

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE  
NEWS AND INFORMATION BUREAU**

**PRESS BRIEFING OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF  
EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (IATF-EID)  
WITH CABINET SECRETARY KARLO ALEXEI NOGRALES,  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY SILVESTRE BELLO III,  
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SECRETARY RAMON LOPEZ  
AND PNP CHIEF ARCHIE GAMBOA  
NEW EXECUTIVE BUILDING, MALACAÑANG  
MARCH 17, 2020 (11:18 P.M. – 12:35 A.M.)**

**MODERATOR:** Magandang gabi, Malacañang Press Corps at sa ating mga kababayan. Ngayon po ay kasama na natin si Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III at DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez. CabSec Nograles...

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat, sa atin pong mga kababayan, sa mga kasamahan ko sa Gabinete, Secretary Bello at Secretary Lopez, sa mga kaibigan natin sa media, sa atin pong lahat. Pasensiya na po at inabot po tayo nang ganitong oras bago namin kayo makaharap. Hindi po tumitigil ang inyong gobyerno para plantsahin ang lahat ng gusot, at sa totoo lang, hindi naman po kaya ito ng isang pasada lamang.

Pero magtiwala po kayo, kaming inyong mga lingkod-bayan ay hindi titigil hangga't may problema na kailangang hanapan ng solusyon. Marami sa inyo ay pagod na, puyat pa... lahat po tayo. Lahat po tayo may alay na sakripisyo, pero matatapos din po ang lahat ng ito basta sama-sama nating labanan ang kalamidad na ito. Muli ipagpaumanhin po ninyo, ngayon ito po ang produkto ng kayod ng inyong Inter Agency Task Force.

The following are the operational guidelines approved by the Inter Agency Task Force in affirmation of the memorandum from the Executive Secretary concerning the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine over the entirety of Luzon:

1. All government agencies in the Executive Branch are hereby directed to issue accreditation orders to identify their respective skeletal workforces for critical services operating during the duration of the enhanced community quarantine in Luzon. Bonafide IDs issued by the respective agencies shall be sufficient for movement around the contained area until such time that such accreditation orders have been issued by the agency concerned. Skeletal workforces may use official agency vehicles.
2. Agencies with jurisdiction over those exempted from strict home quarantine requirements are likewise tasked to issue official Inter Agency Task Force accreditation IDs. The Presidential Communications Operations Office or PCOO shall be tasked to design the official seal and template of the IATF accreditation IDs issued by government. The period for the issuance of

IATF accreditation IDs shall be until March 21, 2020. Bonafide IDs issued by establishments exempted from strict home quarantine requirements shall be honored by law enforcement agencies until March 21, 2020.

3. The following among others shall be considered health and emergency frontline workers:
  - A) Public health workers, meaning all employees of the Department of Health, DOH hospitals, hospitals of local government units and provincial, city and rural health units;
  - B) Private health workers, such as but not limited to medical professionals, hospital administrative staffs and aids from private health facilities as well as their service providers; and
  - C) Health workers and volunteers of the Philippine Red Cross and the World Health Organization.

The Department of Transportation in cooperation with local government units and upon consultation with the Department of Health shall develop a system of point-to-point transport services for all the aforementioned health workers.

4. The Philippine National Police is instructed to allow the unimpeded movement of all types of cargoes subject to its authority to conduct inspection procedures in checkpoints for the purpose of ensuring that protocols on strict home quarantine are observed. For this purpose, Memorandum Circular No. 7 issued on March 17, 2020 by the Department of Agriculture is hereby adopted.

5. Capital markets including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation, Philippine Security Settlement Corporation and Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation shall be allowed to operate effective March 18, 2020 subject to the qualification of establishing skeletal workforces in their respective establishments.

6. The Department of Labor and Employment is hereby authorized to accredit a skeletal staff for the purpose of facilitating the conduct of the 'Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers' or TUPAD Program.

7. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration shall provide transportation services for returning Overseas Filipino Workers or OFWs for the purpose of ferrying them from international ports to their respective destinations in Luzon.

8. A separate IATF Technical Working Group composed of the Department of Social Welfare and Development acting as Chair, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, Department of Labor and Employment and the Office of the President is hereby directed to meet for the purpose of operationalizing the Social Amelioration Program of government.

9. The provisional period of 72 hours granted to media personnel to continue operating in Luzon is hereby extended until March 21, 2020. Thereafter, only those who bear the IATF accreditation ID as issued by the PCOO may be exempted from the strict home quarantine requirement.

10. Business Process Outsourcing or BPO establishments and export oriented businesses are hereby granted a period of 24 hours from the issuance of this resolution to facilitate their work-from-home arrangements. And

11. Delivery services whether in-house or outsource transporting food, medicine or other basic necessities shall be allowed to operate during the period of enhanced community quarantine.

B.1. OFWs, balikbayans and foreign nationals leaving for abroad through any of the ports in Luzon shall be allowed to leave the Philippines at any time for the duration of the enhanced community quarantine. Provided that proof of international travel itinerary scheduled within 24 hours must be presented. Provided further that non-essential travel by Filipinos from any port of Luzon shall be suspended. Provided further that this provision shall not be interpreted to allow outbound travel by Filipinos to jurisdictions where travel restrictions are in place. Provided further that the parting passengers may only be accompanied by not more than one person when traveling to any international port. Provided further that OWWA may provide transportation services to OFWs intending to leave for abroad. Provided finally that all of the foregoing shall be subject to joint guidelines to be issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Tourism.

B.2. Heads of missions or their designated foreign mission representatives including limited foreign mission personnel and staff may be exempted from the strict home quarantine requirement whenever performing diplomatic functions subject to guidelines to be issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs provided that protocols on the establishment of skeletal workforces shall be observed.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Number three: No hotels or similar establishments shall be allowed to operate except those accommodating guests who have existing booking accommodations for foreigners as of March 17, 2020.

B. Guests who have existing long term leases.

C. Employers from exempted establishments under the provisions of the March 16, 2020 memorandum from the Executive Secretary and subsequent modifications and clarifications. Provided that in subparagraphs 3A and 3B, no new booking accommodations shall be permitted. Provide further, that in all of the foregoing, hotel operations shall be limited to the provision of basic lodging to guests.

Number four. Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators shall not be included among those establishments allowed to operate for the duration of the enhanced community quarantine.

C. The Metro Manila Development Authority and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process shall be considered ex-officio members of the IATF.

D. The response clusters of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council for COVID-19 at the national, regional and local levels shall be convened. All councils are directed to implement preventive, preparatory, responsive and early recovery measures in anticipation of the worst case scenario in so far as the COVID-19 health event is concerned.

The Rehabilitation and Recovery Cluster of the NDRRMC is likewise directed to develop a resiliency and recovery plan.

And finally the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines shall establish and operate an emergency operations center at the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council's Operations Center at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Maraming salamat po!

**MODERATOR:** Thank you so much, CabSec Nograles. We would like to acknowledge the presence of PNP Chief General Archie Gamboa. Questions MPC. Tina Mendez.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL. STAR:** So, sir all of these will be implemented on March 21, right?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** No, all of these, today.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL. STAR:** So, iyong window period given sa mga exemptions, sa pagkuha ng mga list for members of skeletal forces, pag-comply doon, sir?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Yes, kung ano iyong dates na binasa ko, like when we said na iyong IDs po dapat by March 21. In the meantime iyong bonafide IDs will be accepted by our law enforces.

