

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

APR 20 2020

SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Mr. Senate President:

We respectfully transmit herewith the 4th Report of the President to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary

Copy furnished:

Rep. Alan Peter S. Cayetano
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quézon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
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REPORT TO THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2020

Pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the “*Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*,” I respectfully report the updates and developments during the fourth week of our whole-of-government approach in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. This summarizes the programs, activities, and accomplishments of 85 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Executive branch of government, reported to this Office through the Executive Secretary, most of which were received on 17 April 2020 (Friday).

I acknowledge and appreciate the comments and observations given to us by some members of the Senate, including a member of the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on the implementation of RA No. 11469, as our partners in this trying time. I have tasked the agencies to study and consider these inputs and report on them accordingly. As presented herein, a number of agencies have significantly incorporated already proposals similar to such inputs in their respective programs, and we commit to continuously address them in our succeeding reports.

Consistent with previous reports, taking into consideration our National Action Plan, I have outlined the existing and newly-initiated measures of our various agencies in accordance with our four (4) major objectives to: (1) Provide Emergency Assistance to all Affected Sectors; (2) Secure Facilities and Resources for the Health Sector and Other Frontliners; (3) Establish Sound Fiscal and Monetary Actions that are Responsive to all Stakeholders; and (4) Formulate a Responsive and Sustainable Recovery Plan.

I. Provide Emergency Assistance to all Affected Sectors

Social Amelioration Programs (SAPs)

The implementation of the Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) pursuant to Section 4 (c)¹ and (cc)² of RA No. 11469 is through various Social Amelioration Programs (SAP) of the government which consist of temporary measures designed to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure the welfare of the Filipino people during said crisis.

Among the SAPs currently being implemented are (1) the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Program (AICS) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); (2) the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) for Affected Formal Workers, *CAMP Abot-Kamay and Pagtulong* (AKAP) for Displaced Overseas Filipinos Workers (OFWs), and *Tulong Panghanapbuhay para sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers* (TUPAD) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); and (3) the Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers of the Department of Agriculture (DA). (See **Table 1**)

Table 1: Summary of implementation of SAPs

	Imple- menting Agency	Program	Estimated Beneficiaries	No. of Beneficiaries Served	Allotted Amount	Remarks
1.	DSWD	AICS	17,956,093 Breakdown: • 4.4 Million (4Ps) • 13,556,093 (Non-4Ps) ○ 65,661 [Transport Network Vehicle Service (TNVS) and Public Utility Vehicles (PUVs) in NCR]	4,054,360 as of 18 April 2020 Breakdown: • 3,721,833 as of 18 April 2020 (4Ps) • 617,141 as of 18 April 2020 (Non-4Ps) ³ ○ 40,418 as of 18 April 2020 (TNVS and PUVs in NCR)	PhP100 Billion	For 4Ps: As previously reported, the DSWD has already disbursed PhP16,347,295,950 for 3,721,833 4Ps beneficiaries nationwide. As of 08 April 2020, the DSWD has downloaded the remaining emergency cash subsidies to its Field Offices for 4Ps beneficiaries without cash card accounts. For non-4Ps: The amount of PhP73,842,196,000.00 or 91.03% of the allocated amount has already been downloaded to the Local Government Units (LGUs).
2.	DOLE	CAMP for affected formal workers	321,975	237,653 as of 16 April 2020	PhP1.6 Billion	The utilized amount is at PhP1.188 Billion
3.	DOLE	TUPAD	235,949	178,549 as of 16 April 2020	PhP966. 5 Million	The utilized amount is at PhP410.7 Million
4.	DOLE	CAMP AKAP for displaced Overseas Filipinos Workers (OFWs)	135,720 ⁴	86,054 applications received and 3,245 approved as of 16 April 2020 ⁵	PhP1.5 Billion	The approved applications are being processed for payment
5.	DA	Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers	591,246	52,043 as of 14 April 2020	PhP3 Billion	The utilized amount is at PhP645 Million

Further to the DSWD's implementation of the ESP for non-4Ps beneficiaries, as of 18 April 2020, the DSWD has already forged a total of 1,454 Memorandum of Agreement on SAPs with cities and municipalities, excluding those in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which facilitated the transfer of funds from the DSWD to the LGUs.

In addition to the ESP, the DSWD is continuously implementing its regular AICS program alongside its Food and Non-Food Items (NFI) Distribution program. It provides assistance on COVID-related concerns (e.g., requests for medical/burial assistance) to 17,232 clients and has so far utilized the amount of PhP80,205,469.95. It also has a combined standby fund and stockpiles (Family Food Packs, Food Items, and NFI) in the amount of PhP1,345,233,707.25.

The DSWD is exploring other methods to ensure that the payment of emergency cash subsidies to beneficiaries is expedited. For such purpose, DSWD Monitoring Teams have been organized to work closely with LGUs, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Philippine National Police (PNP). Moreover, a total of 344 cities/municipalities and 1,989 barangays have attended orientations/briefings on the implementation of the SAPs conducted by the DSWD.

To provide further assistance to the DSWD, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is in the process of finalizing the requirements for the implementation of *ReliefAgad*, a computer-based application to fast-track the disbursement of the SAPs allowances. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies is also currently providing LGUs Community-Based Monitoring System data to generate the list of households eligible to receive assistance from the government's SAPs and other local safety nets.

Finally, as recommended by the DILG, the DSWD has issued a Memorandum dated 17 April 2020 directing the inclusion of Barangay Health Workers, Barangay *Tanods*, and Barangay Day Care Workers as target beneficiaries of the DSWD's SAPs, subject to proper screening in accordance with the provisions of Joint Memorandum Circular No. 01, series of 2020.⁶

SAPs for Small Businesses

On 16 April 2020, the Department of Finance (DOF), the Social Security System (SSS), and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) launched the Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program worth PhP51 Billion to cover 3.4 Million employees in small businesses affected by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). The subsidy ranges from PhP5,000 to PhP8,000 per eligible worker per month for up to two (2) months, in proportion to the prevailing minimum wage rates in the region where the business is located. The eligibility and application portals are found in the BIR and SSS websites, respectively. Application period will run from 16 to 30 April 2020, with the first payout starting on 01 May 2020. The SBWS will replace the DOLE's CAMP to avoid any duplication of benefits.

