

Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang

JUN 22 2020


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

Mr. Senate President:

We respectfully transmit herewith the 13th 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, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila



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**REPORT TO THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2020

In compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the "*Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*," I respectfully submit this thirteenth weekly report on the programs and activities undertaken by the Executive branch of government in the exercise of the powers granted under said law.

This report will concentrate on the responses of departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Executive branch to the recurring comments and observations of the members of the Senate, including its representatives in the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, on the weekly reports submitted by this Office to Congress. The said responses include details on the actions or measures undertaken by the agencies concerned, as well as proposals for a more effective implementation of RA No. 11469, consistent with the declared policy therein.

I. Providing Emergency Assistance to all Affected Sectors

Approaches Taken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the Identification of Beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Programs (SAPs)

The DSWD has adopted the Bottom-Up Approach by engaging the local government units (LGUs) in the implementation of the SAPs. DSWD Field Offices (FOs) and the LGUs within their respective jurisdictions have executed memoranda of agreement (MOAs) stating that the LGUs shall ensure that their identified and listed beneficiaries shall be profiled through the use of the Social Amelioration Card (SAC). The SAC is a form distributed to families in a community to capture their profiles, and used as reference to evaluate eligibility under the SAPs. The SAC is also used as a monitoring tool to record the assistance received by each family to avoid duplication of benefits or fraudulent payments.

Pursuant to the MOAs executed by the DSWD FOs and the LGUs concerned, barangay personnel conduct house-to-house distribution of the SAC forms to beneficiaries identified as "eligible" based on the criteria set in DSWD Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 09 (s. 2020) (Omnibus Guidelines).¹ Members of LGUs which fall under the exceptions of the Omnibus Guidelines, like those covered by the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps), need not be profiled through the SAC, as the DSWD has a separate mechanism for 4Ps beneficiaries.

The commonly referred to "quota system" pertains to the allocated number of beneficiaries per LGU, which together constitute the target 18 Million households nationwide that will receive emergency subsidy pursuant to RA No. 11469 and Joint MC No. 1 (s. 2020).²

The use of the *Listahan II* database, adjusted to factor in the population growth up to year 2020, in determining the potential number of beneficiaries and the number of SAC forms to be distributed was prompted by the crucial objective of distributing assistance to our fellowmen at the soonest possible time. The Registry of Barangay Inhabitants and Migrants (RBIM) was initially considered by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) Technical Working

Group (TWG) on Social Amelioration but was eventually discarded because not all barangays completed it and there was a serious concern that the data therein are outdated per the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) MC No. 2006-134,³ which reminded barangays to complete their RBIM pursuant to MC No. 2005-69.⁴ Suffice it to state that the Bottom-Up Approach of the DSWD by utilizing the SAC, cut through the process of awaiting the completion of the RBIM to make a prior assessment of the low income households.

In any event, the LGUs have been given adequate discretion and control for the swift and effective identification and listing of SAPs beneficiaries. LGUs are not proscribed from using their data in the RBIM, if they have it. Contrary to the popular opinion that the LGUs are being limited to pre-set identified targets, the LGUs have latitude in the identification of who must be included in the list of beneficiaries. The DSWD merely set the eligibility criteria to limit the grant of subsidy to low-income households. More importantly, a prior assessment by the DSWD is not a pre-requisite for the payout since validation is done after the payout. Finally, in order to address the concern on the disparity between the number of allocated beneficiaries in the LGUs and the actual number of eligible beneficiaries and the non-provision of benefits to those not included in the list, the DSWD has initiated the provision of emergency subsidy to an additional 5 Million waitlisted beneficiaries.

Causes of Delay in the Distribution of Assistance under the SAPs

The following major factors contributed to the delay in the distribution of SAPs for the month of April 2020, based on the feedback of DSWD FOs:

- (a) Continuous requests from LGUs to include or specify a number of sectors in the list of beneficiaries to the extent that some refuse to help the DSWD and expressed unwillingness to receive funds and implement the SAP;
- (b) Continuous requests from LGUs to increase the number of beneficiaries in a sector, and to download additional funds for families who are not on the existing lists;
- (c) Threats, harassments, and insults received by DSWD and LGU personnel from constituents of LGUs, among others;
- (d) Exposure of a number of DSWD and LGU personnel to individuals who are COVID-19 positive, which led to corresponding quarantine measures; and
- (e) Postponement of payouts due to the increasing number of infected and exposed individuals in the community.

Timeline for Completion of Distribution of Assistance under the SAPs

It may be noted that the DSWD has signed agreements with electronic cash transfer solution providers to accelerate and facilitate the distribution of cash assistance.