**MODERATOR:** Isingit ko lang iyong iba nating phone-in questions. Sir, from Abante: Is manufacturing of basic hygiene goods like laundry detergent, diapers, dishwashing soap allowed to continue? These are needed in home quarantine.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** We are limiting basically the manufacturing to the basic talaga, food, medicine and the disinfectant, kung papasok doon, like iyong mga disinfectants na mga alcohol, mga Clorox type, puwede po iyan. Pero iyong mga iba pong hygiene product, soap, hindi pa po muna, dahil we would believe that there would be enough inventory of these. One month lang naman itong ano, otherwise we are also avoiding na maraming open na manufacturing facility. We were able to get already some concession na iyong pinaka-basic na lang ang buksan. But remember, ang pinaka-overall objective natin iyong limit iyong paglabas ng tao, limit iyong paglabas ng ating mga kababayan para hindi talaga kumalat iyong sakit na ito.

**MODERATOR:** And, sir, another from Abante. I think this is for CabSec Nograles. State of calamity is for 6 months, but is the price freeze only for 60 days?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Sorry, iyong state of calamity, we will just renew the state of calamity. Kasi nasa batas 60 days lang iyong price freeze. So we will just renew it, kasi kapag state of calamity naman naka-price freeze talaga.

**MODERATOR:** Sir, last na from Abante. Movement ang manufacturing of certain goods cargo and workers allowed, are they subject to LGUs own curfew hours or can they continue on a sport of skeletal work force?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Iyong 'curfew hours' natin superseded na by this Enhanced Community Quarantine. So iyong curfew hours basically ito na iyong all of the operationalization of the Enhanced Community Quarantine based on our guidelines and the resolutions ng IATF will prevail.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Ito ho if I may just elaborate also, CabSEc. We discussed also para to avoid confusion, kaya po nag-declare ng isang state of calamity ang ating Pangulo and having a national declaration, ito na po ang overall policy natin. Kaya kapag sinabing iyong cargo unimpeded, unhampered kapag galing siya sa ibang probinsya kahit may quarantine or lockdown doon, dapat unimpeded pa rin. Kasi nakaabot sa amin iyong mga balita na kapag naka-quarantine iyong declaration ng isang probinsiya hindi na makalabas iyong goods na dadalhin sa Manila. For example, let say ito ay mga inputs or raw materials or agricultural products na ipapa-process, hindi na pinapalabas doon, hindi nakakarating dito, so naha-hamper iyong flow of goods. So napakaimportante, isang polisiya lamang at lalo na sa cargo nasabi po kanina ni CabSec na wala nang pipigil dapat sa cargo and ganoon po ang usapan din with the military and the PNP at iyon po, may mabilis na inspection, ihiwalay na nila iyong lane at iyon na nga po puwedeng mag-random checking na rin, kasi para mabilis ang flow niyan.

**MODERATOR:** And sir another question lang po, phone-in question from Jaymark Dagala of DWIZ. I think this is for PNP Chief Gamboa. Papatanong ko lang po sana kung may magpo-provide pa ba ng supply ng alcohol sa mga police na naka-deploy sa quarantine checkpoints. May two incidents na kasi akong nakasabay na police within Metro Manila din na nagpupunta sa convenient store para maghanap ng alcohol, pero dahil laging out of stocks, wala silang mabili.

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Yes, the Philippine National Police is trying its best 'no, but really the problem is the procurement. We have the resources, ang problema walang supply. But, as of today, we have received donations coming from the different sectors of the society and we will make use of what we have as of today.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Sir, just to clarify: So lahat ng nabanggit ninyo hindi na ito kailangan ng personal approval ni President Duterte, it is effective as you already announced it?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** May approval na po, from letter B. Iyong lahat ng binasa ko naka-divide kasi ito those that are just the operational guidelines, noong guidelines na inilabas natin kahapon.

And then those na for approval ni Pangulo ay in-approved na rin po, kaya ganoon iyong division noong ating announcements.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Just to clarify din po. Kasi isa rin sa naging news kanina, iyong may nanghaharang sa NLEX. So after ninyong banggitin na dapat hindi na nanghaharang, so matatanggal na ito, iyong mga barriers palabas ang papasok ng NLEX.

**SEC. NOGALES:** Paanong barriers, nanghaharang ng cargo?

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Nanghaharang ng cargoes?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Iyong cargo okay na napag-usapan na namin with the Task Force, kasama iyong ating mga law enforces, pati ang DILG kasama rin po.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Nitong madaling araw pumunta si President Duterte sa isang checkpoint sa McArthur Highway and I think he observed na grabe daw po iyong pila ng mga trucks, matagal iyong screening. So iyon din po ba na-address na natin how to make it faster para hindi naja-jampack doon?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Napag-usapan na din naming sa Task Force together with our law enforces, paano mapabilis 'no, at siyempre iyong checkpoints, up to the discretion na ng PNP hierarchy kung saan din nila ilagay ang checkpoint not necessarily on the boundaries, it's up to them wherever they want to put the checkpoints. But it's only in the matter of kung sa cargo, checking na wala tayong kontrabando diyan sa loob ng mga cargo, but otherwise, free-flowing naman iyong cargo.

**MODERATOR:** Sir, phone-in question lang po ulit from Rose Novenario. Sir paano po magpro-proseso ng suweldo ng mga manggagawa sa gobyerno kung sarado ang ilang branches ng Landbank gaya ng Solano branch sa Malacañang complex?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Well, we leave it up to the banks on how they will continue to operate pero ine-emphasize natin na the banks would remain open. So these are details that bank companies will have to iron out among themselves.

**MODERATOR:** For DOLE naman po. Sir, sabi dito pa-ask naman kay Sec. Bello, paano iyong mga companies na ayaw pa ring pumayag na mag a-absent ang mga employees nila kahit hira na hira na ang mga employees na pumasok, puwede ba silang isumbong at kanino puwedeng magsumbong?

**SEC. BELLO:** Actually kung ayaw payagan ng mga employers na hindi pumasok iyong mga manggagawa puwedeng hindi pumasok iyong manggagawa. They do not have to report, if they don't want to report or since they are under Enhanced Community Quarantine, then they really cannot report and they will be excused. There will be no basis for them to be disciplined.

**MODERATOR:** Kanino daw po sila sir, puwede kayang magsumbong?

**SEC. BELLO:** Sa DOLE. Saka kahit hindi sila magre-report puwede nilang i-charge iyong kanilang absence either sa mga leave credits nila kung mayroon pa. Ngayon kung wala, DOLE na ngayon ang mananagot sa kanila.

**MODERATOR:** Opo. From Angel Ronquillo po, for PNP sir: Totoo po ba iyong nagsi-circulate na memo online sa PNP na nagsasabing padaanin na lahat ng taong na-stranded sa mga borders para makauwi na dahil pagpatak ng 12 midnight mamaya ay total lockdown na?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** No, not true 'no. But basically ang intention naman natin is home quarantine. So we would like to allow everybody na makauwi and then from there, again as a general rule we encourage everybody to stay home.