Transportation, Repatriation, and Mobility Assistance to Health Workers, Frontliners, OFWs, Stranded Passengers, Foreign Nationals in the Country, and Other Entities or Individuals

The government, through its various agencies such as the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), the Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC), the Clark Development Corporation (CDC), under their respective programs [e.g., DOTr's Free Bus Ride Program, *Malasakit* Help Desks (MHDs), Emergency Operations Center (EOC),⁷ *Libreng Sakay* Program], in partnership with other government agencies or with the support of private sector partners, continue to implement measures to address the transportation needs of various sectors affected by the travel restrictions. These

measures include providing transportation assistance to ferry health workers, frontliners, OFWs, and other persons in need; logistical assistance in distribution of medical supplies and food relief; assistance and emergency response to vehicles, passengers, and stranded seafarers; and repatriation services of OFWs and foreigners.

Benefit Packages for COVID-19 Patients⁸

On 14 April 2020, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) published its circulars⁹ providing for benefits accorded to (1) inpatient care of probable and confirmed COVID-19 patients developing severe illness/ outcomes; (2) SARS-COV-2 testing laboratories on the subject; and (3) those who undergo community quarantine. It also clarified those who are eligible for full financial risk protection for COVID-19 or during the State of Emergency, namely:

- (1) All Filipinos confined for COVID-19 from 01 February to 04 April 2020;
- (2) Public and private health workers, regardless of employment status, confined for COVID-19 from 01 February 2020 with no co-pay, whether in a private or public facility;
- (3) All staff and personnel in government health agencies, regardless of employment status, have the same COVID-19 benefits as health workers; and
- (4) Full financial risk protection to all health workers for medical expenses or any work-related injury or disease during the National State of Emergency.

Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs)

PDLs face a higher vulnerability to COVID-19, as the spread of the virus can expand rapidly due to the usually high concentration of persons in confined spaces. If strictly managed, however, their confinement offers the best protection for them from getting infected. The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has been monitoring and strictly enforcing preventive measures against COVID-19 in all BJMP-supervised jail facilities nationwide, including hygiene and disinfection protocols, and quarantine and isolation schemes.

The Board of Pardons and Parole is formulating interim guidelines for the expeditious release of PDLs who are already of old age, sickly or are suffering from terminal illnesses, or with serious disabilities, as well as those eligible for parole or executive clemency, in order to decongest penal facilities.

Assistance to Women, Children, and Other Vulnerable Groups

To address the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV) during the period of ECQ, the Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning hotline of the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM) is now responding on reports of GBV cases. Through the initiative of the POPCOM, the Philippine Commission on Women is set to issue an advisory to all LGUs to utilize their Gender and Development budget to address GBV cases.

A group of Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholars founded "Project HERO" and initiated a campaign called #FeedPHBabies which aims to provide "baby-friendly" relief goods for 4 (four) to 24-month old babies affected by ECQ.

Assistance to Students, Educators, and Educational Institutions

On 13 April 2020, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) issued an advisory giving higher education institutions flexibility and authority to decide the course of action most appropriate for their particular circumstances, including concerns regarding the conduct of online classes, mass promotion of students, and termination of the current semester.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) continues its TESDA Online Program (TOP) as an alternative learning system for scholars and interested persons. A total of 180,174 active users are registered in the TOP and a total of 28,732 TOP courses have been completed by the active users.

Protection of Consumers

This Administration has been steadfast in dealing with those who continue to take advantage of this unfortunate situation for personal and political ends in violation of RA No. 11469 and trade and consumer laws. **Table 2** below summarizes the results of law enforcement measures that have been implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the DILG, the PNP/Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) this past week.

Table 2: Law Enforcement Measures

Agency	Show Cause Orders	Arrests	Other operations
DTI-PNP/CIDG-NBI	-	45	PhP11.9 Million worth of paraphernalia confiscated
DILG	10 (against local officials)	-	-

Pursuant to Section 4(i)¹⁰ of RA No. 11469, the Department of Justice (DOJ), together with the Department of Health (DOH), the DTI, the DA, the DILG, and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) have prepared a draft Joint Circular for the disposition of seized goods under RA No. 7581 or the "Price Act," RA No. 11469, and RA No. 10863 or the "Customs Modernization and Tariff Act." Under the circular, confiscated goods shall be seized through summary proceedings, and pending formal investigation and prosecution, the same shall be forfeited in favor of the government.

Other Assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Productive Sectors¹¹

In support of our MSMEs, the DTI has vigorously implemented the following programs, conditioned on the retention of an enterprise's employees: (i) micro-financing program entitled, "*Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso*" (P3), for existing borrowers with an interest rate of only 0.5% per month. The PhP1 Billion budget for P3 under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) is now being

utilized to cover the financial requirements of the COVID-19 P3-Enterprise Rehabilitation Fund (P3-ERF); (ii) loans ranging from Php5,000.00 to Php200,000.00 for micro enterprises and Php5,000.00 to Php500,000.00 for small enterprises; (iii) a special loan program for medium-sized projects is also available in the amount of Php500,000.00; and (iv) a 30-day grace period for residential rent, as well as a similar grace period for MSMEs on their commercial rent in all areas under the ECQ.

In relation to the Senate Comments on subsidy programs for other crop farmers and fisherfolks, please note that the DA is implementing, through its Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project, a zero-interest loan program for marginalized and small farmers and fisherfolks (MSFFs). The program is also available to agri-based micro and small enterprises (MSEs).