The DSWD has undergone a series of consultations and negotiations with private entities, including non-government organizations, to determine the best and most expeditious means to deliver the emergency subsidy, consistent with the Omnibus Guidelines. Information technology has been availed of through the development and implementation of the *ReliefAgad* System.⁵

The projected turnover time or the average waiting time before the financial assistance reached the beneficiaries, in accordance with the process flow under the

Omnibus Guidelines, was only four (4) days from the LGUs' receipt of the checks (for 50,000 beneficiaries and below) to seven (7) days (for beneficiaries above 50,000). However, due to the cited challenges encountered by the DSWD FOs and the LGUs during implementation, the projected period necessitated extensions. The same bottlenecks in the implementation were considered in the drafting of Joint MC No. 2 (s. 2020),⁶ or the guidelines for the implementation of the SAPs for the 2nd Tranche.

Inclusion of Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) Drivers outside the National Capital Region (NCR) in the SAPs

Drivers nationwide, not only within the NCR, are included in the provision of emergency subsidy to drivers of public utility vehicles through the SAPs, funded by the DSWD. In this regard, the tripartite MOA was executed in April 2020 between the DSWD, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Land Bank of the Philippines to provide emergency subsidy to drivers of public utility jeepneys, UV Express, public utility buses, point-to-point buses, taxis, transport network vehicle service, school transport services, tourist transport services, and motorcycle taxis whose operations were suspended due to the spread of COVID-19. Considering that the budget for the SAPs has been downloaded to the DSWD FOs and the LGUs, the DSWD Central Office (CO) facilitated the disbursement of subsidies to drivers in the NCR using the funds available in the DSWD CO. Due to limited funding available in the DSWD CO, the payment for the remaining beneficiaries outside NCR will have to be coursed through the DSWD FOs. This set-up similarly aims to ensure that no duplicates in payment will be made, considering that several drivers voluntarily returned the amount they received from the DSWD because they also received assistance through the LGUs and the Social Security System.

The subsidy is equivalent to the prevailing minimum wage rate in each region. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has also partnered with GCash, an electronic money issuer and remittance transfer company, for the provision of the money distribution services, free of charge, in the distribution of the cash assistance to the PUV drivers.

Causes of Delay in the Disbursement of Financial Assistance under the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program - Abot-Kamay ang Pagtulong (CAMP-AKAP) for Displaced Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)

The 1st tranche of fund release under the CAMP-AKAP program amounting to PhP1.5 Billion was received by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on 08 April 2020. Funds for the 2nd tranche in the amount of PhP1 Billion was received by the DOLE only on 14 May 2020, and was immediately released to the Philippines Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) and DOLE regional offices on 25 May 2020. However, due to varying banking regulations in countries of destination, some POLOs were only able to withdraw the funds on 31 May 2020 and started disbursement to OFWs in the first week of June. In addition, some countries are still on lockdown due to the COVID-19, which resulted in limited banking hours and restrictions on the POLOs for face-to-face payouts. Some overseas banks limit the number of transactions per day, which similarly restrict the number of payouts by POLOs to the beneficiaries. Strict curfew is also being implemented in most Middle Eastern countries, hence POLOs have limited time to deliver the cash assistance to the accommodations and worksites of our OFWs.

Meanwhile, affected overseas Filipino healthcare workers who have returned to the Philippines (*balik-manggagawa*) are covered under the CAMP-AKAP financial assistance. Online applications are received by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and proceeds are paid by the DOLE through the regional offices.

Transportation Assistance to Returning OFWs and Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs)

Under its *Hatid-Probinsya para sa mga OFWs* program, the DOTr provides transportation assistance to repatriated OFWs who have undergone mandatory quarantine, so they can safely return home to their families in the provinces. In compliance with the protocols of the DOH and the Bureau of Quarantine, the OFWs present their quarantine clearances indicating that they have been tested negative from COVID-19 before they are allowed to travel back to their provinces.

In order to ensure that proper health protocols and coordination are being observed by government agencies, the DILG has issued supplemental guidelines on the management of LSIs and returning overseas Filipinos. The said guidelines directs LGUs to establish a “one-stop-shop” station for the prompt and efficient assistance to all LSIs within their area. As of June 2020, a total of 30,495 out of 45,429 LSIs have returned to their respective residences.

OFWs Awaiting Repatriation

Cruise line companies have expressed that 29,963 more seafarers are expected to be sent home. The foreign service posts of the Department of Foreign Affairs have indicated that another 17,830 land-based OFWs have signified their intent to be repatriated. Barring any complications, this would bring the total number of repatriates to 93,675. However, due to the continuing impact of the pandemic, the number of repatriated Filipinos could reach 100,000 or even higher in the coming months.

Accounting of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs)

For the period of 17 March to 30 April 2020, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology has reported a total of 4,188 released PDLs. The said number reflects only the released PDLs from BJMP facilities across the country and does not include the figures from other detention facilities managed by other agencies of the government.

Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project

In order to increase the number of marginal small farmers and fishers (MSFF) and agri-fishery based micro and small enterprise (MSE) beneficiaries, the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), have instituted measures to intensify the following: (1) speeding up of loan processing and release to MSFFs by allowing online submission of documentary requirements and accepting duly certified lists of farmers/fishers from municipal agriculturists; (2) strengthening coordination with LGUs in allowing regulated mobility of beneficiaries and partner-lending conduits (PLC) personnel; (3) tapping grassroots-based financial institutions to serve target beneficiaries in hard-to-reach areas; and (4) integrating digital solutions in the release of loans such as cash cards and electronic wallets.

Below is an update on the implementation of the Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project:

Table 1. Implementation of the Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project

	Target Beneficiaries	Number of Beneficiaries Served	Allotted Amount (in PhP)	Utilized Amount (in PhP)
MSFFs	40,000	19,801 as of 16 June 2020	1 Billion	494.945 Million (actual loans disbursed to MSFF) 1.001 Billion (funds transferred to PLCs)
Agri-fishery based MSEs	150	72 as of 16 June 2020	1.5 Billion	518.35 Million

The ACPC attributes the low turnout of beneficiaries in the lending program to the: (1) difficulties of lending conduits in identifying eligible beneficiaries and processing the loans; (2) lack of updated database for MSFFs; and (3) mobility restrictions due to the imposition of a community quarantine.⁷

The Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project, however, cannot be converted into a simple subsidy project because the provision of cash subsidy is beyond the mandate of the DA⁸ and the ACPC. Further, the budget for the lending program is to be used exclusively for the establishment of a flexible credit facility for the benefit of small farmers and fisherfolk in accordance with RA No. 11465 or the "General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2020."

Efforts of the DA to Improve Storage Facilities for Crops and Grains

The DA, through the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service, is proposing a project that will provide farmers and fisherfolk cooperative associations with: 1) financial grant for the construction or establishment of packing, storage and warehousing facilities in strategic areas which will later form an agro-food hub⁹ network; and 2) technical and management support by fielding in professionals that will manage the information systems and logistics management.

Implementation of the Livelihood Seeding Program - Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (LSP-NSB)

PhP48,822,590.46 (24.05%) of the total PhP203 Million funds downloaded to provincial offices of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), as part of the LSP-NSB, have already been utilized, benefitting around 7,531 participants in 556 barangays. Since the Congress-Introduced Budget (CIB) Funds were released on 28 April 2020,¹⁰ there are no physical or financial accomplishments in the 1st Quarter. All funds earmarked for the 1st Quarter have been included in the funds for the 2nd Quarter, and are currently being utilized by regional and provincial offices of the DTI. A detailed breakdown of the physical and financial accomplishments of this program on the 2nd Quarter as of 11 June 2020 is attached as **Annex A**.

Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-Asenso - COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program

Under the CARES lending program, another 1,834 inquiries were received from 12 to 18 June 2020. From 08 to 18 June 2020, a total of 8,900 applications amounting to PhP1,477,077,095 worth of loans were received online, broken down as follows: Northern Luzon (946), Central Luzon (841), Southern Luzon (4,165), Visayas (1,410),

and Mindanao (1,538). The program was launched simultaneously nationwide and is being implemented based on the number of applications received, on a first-come, first served basis. Meanwhile, as of 18 June 2020, the Small Business Corporation (SBCorp) has accomplished the following:

Table 2. Summary of Loan Applications under SBCorp

Loan Applications	Number	Aggregate Amount
Inquiries from potential borrowers	10,507	PhP1.460 Billion
Manual loan applications	8,119	PhP1.020 Billion
Loan applications in process	4,228	PhP592.23 Million
Loan applications approved	676	PhP53.70 Million
Loan applications projected releases for June 2020	4,493	PhP369.30

Ensuring Water and Energy Supply

The major power grids maintain excess capacity over peak demand – Luzon at 19% (2,497 MW), Visayas at 21% (500 MW) and Mindanao at 33% (895 MW).¹¹ Correspondingly, the highest recorded peak demand in all three (3) grids – Luzon (10,384 MW), Visayas (1,876 MW) and Mindanao (1,826 MW) – occurred on the same day (17 June 2020). For the downstream oil sector, the inventory of crude oil and petroleum products stood at 65.5¹² days (57.5 days of in-country stocks [on-shore] and 8.1 days of products in transit), equivalent to 3,056 million liters.

Scholarships and Digital Skills Training Programs

Training support funds for on-board Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) scholars, who are enrolled in the alternative learning system (blended or online) during the period of implementation of an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ), is continuously provided. As an update, 69,294 scholars have been given training allowances amounting to PhP342,451,058.06.