**MODERATOR:** Well kay CabSec siguro. Another memo for confirmation , nagsi-circulate din daw po online na all expressway, NLEX, SLEX, CAVITEX will put barricades starting 12 midnight tonight to prevent vehicles from coming in and going out of Metro Manila.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Hindi po totoo. It's not true.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir good evening po. Sir, iyong isyu po na concern po ang mga front liners especially iyong mga medical professionals and even po ng mga border patrols ng PNP, iyong PPE. Mayroon pong report na mayroon nga pong nabibitin sa Bureau of Customs. May update nap o ba tayo doon and then iyong supply din sir, na parating. Marami po iyong nagtatanong kaninang umaga, may mga kausap din po akong mga PNP personnel na concern doon sa face mask, supply ng alcohol na nasagot na ni PNP Chief and then iyong thermometers po sa mga checkpoints, kasi ang reklamo nga po ng iba is isa o dalawa lang ang gumagana o ginagamit na mga thermometers. Unahin po muna natin iyong sa BOC po and PPE, sir?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Iyong sa Customs naman, ano naman eh, basta sabi naming iyong cargoes will have to be unhampered and when we say na cargoes are unhampered, even mula doon sa pagpasok sa port, hanggang sa paglabas ng port, ay dapat free-flowing po iyong mga cargoes natin. So, kung ano ang mga kailangan nating gawing mga habang para mapabilis ang paglabas ng mga cargoes, lalung-lalo na mula sa mga ports natin ay kailangan natin gawin. So kung may problema po doon sa Bureau of Customs or kung saan man nagkakaroon ng bottleneck, then kailangan po nating i-address po iyan.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Kasi sir, iyon po iyong primary concern po. Pinapadaan na po sa social media ng mga frontlines iyong paghingi nila ng tulong, kasi kailangang nila at the very least iyong gloves and iyong facemask and then iyong kay PNP Chief naman po iyong sa thermometers, iyon ang reklamo nga po. Marami iyong nabibitin sa pagpasok, sa pagdaan po sa mga checkpoints, because isa o dalawa iyong thermometer and then kapag inabot na sila ng init ng araw, tumataas na iyong body temperature kaya nagtatagal pa sila lalo

dahil kinakailangan pang magpababa ng body temperature ng iba po sa mga kababayan nating inaabot?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Kanina actually lumabas lang si CabSec kanina, but nag-present din si Secretary Duque nung mga parating na PPE. He was mentioning something like 2,000 pieces hindi ko lang nilista ano and some are beyond 5,000. Then tomorrow mayroon daw 15,000 to be delivered, mga face mask sa PNP logistics sa Crame. So may mga parating naman po and I understand from the private sector just today, may mga nagsabi, nag-declare ng kanilang mga donations din. And of course, iyong government again, mayroon naming preposition din na budget for DOH to acquire all these PPE. So these are on the way na, talagang nagkaroon ng shortage talaga worldwide ng mga PPE. But now dahil may gumagaling na sa China nawawala iyong problema, then dumadami na muli iyong supply galing sa mga iba-ibang bansa.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, pahabol lang po iyong sa social amelioration program na nabanggit po ninyo na bubuo ng isang technical working group para po dito. Ano po iyong nakapaloob doon sa programa na iyon. Kailan po ito mai-implement kasi kung kasama po dito iyong mga daily wage workers o iyong mga informal workers, isa po kasi sa katuwiran nila is, kaya sila lumalabas at patuloy na nagtatrabaho, its between daw po the devil and the deep blue sea. Either itong COVID-19 o iyong uncertainty na sila ay magugutom for a very long time na wala silang nakikitang may tulong na darating talaga visibly po.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Kaya nga ibubuo na itong technical working group para pagusapan iyong mga nakapaloob doon sa ating social melioration package o pagtulong natin sa ating mga kababayan na nahihirapan na, lalo na iyong mga daily wage earners natin at iyong mga marginalized natin. So, kaya paguusapan kung ano iyong mga nakapaloob doon, pero iyong pinaka-frontline talaga natin dito is the LGUs.

So based doon sa pag-tap nila sa kanilang Quick Response Fund, kaya tayo nasa state of calamity, para maka-tap sila sa Quick Response Fund nila. So parang ang pag-operationalize natin ito, it's as if their own LGU is in a state of calamity and therefore, sila iyong first responders kung ano ang mabibigay nilang food assistance sa kanilang mga constituents ay dapat nilang gawin 'no. Just like in any calamity that hits their respective locality.

Tapos sila iyong magse-set up ng pag-identify kung sino iyong qualified na tutulungan. Siyempre kung sino iyong mga impoverished, sino iyong mga marginalized, iyon ang uunahin nila at iyon ang ise-set up nila, tapos from there on, i-augment na lang po iyong effort nila through the national government, primarily ang DSWD.

Pero over and above that, ang Department of Labor and Employment ay mayroon din po silang isasagawa na programa kung saan makakapagbigay din po sila ng tulong sa mga both formal and informal workers. So ibigay ko siguro kay Secretary Bello for the details.

**SEC. BELLO:** Tungkol doon sa informal workers kaibigan, we also have a program for them which called the TUPAD, iyong nabanggit ni CabSec kanina, that is the emergency



employment program. Kapag ikaw ay isang informal worker, nagbebenta ka ng mangga o nagbebenta ka ng gulay o kaya nagta-tricycle ka at mawalan ka ng trabaho dahil dito sa enhanced Community Quarantine, bibigyan ka namin ng trabaho. This is good from maybe between 10 to 20 days. Pero ang trabahong ibibigay namin sa iyo ay iyong to disinfect unang-una iyong bahay mo, pangalawa iyong kapitbahay mo at saka iyong mga daan na madaanan mo kapag ikaw ay umuuwi at pumupunta sa trabaho mo. Ito ang trabaho na ibibigay namin sa mga informal workers. We also offer the same programs sa mga formal workers and we pay them the minimum wage. Iyon ang aming maibibigay na programa para sa ating mga manggawa both the formal and informal workers.

**MODERATOR:** Okay, sir. Phone-in question ulit from Reuters naman po. Just to reiterate, the capital markets are asking the IATF for exemptive relief allowing their employees to work and reopen the financial markets. Has the IATF granted this request?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Yes. Like I already mentioned, item number 5 ‘no, “*Capital markets including but not limited to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange, Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation, Philippine Security Settlement Corporation and Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation shall be allowed to operate effective March 18, 2020 subject to skeletal workforce.*”

**MODERATOR:** Another question from Reuters, sir. There were 215 Filipino Muslims who attended the Tabligh in Malaysia—I don’t know if I pronounced it correctly—on February 29. Experts have tagged this as an event wherein coronavirus spread across Southeast Asia. What has the Philippine government done to trace the Muslim Filipinos? Are they confined already? Have they turned themselves in for checkups and quarantine?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Napag-usapan namin ito sa IATF, so mayroon na po tayong mga binigay na tasking sa iba’t ibang mga members natin sa IATF to do the monitoring tungkol po diyan. Pero na-bring up po iyan at napag-usapan na po namin.

