



DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION

YEAR-END REPORT 2020

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Introduction



The year 2020 has been a challenging year for the Philippines -- one that has been marred with devastating natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which contributed to a decline in the country's growth.

The Philippine economy registered a -16.9 percent in the second quarter of 2020 when we are in the most stringent form of lockdown due to the coronavirus. This is understandable given the closure of many businesses and the loss of income during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ).

Eventually we improved in the third quarter, with -11.5 percent, when we gradually reopened our economy. Albeit negative, we consider this as the beginning of recovery.

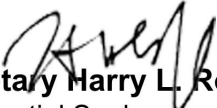
The signs of economic recovery are evident in the improved business confidence in the last quarter of 2020, the slight easing of adult joblessness for the month of September 2020, and the decrease in the number of families who had experienced hunger in November 2020.

These numbers underscored that our strategy to reopen the economy carefully and gradually after the ECQ period, including the gradual return of public transportation, had indeed worked.

While these are far from what we desire, the Administration's economic managers are hopeful that the economy will be on a rebound next year. The designation of the National Task Force Chief Implementer as Vaccine Czar augurs well for the country as this will ensure that the Philippines has access to potential COVID-19 vaccine once available. With the Philippine National Vaccine Roadmap laid out and the expected roll out of vaccines next year, Filipinos from all walks of life have become optimistic about the country's recovery in the coming year.

This pamphlet presents some of the major highlights of the Administration's accomplishments and interventions amid the extraordinary challenges it faced this year. We ask our readers to take a look and appreciate the efforts of the government in addressing the needs and concerns of our people.




Secretary Harry L. Roque Jr.
Presidential Spokesperson



II. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMY, FINANCE, AND TRADE

Over the past four years, gross domestic product growth averaged 6.6%, placing the country among the fastest growing economies in the world. We recorded low and stable inflation, which averaged 3% from 2016 to 2019, well within the government's target range of 2 to 4%. Growth was seen to be more inclusive as manifested by the country's full year 2018 poverty incidence, which significantly dropped to 16.7% of the population in 2018 from 23.3% in 2015. Around 6 million Filipinos were lifted out of poverty between 2015 and 2018.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Philippine economy due to the closure of businesses and the loss of income because of the imposition of a stringent enhanced community quarantine. The economy contracted 16.9% in the second quarter of 2020. A smaller contraction of 11.5% in the third quarter – a result of the easing of quarantine restrictions and gradual reopening of the economy -- indicates that the country is on its way to recovery.

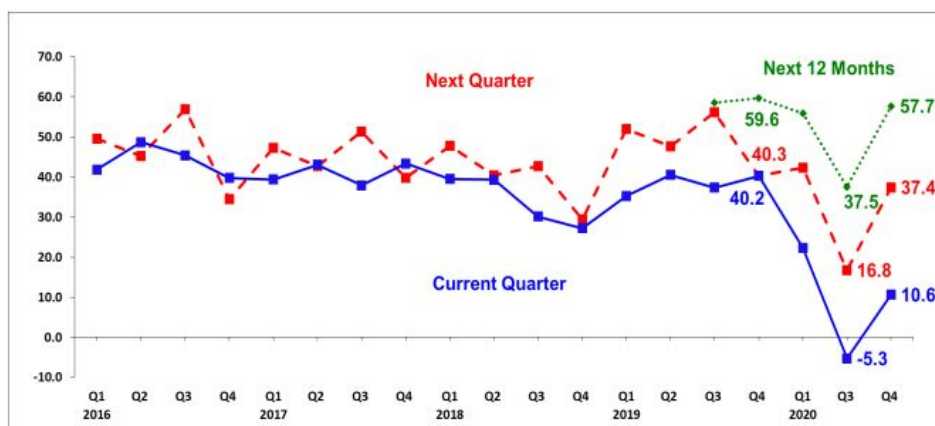
The figures bode well: Business confidence on the economy, according to the Business Expectations Survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, improved for the Fourth Quarter of 2020 as the overall business confidence reverted to positive territory at 10.6% from -5.3% in the third quarter of 2020.

Business Expectations Survey Fourth Quarter 2020

Business Confidence Turns Optimistic for Q4 2020; More Upbeat for Q1 2021 and the Next 12 Months

Overall Business Outlook on the Macroeconomy

Overall Business Confidence Index Q1 2016 – Q4 2020



Sources: NEDA, BSP

This sentiment is shared by credit rating agencies.

S&P Global

In May 2020, Standard & Poor's (S&P) affirmed the Philippines' "BBB+" with a "stable outlook"

FitchRatings

In May 2020, Fitch Ratings affirmed the Philippines' rating at "BBB" and changed the outlook to "stable" from "positive"

MOODY'S

In July 2020, Moody's affirmed the country's "Baa2" credit rating, and has kept its "stable" outlook for the country



In June 2020, Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) upgraded the Philippines' credit rating by a notch from "BBB+" to "A-"

Tax and Revenue Collection Efforts

Based on the cash operations report of the national government (net of refunds), the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) was able to collect around P1.6 trillion from January to October. This is 12% higher than the Bureau's target of P1.4 trillion, and already 81.7% of their target for 2020. The Bureau has been exceeding its target since July after easing the community quarantines in the country.

BIR was able to collect a total of P639.6 billion from July to October, or 16.8% higher than the target of P468.1 billion during the said period. This overperformance in the collection indicates economic activity as spending started to pick up after quarantine restrictions were eased.

Notwithstanding the pandemic, the BIR has reported that it collected a total of P547.9 million in taxes from January to September this year from 178 commercial establishments that were padlocked earlier for failing to either register or pay the correct amount of taxes. The BIR said it has also filed 14 cases before the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) in a bid to collect some P338 million in tax liabilities from various respondents.

Meanwhile, the January to October collection of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) amounted to P448.6 billion (net of refunds as reported by the BTr in the cash operations report). This is 6.7% higher than their target of P420.6 billion for the said period and around 82% of the Bureau's revenue target for the year. Like BIR, the BOC has been exceeding its target since June.

The July to October collections of BOC were at P195.5 billion, which is 16.8% higher than the target of P167.5 billion. This implies rising economic activity in the country, as the volume of imports starts to increase, reflecting improvements in the manufacturing and trade sectors.