The TESDA has continuously advocated the use of the TESDA Online Program (TOP) as an alternative learning system for interested persons. The TOP is TESDA's web-enabled learning management system used for the provision of free online technical vocational education and training (TVET), and currently offers 68 online courses that can be accessed anytime and anywhere.

The IATF, through its Resolution No. 47, allowed the conduct and provision by technical vocational institutions and TESDA technology institutions, subject to compliance with TESDA Guidelines and minimum public standards, of full online/e-learning trainings, training programs related to agriculture/fishery qualifications for food production and processing, distance learning for TVET programs, e-learning component of blended learning for TVET programs, dual system training, enterprise-based training, and in-plant training in establishments allowed to operate under GCQ, and virtual assessment and portfolio assessment through electronic means for certain TVET qualifications.

Monitoring of Availability of Cremation Services for Bodies Arising from COVID-19 Related Deaths

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) conducts daily monitoring of Metro Manila COVID-19 cases (probable, suspect, or confirmed), deaths, and cremation status in coordination with LGUs, hospitals, and crematoriums.

The MMDA reports that out of the 29 private mortuaries and crematoriums in Metro Manila, 25 establishments offer crematorium services. The average capacity of NCR hospitals that store remains of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases ranges from zero to eight bodies. According to the data gathered from 12 to 18 June 2020, the average number of deaths per LGU per day ranges from 0 to 2.

The MMDA has a list of privately-owned funeral homes/crematoriums which handle the remains of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. To avoid overcapacity of morgues in Metro Manila, the MMDA continuously assists in expediting the processing of COVID-19 cadavers to make sure there is no build-up of bodies for cremation.

II. Securing Facilities and Resources for the Health Sector and Other Frontliners

Policy on the Conduct of "Mass Testing" or Expanded Targeted Testing

The government has been undertaking a multi-pronged approach to prevent the spread of COVID-19. One of these measures is through expanded targeted testing. The Department of Health (DOH) has issued the appropriate guidelines on expanded targeted testing, which designs a set of criteria that would rationalize available tests, taking into consideration domestic and global factors such as limits in testing capacity and global shortages of test kits, among others.¹³ The DOH has been consistent that an adequate testing capacity is not measured by achieving a target number or percentage of the population that could be tested; rather, it is being able to make testing accessible to all those who need it.

One of the indicators of whether we are testing enough is the *positivity rate*, which is defined as the proportion of test results among tests conducted that come back with positive results. For example, one (1) positive result among a sample of five (5) specimens would yield a positivity rate of 20%. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a positivity rate of 10% or less means that we are able to screen even those who are not infected, indicating an adequate testing capacity. Significantly, for the week of 01 to 05 June 2020, the positivity rate of the country ranged from 7-8%.

Nevertheless, the DOH recognizes the importance of continuing to increase our testing capacity to ensure wide access to testing for COVID-19. Under current guidelines, healthcare workers are prioritized for testing with reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) regardless of symptomatology.

Efforts to Further Increase Testing Capacity and Expedite the Accreditation Process of COVID-19 Testing Laboratories

The DOH continues to implement its strategies to scale up testing capacity through: (1) maximizing the capacity of existing COVID-19 laboratories; (2) licensing more COVID-19 laboratories towards independent testing; (3) establishing big testing centers or modular laboratories in strategic areas around the country; and (4) utilizing other testing approaches such as the *GeneXpert* diagnosis of COVID-19.

The DOH has consulted an expert laboratory panel, and formulated the Stages I to V certification of laboratories that focuses on expediting the process without sacrificing the safety of personnel. The DOH provides technical assistance to the

applying laboratories, especially those in Stage IV of the process that requires proficiency testing. Through this certification process, instead of taking one (1) to two (2) months to certify a Biosafety Level (BSL) 2 laboratory, it now takes only a few weeks to complete the 5-stage process. In May 2020, over 30 laboratories were licensed as COVID-19 testing centers. The exact time of completing the certification process, however, is dependent on the state of the subject laboratory when it enters the certification process.

As of 09 June 2020, the rated maximum capacity of all COVID-19 testing laboratories is more than 42,000. In terms of actual daily testing capacity, we have conducted an average of 10,090 tests per day from 02 to 08 June 2020. The rated maximum daily testing capacity has not been reached, as there are still problems encountered by the laboratories such as lack of other testing equipment and supplies materials (e.g., extraction kits and reagents) in the testing process and workers' fatigue.

In case of unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances such as typhoons that may hamper or halt the operation of these laboratories, the DOH specifies a system whereby a region may refer specimens to designated laboratories for assistance in processing the same.¹⁴ Meanwhile, the DOH is in the process of amending its issuances to include the new COVID-19 testing laboratories in the zoning system for the referral of specimens.