**MODERATOR:** From Malaya naman sir, question: Pino-force out ba lahat ng tourists at foreigners from Philippines or Luzon? Paano iyong hindi makakalabas within 72 hours?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Our new guidelines na po, nakapaloob na po sa guidelines natin na iyong ating mga foreign nationals leaving for abroad through any of the ports in Luzon shall be allowed to leave the Philippines at any time for the duration of the enhanced community quarantine.

**MODERATOR:** Another phone-in question, sir. NUJP, some journalism educators want government to scrap or rethink requirement for media workers to secure accreditation IDs from PCOO. Says, it may be counterproductive at a time when people need vetted information from the media. Will government do away with the requirements?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** In-extend lang po natin. We are not doing away with it, but iyong dating 72 hours ay ngayon in-extend na po natin hanggang March 21, 2020.

**MODERATOR:** Okay, sir. Another question, pasensiya na sir ang dami nating tanong from ating mga kasamahan sa media at ating mga kababayan.

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Okay lang, no problem.

**MODERATOR:** Are cargo forwarding companies like JRS, LBC and the like exempted from the quarantine?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Yeah. If they are moving cargo, oo, exempted po iyon. At saka sabi nga natin, unhampered and may—siguro i-confirm din natin sa implementors—

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Sa enforcers...

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Sa enforcers *[laughs]*...

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Yes, we have agreed na unhampered lahat ng cargoes.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. For Secretary Bello: Who will process and release travel documents of our OFWs who will do final departure briefing and handover of documents to departing OFWs if placement and recruitment agencies cannot open offices?

**SEC. BELLO III:** They can just go to our POEA, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Diyan ipo-process iyong kanilang OEC para sila ay makabiyahen o makalabas. O kung may problema sila, mayroon kaming 1349 hotline. They can just call us and let us know kung anong problema nila. At ang importante diyan para makapagbiyahen ka pa sa labas, mayroon kang dapat verified contract of employment doon sa pupuntahan mo. With that, POEA will give you an OEC which is the Overseas Employment Certificate. With that, you can go to your place of destination.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. And sir may nagtatanong naman din po from Business World: Just to reiterate din sir, paano po ang transport mode for other exempted entities – mayroong transport for health and allied personnel, paano po ang media?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Media?

**MODERATOR:** I think sir ito iyong mga papasok kahit hindi lang on cam, bale iyong mga iba pang part ng media siguro sir na walang masakyan po.

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Well if the question is, will they be able to travel. Meaning to say hindi sila haharangin sa mga checkpoints, okay naman po iyon. Napag-usapan na namin sa task force with our law enforcers ano. 'Pag ang pinag-uusapan is paano iyong means of

transportation nila, ay kami po ay nakikiusap sa mga iba't ibang mga media companies kung saan po sila nagtatrabaho na maghanap po ng way or paraan kung paano mase-setup iyong paghatid-sundo or pag-transport ng mga media workers po ninyo.

**MODERATOR:** For DOLE naman, sir. Magpapatupad daw po ba ng mandatory hazard pay para sa lahat ng pumapasok sa trabaho like health and media workers?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Sa ngayon, wala pang ganoong plano dahil siyempre kailangan ding tingnan natin ang kalagayan ng ating mga employers. What is important here is that they will not be displaced because of the enhanced community quarantine.

**MODERATOR:** And sir, another follow up lang po. If kaya, ano raw po ang tulong natin sa mga vendors o iyong mga naglalako lang po ng paninda sa kalsada o iyong mga maliliit nating vendors?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Iyon iyong nabanggit ko kanina na tulong namin sa mga informal workers, itong mga sidewalk vendors, ito iyong mga tinatawag naming informal workers. And we also have a program for them and that is the Emergency Employment Program. We will give them some work to do and we pay them the minimum wage.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** On that one, if I may add. Si DTI din nag-allocate ng 1-billion-peso funding para doon sa programa po ni Presidente Duterte, iyong Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso, P3 Program kung saan no collateral, low interest rate, 0.5% lang per month at saka ito po ay madaling ibigay doon sa mga affected ng COVID-19, kasama ho ito sa program ng P3, specific para dito sa COVID-19.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. Sir may nagtatanong naman po, for DOLE pa rin. Just to clarify, the employer will submit the establishment report and the amount will be deposited directly to the employee's payroll account. What if the employee has no payroll account?

**SEC. BELLO III:** We will see to it that the employee will be paid by the employer, kasi iyan ay subsidy namin sa employer. So titiyakin namin na iyong ibinigay naming pera para sa manggagawa ay aabot sa kaniya.

**MODERATOR:** Okay sir, marami pong tanong para sa DOLE.

**SEC. BELLO III:** Okay lang.

**MODERATOR:** Another question, sir. After applying the remaining leave credits of employee, if any, the DOLE will subsidize the employees on no-work, no-pay regardless of status or is it just one time five thousand peso?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Depende iyan, depende kung ang circumstances of the work. But basically we'll give them a 10-day work but it could extend up to 30 days depende sa—iyong nature ng trabaho na ibibigay namin, ang mahalaga, mabigyan sila ng trabaho.

**MODERATOR:** And sir, tama raw po ba? Is it correct that an employer will use a worker's 15 days vacation leave and 15 days sick leave for this 30-day quarantine?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Nasa employer iyan. But you know ang ating mga manggagawa, they have leave credits – may sick leave, may vacation leave... mayroon nga maternity leave eh. Now ngayon kung halimbawa iyong employer will require the employee to undergo iyong 14-day quarantine and unfortunately the worker does not have any more left leave credits, ang mangyayari dito, kami, ang DOLE ang magsasakripisyo. We will subsidize the employer by paying iyong 14-day leave noong worker. Ang subsidy para sa employer this time, dapat employer magpasuweldo dahil siya nagpilit na ma-quarantine iyong manggagawa dahil sa ano—siyempre malulugi rin iyong employer, DOLE will subsidize the employer.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. And for CabSec Nograles naman, form Miss Vans Fernandez. With the recent announcements of basic service providers, one more essential service is in the question. How about the telecommunication companies? Has the government encourage Globe and Smart and various other internet service providers to offer free or discounted services to its customers due to the fact that the enhanced community quarantine has everyone inside of their homes? How will they remain connected and updated online and be able to communicate through text and calls?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Hindi natin puwedeng ano 'no—

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Oo, nag-announce na iyong ibang mga ano, ng push payment eh.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Oo, kusang loob na sila yatang nagbibigay ng ano. Pero we can only do moral suasion sa kanila.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Ang puwede nating itulong—if I may - ang puwede nating itulong doon sa mga lessor, papakiusapan natin na i-waive iyong rental ng mga... let's say, napilitang isara because of a government directive na isara. So iyon ang ituturo natin na relief from... or waiving of the rental fees for one month kung kailan pinuwersa nating isara iyong mga negosyo na umuupa sa kanila, iyon kasi involved ang gobyerno doon.

And then, ang Central Bank po ay nakikipag-arrange din sa bangko—again, ano lang ito, making arrangement para maitulak din, ma-postpone ang payment of amortization o kaya ay pag-discount sa mga interests or waiving some fees.