Trade and Investments

For the first 10 months of 2020, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) reported P72.6 billion in investment pledges.

Sources: DOF, PEZA

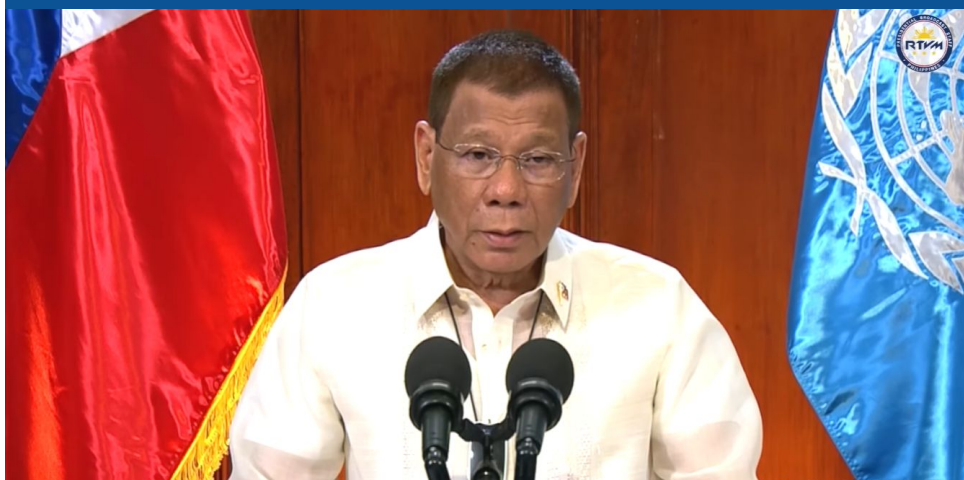
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte represented the Philippines and articulated the position of the country in various international platforms.

31st Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly



President Duterte participated in the 31st Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic on 3 December 2020.

75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly



The President addressed the High-Level General Debate of the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) from the Malacañang Golf (MALAGO) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on 22 September 2020 (New York date).

36th and 37th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits



President Duterte gave his intervention as he joined other leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries during the 36th ASEAN Summit video conference at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang on 28 June 2020.



President Duterte, together with some members of his Cabinet, joined other leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries during the virtual conference of the 37th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, hosted by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Malacañang Golf (Malago) Clubhouse in Malacañang Park, Manila on 12 November 2020.

2020 APEC Economic Leaders Meeting



President Duterte joined his fellow leaders from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) member countries in the virtual 27th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting at the Malacañang Palace on 20 November 2020.

Aqaba Process Virtual Meeting



President Duterte delivered his remarks as he joined several world leaders and representatives from the United Nations (UN) and international organizations during the Aqaba Process Virtual Meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Response, hosted by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan via video conference, at the Malago Clubhouse in Malacañang on 2 September 2020.

President Duterte and Japanese Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide Tele-Summit



President Duterte and Japanese Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide held a summit telephone talk on 14 December 2020.

Photo Source: PPD

BUILD BUILD BUILD

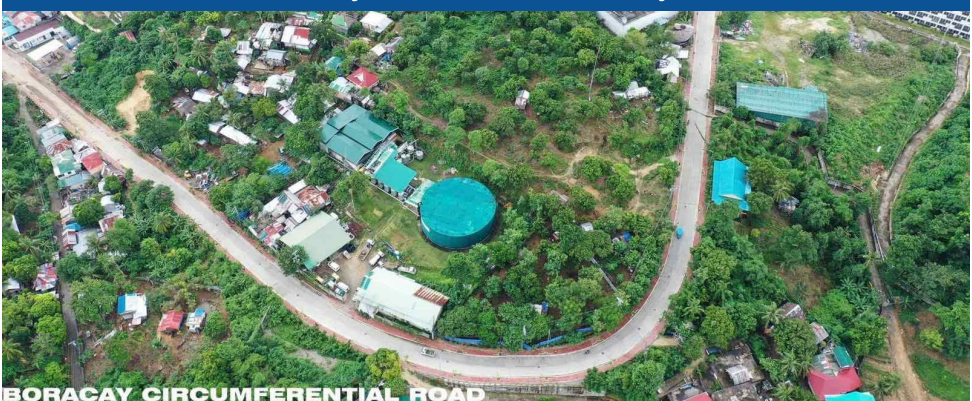
The Build Build Build program of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) completed the following in 2020:

Central Luzon Link Expressway



In December 2020, the DPWH announced the completion of two major segments of the Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Project Phase 1 including the construction of 4.1-km contract package (CP) 1 - Tarlac Section and 6.4-km CP 2 - Rio Chico River Bridge Section. These sections form part of the 30-kilometer four-lane expressway project to connect and improve access between the two large cities of Tarlac City and Cabanatuan City.

Boracay Circumferential Road Project



The Phase 1 and 2 of the Boracay Circumferential Road Project amounting to P890 million was completed on 4 December 2020. This includes the Phase 1 which spans 4.47 kilometers and has three sections, namely: Cagban Port to Hue Hotel, Hue Hotel to Elizalde, up to Bolabog Dramatic Road, and the Phase 2 which is 3.36 kilometers and has three sections, namely: Elizalde to Ambassador, Ambassador to City Mall, and from Tambis-an Port to Rotonda.

Source: DPWH

Skyway Stage 3 Project



In October 2020, the DPWH completed the construction of the 18-km Skyway Stage 3 project that would link the southern and northern Metro Manila by connecting SLEX and NLEX. Once it is opened to the public, the travel time will be reduced from 2 hours to 30 minutes. As of 29 December 2020, seven ramps have been opened to the public.

NLEX Harbor Link, Segment 10



The 2.6 kilometer C-3 – R10 Section (Exit Ramp), part of the NLEX Harbor Link, Segment 10, was opened on 16 June 2020. Travel time from NLEX to Radial Road 10, Navotas City (and vice versa) was reduced from 1 hour to just 10 minutes.

Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway



The 89-kilometer Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) was opened on 15 July 2020 and can now be fully utilized from Tarlac City to Rosario, La Union. The travel time between Tarlac City and Rosario, La Union will be reduced from 3.5 hours to 1 hour. Travel time from Manila to Baguio City is also now shortened to 3 hours. The TPLEX is estimated to benefit some 20,000 travelers per day.

Source: DPWH

BUILD BUILD BUILD

Tunnel Boring Machines



On the part of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) were unveiled in September 2020, for the construction of the country's first underground railway system.



Source: DOTr



III. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

The Department of Health (DOH) has been at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19.



In January 2020, the **DOH** activated the **Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF)**, where it serves as Chair, and thereafter has issued regular recommendations for the management of COVID-19 in the form of resolutions.



89

Issued Resolutions
as of 17 December 2020



Sources: DOH, IATF-EID and, NTF Against COVID-19



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed landmark health-related issuances in 2020

Executive Order No. 104 - Improving access to healthcare through regulation of prices in the retail of drugs and medicines

Executive Order No. 112 - Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines

Executive Order No. 118 - Directing the DOH, in coordination with DTI, to ensure accessibility and affordability of COVID-19 tests and test kits

Executive Order No. 121 - Granting authority to the Director-General of FDA to issue Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 drugs and vaccines

Administrative Order No. 31 - Authorizing the grant of Duty Allowance to government personnel who volunteer for deployment to the COVID-19 mega swabbing facilities

Administrative Order No. 35 - Authorizing the grant of Active hazard Duty Pay to human resources for health serving in the front lines during the state of national emergency

Administrative Order No. 36 - Authorizing the grant of COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance to private and public health workers directly catering to or in contact with COVID-19 patients during the state of national emergency

Memorandum Order No. 49 - Directing all concerned government agencies to coordinate and pool their resources and efforts into the production and distribution of face masks

Proclamation No. 971 - Declaring the 2nd week of July of every year as "National Infection Prevention and Control Week"

Proclamation No. 976 - Declaring the Year 2020 as the "Year of Filipino Health Workers"

Source: Malacanang Records Office

Human Resources for Health

The drastic **increase in hired health workers** have allowed the DOH to ably answer the needs of those afflicted by the pandemic, while ensuring continuing support for non-COVID health services.

12,733

Total Number of Hired HRH

As of 18 December 2020



Source: DOH

PHIC Financial Support to Healthcare Workers and other COVID-19 Patients

As the health insurer of the nation, **PhilHealth** has continued to support the medical care needs of our citizens, securing the care they need especially during this pandemic.



PhP 1,456,918,316.09

*Total cost of in-patient services for **40,781** COVID-19 patients*

As of 10 December 2020



PhP 297,386,136

*Total cost of diagnostic RT-PCR testing conducted by
accredited COVID-19 testing facilities covering a total of
321,655 suspected cases*

As of 10 December 2020

PhP 2,626,446,429

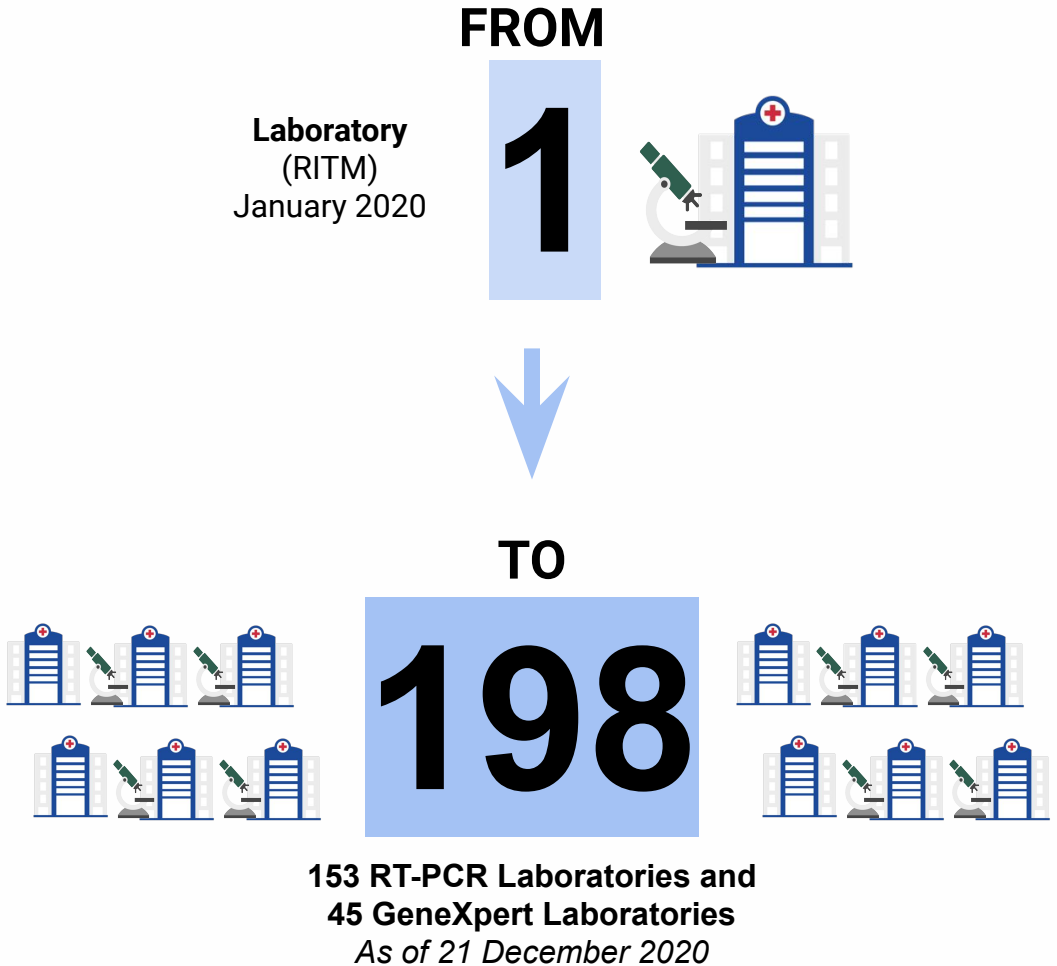
*Total cost of diagnostic RT-PCR testing conducted by
Philippine Red Cross covering a total of **725,399** suspected
cases*

As of 10 December 2020

Source: DOH

Licensed Laboratories

The DOH Health Facility and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) continue to **provide technical assistance to laboratories nationwide**.



NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST COVID-19



Sec. Carlito Galvez, Jr.

The **IATF approved the National Action Plan (NAP) against COVID-19**, which seeks to create a balance between breathing life into the nation's economy and at the same time, protect the health and welfare of Filipinos against the deadly virus. The NAP is rooted on the Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR) strategy.

PHASE I (March to June 2020)

- *Implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) while strengthening the health care systems*
- *Emphasized Testing, Tracing, Isolation and Treatment as the primary strategy to contain the spread of the virus*



Sec. Vince Dizon

PHASE II (July to September 2020)

- *Focused on balancing public health and economy*
- *Sustain the gains from Phase I implementation*
- *Designation of five (5) anti-COVID czars for Testing, Tracing, Isolation, Treatment and Vaccine*



Mayor
Benjamin Magalong

PHASE III (October 2020 to March 2021)

- *Focused on managing health risks*
- *Prevention and Containment as main components of the PDITR strategy*
- *Strict adherence to the minimum public health standards as part of the transition to new normal*
- *Establishment and initial rollout of the Philippine National COVID-19 Vaccine Roadmap*



Sec. Mark Villar



Usec. Leopoldo Vega

Sources: DOH, IATF-EID, and NTF Against COVID-19

TESTING

Testing Capacity

Case detection and diagnosis were vastly improved by the rapid establishment of laboratories and health care provider networks. Thus far, we have conducted a total of **6,474,744** tests, putting us at 6% of the total population.



FROM

1,282

**Total of Actual
Tests per day**
conducted in the
last week of
March 2020

TO

33,413

**Average Daily
Testing Output**
As of 20 December 2020

6,474,744

**TOTAL NUMBER
OF TESTS CONDUCTED**
As of 20 December 2020

6%

**of the TOTAL
POPULATION**



Source: DOH

TRACING



As of 19 November 2020, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) hired an additional 46,673 contact tracers nationwide. The newly-hired contact tracers will undergo training and orientation on how to efficiently trace individuals with close contacts to active/probable COVID-19 individuals. Similarly, LGUs have organized a total of 30,040 contact tracing teams with 259,149 members. Of this number, 147,704 contact tracers were already trained and have traced and monitored 1,683,331 close contacts. The current ratio for close contact tracing is at 1:6, wherein in every one active case, the closest six contacts are swabbed and isolated.



Source: DILG

TREATMENT AND ISOLATION

COVID-19 Bed Capacity

Since the onset of the pandemic, we have rapidly bolstered our bed capacity. This has allowed us to ensure the availability of ample facilities against the COVID-19 case load.

FROM

33,384

Total Beds
in mid-April 2020

INCREASED

TO

167,260

**Total Isolation Beds in
Temporary Treatment and
Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs)**

As of 21 December 2020

27,068

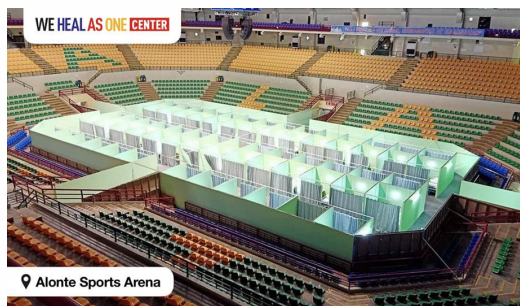
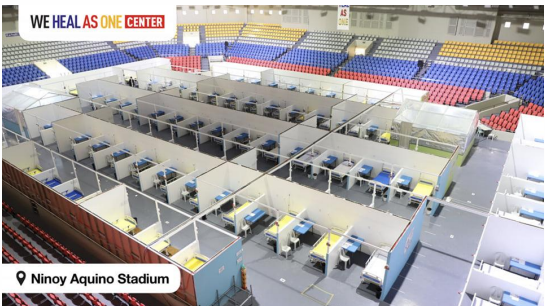
**Total Beds dedicated to
COVID-19 in Hospitals**

As of 21 December 2020



Source: DOH

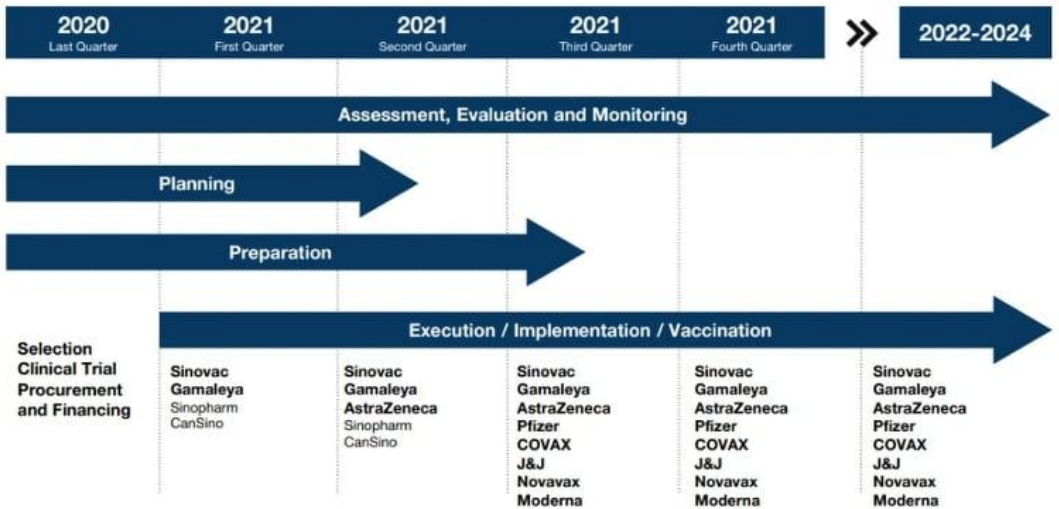
TREATMENT AND ISOLATION



Source: BCDA

PRRD approved the Philippine National Vaccine Roadmap on 9 November 2020

Phases of the Roadmap (Potential Roll-out)



Education was one of the most affected sectors this year, as schools remained closed at the start of the pandemic up to the end of the year.