Process for Validation of COVID-19 Test Results and Cases

The current process of case validation involves multiple steps. The first step involves the laboratories sending a line list of positive and negative patients to the DOH-Epidemiology Bureau (EB). The EB processes these line lists, cross checks these new cases with the entries in their EB Information System to check for duplicates in the system or if a certain individual has already been declared as a case before. Once checked, the new cases are declared as unique confirmed cases and the EB proceeds to verify the information in the Case Investigation Forms through case profilers. Once verified, only then can the EB report a new case as a confirmed case. This process takes a few days to complete, hence there may be a discrepancy between the number of unique positive individuals, as in those reported in the DOH tracker (<https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>), and confirmed cases as announced by the DOH.

The delineation of "fresh" and "late" confirmed positive cases is intended to provide context to the numbers being reported daily. Those positive test results which have been confirmed in the past three (3) days are labeled as "fresh" cases, to more closely reflect "new" cases relative to the day of reporting, while those positive test results which have been confirmed after more than 3 days due to delays in the confirmatory process are labeled as "late" relative to the day of reporting.

The need to expedite the process of validation while reducing possible errors, especially those arising from clerical entries (e.g., a laboratory mistakenly encodes one person using two different names as in the case of "Ma." vs. "Maria") and duplication of data (e.g., multiple tests done for one individual as tests for multiple individuals) led to the rolling out of COVID KAYA,¹⁵ and partnerships with data processing entities such as the Thinking Machines, Epimetrics, and other experts on the Sub-TWG on Data Analytics.

Clinical Trials Conducted by Various Groups

To date, there are already 288 patients enrolled in the WHO Solidarity Trials. This is more than half of the targeted 500 patients in the Philippines, with a total global target of about 5,000 patients. The distribution of subjects per treatment regimen is as follows: local standard of care – 88; hydroxychloroquine – 66; lopinavir-ritonavir – 75; and remdesivir – 59.

There is an ongoing discussion with international partners on COVID-19 vaccines. The IATF Sub-TWG on Vaccine Clinical Trials meets every Thursday to discuss concerns regarding vaccine collaborations with international partners.

Contact Tracing Efforts and Current Policies Thereon

Based on IATF Resolution No. 25 dated 17 April 2020, the DILG shall be the lead agency for the contact tracing efforts of the government. In this regard, the DILG issued a Memorandum dated 26 May 2020, which shares the updated contact tracing report template to be submitted by the concerned LGUs with the technical guidance of the local and regional epidemiology and surveillance units (RESUs).

In support of the contact tracing efforts of the DILG, the DOH-EB has trained the RESUs and is continuing the conduct of pertinent training on contact tracing as may be requested. Likewise, the DOH regularly coordinates and meets with the DILG to provide technical guidance especially in the completion and collection of data on contact tracing. A detailed summary of close and general contacts traced and assessed per region, as well as the contact tracing teams or personnel trained under the supervision of the DILG and the DOH as of 18 June 2020, is attached as **Annex B**.

Efforts to Increase Human Resource for Health (HRH) Hiring

Based on FASSSTER (Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler for Early Detection of Diseases) projections of cases as of 01 June 2020, the estimated requirement for healthcare workers in hospitals, temporary treatment and monitoring facilities (TTMFs), and COVID-designated diagnostic laboratories is 16,490.

As of 13 June 2020, a total of 3,807 (41%) health workers have been hired out of the 9,297 slots approved for 270 facilities. In addition, the DOH has redeployed a total of 1,289 Nurse Deployment Project nurses (211 in Luzon and 1,068 in Visayas and Mindanao) to DOH and LGU hospitals handling COVID-19 cases. In total, HRH augmentation (emergency hiring and redeployment) is at 5,096, granted on a per-request basis to ensure rational provision. As of 13 June 2020, 100% of facility requests have been evaluated and with corresponding approved slots.

The DOH has identified certain bottlenecks for hiring HRH, as encountered by health facilities. These include: (1) low uptake/no takers for some positions (e.g., physicians); (2) some applicants have private practice that they cannot compromise; (3) some applicants have backed out due to various reasons such as (a) distance of the facility from their residence; (b) lack of reliable means of transportation; (c) lack of half-way house/accommodation; (d) concerns from family on possible transmission in the household; and (e) poor perception on biosafety or lack of confidence in infection control protocols; and (4) delays in screening due to requirement of some RT-PCR

testing facilities for its applicants (preference for those with experience working in the health sector).

To fast-track emergency hiring for HRH, evaluation of facility requests has been decentralized to the Centers for Health Development (CHDs), for facilities not under the DOH (i.e., LGU hospitals, TTMFs, primary care facilities, and private facilities). Upon approval of requests, the CHDs and DOH hospitals are immediately notified to commence and facilitate their recruitment, pre-engagement orientation/training, and payroll process. The DOH-Central Office constantly coordinates with CHDs, DOH hospitals, diagnostic laboratories, and other health facilities to follow-up on requests and actions taken, and assess and resolve bottlenecks in hiring. Further, the DOH also utilizes various platforms (e.g., DOH website, social media accounts, DOH daily presser) to call for applications and requests.