Table 3: Status of Other Assistance from the DA

Program	Target Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries Served	Allotted Amount (PhP)	Utilized Amount (PhP)
MSFFs	40,000	135 as of 15 April 2020	1 Billion	154.515 Million
Agri-based MSEs	259	16 with letter of intent; 9 approved	2.95 Billion	62.5 Million credit fund approved

Pursuant to Section 4(bb)¹² of RA No. 11469, the DOST approved an additional three (3)-month grace period in rental payment under the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) to help MSMEs cope with their losses. SETUP is a nationwide strategy that encourages MSMEs to adopt technological innovations and enables qualified MSMEs to have access to appropriate technology, equipment and technical assistance to improve production efficiency, product quality and their competitiveness. Under the program, qualified beneficiaries pay back the DOST for the rental payment of the technological assistance.

Ensuring an Uninterrupted Supply Chain¹³

The government recognizes that the continuous and unhampered movement of cargoes and goods are crucial to ensure that essential goods and services reach the markets or the end-users. Since the implementation of the ECQ, various government agencies and instrumentalities, i.e., BOC, Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), Civil Aeronautics Board, CIAC, DA, DICT, Mactan Cebu International Airport, Manila International Airport Authority, Department of Energy (DOE) have supported this thrust consistent with their respective mandates.

In addition to businesses engaged in the production, manufacture, and sale of basic food products and other essential commodities which have already been permitted to operate during the extended ECQ period, the DTI has also expanded the list of essential products allowed for deliveries to include pet food, hardware essentials, and office and school supplies. For its part, the DA activated the 1381 (AGRI) Hotline to address problems and queries on movement of agri-fishery products and inputs.

There are 126 ports nationwide that remain open and operational. The average utilization rate in the Port of Manila and Manila International Container Port for the month of April is 78% and 63%, respectively. As a collaborative effort of the PPA, the MARINA, and the DOTr, two (2) reefer container vans were deployed as "*Palamigan ng Bayan*" in One Bataan Center, Orani, Bataan to ensure the continuous flow of perishable food stuffs in the cluster area of Bataan. The DTI and the TESDA are working in synergy to transform around 45 indigenous people's communities as food production sites, while *Kadiwa on Wheels* in selected provinces and *Diskwento* Caravan in Navotas City have commenced their store rollouts.

In light of recent issues on storage charges and other shipping costs incidental to port congestion, the DTI has already called on shipping lines to: (i) extend the demurrage/detention free time for another five (5) days; (ii) immediately observe a mandatory grace period on the posting of container deposit for importers/consignees in good standing or without overdue and unpaid accounts; and (iii) suspend the imposition of port congestion charges.

To prepare our rail network for possible use in the movement of cargoes and goods, the resumption of utility relocation works and specified limited works across 13 rail projects has been approved by the IATF, subject to strict adherence to safety and precautionary measures for COVID-19.

Ensuring Water and Energy Supply¹⁴

In line with the call to observe frequent hand-washing and bath-taking, the National Water Resources Board has increased the water allocation of Metropolitan Water Works and Sewerage System (MWSS) from 42 cubic meters per second (CMS) to 46 CMS for the months of May and June 2020 to ensure the continuous water supply in Metro Manila. As of 6:00 o'clock in the morning of 16 April 2020, the water level in the Angat reservoir is at 192.83 meters which is 12.83 meters above the minimum operating water level of 180 meters.

Electricity consumers and vital establishments such as hospitals and quarantine facilities are provided with continuous and adequate electricity supply. The country has a total of 59.3 days of inventory of refined petroleum products and crude oil as of 15 April 2020. This is 2.9 days higher compared with the 56.4 days inventory last 06 April 2020. The actual peak demand for electricity in Luzon as of 15 April 2020 is 7,526 MegaWatts (MW) with available capacity of 12,089 MW and reserve capacity of 4,563 MW. The excess available capacity at peak is 38%.

Assistance to Other Sectors and Partnership with LGUs

The MMDA facilitated discussions among concerned government agencies and representatives of crematoriums and funeral parlors in the NCR to improve the management of COVID-19 fatalities. As a result, the crematorium representatives agreed to charge a fixed cremation rate of PhP25,000.00 for indigent Patients Under Investigation (PUI)/COVID-19 fatalities. The MMDA is in the process of preparing a Memorandum of Agreement between the National Government and the cremation service providers for a "Cremate Now, Pay Later" Plan.

Continuing Efforts on Information Dissemination

In addition to the various platforms which provide timely updates and information on COVID-19 to the public, the DOH launched a revamped COVID-19 tracker website at www.doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker which allows a more detailed look not only on cases, but also on hospital capacities and allows for data scientists and other interested stakeholders to download a dataset to run their own analyses. Further, the DOH also introduced the <https://covid19healthphilippines.ph/> which consolidates fact checks, reference materials, and relevant information for each type of users – families, LGUs, and media.

Relevant government agencies provide information and updates on COVID-19 measures in their respective websites. In addition to the DOH COVID-19 tracker website, the *Laging Handa* website (<http://www.covid19.gov.ph/>) collates information on COVID-19 response measures, hotlines, Do's and Don'ts, Frequently Asked Questions, and *Bayanihan* report tracker, and presents these in easily understandable and user-friendly format. Nonetheless, the government shall take into consideration the Senators' recommendation to set-up a one-stop shop website in its evaluation and study of a current proposal to create a Unified COVID-19 Website containing the government's response to concerns under segments for health, food production, social assistance, mobility and transport, and business/labor force.