Despite the pandemic, and after carefully considering options including health and safety measures, the Department of Education (DepEd) successfully opened School Year 2020-2021 for basic education on 5 October 2020. Education delivery was done through distance learning using the blended approach in learning.

Some 25.05 million learners are enrolled as of 11 November 2020 in public and private schools, as the DepEd extended enrollment until 21 November 2020. The number of enrollees this year represents 90.2% of last school year's enrollment, higher than the adjusted enrollment target for this year.

The DepEd also received realigned funds under the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, and P4 billion and P1.19 billion under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act for its Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan program, which aims to ensure educational continuity in this time of crisis by adopting multiple learning delivery modes such as distance learning and blended learning, among others, while ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all learners, teachers, and personnel. The 4 billion is expected to cover the implementation of Digital Education, Information Technology and Digital Infrastructure, and Alternative Learning Modalities. The Department has also identified P1.19 billion unobligated allotments from various DepEd Programs, Activities and Projects (P/A/Ps) for realignment to augment the allocations for General Management and Supervision and Support to Schools Operations (MOOE) to provide additional funding support to the DepEd Regional Offices, Schools Division Offices, and public schools in their implementation of the BE-LCP giving more allocations to those located in the disaster-stricken areas.





In September 2020, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) launched the P1B Tabang OFW program to give a one-time educational assistance of P30,000 to dependents of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who were repatriated and could not go back to their overseas work due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In November 2020, CHED launched Bayanihan 2 for Higher Education Tulong Program (B2HELP) to provide P300 million fund subsidy and allowance to 60,000 students in private and public higher education institutions (HEIs).



In the 3rd Quarter of 2020, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)'s Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program has a national total of 377,553 enrollees and 275,082 graduates, with the most graduates coming from the tourism (hotel and restaurant), agriculture and social, community development, and other services industries.

For its scholarship program, TESDA's Training for Work Scholarship Program has a total of 25,446 beneficiaries for the period of October to December 2020.



Assistance to the Education Sector

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) has thus far extended loans amounting to P522 million as of 15 December 2020 to 15 educational institutions to help them implement their respective “study now, pay later” plans for students amid the economic shock triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Sources: CHED, TESDA, DOF



From January to 19 December 2020, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), through its attached agencies, recorded a total of 113,412 housing units. The National Housing Authority (NHA) produced 24,139 housing units; Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) financed the construction/acquisition of 75,582 units while 13,256 units were financed by the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC). The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), through its securitization programs, was able to finance the take out of 435 units of housing loan receivables from its partner-developers.

To lessen the impact of COVID-19, DHSUD issued advisories and department orders such as the imposition of a 3-month moratorium on monthly amortization of housing and other loan payments from the key shelter agencies in compliance with Bayanihan 1. An additional 60-day moratorium was implemented to comply with Bayanihan 2. At least 5.5 million members benefited from these moratoriums.

The DHSUD also directed developers to provide a grace period for home buyers under their in-house financing during the period of the enhanced community quarantine.

The Department issued guidelines in the movement of deadlines and interruption of periods for compliance with requirements. Likewise, an Implementing Rules and Regulations was issued to provide uniform procedure for the grant of additional time of completion for projects whose development has been delayed or affected by the pandemic, including the imposition of community quarantines and emergency measures to contain the spread of the virus.

HDMF, on the other hand, expanded its Housing Finance Construction Loan Facility to P10 billion to assist its partner-developers, specially the small firms. To alleviate financial burden caused by the pandemic, HDMF or Pag-IBIG offered to its members short-term loans (STL). As of 18 December 2020, Pag-IBIG released a total of P37.71 billion for STL helping 1,686,559 members. Of these, 365,476 members availed of calamity loans in view of the pandemic with a total of P 4.74 billion. While 1,321,083 members availed of multi-purpose loans with a total of P29.97 billion.

Emphasizing the role of housing as an economic catalyst, DHSUD lobbied for the resumption of construction works in real estate, which was approved by the IATF in June 2020. This allowed more than 55,000 workers to return to work and caused the resumption of the construction of more than 400,000 housing units.



Construction works to rebuild the destroyed public infrastructure and facilities in Marawi City's Most Affected Area (MAA) have already started full blast at the start of July 2020 and are expected to be completed by December 2021.

The construction of the Maritime outpost started in May and was completed in July 2020. At the same time, the rehabilitation of the Banggolo Bridge that commenced in March 2019 was completed in September this year.

Among the public infrastructure that are ongoing implementation are the Grand Padian Central Market, a four-storey school building, fire station, new jail facility, and 15 barangay complexes each with a health center and madrasah.

Construction of a Peace Memorial Park, School of Living Tradition, and Marawi Museum are likewise ongoing to promote and ensure the harmonious integration of the Maranaw traditions and heritage with the ongoing modern structures being built. These developments are envisioned to elevate Marawi as an economic and tourism hub and a catalyst for growth and development, not only for Lanao del Sur but for the rest of the region.

The construction of the 24.026 kilometer road networks in MAA, with provision for utilities such as water, power and telecommunications have started in September 2020. The MAA road networks will connect with the Marawi Transcentral road networks outside MAA that are likewise ongoing rehabilitation and improvement.

This year, a total amount of P6,838,779,406 has been released to support the various rehabilitation efforts in Marawi City.