**SEC. BELLO:** May dagdag lang ako diyan 'no, dahil alam mo, hindi ito sapilitan ano. Ito ay appeal sa mga big business kagaya halimbawa iyong ShoeMart, iyong Robinson, Ayala Malls, San Miguel – malalaking korporasyon iyan 'no. And kapag nawalan ng trabaho dahil magbabawas ng trabaho iyong mga employer dahil masama ang negosyo, at the same time

iyong mga workers natin ay nasa Enhanced Community Quarantine. Makikiusap kami dito sa mga big business na ito na kung maaari doon sa one month na absence ng kanilang manggagawa or employee ay sana naman, out of Christian charity, sila na magbayad muna. Bayaran nila kahit na absent. Iyon pakiusap lang.

Kagaya rin iyong pakiusap din namin na kung maaari, iyong 13-month pay ay i-advance na nila. Bagamat alam naman natin na iyong 13-month pay is due on or before December 25, hindi po ba. But makikiusap din tayo sa kanila kung maaari ay i-advance ninyo na, tutal babayaran ninyo rin eh. Kung maaari lang, pero hindi namin puwedeng pilitin.

**MODERATOR:** Sir, isa pang patanong: Maybe someone can ask if retailers, suppliers who sell pet food or supplies are also mandated to stay in operation?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Pet food? Hindi namin napag-usapan iyong pet food.

**MODERATOR:** And another, sir: Sir, may we ask if makarating sa Malacañang kung may guidelines or exemptions sa cooperative sector like credit sectors po, other cooperative is under a credit type, and the financial institution din po?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Hindi kami umabot pa doon sa usapan na iyon. We will study that.

If I may mention din pala, kasi ang tinatanong ninyo iyong mga tulong din sa mga affected sectors, actually kahapon or kanina, naglabas ng announcement iyong economic development cluster headed by Secretary Carlos Dominguez ng economic package para dito sa COVID-19 pandemic.

At kanina po ay in-announce iyong 27.1 billion package of priority actions to help front liners fight the 2019 COVID. At ito po ay mabilis ko lang ia-outline. Example po ay two billion peso representing the initial budget set by the DOLE; mobilization of an existing 1.2 billion pesos sa SSS to cover unemployment benefits for dislocated workers; ang TESDA scholarship program amounting to three billion; various programs ng Department of Tourism amounting to 14 billion from TIEZA, iyong Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority; iyong 2.8 billion pesos for the survival and recovery, SURE Aid Program of the Department of Agriculture, and Agriculture Credit Policy Council – ito ay nabibigay ng loans up to 25,000 each, zero interest for small holder farmers and fisherfolks; one billion allotted by DTI, ito po iyong P3 para sa pautang sa mga SMEs. At mayroon pang mga loan program mula sa GSIS; mobilization funds in GOCCs, iyong Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations; DBP, mayroon ding support doon; LandBank; at ang Central Bank, iyong mga nabanggit nating possible intervention ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. Thank you, sir. Back to MPC members. Tina Mendez again.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** Sir, sa pag-tap ng Quick Response Funds. Kasi even kanina, iyong mga barangay officials, mayroon silang nata-tap na calamity funds pero kulang din ang supply

na makukuha nila, like iyong mga disinfectant. Now, with your announcement, pati ang mga pagkain, mga basic necessities na puwedeng ibigay sa mahihirap, paano masisigurado na makakakuha ang local government ng tamang supply para sa constituents nila?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** What do you mean by... may mapagbilhan sila?

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** Saan sila kukuha ng tamang supply kasi sabay-sabay iyan kukuha ng mga supplies nila, sir, 'di ba para madala sa mga barangay?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Siguro iyong nangyari kanina doon sa aming meeting with the NCR mayors, napag-usapan with Secretary Bautista ng DSWD iyong pakikipag-ugnayan; importante iyong pakikipag-ugnayan ng mga LGUs with DSWD. So isa-isahin ng DSWD iyan, iyong iba't ibang mga mayors sa mga pangangailangan nila.

Ngayon, mayroon namang mga food packs na na-ready ang DSWD. So in terms of purchasing those ... iyong laman ng food packs, kung mayroon po tayong mga LGUs na nahirapan sa pag-purchase, puwedeng unahin na ni Secretary Bautista kung anong mayroong stock niya – if it comes to that 'no, kung ang situation is may calamity funds ka nga pero wala kang mabibilhan dahil kulang ang supplies 'no. So iyong assurance lang po natin na naka-preposition na po iyong mga stocks ng DSWD.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** So ang procurement will just be from the national government, DSWD, ang local government cannot?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** No, they can. They can.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** Simultaneous.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Yeah, simultaneous.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** How about iyong mga policy on public bidding, will it be lifted?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Based doon sa—gagamitin mo iyong rules on procurement pagdating sa calamity. Alam na ng mga LGUs iyan. Emergency procurement iyan.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHIL STAR:** Sir, number two, on the ... iyong suspension within the day ng Philippine Stocks Exchange and other related... Ano bang nangyari? Was there a miscommunications or there was an overlook with the ... sa government, bakit bigla tayong nag-shutdown? I think this is the first ... Philippines daw is the first country na nagkaroon ng shutdown ng—

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Siguro ang treatment natin nito, parang kung tinatamaan tayo ng bagyo 'di ba, shutdown lahat. Nagkaroon ng calamity, kapag tinamaan ng malaking bagyo, hindi naman unusual na nagsiya-shutdown iyong PSE dahil sa malaking calamity na dumaan sa... sabihin

natin, sa Metro Manila. So parang ganoon ang nangyari. So there was a one day shutdown, but tomorrow, babalik naman sila just like in a calamity that happens in Metro Manila. May dadaan na bagyo, shutdown ang PSE; but the next day, back to operations na po.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** May phone in question dito. Hindi may nagtanong lang tungkol doon sa... nabanggit din dito iyong BPO at saka iyong exporters sa ... kasi just like other companies, ini-encourage natin para hindi na bumiyahe at less movement na ng tao na i-house na iyong mga tao doon sa kanilang mga factory para hindi na ... lalo na kung malayo nakatira at no public transportation. So ito po ang nakita nating solusyon sa mga negosyo, puwede silang mag-operate tulad ng mga food manufacturing pati na rin iyong mga exporters.

So iyong BPO, puwedeng doon din tumira within or near their facility. Iyong mga exporters ganoon din, within or near their facility, iyong walking distance lang para hindi na dadaan sa checkpoint; nakatira na sila sa vicinity. Iyon po iyong nililinaw lang natin kasi tinatanong nila kung puwede ring work from... hindi naman puwedeng work from home iyong exporter, parang talagang kailangan nandoon, para doon na sila titira.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Sa DOLE po, particularly on PUV drivers kasi sila iyong pinakamaraming apila kanina. So sakop din po sila ng TUPAD Program?

**SEC. BELLO:** Kasama rin po, kasama. Lahat ng mga workers, mayroong formal, maroon informal. Iyong formal, parehas ang trato namin sa kanila, bibigyan namin sila ng trabaho kagaya ng mga informal.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Paano po iyong magiging proseso, sir? Puwede ba silang ma-employ within the day, kasi alam po natin marami sa mga kapamilya natin ganoon iyong ... isang kahig, isang tuka?

**SEC. BELLO:** Mabilis lang iyan, mabilis lang iyan. All they have to do is go to the barangay officials, and the barangay officials will submit their name to us. We will include them in the list of beneficiaries and then we let them work, trabaho sila ng 10 days, trabaho sila ng 20 days or 30 days, and then we pay them the minimum wage.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** So within the day iyong processing po?