II. Secure Facilities and Resources for the Health Sector and Other Frontliners *Human Resources for Health*

On 15 April 2020, the DOH submitted to the DBM the PhP5.2 Billion budget proposal for the hiring of additional 17,757 personnel¹⁵ for COVID-19 response to be deployed in priority health facilities (e.g., Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Hospital and Sanitarium, Lung Center of the Philippines, Philippine General Hospital, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, National Quarantine Facilities, and other hospitals to be designated for COVID-19 response). As of 16 April 2020, there are 743 Human Resources for Health (HRH)¹⁶ who are temporarily deployed to hospitals for COVID-19 response under the DOH HRH Deployment Program.

Referral Hospitals, COVID-19 Bed Capacity and Equipment

The total number of hospitals, hospital beds dedicated to COVID-19 in government hospitals and private hospitals, including recently converted quarantine centers, and the number of available mechanical ventilators are shown in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Hospitals, Hospital Beds, and Ventilators

	Number of Hospitals	No. of Dedicated Beds for COVID-19	No. of Mechanical Ventilators
DOH Hospitals	72	3,276	1,240
LGU and other Government Hospitals	232	1,348	123
Private Hospitals	381	1,694	334

Other Quarantine Facilities	8	2,396	-
TOTAL	693	8,714	1,697

Quarantine Facilities

To augment the capacity of health facilities, the government has been constantly expanding its capacity and preparedness to address the expected surge in COVID-19 related cases through conversion of facilities and properties into quarantine centers, particularly in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The DPWH and other agencies continue to prepare evacuation centers in Luzon to be utilized as health/quarantine facilities, emergency operation centers, food hubs, and quarters for health workers. From 46 evacuation centers that was reported on 13 April 2020, another 10 were added in the past week. Six (6) additional evacuation centers are now being used as health/quarantine facilities in Regions I, II, and V; three (3) as food hubs in Regions X and XIII; and one (1) as an emergency operation center in Region I.

The foregoing health/quarantine facilities are expected to serve a total of 1,415 persons with confirmed, suspected, and probable cases of COVID-19. They have actually served a total of 575 persons so far, from 494 that was reported on 13 April 2020. These numbers are distributed per region in Luzon as shown in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Distribution of Evacuation Centers converted into Health or Quarantine Facilities

Region	No. of Evacuation Centers being Used as Health/ Quarantine Facilities	Estimated / Target Capacity per Region	Persons Served Per Region
I	6	155	37
II	1	57	2
III	2	67	87
IV-A	2	95	67
IV-B	2	200	114
V	1	52	68
VI	5	230	45
VII	6	210	88
VIII	2	62	9
IX	3	90	9
X	1	65	-
XI	1	50	15
XII	2	60	2
XIII	2	60	32
Total	36	1,415	575

The *BRP Ang Pangulo* was also remodeled into a floating quarantine facility and is now ready to accommodate patients. Currently, the ship is in Davao City and is estimated to arrive in Manila on 24 April 2020. The DPWH, together with the BCDA, has also finished the necessary construction work to convert various sites into health/quarantine facilities. The DOTr, the PPA, and the PCG will be retrofitting the South Harbor Passenger Terminal Building into a COVID-19 quarantine facility. **Table 6** below shows a summary of completed converted quarantine centers, including those with ongoing or planned conversions (excluding evacuation centers), and their respective capacities.

Table 6: Facilities Converted or for Conversion into Quarantine Centers

	Implementing Agency	Site	Estimated / Target Capacity	Date of Completion/ Persons Served ¹⁷
1.	DPWH and BCDA / AFP ¹⁸	Ninoy Aquino Stadium	116	06 April 2020
2.	DPWH and BCDA / PNP ¹⁹	Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)-Forum	294	08 April 2020
3.	DPWH and BCDA	World Trade Center	502	09 April 2020
4.	DPWH and BCDA	Rizal Memorial Coliseum	112	09 April 2020
5.	DPWH and BCDA	ASEAN Convention Center	150	12 April 2020
6.	DPWH and BCDA	New Clark City-National Government Administrative Center	668	12 April 2020
7.	DPWH and BCDA	Philippine Sports Complex	132	18 April 2020
8.	DOTr	Floating Quarantine Hospitals	700	147 (136 OFWs and 11 seafarers)
9.	CIAC, CDC, and BCDA	Asean Convention Center and National Government Administrative Center Building	1,000	Reported as complete as of 16 April 2020
10.	DOTr, PPA, and PCG	South Harbor Passenger Terminal Building	206	-
11.	DPWH	Philippines Arena	300	-
12.	AFP	BRP Ang Pangulo	28	-
13.	PSALM ²⁰	Property in Bagac, Bataan	20	20
14.	BCDA	New Clark City-Athletes' Village	520	Since February 2020
15.	-	Las Pinas Rehabilitation Center	50	-
16.	-	Quezon Institute	100	-

Nine (9) state universities and colleges (SUCs) are currently being considered by the CHED for possible use as temporary quarantine facilities. These will be in addition to the five (5) SUCs previously approved for the same purpose. The DepEd approved 167 LGU requests to use DepEd facilities in managing COVID-19 cases in their respective areas, which involves 1,432 DepEd facilities. Currently, there are 660 schools in various locations already approved by the DepEd to be used by LGUs for COVID-19 related concerns such as isolation areas, quarantine areas, and other authorized purpose. Requests for use of 324 other schools are still undergoing evaluation or awaiting additional documents for compliance.

As of 16 April 2020, the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) has assigned 30 teams to 44 hotel-quarantine facilities and has deployed employees for purposes of overseeing the mandatory 14-day quarantine of Overseas Filipinos (OFs). For the period 10 April to 16 April 2020, 4,440 OFs were accommodated by the quarantine facilities. As of 16 April 2020, 1,571 individuals were cleared or had completed their quarantine.