Special Risk Allowance (SRA) for DOH Personnel

As of 18 June 2020, SRA in the amount of PhP246,686,163.54 has been distributed to DOH personnel consisting of 25,692 regular employees and 6,241 job order/contract of service personnel in 36 DOH facilities. The DOH Central Office is assisting other facilities which are still processing the release of the SRA to their personnel. Those with insufficient funding allotments to implement SRA have been advised to send a budgetary request supported by a list of entitled personnel to the DOH Central Office, which will be submitted to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for approval and release of funds, chargeable against available appropriations that may be identified pursuant to pertinent provisions under RA No. 11469.¹⁶

Donation of Healthcare Resources, Supplies, and Equipment from Foreign and Domestic Sources

Pursuant to Administrative Order (AO) No. 27 (s. 2020), the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is mandated to consolidate all donations from foreign governments, private entities, non-government organizations or any group or individual. Accordingly, as of 15 June 2020, the OCD has recorded a total of 3,643 donations to the DOH and the National Government. Out of this number, 59 are from foreign donors and 3,584 are from domestic donors. **Table 3** below is a summary of said donations from foreign and domestic sources:

Table 3. Summary of Donations from Foreign and Domestic Sources Coordinated with or Recorded by the OCD

Foreign Donations				Domestic Donations				
Government	NGO	Others	Private	Government	NGO	LGU/Local Community	Others	Private
26	3	1	29	1157	4	5	87	2331

For reference, an updated summary (as of 15 June 2020) of foreign donations coordinated with and recorded by the OCD based on country of origin is attached as **Annex C**.

III. Responsive and Sustainable Recovery Plan

Plans and Strategies with respect to the Mass Transportation System

The DOTr is implementing the following changes in order to aid the commuting public and private motorists adjust to the “new normal.”

a. Digital transactions and cashless payments

To limit human-to-human interactions in road-based transportation and transactions, the LTFRB, the Land Transportation Office (LTO), and the Toll Regulatory Board have shifted to digitalizing transactions to contain the spread of the COVID-19.

The LTFRB launched the Public Transport Online Processing System in Metro Manila on 16 June 2020, which will make LTFRB services accessible online. Meanwhile, the LTO will implement digital transactions made through the Land Transportation Management System, including driver/conductor’s renewal of license, requests for revision of records, and requests for Certificate of No Apprehension.

Additionally, cashless transactions will also be implemented in PUVs, taxis, and TNVS through an Automatic Fare Collection System. This is being carried out through the support of various payment solutions companies, whose mobile applications allow contact tracing of passengers.

b. Installation of RFIDs in PUVs

Electronic toll collection will also be made through the mandatory use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags on all PUVs using tollways and expressways. Consistent with the thrust of cashless payments and limiting human interaction or physical contacts, the LTFRB has directed all PUV operators using the tollways and expressways to install RFID tags.

c. Consolidation of Bus Franchises in Metro Manila

For a more efficient public transportation under the rationalized system in Metro Manila, franchises will be consolidated – prompting higher ridership through dedicated bus lanes and lower operational costs – resulting in more financially-viable operations.

d. Rationalization of City Bus Routes in Metro Manila

The rationalization of the bus routes in Metro Manila is pursuant to the recommendation of the IATF to prioritize buses, over that of other types of vehicles like jeepneys and vans, once the operation of land-based transportation is allowed to resume. Given the reduced capacity of our public transportation, there is a need to prioritize vehicles with the highest allowable capacity.

To maximize the use of these buses and run the bus system more efficiently than the current system, the DOTr, the LTFRB, and the consultants, with inputs from bus operators during several consultations, approved the rationalization of the bus routes from 96 existing bus routes to 31 rationalized routes, including the EDSA route.

The 4,600 city bus units would be made available for these routes. Most, if not all, of these routes will feed into the EDSA main corridor, which is expected to run a single route under a dedicated service, thereby significantly addressing traffic congestion along EDSA and increasing efficiency of the bus service along the main corridor. As of 18 June 2020, the total number of opened routes is 27 with 2,805 bus units with Special Permits.

e. EDSA MRT-3 Bus Augmentation Program

In response to the limited capacity of the MRT-3, the bus augmentation program along EDSA was initiated at the beginning of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) last 01 June 2020.

A total of 90 buses are available with a five (5)-minute fixed schedule dispatching using the dedicated median lanes to deliver faster travel time for commuters. The Southbound loading stations are at MRT-3 North Avenue and Quezon Avenue Stations, while unloading stations are at Ayala and Taft Avenues. For those Northbound, loading stations are at MRT-3 Taft and Ayala Avenues, while unloading stations are at Ayala, Quezon Avenue, and North Avenue Stations. Under the MRT-3 Bus Augmentation Program, the first bus departs at 5:30 AM and the last bus departs at 8:00 PM.