**SEC. BELLO:** Madali lang po, madali lang po. Kasi sanay na iyong mga barangay official diyan dahil itong programa naming ito ay every year we do it. Almost every three months nag-aano kami—remember mo iyong ano, iyong the closure of Boracay? When Boracay was closed for six months, all the restaurant workers and the hotel workers were displaced; wala silang trabaho dahil nawala ang operation eh. So what did we do? We gave them work for six months, all of them - iyong nagbebenta ng barbecue doon, iyong waiter sa isang hotel o iyong isang restaurant, we gave them work for six months. Malaking amount iyon but fortunately, the President was very generous, binigyan kami sa kanilang AMP – iyong Adjustment Measures Program. So nabayaran namin iyon. Iyon ang gagawin namin doon sa madi-displace ngayon.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** So hindi naman po sila maghihintay nang matagal kasi most of them po ay nagsasabi isang kahig, isang tuka. Kumbaga, kung ano ang kikitain nila ngayon, iyon ang pangkakain nila kinabukasan. So they will be guaranteed employment immediately?

**SEC. BELLO:** In ten days ... they're working for ten days, we pay them for ten days.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** And then to PNP Chief, may clarification lang po. Kasi mayroon daw pong nahaharap pa sa San Juan, bandang 9:32, nag-present naman po ng media ID pero hindi na daw pinapasok. Uniformed po ba iyong orders natin pagdating sa checkpoints, pagdating sa ganito?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Yes, we will check on that 'no because ang guidance namin sa aming lower units is the different media people can use their company IDs, and this would suffice for them to pass checkpoints, unless, iyon nga, baka may misinterpretation doon sa local government units who might be imposing a different thing. But the intention really of the inter-agency is to have a uniformed implementation of these things. But I will personally check on that.

**MODERATOR:** Sir, another phone-in question lang po bago si Kuya Manny. For PNP Chief Gamboa: Sir, mukhang hindi pa rin daw naghihigpit sa ilang residente iyong mga lumalabas kasama pa ang mga anak sa ginagawang panic buying. Hindi po nai-implement ang one member per family na papayagang lumabas. Saan po kaya ang problema rito, sa barangay o sa mga pulis?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Yes, sa pulis naman ay klaro iyon 'no. But hindi naman lahat ng lugar may pulis 'no. But kung sa harapan ng pulis nangyari ito, then there's something wrong. But again, we will remind our policemen to implement this.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, good evening ulit. Kay Secretary Bello, sir. Sir, may nagmi-message lang po na mga kababayan tayo. For example po, isa pong residente ng Rizal, sabi po niya, wala na raw pong trabaho iyong asawa niya because of this quarantine at problema nila iyong pang-upa ng bahay at panggastos sa pagkain. Papaano raw sila, sir, makakapag-avail doon sa TUPAD Program ngayon daw po na sila ay naka-home quarantine?

**SEC. BELLO:** Nasaan ba siya?

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Hindi ko sure, sir, kung Marikina or Rizal po iyong residence nila.

**SEC. BELLO:** Ibigay lang ang pangalan niya at saka iyong address niya. Ang ibibigay naming trabaho sa kaniya ay iyong mismong pag-disinfect sa bahay niya eh. So hindi siya kailangang lumabas. Aayusin niya iyong bahay niya, pagkatapos with the guidance of the barangay official, idi-disinfect niya rin iyong mga kalye. At kung mayroong malapit na eskuwelahan, idi-



disinfect niya rin iyon. At hindi lang siya mag-isa, may kasama rin siya pero i-observe nila pa rin iyong social distance.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Opo. Tapos, sir, may nagtatanong lang po. Doon po sa mga health professionals, included ba daw po ang mga veterinarians lalo na raw po iyong mga nasa animal hospitals? Kasi may mga pasyente silang mga hayop na hindi nila puwedeng iwanan.

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Ipagpaumanhin po ninyo, hindi namin napag-usapan iyan. Siguro I'll bring that up sa next task force meeting.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Kasi, sir, iyon nga raw po, may mga animal hospitals pala na nandoon po iyong mga alagang aso or pusa na basically on medication. So iyon din po iyong concern, pinaabot.

And then, sir, may nagtatanong din po: Puwede raw ba, sir, i-apply sa GSIS or SSS ng calamity loan ito pong pagkakaroon natin ng—

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Palagay ko kasi nag-state of calamity na tayo, and that's the reason why we're declaring a state of calamity para iyong options under the state of calamity can be utilized or magagamit na po. So palagay ko, GSIS or SSS loans for calamity, maaari na po iyan.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Kay PNP Chief naman po. Sir, marami pong tanong na pinapaabot sa inyo. Sir, pa-expound naman daw po, ano iyong mangyayaring changes sa mga checkpoints natin starting maybe today? Kasi doon sa first two days po natin, iyong general quarantine natin and then nag-enhanced tayo, pareho pong talagang nagkaroon nang mahabang pila, nagkagulatan. Ngayon po ba, sir, magkakaroon ng marked changes na mas mapapabilis especially kapag dumating na po iyong mga kailangang gamit ng mga tauhan po na nagbabantay?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** During the time that we were conducting the inter-agency meeting, dahan-dahan kong tini-text iyong aking Director for Operations with the end view, sabi ko na mag-device tayo ng system which would make our checkpoints more easy. And one of the suggestions is that, when you through a checkpoint from one region then countersigns may be provided for you to pass to subsequent regions until you reach another region or destination in Manila.

But these are only one of the things 'no. But of course, with the promulgation now of Resolution #13, there will be changes on the part of the PNP to adjust our guidance on our men on the field.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, isa pa po. Kasi may isa pong nag-text, sir, na isa pong kasamahan namin. Ang concern naman niya: Papaano raw po mapupunta sa unahan iyong mga kababayan natin na dapat mabigyan ng priority? For example, iyong mga health professionals na maaaring nasa dulo po ng pila sa checkpoint na kinakailangang mauna sila. Mayroon po bang magagawa para mapalusot po? Is it feasible?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Okay, ganito ang general impression ng Philippine National Police ‘no, those who pass through the checkpoints are actually all those who are exempted. So if you provide special lane, you provide special lane for everybody because everybody who passes through are exempted. So napag-usapan iyan kanina, and I think in unison iyong inter-agency that we will just make the flow faster. But hindi namin pa napag-isipan kung ano iyong dapat bigyan ng special lanes.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, finally po, para po sa inyo. Again, isa pong text message ng kasama: Papaano raw po iyong treatment doon sa magiging kababayan natin na mag-i-insist pa rin despite the fact na hindi sila exempted at magkakaroon po nang hindi kinakailangang incident dahil doon sa pagpupumilit nila na makapunta sa kung saan man?

**PNP CHIEF GAMBOA:** Well, the Department of Justice, through the Secretary, already expounded on that last night that there are two basis for us to make the arrest. So sana naman ay huwag nilang subukan ang PNP because we have two laws which we can base ‘no, iyong disobedience under the Revised Penal Code, and non-cooperation under Republic Act 11332. Pero sana naman huwag na nating paabutin sa ganoon.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Tapos, sir, panghuli na lang po. Sir, pasensiya na, may mga pahabol na tanong. Sir, papaano naman daw po doon sa mga working na pregnant women? Ito na, kasi alam naman nating kailangan din, pero ang sabi po niya is, “If we opt not to go to work dahil high risk kami, may maibibigay bang assistance ang DOLE sa amin? Baka wala na kaming trabaho pagbalik.” Sa United Kingdom daw kasi, they told pregnant women to stay in orders for three months. Possible kaya daw po maging ganoon dito?