Update on Test Kits, Testing Centers, and Expanded Testing

Pursuant to Section 4(b)²¹ of RA No. 11469, the DOH has activated a total of 16 laboratories and hospitals for COVID-19 testing as of 16 April 2020, from 11 testing facilities as previously reported. To bolster the capacity of expanded testing and to ensure equitable access to testing services throughout the country, the DOH is prioritizing the applications for Stage 1 and 2 laboratories in Visayas and Mindanao.

On the other hand, the Food and Drug Administration continues to process and approve applications for test kits and other licenses in relation to COVID-19.

Table 7. Processing of Application for Test Kits as of 15 April 2020²²

Type of Application	Total Applications Received	No. of Applications Approved	No. of Applications with pending requirements for compliance
Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	145	63	15
Rapid	1279	54	40
Others	18	0	0
Total	442	117	55

Table 8. Total Approved Test Kits as of 15 April 2020²³

Type of Test Kit	No. Approved
PCR Based Kits	24
Rapid Antibody Test Kits	14
Total	38

Table 9. Processing of applications under the Bayanihan One-Stop-Shop (BOSS)²⁴

Total Applications Received	No. of Applications Processed	No. of Applications Approved	No. of Applications Disapproved	No. of Applications Pending Approval
73	73	3	27	43

The Special Allotment Release Order for PhP1.9 Billion for the procurement of SARS-Cov-2RT-PCR kits, good for 918,000 tests, has been released to the DOH and subsequently transferred to the Procurement Service (PS) of the DBM which shall conduct the procurement. Pursuant to the request of the DOH, the DOST allocated PhP20 Million for the manufacturing, distribution, and installation of 32 units of specimen collection booths and for the conduct of testing and data gathering.

As of 16 April 2020, 48,171 samples and 42,215 individuals have been tested for COVID-19, with an average of 1,164 to 3,408 tests conducted daily. The DOH aims to increase the capacity for COVID-19 testing to 8,000 daily. I am thankful that last week marks the first time where the number of recoveries exceeded the number of deaths.

The DOH is currently in talks with the DOST for the latter to lend PCR machines from academic institutions. The DOH is also awaiting the delivery of 3,000 units of Cepheid GeneXpert cartridge, which promises an automated testing process and faster results. The DOH reports that 19 laboratories have been assessed as ready to utilize the cartridges, with 21 more for validation.

Strengthening Contact Tracing Measures

As of 16 April 2020, the DOH has traced a total of 7,251 contacts. The decrease from previous week's count of 8,973 contacts was due to data cleaning under OPLAN Complete Case Information.

Protection for Healthworkers

To ensure the safety of health workers and protect them against discrimination, the DILG has issued Memorandum Circular No. 2020-072 which directs all LGUs to provide temporary shelter and accommodation to health workers in provincial or city hospitals and other public health facilities accommodating COVID-19 patients. The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has implemented the *Bayanihan Frontliners Fund*, an enhanced group personal accident insurance coverage for frontliners who are exposed to the risk of contracting COVID-19 and other related hazards. Accordingly, the life insurance coverage has now been increased to PhP500,000.00 at no cost to the insured for the period of 12 March 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Provision of Healthcare Resources, Supplies, and Equipment

The entire government continues to mobilize its resources to provide health and medical supplies and equipment to our frontliners. **Table 10** below is a summary of contributions, either procured from their respective agency budgets of various agencies and instrumentalities of the Executive Department or distribution of donations from the private sector based on available data.

Table 10. Summary of Contributions or Distribution of Healthcare resources by Government Agencies

	Department/ Agency/ GOCC	Procured, Donated, or Contributed				
		PPEs	Face Masks/ Face Shields	Hygiene Kits/ Other Products	Medicine/ Equipment	Food Packs (FP)/ Food Products
1.	AFP	28,150 ²⁵	278,570	3,048 consisting of 2,160 bottles and 888 boxes of alcohol	21,047 ²⁶ / 23,689 ²⁷	127,150 FP ²⁸
2.	BFAR	2,288				
3.	DENR			27,071 board feet of lumber (total of 79,434 board feet of lumber as of 16 April 2020)		
4.	DENR- MGB ²⁹			186,555 household, 17,055 frontliners, and 230 PUMs served		(Other Products column include FP)
5.	DOE	50				480 FP, 32,700 pieces of bread from 10-15 April 2020, and 1,800 liters of milk
6.	DOST ³⁰	335	7,257 / 30,660	1,406 liters of alcohol, 11 drums of industrial chlorine, and 19,000 liters of disinfectant solution	2,500 vitamin C capsules	100 FP

7.	Department/ Agency/ GOCC	PPEs	Procured, Donated, or Contributed			
			Face Masks/ Face Shields	Hygiene Kits/ Other Products	Medicine/ Equipment	Food Packs (FP)/ Food Products
	DOTr		150,000		2,100 vitamin C pills	5,952 canned goods, and 27,767 meals/snacks to frontliners ³¹
8.	EMB	15 sets; 1,760 ³²	3,918 / 290	126 gallons of alcohol		4,252 FP and 105 FP ³³
9.	MIAA				16 ³⁴	
10.	OTS	713				451 FP
11.	Philippine International Trading Corporation		2.05 million to DOH / 50,000 to OCD			
12.	SUCs	846	6,062	9,080.16 liters ³⁵		135 FP ³⁶
13.	TESDA	1,789	196,247 / 16,634	4,628 liters hand sanitizers and surface disinfectants	40 goggles	5,628 FP and 46,790 ³⁷
14.	National Transmission Corporation					300 FP to 3 hospitals and 20 FP to front- liners (daily)
15.	DOH	9,859 ³⁸				
16.	DSWD					436,351 Family FP ³⁹ as of 18 April 2020

As of 16 April 2020, the DOH has received the following PS-DBM-procured PPEs: goggles - 254,590 pieces, KN95 - 58,910 pieces, surgical masks - 600,000 pieces, and gloves⁴⁰ - 149,750 pieces.

