the Regional Offices' role in spearheading Daang Maharlika's implementation does not seek to demean the capabilities of the District Engineering Offices; instead, it underscores the need for a specialized approach that encompasses a broad regional perspective.

Entrusting the responsibility of designing, procuring, implementing, and monitoring to the Regional Offices ensures that this flagship national road receives the higher level of attention and technical understanding it deserves. The Regional Offices' expertise guarantees a seamless and high-quality execution, setting a benchmark for modern infrastructure development in the Philippines. By capitalizing on the specialized skills and experience of the Regional Offices, we are poised to showcase a project that unites various regions and provinces, fostering national progress and connectivity.

- 2. Streamlined Decision-Making Process:** Centralizing the procurement and implementation at the Regional Offices has a high potential for a more streamlined decision-making process. Entrusting to the Regional Offices the procurement and implementation of funds for Daang Maharlika projects reduces bureaucratic delays and allows for a more agile response to changing requirements, leading to better project outcomes.

3. **Regional Flexibility:** With Regional Offices playing a more active role in the implementation, they will prioritize and fast-track the implementation of Daang Maharlika, which require urgent attention within their respective regions.
4. **Consistency in Quality and Standards:** Standardizing the implementation process across regions promotes consistency in quality and adherence to national design and construction standards. Regional Offices can collaborate on best practices and lessons learned, leading to improved project performance and higher-quality infrastructure along the entire stretch of Daang Maharlika.
5. **Enhanced Accountability and Monitoring:** The Regional Offices, strategically positioned to oversee projects across various provinces and all other political boundaries, are best equipped to facilitate cohesive coordination and cooperation among multiple stakeholders involved in the development of Daang Maharlika. Their localized presence enables them to collaborate closely with neighboring regions and navigate seamlessly through different political jurisdictions, fostering a unified approach toward achieving project objectives and maintaining a consistent quality standard. This arrangement ensures that Regional Offices can actively engage with provincial governments and all other political entities, allowing their perspectives and needs to be fully integrated into the development process. Empowering Regional Offices with the responsibility for procuring and implementing the funds further enhances their sense of ownership and accountability for the success of the project. Regional Offices will conduct rigorous and prompt monitoring of project progress, actively addressing any challenges that may arise. By entrusting the Regional Offices with the task of implementing Daang Maharlika, we can effectively showcase the unity and cooperation among all local government units, promoting a truly interconnected and seamless national highway.
6. **Strengthened Capacity Building:** The involvement of Regional Offices in a significant project like Daang Maharlika provides an opportunity for capacity building and skill development among DPWH personnel in the regional offices and district engineering offices by sharing best practices of the Regional Offices with their counterparts in the District Engineering Offices. This sharing of best practices can improve project management, fostering a more efficient and skilled workforce.

Implementation Guidelines:

1. Regional Offices shall procure and implement the funds for Daang Maharlika projects within their respective regions.
2. Regional Offices shall preserve the amounts allocated for Daang Maharlika in the DPWH Budget and not subject to realignment. Any amendments are limited to station limits, scope, or typographical errors. This commitment ensures the continuity and progress of this crucial national highway. These amounts should be kept intact without realignment, underscoring the government's commitment to improving and developing this vital road network.
3. The DPWH Central Office shall provide guidance and technical assistance to Regional Offices to ensure compliance with national standards and project objectives.
4. Regional Offices shall collaborate and share best practices to promote consistency in quality and implementation across Daang Maharlika.



5. Regional Offices shall monitor and evaluate projects' progress to address any challenges promptly and ensure projects' success.
6. Regional Offices shall adhere to all pertinent rules and regulations of DPWH.

As the Daang Maharlika is a showcase project for each region, it is essential to ensure a seamless interregional connection that highlights the national significance of this extensive road network. It is, therefore, more advantageous to entrust the implementation and monitoring to the Regional Offices.

In summary, this policy directive aims to strengthen the involvement of Regional Offices in the implementation of Daang Maharlika projects, capitalizing on their technical expertise, regional knowledge, and accountability. By empowering the Regional Offices in implementing and monitoring Daang Maharlika, the DPWH can effectively demonstrate its commitment to providing a well- preserved interconnected and seamless national highway elevating its showcase status as a flagship project and its positive impact on the lives of Filipinos across the country.

This order supersedes all issuances inconsistent herewith and shall take effect immediately.


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