Pursuant to LTFRB guidelines, the bus operators that have been contracted by DOTr-MRT3 are grantees of special permits from the LTFRB for the eventual EDSA Carousel Route. The bus operators are required under their Special Permit to observe health and safety measures, including 50% capacity loading, implementation of a “No Face Mask, No Ride” policy, temperature check of passengers prior to boarding, and regular disinfection during operations.

Programs for Bicycle Riders

On 13 June 2020, the DOTr, the MMDA, and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) commenced construction of protected bike lanes along EDSA. The primary goal of the bike lanes is to promote the use of non-motorized mode of transportation without compromising the health and safety of cyclists in response to the current public health emergency. The establishment of bike lanes would provide at least 1.5 meters of space for bikers and will be done in two (2) phases – interim and long-term.

DA Programs in relation to the Balik-Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program (BP2)

The DA has short to long term interventions in furtherance of its mandate to lead the pillar on Food Security and Agricultural Productivity under the BP2 program.

As part of the DA's short-term interventions (from year 2020 to 2022), it will implement capacity building by: (1) providing BP2 beneficiaries training in innovative, highly productive and profitable climate resilient food or farm production practices; (2) integrating them into agri-fisheries organizations; (3) giving them access to credit and other available assistance; and (4) linking them to markets. The DA will also ensure household food security and livelihood development through the distribution of quality seeds and production materials to BP2 beneficiaries.

For its medium to long term interventions, the DA will push for the establishment of collective agri-fishery enterprises through farm consolidation and/or clustering, with the view of transforming livelihood farming concept to viable business enterprises through the engagement of professional managers or service providers, and linking of existing farmer cooperatives and associations with established enterprises for process mentoring or as markets for their final products. In order to increase agricultural productivity, the DA will collaborate with various government agencies, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the identification of new agri-fisheries area in public lands, and the National Irrigation Administration, the DPWH, and LGUs for the development of infrastructure support for food production areas.

Status of Employment and Economic Activities in the Country

Filipino economic resilience will be tested once again as most global economies shrunk amidst slowing demand and movement restrictions from various governments worldwide. In the Philippines, unemployment rate rose to a record high of 17.7%, accounting to 7.3 Million unemployed Filipinos in April 2020. This is a major increase from 5.3% in January 2020 and 5.1% in April 2019.¹⁷

Using the data from the 2019 List of Establishments and the January 2019 Labor Force Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), among the total 1,000,524 establishments, more than half (64.8%) are located in areas where a GCQ is still in effect.¹⁸ With more than half of the total labor force (57.6%) working in areas still under a GCQ, conservative assumptions indicate that labor productivity and employment rate will still suffer a significant decline, especially when industries are not operating at full capacity. The top industries with the most employees affected include (1) retail trade, except motor vehicles and motorcycles (4,304,189), (2) crop and animal production, (3) hunting and related services activities (2,514,184), and (4) construction of buildings (2,220,299).¹⁹

As more regions and provinces begin to ease on their lockdown, employment and economic activities are also gradually improving. Below are estimates detailing the transition of employment (**Table 4**) and number of allowable industries (**Table 5**) based on Executive Order (EO) No. 112, and IATF Resolution Nos. 37 (dated 15 May 2020), and 41 (dated 29 May 2020):

Table 4. Philippine Employment Situation

Employment Values	May 1 - 15		May 16 - 31			June 1 - 15		
	ECQ EO 112	GCQ EO 112	ECQ IATF 37	MECQ IATF 37	GCQ IATF 37	GCQ IATF 41	MGCQ IATF 41	
Allowed	Agriculture	1,358,541	5,005,521	8,300	415,503	5,940,258	2,016,586	4,347,475
	Industry	705,515	2,067,344	18,174	403,169	3,833,325	2,064,327	1,863,483
	Services	7,125,000	5,306,805	194,530	3,869,376	4,295,097	5,051,927	5,617,066
Partially Allowed	Agriculture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Industry	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,011,365	N/A	1,294,653	N/A
	Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	430,844	4,292,558	3,610,500	375,010
Not Allowed	Agriculture	582,232	2,145,223	3,557	178,073	2,545,825	864,251	1,863,204
	Industry	4,541,595	886,005	93,559	1,184,152	1,642,854	2,179,364	798,636
	Services	7,615,605	4,258,572	208,019	3,500,658	7,514,899	6,869,157	2,782,324
Total	21,928,487	19,669,469	526,140	10,993,139	30,064,816	23,950,765	17,647,197	

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

Areas under GCQ on 01 to 15 June 2020, particularly the NCR, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Pangasinan, Albay, Zamboanga City and Davao City, have almost 57.8% share of the total employment in the country. From this, 58.6% of the employees have been allowed to work. As an estimate, 63.1% of employees/workers in the country were working on 01 to 15 June 2020, which is 10% more than the number of employees allowed to work during the period 01 to 15 May 2020.