The PhilHealth, through its Interim Reimbursement Mechanism, has prepositioned funds to enable 5,095 PhilHealth-accredited Health Care Institutions (HCIs) to quickly respond to the COVID-19 threat. As of 15 April 2020, PhP8.318 Billion was released to 226 HCIs.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)-Investment Coordination Committee⁴¹ has approved the proposed COVID-19 Emergency Response Project of the DOH, with a total project cost of PhP5.090 Billion to cover the following measures:

- (1) establish testing and quarantine facilities at six (6) major international airports in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao;
- (2) build 21 first-line decontamination facilities at international airports in selected areas across the country;
- (3) equip national laboratories and sub-national public health laboratories to handle COVID-19 cases across the country;
- (4) refurbish and establish negative pressure isolation rooms in approximately 70 DOH and 85 provincial public hospitals across the country;
- (5) set up 450 isolation tents;

- (6) provide PPEs, COVID-19 test kits, diagnostic and life support equipment (ventilators, oxygen machines, cardiac monitors, infusion pumps, portable x-ray machines, PCR equipment and dialysis machines); and
- (7) provide ambulances.

In support of the DOH and to ensure availability of PPEs, medicines, and other critical medical supplies and equipment, the DTI along with the DOF and the BOC, has implemented Joint Memorandum Circular No. 2020-02, which: (i) provides incentives to enterprises engaged in the manufacture of critical medicines, medical supplies and equipment and exemptions from import duties, taxes, and other fees; and (ii) suspends export requirements of exporters for these critical products and requires them to supply at least 80% of their daily production for local or domestic use.

Pursuant to Section 4(j)⁴² of RA No. 11469, the DFA, for the period 09 April to 16 April 2020, has facilitated the entry of donations and assistance from the United States and four (4) other foreign entities; and assisted in securing flight clearances for personnel of the Philippine Red Cross in the pick-up of COVID-19 testing machines and equipment at the Changsha International Airport in China.

III. Establish Sound Fiscal and Monetary Actions that are Responsive to All Stakeholders

The government continues to create and implement supportive measures to assist firms, businesses, and individuals to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moratoriums and other Relief Measures

Pursuant to Section 4(aa)⁴³ of RA No. 11469, the DA has implemented a one (1)-year loan payment moratorium to benefit around 244,041 MSFFs-borrowers, with moratorium notices having been sent to 178 partner lending conduits.

The payment moratorium of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) has so far benefited (1) 9,161 credit cardholders with waived penalties and 3,362 card holders with deferred annual membership fees; (2) 210,988 salary loan borrowers with amortization due (principal and interest); (3) 712 loan accounts nationwide with principal and interest due; and (4) 25,444 agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBS) covering 43,100 hectares of agricultural land on amortizations due.

The GSIS has extended the grace period for payment of premiums for 171 covered agencies from 60 to 90 days on non-life insurance policies and premiums due for payment within the ECQ period until normal business operations are restored. To prevent any gap in insurance coverage, the GSIS has adopted the provision on Cover Note under the Insurance Code, which allows the extension of expiring policies during the ECQ.

The Local Water Utilities Administration has approved the requests for suspension of loan amortization of six (6) water districts in Cebu, Surigao del Sur, Quezon, Iloilo, and Tarlac.

The DOE has issued an advisory, which provides electricity consumers and affected corporations in the electricity supply chain a grace period to pay their obligations falling due during the original and extended ECQ, and for those consumers who would be unable to pay their electricity bills beyond the grace period to settle their obligations for four (4) months amortized payments after the quarantine period.

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation has deployed its online application system for the moratorium on housing loan payments and continues to avail the use of social media platforms to post advisories and answer queries of its clients.⁴⁴ The Philippine Guarantee Corporation continues to support the Agricultural Sector during the period of the ECQ by reducing the guarantee fee from one percent (1%) to half of one percent (0.5%) and increasing guarantee coverage from 85% to 90% to farmers who are producing *palay*, regardless whether they are ARBs or the loans are covered by Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation.

The GSIS granted emergency loans in the amount of PhP20,000.00 with an annual interest of 6% payable in three (3) years to active members and old-age pensioners nationwide starting 13 April 2020. Of the 2,133,495 target beneficiaries of the program, 9,763 have been served as of 15 April 2020.

The DOTr announced on 17 April 2020 “rental holidays” and deferral of rental charges for all airport concessionaires nationwide.

Finally, the LBP extended a 30-day grace period to all its borrowers under the SPEED PUV Program.

Extension of Submission of Documents, Deadlines, and Renewal of Permits

Pursuant to Section 4(z)⁴⁵ of RA No. 11469, various government agencies have extended the deadline for application for renewal of licenses and permits within their respective regulatory jurisdictions, as shown in **Table 11** below.

Table 11. Update on Extension of Deadlines

	Department/ Agency/ GOCC	Issuance No.	Date Issued	Subject Matter/ Description
1.	MARINA	Advisory No. 2020-25	09 April 2020	Extends the validity of statutory certificates issued to Philippine-registered ships in the international trade until 31 May 2020.
2.	OTS	Notification	01 April 2020	Extends validity of Certification of Aviation Security and Maritime Security Staff/Personnel and Accreditation of Training Institution/ Center/School
3.	Insurance Commission (IC)	Circular Letter No. 2020-43	16 April 2020	Provides new/extended deadlines in the filing of documentary/reportorial requirements by all IC-regulated entities

Fiscal Measures of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)

To stimulate the lending activity of banks and support affected enterprises, the BSP issued memoranda allowing the acceptance of eligible credit instruments for rediscounting to the BSP until 19 May 2020 subject to further extension as may be

approved by the Monetary Board,⁴⁶ and further relaxing the maximum penalty imposed on its supervised institutions for reserve deficiencies.⁴⁷ On 16 April 2020, the BSP cut its benchmark interest rate by 50 basis points to encourage lending to various sectors, especially to the most vulnerable. The cut takes the rate on its overnight reserve purchase facility to 2.75% effective 17 April 2020.