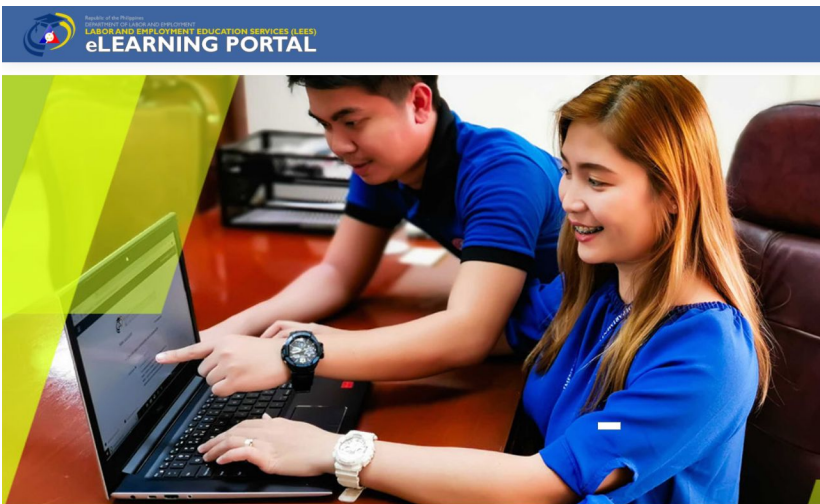
Recognizing the historical and key role of mosques in the spiritual and daily life of the Maranaws, Task Force Bangon Marawi has also mobilized various private development partners to rehabilitate the various mosques that include the Grand Mosque, Bato Mosque, and White Mosque.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) continues to assist our workforce, particularly those who were permanently or temporarily displaced from their work. This includes workers under the Balik-Manggagawa program who are unable to return to their workplace due to the pandemic.



The DOLE has issued Department Order No. 219-20 to provide guidelines on the implementation of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program under Bayanihan 2 as well as CAMP-Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) for affected Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).



In September 2020, the DOLE-Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) has institutionalized the Labor and Employment Education Services (LEES) e-Learning Portal which presently offers two free courses, the Basic Labor and Employment Education Course and the Comprehensive Course on Freedom of Association and Collective Bargaining.

Also in September, DOLE signed a memorandum of agreement with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) which will provide a total of P1 billion scholarship for college students who are dependents of repatriated, displaced, and deceased OFWs. Dubbed as “Tabang OFW,” the program entitles one college-level dependent of a repatriated, displaced, or deceased OFW to receive a one-time financial assistance of P30,000 to help augment their education expenses.

Source: DOLE

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers Affected by COVID-19



As of 13 December 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has facilitated the repatriation of 300,838 Overseas Filipinos—90,621 are seafarers and 210,217 are land-based OFWs.



As of 18 December 2020, the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) in NAIA Terminals 1, 2 and 3 have served a total of 438,158 OFWs, with 145,852 OFWs in Terminal 1, 171,377 in Terminal 2 and 120,929 in Terminal 3. The OSS assists OFWs in identifying possible isolation facilities where they may take their mandatory isolation until their quarantine certificates are released. As of the same date, the OSS has assisted 106,260 Overseas Filipinos (OFs)/tourists.

The OSS is a joint initiative of the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), Office for Transportation Security (OTS), Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ).



In October 2020, the DOLE launched the Free Bisikleta (FreeBis) project where an initial 850 bicycle units will be given to beneficiaries pre-selected by the local government units in Metro Manila. For the National Capital Region, the beneficiaries will be given bicycle units that they will use as delivery riders of partner companies such as Grab and LalaFood; while group beneficiaries will be assisted in their livelihood undertaking that will cater to the needs of bicycle commuters.

Sources: DFA, DOTr, DOLE



The tourism industry suffered immense losses in the year 2020 as the pandemic has forced the shutdown of the tourism sector. However, as soon as the economy was reopened, several tourism activities were gradually reopened through the concept of bubble tourism.

Among the tourist destinations that have reopened for local tourists are Baguio City, Boracay, Bohol, Coron, Cebu City, El Nido, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Lapu-Lapu City, Siargao, and Batangas.

With the reopening of the economy, the Department of Tourism (DOT) has done inspections and accreditation of tourism establishments. As of 22 December 2020, 7,507 accommodation establishments (AEs) have been issued Certificates of Authority to Operate (CAOs), with a combined capacity of 195,306 rooms.

The DOT also accredited 670 restaurants, 130 tourist/specialty shops, 1,970 travel and tours agencies, 49 tourism recreational facilities/centers, 2,023 tour guides, among others.

In cooperation with DOLE, the DOT has provided assistance to displaced workers in the tourism sector through the DOLE-DOT Joint Memorandum Circular No. 30 where a total of 616,000 displaced workers were covered by a budget of P3,100,000,000.



Part of DOT's efforts to revive the tourism industry together with the Tourism Promotions Board include a digital monitoring and contact tracing system called the Visitor Information and Travel Assistance or VIS.I.T.A platform in the Ridge and Reef Travel Corridor of Region 1 and Baguio City, a tourism app named Travel Philippines, which provides access to travel advisories and safety guidelines in destinations, subsidized RT-PCR tests, and the launch of its "Have A Safe Trip, Pilipinas" campaign to showcase travelling in the new normal.

Source: DOT

Despite the pandemic, the Philippines was still recognized as Asia's leading beach destination, the World's leading Dive Destination, and Intramuros as the World's Leading Tourist Attraction in the 2020 World Travel Awards. The same award-giving body also declared the DOT as this year's leading tourism board in Asia.

BIG WINS FOR THE PHILIPPINES!





The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) , through its regional office in CALABARZON, has formed composite teams to investigate quarry operations in Rizal following a massive flooding that submerged some parts of the province and Marikina City during the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020.



The DENR is also prioritizing the planting of bamboo trees on the banks of Cagayan River to help prevent a repeat of the deadly Ulysses floods.

Task Force Build Back Better

President Duterte signed on 18 November 2020, Executive Order No. 120 creating the Build Back Better Task Force to ensure post disaster rehabilitation and recovery efforts of typhoon-hit areas, beginning with those ravaged by typhoons Rolly and Ulysses. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) were tasked to jointly lead the task force.

During the 49th Cabinet meeting, PRRD and his cabinet approved the plans of the Task Force Build Back Better (TFBBB) on flood mitigation and management in Cagayan Province and Marikina City, that include the widening of the Magapit Narrows in the Cagayan River and the removal of illegal structures along the Marikina River.

SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Aside from its role in the subsidy programs for COVID-19, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also provided assistance to those affected by the recent typhoons that affected various parts of the country.

As of 4 December 2020, the DSWD has already extended over P208-million worth of relief supplies as augmentation to support localities battered by the recent typhoons that hit the country in the last quarter of 2020:



Typhoon Quinta: P5.4 million to over 205,000 families last October for Regions CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, VI, and VII.