**SEC. BELLO:** Hindi, alam mo naman na we are under Enhanced Community Quarantine kaya hindi ka dapat lumabas, so may excuse ka na hindi lumabas. Ngayon ang problema mo ay iyong trabaho. So iyon, we will give you work. If you are an employer, regular employer, we will give you as a regular employer; or if you are an informal worker, we will also give you work. Ganoon pa rin. Iyong napili namin kasing magandang trabaho iyong magdi-disinfect. Sarili mong bahay ang idi-disinfect mo and then we will pay for disinfecting your house.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, panghuli na po talaga, sa kasama ko pong si Tuesday Niu. Ang question is: papaano daw po pupunta or mag-aasikaso po ng—iyong aalis na OFW at kailangan nilang pumunta sa POEA para po sa pag-aayos ng documentation or sa OWWA o iyong papunta ng airport na wala naman pong masasakyan, public transportation ng inasahan. Papaano iyong arrangement for them, mayroon bang magagawang sasakyan na they could go to the certain place and then maaring maihatid sila sa airport?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Napag-usapan naming iyan, kaya nga kasama to sa guidelines na ito ay maaring tulungan sila ng OWWA kapag OFW.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Makikipag-ugnayan po sila sa OWWA?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Opo.

**MODERATOR:** Okay, sir, mga pahabol na tanong lang po natin. From Rosalie Coz: paano kaya ang mga security guards na kailangan mag-duty to secure the property, mga front liners to consider sa mga establishments. May exemption kaya rin po kaya sila?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Ay opo, doon sa first guidelines kahapon, kagabi na inilabas po natin iyong iyong security personnel po ay kasama sa exemptions; security kasi kailangang bantayan iyong mga establishments.

**MODERATOR:** Sir, from Xinhua naman: DOTR announced today that all airports in Luzon will be shut down after 72 hours, is this true?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Wala na, mayroon na po tayong bagong guidelines. So ano na po... puwede na pong bumiyahen sa foreign countries ang OFW, ang balikbayans at foreigners.

**MODERATOR:** Okay for DTI lang, sir: Many have experienced out of stocks and unavailability of essential goods beyond food like hygiene and cleaning product in stores. What are the plans to ensure factories replenish these if they can't produce?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Ganito, kaya po very important that we made arrangement na iyong cargoes will be allowed para ma-replenish talaga precisely iyong mga shelves na nauubusan because of the requirements ng ating mga kababayan. So there is a clear agreement there. Iyong kung hindi maka-produce iyong ibang factory dahil kulang iyong tao, hindi nakarating, we rely on existing inventories and we are hoping that with so many manufacturers ng mga ganyang produkto na mayroon pa rin silang imbentaryo at made-deliberan iyong mga supermarkets and that can be assured na huwag silang mag-panic at may magsu-supply pa rin ng mga alcohol requirements nila.

**MODERATOR:** Okay, last three phone in questions po. From Associated Press: Initially foreign nationals and tourist were given 72 hours to fly out of Luzon airports. Now the period when they can leave was changed to anytime during the Enhanced Community Quarantine period. Can you please explain the reason for the change?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Napagusapan namin na siyempre, first of all iyong sa OFWs 'no. So ang mga kababayan natin na kailangan magtrabaho abroad at mayroon naman silang mga kontrata abroad. Then iyong balikbayans, pinag-usapan namin, eh iyong balikbayan kailangan nandito sila pero di ba kailangan nilang bumalik kung saan sila galing, mga bansa where they came from 'no, and then iyon na... unti-unti napag-usapan pati iyong mga foreign nationals. So, dahil ayaw natin bigyan ng kumbaga pressure silang lahat dahil mas mahirap para sa kanila ay in-open up na po natin, wala nang date, wala na iyong 72 hours. Pero siyempre ang ating panawagan sa mga kababayan natin, balikbayan, OFWs, ay may sadya doon sa ibang bansa.

So hindi namin sinasabi na iyong ibang mga Filipino na ang sadya lang ay maging turista sa ibang bansa ay huwag na po.

**MODERATOR:** And for DTI, sir: Our companies engaged in manufacturing but exports only, some of its output allowed to operate partially to meet export commitments?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Yes, example iyon kanina, that we were suggesting that if it's really important to finish up certain hanging commitments right now. They can allow their workers, iyong skeletal force to come in para matapos iyong mga commitments nila. And the suggestion is for them to keep their employees there already, i-house na nila inside or right outside para less movement na doon sa mga empleyado po nila.

**MODERATOR:** And last, sir from Inquirer: Ask ko lang po sana kung bakit pa rin po may checkpoints along NCR if Luzon-wide na po ang quarantine; and second, are LGUs given the authority to supersede the guidelines about public transport as what Vico Sotto did for Pasig to augment transport options for front liners?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Kasama ito sa pinag-usapan namin during the meeting with the Metro Manila Mayors na initiated by the MMDA. At ang paki-usap po natin is tayo pong lahat ay magtulungan, mag-cooperate po tayong lahat at pag sinabi ng task force na 'no'—kaya natin ginawa itong state of calamity, iyong Enhanced Community Quarantine ay para pantay-pantay po ang lahat ng mga LGUs at pantay-pantay po ang lahat ng mga nasa Luzon 'no, we operate under a common set of rules kumbaga, so walang lamangan dito para lahat po mag-cooperate, lahat po pantay-pantay.

So iyong exemptions, exemptions lang, iyong hindi puwede, hindi po puwede, dahil may pinanggagalingan iyan, may rason po ang lahat ng iyan. Hindi namin ine-impose ito dahil gusto lang naming 'no; ine-impose natin ito para sa proteksiyon at kaligtasan ng bawat isa.

So, let's just follow what are the guidelines are, so please do not supersede at mag-cooperate naman. Okay naman ang mga mayors wala namang problema, so nagkaintindihan naman.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Sir, pinapatanong lang po. Kasi di ba mayroon tayong order na puwedeng lumabas papuntang grocery, supermarkets, drugstores. Would you confirm if ang Mandaluyong po ay naglabas ng order na kailangan ay may pass or permit pa for their residents, wala pong ganoon?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Not within my knowledge.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Okay. So hindi po dapat. Okay sige po. And then may nagpapatanong po: mayroon po bang tulong na ibibigay para sa mga stranded sa ports? I think ay mga gusto po yatang tumawid from Sorsogon and pupunta ng Manila and then stranded daw po, naabutan na sila ng Enhanced Community Quarantine.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Tao o cargo?

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Tao po.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Bawal na ngang tumawid, hindi ba. They are not supposed to cross eh.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Sino po ang dapat na lang na tumulong sa kanila, kapag ganoong?