Budgetary Measures to Fund COVID-19 Effort

Out of the total pooled savings of PhP246.283 Billion from various sources as of 16 April 2020, PhP148.933 Billion has already been downloaded by the DBM to relevant national government agencies (NGAs) in connection with the government's COVID-19 responses. A total of PhP5.690 Billion additional allotments and PhP7.789 Billion cash allocations that have already been released can be attributed to the existing programs, activities and projects (P/A/Ps) within the FY 2020 appropriations of relevant NGAs.⁴⁸

On the other hand, to augment the budget of LGUs for their COVID-19 response measures, the DBM has issued Local Budget Circular No. 126 dated 13 April 2020, which provides guidelines on the release and utilization of the Bayanihan Grant to Provinces (BGP), equivalent to one half (1/2) of the one-month FY 2020 Internal Revenue Allotment share of the provinces.

In accordance with Section 4(y)⁴⁹ of RA No. 11469, the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) has certified that the amount of PhP100.221 Billion, taken from excess revenue from actual dividend collections of government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), is available to fund additional requirements to address the COVID-19 emergency.

Further, various agencies, GOCCs, and instrumentalities have identified,⁵⁰ reallocated⁵¹ or remitted⁵² various amounts from their respective budgets for COVID-19 response measures.

For the period 09 April to 15 April 2020, the LBP remitted to the BTr cash balances from various government agencies amounting to PhP8.8 Billion. The DOE implemented Department Circular No. DC 2020-04-0008⁵³ and was able to transfer a total amount of PhP159.3 Million from Energy Regulations (ER) 1-94 Funds to provide for LGUs' COVID-19 responses.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation submitted to the DOF and the DOE its inventory of identified real properties which may be considered for COVID-19 projects, programs, and activities. Its Release of Share in National Wealth to host communities pursuant to RA No. 7160 or the "Local Government Code of 1991," has benefitted six (6) provinces, two (2) cities, 15 municipalities, and 80 barangays.

IV. Responsive and Sustainable Recovery Plan

The Technical Working Group on Anticipatory and Forward Planning of the IATF is set to submit to the IATF its report on the results of the following: (1) the Consumer survey, (2) Business survey (Industry and Services), (3) Agriculture and Fishery Survey, and (4) Definition of the 'New Normal' survey on 20 April 2020. Said

report shall include proposals to mitigate the impact of the ECQ on consumers, firms, and sectors as well as proposed executive and legislative actions and projects, priority programs and projects, needed to address and adapt to the post-pandemic "new normal" state.

The IATF will submit a recommendation to the President on the post 30 April 2020 scenarios, including the matter on whether to extend or modify the ECQ, on or before the coming week.

¹ **Section 4(c).** Provide an emergency subsidy to around eighteen (18) million low income households: *Provided*, That the subsidy shall amount to a minimum of Five thousand pesos (₱5,000) to a maximum of Eight thousand pesos (₱8,000) a month for two (2) months: *Provided, further*, That the subsidy shall be computed based on the prevailing regional minimum wage rates: *Provided, finally*, That the subsidy received from the current conditional cash transfer program and rice subsidy shall be taken into consideration in the computation of the emergency subsidy as provided for in this Act.

² **Section 4(cc).** Implement an expanded and enhanced Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program, responsive to the need posed by the crisis, and provision of an assistance program, whether in cash or non-cash, whichever is more practicable, where the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, or the Secretary of Labor and Employment, when relevant, shall transfer cash, cash voucher, or goods through the LGUs or directly to households who have no incomes or savings to draw from, including households working in the informal economy and those who are not currently recipients of the current Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program, of an amount adequate to restore capacity to purchase basic food and other essential items during the duration of the quarantine. To carry out this subsection, the Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment may approve the temporary emergency standards of eligibility and level of benefits.

³ The number of non-4Ps beneficiaries receiving the emergency subsidies is expected to increase in the coming days as the payouts are scheduled on 08-24 April 2020.

⁴ The figure consists of 85,720 On-site OFWs and 50,000 Repatriated/Balik Manggagawa.

⁵ The figure consists of 30,318 received and 1,457 approved applications from On-site OFWs and 55,736 received and 1,788 approved application from Repatriated/Balik Manggagawa.

⁶ Special Guidelines on the Provision of Social Amelioration Measures by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, and Department of the Interior and Local Government to the Most Affected Residents of the Areas under Enhanced Community Quarantine.

⁷ The EOC, which started formal operations on 19 March 2020, continues to receive and respond to transportation-related queries from the public to give a better understanding of the policies implemented during the Luzon-wide ECQ.

⁸ **Section 4(e).** Direct the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to shoulder all medical expenses of public and private health workers in case of exposure to COVID-19 or any work-related injury or disease during the duration of the emergency.

⁹ PhilHealth Circular Nos. 2020-0009, 2020-0010, 2020-0011, and 2020-0012.

¹⁰ **Section 4(i).** Continue to enforce measures to protect the people from hoarding, profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices, product deceptions, and cartels, monopolies or other combinations in restraint of trade, or other pernicious practices affecting the supply, distribution and movement of food, clothing, hygiene and sanitation products, medicine and medical supplies, fuel, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements, machinery equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and other essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether imported or locally produced or manufactured.

¹¹ **Section 4(n).** Ensure the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the economy especially in the countryside through measures such as, but not limited to, lowering the effective lending rates of interest and reserve requirements of lending institutions.

¹² **Section 4 (bb).** Provide for a minimum of thirty (30)-day grace period on residential rents falling due within the period of the enhanced community quarantine, without incurring interests, penalties, fees, and other charges.