Typhoon Rolly: P85.2 million, of which P64.2 million was given to Bicol Region, which suffered the most damage from typhoon Rolly in the provinces of Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Albay.



Typhoon Ulysses: P117.8 million was released to address the needs of families affected in Regions I, II, III, CALABARZON, V, National Capital Region, and Cordillera Administrative Region.

Source: DSWD

BAYANIHAN TO HEAL AS ONE ACT

Financial Assistance and other COVID-19 Response

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11469

Republic Act No. 11469, the Bayanihan To Heal As One Act or the Bayanihan Act, was enacted in March 2020 to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

As of 30 June 2020, the Department of Budget and Management has released P374.9 billion to cover the government's COVID-19 response such as emergency assistance to vulnerable groups and individuals, wage subsidy measures, and assistance to displaced workers, among others.

Agency	Program	Amount Disbursed	Number of Beneficiaries
DSWD	SAP Tranche 1	P99,804,736,350 as of 31 July 2020	17,651,985
	SAP Tranche 2	P85.1-B as of 3 Dec 2020	14,289,997
	LSIs	P31,245,153.00 as of 31 July 2020	12,782
DOF	Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) Tranches 1 and 2	P46,000,000,000	3,101,685
DOLE	CAMP	P3,286,005,000 as of 8 July 2020	657,201
	CAMP-AKAP	P2,030,330,000 as of 12 July 2020	198,466
	TUPAD-BK BK	P1,263,984,262 as of 12 June 2020	337,198

Sources:
Bayanihan 1 14th Report as of 29 June 2020
DSWD Official FB Page Social Cards on SAP
DOF update as of 26 December 2020

BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11494



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed into law the Bayanihan II or the Bayanihan to Recover As One Act on 11 September 2020.

The Republic Act No. 11494 or Bayanihan II is considered crucial in our efforts to gradually reopen the economy, support businesses, and revitalize growth as we make our country resilient to COVID-19 by strengthening our health sector, particularly our healthcare capacity and pandemic response.

Agriculture

For the Expanded SURE-Aid and Recovery Project (SURE COVID-19), the Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), has released a total credit fund of P1.465 billion to 32 partner lending conduits (PLCs) out of the P2.5 billion total funding. The Expanded SURE-Aid and Recovery Project is the provision of zero-interest loans to small farmers and fishers and micro and small entrepreneurs.

The Cash and Food Subsidy for Marginal Farmers and Fishers (CFSMFF) is provided to eligible marginalized farmers and fisherfolks amounting to P5,000 per beneficiary with P3,000 provided in the form of cash assistance and P2,000 given in kind (as food such as rice, chicken, egg, etc.). As of 28 December 2020, it has served 51,064 beneficiaries for cash subsidy and 44,479 beneficiaries for food subsidy.

Source: DA



Transportation

Service Contracting Program

In order to provide assistance to public transportation drivers displaced by the pandemic, the government pays the drivers a performance-based subsidy based on the vehicle-kilometer travelled within 9 hours per day. According to the Department of Transportation (DOTr), as of 7 December 2020, a total of 152 drivers have been on-boarded and monitored; an additional 1,500 drivers were out-boarded on the same date. A total of 1,838 drivers from various regions and 7,000 drivers from Metro Manila have been oriented and trained on the service contracting program.





Labor

SAP for the Labor Sector

On 28 October 2020, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued Department Order (DO) No. 218-20 which provided guidelines on the implementation of the COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) under Bayanihan 2. It is a one-time financial support of P5,000 to the affected workers of formal sector. Likewise, displaced workers in the tourism sector and education sector will be given assistance.

DOLE also issued DO No. 219-20 which provided guidelines on the implementation of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program under Bayanihan 2 as well as CAMP-Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) for affected overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who were permanently or temporarily displaced from their work, including those under the Balik-Manggagawa program who were unable to return to their workplace due to the pandemic.

The DOLE reported that as of December 2020 more than 93% of the P16-billion allocation for the assistance to workers in the formal and informal sectors, including OFWs, has been downloaded to DOLE regional and overseas offices in the run up to the expiration of Bayanihan 2.

Of the said release, P7.4 billion was allocated for COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP).

Meanwhile, a total of P4.9 billion was allocated for Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program.

A total of P1.8 billion financial aid was also allocated for OFWs who were repatriated and who are onsite.

P132 million was allotted for the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) or Kabuhayan Program.

Source: DOLE

BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT



DSWD Emergency Subsidy Program

For the Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP), as of 20 December 2020, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has disbursed a total of P104.7 million to 19,289 beneficiaries in granular lockdown, while a total of P1.1 billion was given to 169,829 additional beneficiaries.

DBM Issuances

To boost the capacity of Local Government Units (LGUs) in immediately responding to the COVID-19 emergency, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) issued Local Budget Circulars (LBC) No. 125 and 126 pursuant to the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act which provide guidelines on the release and utilization of Bayanihan grants to cities, municipalities, and provinces. The Bayanihan grant, with a total allotment of P1.5 billion can be exclusively used by the LGUs for their respective COVID-19 related initiatives and expenses such as the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPEs), COVID-19 testing kits, medicines, vitamins, among others.

Said LBCs also ensure budget transparency by requiring recipient LGUs to prepare and publicly disclose monthly reports on the implementation status of COVID-19 programs and its corresponding fund utilization.



Pursuant to the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, the DBM issued Local Budget Circular No. 128 on 17 September 2020, which provides guidelines on the release and utilization of an additional P1.5 billion allocation under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF). The LGUs can tap this fund for their respective Anti-COVID-19 efforts such as the procurement of PPEs and COVID-19 testing kits, provision of food assistance and other COVID-19 related PPAs and expenses. The LBC also outlines the documentary requirements and the mode of release to beneficiary LGUs.



On 22 October 2020, the DOH and the DBM published Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001, providing for implementing guidelines in the grant of COVID-19 compensation to public and private health workers. As of 22 October 2020, 449 claims for mild and moderate COVID-19 cases are being processed.