As most areas in the country transition to new normal conditions, industries have been gradually allowed to increase the level of economic activity. Almost 98% of establishments were allowed to operate from 01 to 15 June 2020. These industries were among the 82 industry sectors that were allowed full or partial operations as most areas are now in GCQ and MGCQ. The most significant is the opening of the retail and wholesale trade sector. The remaining sectors not allowed to operate under GCQ are tourism, education, entertainment and cultural activities, gambling and betting activities, and activities of membership organizations.

Table 5. Philippine Industry Situation

Industry Division Summary		May 1 - 15		May 16 - 31		June 1 - 15		
		ECQ EO 112	GCQ EO 112	ECQ IATF 37	MECQ IATF 37	GCQ IATF 37	GCQ IATF 41	MGCQ IATF 41
Allowed	Agriculture	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Industry	14	37	14	18	37	34	37
	Services	22	41	22	27	21	25	41
Partially Allowed	Agriculture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Industry	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	N/A	3	N/A
	Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	20	17	7
Not Allowed	Agriculture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Industry	23	N/A	23	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Services	26	7	26	8	7	6	N/A
Total		88	88	88	88	88	88	88

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

In order to have a better idea of the impact of COVID-19, the DTI is currently conducting another survey, entitled, "Impact Assessment Survey of COVID-19 on the MSME Sector." The survey now includes the decline on the average sales, the percentage of workforce affected, and the assistance that businesses will need in the coming months.

- 1 Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of the Emergency Subsidy Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.
- 2 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 the Department of the Interior and Local Government to the Most Affected Residents of the Areas under Enhanced Community Quarantine.
- 3 Completion and Updating of Registry of Barangay Inhabitants.
- 4 Maintenance and Updating of Records of All Inhabitants of the Barangay.
- 5 The *ReliefAgad* System is an application developed by DevConnect Philippines, Inc., to fast track the effective disbursement of the Social Amelioration allowances to intended beneficiaries. It is a project of the DSWD, in partnership with the DICT and the United States Agency for International Development.

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- ⁶ Joint Implementing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Social Amelioration Program for the Second (2nd) Tranche, signed by the DSWD, DOLE, DTI, DA, DBM, DOF, DILG, Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines, and PNP.
 - ⁷ Crossing municipal borders were not allowed for the PLC personnel even with the issued IATF passes as they are not working for the government thus considered “private” individuals.
 - ⁸ Section 21, Chapter 3 of RA No. 8435 states that the Department of Agriculture “xxx shall, xxx phase-out all DCPs [directed credit programs] and deposit all its loanable funds including those under the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF) including new funds provided by this Act for the AMCFP and transfer the management thereof to cooperative banks, rural banks, government financial institutions and viable NGOs for the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit Financing Program.
 - ⁹ The agro-food hub is a “central” facility that is capable of consolidating, aggregating, storing, processing, distributing, and marketing locally produced agricultural and fishery commodities.
 - ¹⁰ During the quarantine period, LSP-NSB Implementing Guidelines were revised to align with government directives on the COVID-19 situation, including expanding the coverage to give priority assistance to MSMEs affected by natural and human-induced calamities including health disasters arising from epidemics and pandemics. Due to ECQ/Modified ECQ and other COVID restrictions, regional and provincial offices nationwide have varying levels of difficulty preparing for implementation, hence the delay.
 - ¹¹ As of 17 June 2020.
 - ¹² As of 08 June 2020.
 - ¹³ Department Memorandum No. 2020-0180, entitled “The Revised Interim Guidelines for Expanded Testing for COVID-19.”
 - ¹⁴ Department Memorandum No. 2020-0188, entitled “Interim Guidelines on the Zoning of COVID-19 Laboratories.”
 - ¹⁵ A case and contact tracing reporting system developed by the WHO and the DOH-EB for epidemiology and surveillance officers, health care provider and laboratory-based users, expanding the capacity of the previous COVID-19 information system.
 - ¹⁶ Pursuant to AO No. 28 (s. 2020).
 - ¹⁷ Philippine Statistics Authority. Please see Economic Report on Labor Force Survey April 2020 available at <http://www.psa.gov.ph/content/employment-situation-april-2020>.
 - ¹⁸ IATF Resolution No. 41 dated 29 May 2020.
 - ¹⁹ Figures are only for the GCQ Areas. The number in GCQ Employment reflects the total employment of the industry in the concerned area. The data did not take into account the reduction due to partial and non-allowance of work in the area.