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Siguro bumalik na lang sila, tulungan silang makabalik.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Another phone in question po: Iyong sa pagbayad po sa utilities like sa water and Meralco, mayroon na silang extension. How about bank credits, monthly amortization and car loans?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Iyon ang siguro dito na papasok ang BSP at ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng BSP with the different banks. So we will coordinate with BSP or BSP and the economic team siguro mag usap-usap sila at hintayin natin ang mga guidelines na ilalabas ng BSP.

**MODERATOR:** Can patients undergoing regular treatment like dialysis, avail nung P-to-P service ng DOTr, LGU, since there are no public transpo?

**SEC. NOGRALES:** Well, if may maitulong ang LGU, so much the better. Alam naman namin na may mga LGUs na mayroong mga sasakyan na regularly ginagamit naman nila para sa kanilang mga pasyente, so hindi naman pipigilan iyan ng ating law enforces.

**MODERATOR:** For Sec. Bello: May commitment na ba from major companies that they would also provide financial assistance on top of the 5K that DOLE will be giving out?

**SEC. BELLO:** We met with the employers group immediately after itong COVID-19 problem and very open ang mga employers about helping their workers. One of them is even talking about iyong telecommuting, iyong work from home, pinag-uusapan nila iyon, at saka iyong flexi work arrangement, pinag-uusapan din nila para hindi mabigatan iyong mga—instead of losing your work for one month eh ire-reduce lang nila halimbawa, instead of five times a week, gagawin nilang 3 times a week or four times a week para... bagama't nahihirapan ang employer, hindi ka mawawalan ng trabaho. Sa makatuwid very open ang employer and in fairness sa mga employers very open silang tumulong sa ating mga manggagawa.

## **PART 8 (LAST), PRESS BRIEFING OF IATF, MARCH 17, 2020**

**[1:10:24]**

**TINA MENDEZ/PHILIPPINE STAR:** Sir, kahit this early marami na—iyong mga hospitals natin medyo marami na silang patient na PUI tapos mga COVID positive. Na-discuss daw ba kung mayroon nang identified areas na iko-convert na isolated na hospitals kung talagang dumating tayo sa worst case scenario?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** I think naitanong po iyan in principle kay Secretary Duque kagabi ‘no. So sabi nga niya, conceptually may wisdom doon pero operationally medyo hindi madaling gawin. So wala pa po tayo doon, although gaya ng binasa ko po as part of the guidelines ay bumubuo na po ng mga cluster groups doon sa NDRRMC para sa mga... kumbaga long term planning. Lahat ng—kumbaga lahat ng mga gaps na puwedeng pagplanuhan ay pagplanuhan na on a worst case scenario basis.

So nagse-scenario building na po ang NDRRMC, not that aabot tayo doon ano but we have to be prepared for any eventuality. So in all aspects, not just the health aspect, tinitingnan na po ng NDRRMC pati mga cluster groups. So iyon naman iyong next steps natin.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHILIPPINE STAR:** For Chief, PNP po. There is a parang note circulating na this is reportedly an instruction from Chief NCRPO na there will be a start of a lockdown at 6 AM later on tapos ang requirements sa mga exemption ay hanapan ng ID and certificate of work. Ano po ba talaga ang pinaka-instructions?

**CHIEF PNP GAMBOA:** What you hear from CabSec is what is prevailing. Baka fake news iyan. And mind you, there are a lot of things going on like that ‘no. So I suggest they refer it to the authorities.

**TINA MENDEZ/PHILIPPINE STAR:** Once and for all sir, baka gusto ninyong i-address iyong troops ninyo na naka-assign ngayon sa mga checkpoints and everything. Last minute instructions for this—

**CHIEF PNP GAMBOA:** Thank you for the opportunity ‘no. Basically ang pinakamalaking change ngayon is that cargos will pass through unhampered ‘no, iyon ang pinaka-basic. And then we will be coming up with other guidelines based on the issuance of this resolution, new resolution. Pero even if you don’t have the appropriate protection, the Philippine National Police is doing its best to protect you. But nevertheless, we’re expected to do our mandate. So magtiis-tiis lang and so much is expected from the PNP. Thank you.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Sir, last talaga. Phone in question again, kay Secretary Bello. Sir pinatatanong po—kasi binura *[laughs]*. Pero sir ang question po niya is basically, iyon po bang kumpanya na nag-stop ng operations because of the Enhanced Community Quarantine ay ibabawas daw po doon sa leave credits ng mga workers nila iyong mga araw na walang pasok because of the quarantine, sa ECQ?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Hindi, hindi puwede. Hindi puwede iyan, ‘di iyong leave credits is left to the discretion of the worker kung kailan niya gamitin.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** So malinaw po, during the quarantine po, implementation nitong ECQ, iyong leave credits po kung anuman iyon before the ECQ, implementation ng ECQ would

remain until after? Hindi po mababawasan iyon, walang pagbabago? Until such time gagamitin or i-avail po ng employee mismo?

**SEC. BELLO III:** Iyong leave credits po sa iyo ‘yan, so kung kailan mo gamitin, saka mo lang gagamitin. Nobody can force you to use it if you don’t want to use it. Ngayon iyong sinabi ko about iyong forced leave o forced leave because of quarantine, ‘pag pinilit ka ng employer mo na mag-undergo ng 14-day quarantine tapos wala ka nang leave credits, ang mangyayari diyan DOLE na ang mag-subsidize sa employer. Kami na ang magbabayad doon sa 14-day quarantine period mo.

**MANNY VARGAS/DZBB:** Thank you po. Thank you po, sir.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Pinapatanong lang po. Iyong operation po ng e-commerce platforms, pupuwede pa po ba especially for non-essential goods kasi ‘di ba delivery ay—so for example ‘pag bibili online ng damit, ipapa-deliver...

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Magsha-shopping kayo... Oo, pinag-usapan namin iyan and sa panahon na ito, huwag na iyan. So iyong mga magsha-shopping hindi puwede, pero iyong basic necessities like magpa-deliver ka ng pagkain, gamot, grocery products, okay lang iyan.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Okay. So hindi basic necessity ang clothes.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Oo hindi na, hindi na...

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Thank you, sir.

**SEC. LOPEZ:** Ikaw yata iyong um-order eh *[laughs]*.

**JOYCE BALANCIO/DZMM:** Hindi sir, pinapatanong lang *[laughs]*.

**MODERATOR:** Any final words... Secretary Nograles?

**CABSEC NOGRALES:** Siguro nakita naman natin iyong nangyari kanina ‘no, and I would—siguro ang panggagalingan ko nito iyong sinabi nga ni General Archie Gamboa ano. Ang assumption po natin is lalakad ka dahil kasama ka sa exemption. Now kung hindi ka naman kasama sa exemption ay huwag na pong lumakad. Ang buhay po natin ang nakasalalay dito ha. Buhay natin, meaning to say buhay mo, buhay ko, buhay naming lahat, buhay ng pamilya mo, buhay ng komunidad.

Ang pinakamaiging pagkontrol po natin sa virus na ito is stay at home talaga. Kasi ‘pag nasa bahay ka at wala naman ni isa sa inyong infected, 100% walang mai-infect kung stay at home ka lang. Kaya lagi paulit-ulit naming sinasabi ano, “bahay muna, buhay muna” and “when in doubt, stay at home.”

**MODERATOR:** Okay, thank you so much mga sir. Iyan po ang ating press briefing kaugnay sa COVID-19

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