¹³ **Section 4(p).** Ensure the availability of essential goods, in particular food and medicine, by adopting measures as may reasonably be necessary to facilitate and/or minimize disruption to the supply chain, especially for basic commodities and services to the maximum extent possible.

¹⁴ **Section 4(u).** Conserve and regulate the distribution and use of power, fuel, energy, and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same.

¹⁵ 15,757 Human Resources for Health and 2,000 deputized physicians.

¹⁶ 632 nurses and 111 medical residency graduates.

¹⁷ Data for patients occupying or using the some quarantine centers is not yet available.

- ¹⁸ The AFP has commenced its operations at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with 66 AFP personnel deployed composed of 21 medical staff, 12 administrative staff, and 33 security staff.
- ¹⁹ The completed facilities of the PICC-Forum were handed over to the PNP Medical Corps last 15 April 2020.
- ²⁰ Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation.
- ²¹ **Section 4(b).** Expedite and streamline the accreditation of testing kits and facilitate prompt testing by public and designated private institutions of PUIs and PUMs, and the compulsory and immediate isolation and treatment of patients: *Provided*, That the cost of treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.
- ²² The table shows total number of received applications from distributors. Some products have multiple distributors.
- ²³ The table shows total number of received applications from distributors. Some products have multiple distributors.
- ²⁴ A single window concierge for all government agencies involved in the processing of license for importation of COVID-19 critical commodities.
- ²⁵ 1,550 HAZMAT suits, 1,000 pairs of boots cover, 24, 500 pairs of gloves, 100 isolation gowns, and 1,000 surgical caps.
- ²⁶ 83 bottles, 144 packs, and 20,820 tablets of Vitamin-C.
- ²⁷ 30 Collapsible tents, 537 Cot beds, 52 thermal canners, 23,000 rapid test kits, and 70 portalets.
- ²⁸ 4,500 ready-to-eat meals, 100,000 loaves of bread, 5,300 dressed chickens, and 17,350 bottled water.
- ²⁹ Utilizing mining companies' re-aligned unutilized funds from their Social Development Management Program in the amount PhP109.03 Million as of 15 April 2020, to provide hygiene kits and food packs to households and frontliners in mining host communities and its neighboring areas.
- ³⁰ Given to PNP for distribution.
- ³¹ From sponsors and private donors of the Free Bus Ride Program.
- ³² Pairs of surgical gloves.
- ³³ Provided by EMB Region X to Persons with Disabilities in Barangay Puntod, Cagayan de Oro.
- ³⁴ Non-contact Infrared Thermometer and batteries.
- ³⁵ Alcohol, disinfectants, soap, and dishwashing liquids.
- ³⁶ Davao Oriental State College of Science and Technology gave food and relief packs to its 135 stranded students.
- ³⁷ Baked goods, food packs, and other products.
- ³⁸ Distributed to eight (8) government hospitals, four (4) Centers for Health Development, and one (1) private hospital.
- ³⁹ Distributed to LGUs. The figure is the total amount from a baseline of 62,359 Family FPs as of 24 March 2020.
- ⁴⁰ This item was rejected due to specification problem.
- ⁴¹ The Investment Coordination Committee consists of the Secretary of Finance, as chairman; the NEDA Director-General, as co-chairman; and the Executive Secretary, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Budget and Management and the Governor of the Central Bank of the Philippines, as members. The ICC has the following functions: (1) evaluates the fiscal, monetary and balance of payments implications of major national projects, and recommends to the President the timetable of their implementation on a regular basis; (2) advises the President on matters related to the domestic and foreign borrowings program; and (3) submits the status of the fiscal, monetary and balance of payments implications of major national projects.
- ⁴² **Section 4(j).** Ensure that donation, acceptance and distribution of health products intended to address the COVID-19 public health emergency are not unnecessarily delayed and that health products for donation duly certified by the regulatory agency or their accredited third party from countries with established regulation shall automatically be cleared: *Provided*, That this shall not apply to health products which do not require a certification or clearance from Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- ⁴³ **Section 4 (aa).** Direct all banks, quasi-banks, financing companies, lending companies, and other financial institutions, public and private, including the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System and Pag-ibig Fund, to implement a minimum of a thirty (30)-day grace period for the payment of all loans, including but not limited to salary, personal, housing, and motor vehicle loans, as well as credit card payments, falling due within the period of the enhanced Community Quarantine without incurring interests, penalties, fees or other charges, persons with multiple loans shall likewise be given the minimum thirty (30)-day grace period for every loan.
- ⁴⁴ NHMFC sent at least 10,780 text messages and e-mails to inform their clients about the on-going moratorium.
- ⁴⁵ **Section 4(z).** Move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease the burden on individuals under Community Quarantine.
- ⁴⁶ Memorandum No. 2020-024 dated 08 April 2020.
- ⁴⁷ Memorandum No. 2020-025 dated 13 April 2020.
- ⁴⁸ NGAs include DOH, DSWD, DILG, DOST, DOLE, DND, and DOJ.
- ⁴⁹ **Section 4(y).** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the President is hereby authorized to allocate cash, funds, investments, including unutilized or unreleased subsidies and transfers, held by any GOCC or any national government agency in order to address the COVID-19 emergency, as declared in Section 3 hereof.
- ⁵⁰ DepED (PhP2.82 Billion).
- ⁵¹ DTI-Small Business Corporation (PhP500 Million).

⁵² Philippine National Oil Company (PhP2.3 Billion), TESDA (PhP1.967 Billion), PPA (PhP5 Billion in dividends), CPA (PhP500 Million), MIAA (PhP6 Billion), MCIA (PhP500 Million), CAAP (PhP4 Billion), LRTA (PhP1 Billion), and North Luzon Railway Corporation (PhP140 Million).

⁵³ Entitled, *"Rationalizing the Utilization of ER 1-94 Fund by Host Local Government Units in Response to COVID-19 Public Health Emergency."*