Sources: DSWD, DBM



IV. GOOD GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE, PEACE AND SECURITY

AFP MODERNIZATION



On 10 July 2020, BRP Jose Rizal (FF150) formally entered service with the Philippine Navy in a commissioning ceremony held at the Alava Wharf, in Subic Bay, Zambales. BRP Jose Rizal is a brand new, four-dimensional warfare-capable frigate that is capable of carrying-out anti-air, anti-surface, anti-submarine, and electronic warfare operations.



In November 2020, the Department of National Defense (DND) acquired five of the 16 Polish-made Sikorsky S-70i Black Hawk combat utility helicopters for the Philippine Air Force (PAF). More recently, on 27 November 2020, the 6th black hawk arrived. The procurement project, which had a contract price of P11.6 billion, is part of the Horizon 2 of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program (AFPMP).

On 10 December 2020, the Secretary of National Defense led the acceptance, turn-over and blessing ceremony of six S70i Black Hawk Combat Utility Helicopters.



Source: DND

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME AND ILLEGAL DRUGS



Gallup 2020 Global Law and Order Report: The Philippines is considered as among the safest countries in the world in terms of confidence in the police and law enforcement. Based on the survey's results released on 27 October, eight of 10 Filipinos surveyed feel secure in their community which placed the Philippines in the top 50 list of the report with a score of 84, along with Australia, New Zealand, Poland, and Serbia.

- From 17 March to 25 October 2020, all 8 focus crimes within 223 days of the community quarantine period have declined by 46 percent or 17, 974 reported crime incidents, according to the Joint Task Force COVID Shield.

#RealNumbersPH (as of 1 July 2016 – 30 November 2020)

Value of seized drugs, CPECs and Laboratory Equipment

- Total value: P56.67 billion
- Total value of shabu seized: P46.76 billion - 7,462.90 kgs
 - Cocaine: 523.43 kgs
 - Ecstasy: 85,089.00 pcs
 - Marijuana: 3,700.59 kgs

Dismantled dens and clandestine laboratories

- 639 dens
- 17 clandestine laboratories
- 656 total number of dismantled dens and clandestine laboratories

Drug-cleared barangays

- Drug cleared barangays: 20,700

PNP Internal Cleansing Program

- From July 2016 to 17 December 2020, the PNP Internal Cleansing Program has penalized a total of 16,839 personnel. Administrative penalties for erring cops include dismissal from service, demotion, suspension, forfeiture of salary, withholding of privileges, among others.

Sources: PNP, PDEA, #RealNumbersPH

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

The Department of Justice (DOJ) led the Task Force PhilHealth that investigated the alleged corruption activities within the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. or PhilHealth, following President Duterte's orders to clear the state health insurer of corrupt officials and personnel. The DOJ submitted the results of its findings to the President in September 2020.



Through a Memorandum dated 27 October 2020, the DOJ was once again directed by the Chief Executive to investigate corruption allegations in the entire government. The Memorandum granted the DOJ authority to decide which allegations to investigate, and the discretion to create as many panels as it deems necessary to conduct the investigations.

Further reinforcing the Administration's drive for good governance, the Office of the President has launched Text 8888 in November 2020. The public can now text 8888 from Globe and Smart to raise their concerns, complaints, and grievances on graft and corruption practices by government officials and employees, as well as report slow and inefficient delivery of government services and requests for government assistance.



8888 SMS
text service platform



Messages sent to 8888 from both Globe and Smart and their affiliate telcos are **free of charge**. Subscribers just need to have at least one peso load.

Source: DOJ



V. INFORMATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMUNICATION

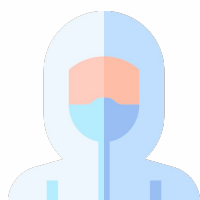
The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) continues to lead the country in terms of advancements in science, technology, and innovation. A proof of this is the rise in the Philippines' ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 to rank 50th among 131 economies. The Philippines moved four notches from 54th in 2019 and scaled up by 23 steps from its 73rd ranking in 2018. According to GI 2020 report, the Philippines performed on innovation above expectations for its level of economic development for the second consecutive year.



In terms of COVID-19 response, the DOST is the lead agency of the IATF sub-Technical Working Group on Vaccine Development that worked on vaccine development related activities, including the preparation for the conduct of COVID-19 vaccine phase 3 clinical trials in the country. The DOST is also involved in the identification, evaluation, and recommendation of possible vaccine candidates for the Philippines.



The DOST is at the forefront of research and development to assist in the government's response to the pandemic. The Department spearheads the WHO Solidarity Trials on Vaccines and Therapeutics. It supported the development of GenAmplify, the first Filipino-made rt-PCR detection kit and FASSSTER or Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler, a web-based disease modelling and surveillance platform for projecting the future course of COVID-19 infections. In terms of local clinical trials, the DOST is funding and monitoring the conduct of trials on virgin coconut oil, melatonin, lagundi, tawa-tawa, and convalescent plasma as supplementary treatments for COVID-19.



Also ongoing are the design, development and production of PPEs, medical devices and accessories such as ventilators, specimen collection booths; thermal scanners; reuseable, washable and wearable face masks; 3-D printed venturi valves, ear loop holders, filter attachment for oxygen concentrator masks, among others. COVID-19 behavior studies, ICT and/or artificial intelligence-driven models and applications for logistics and other purposes also received DOST support for their development.

The DOST also launched new programs to explore economic opportunities in science and innovation. Among these are the Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly the Philippines (iFWD PH) that help repatriated overseas Filipino workers establish their own technology-based businesses and Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based (iSTART) development program that guide investors in setting up shop in identified new growth areas in the country.

The Department also advocates for the establishment of the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) to serve as the country's premier research center in the field of virology, encompassing all areas in viruses and viral diseases in humans, plants, and animals.

Source: DOST

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) is mandated by Republic Act (RA) No. 10844 to be the primary, policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the Executive Branch of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national ICT development agenda of the country. The promotion of the ICT development in the Philippines has increased significantly, as we continue the fight against COVID-19. It has forced us to migrate our services and resources online or to put it simply, we have become digital. It has also forged strong inter-agency collaborations in order to adapt to the demands of the new normal.

The DICT has developed and implemented programs in order to strengthen the ICT development of the country. This year, the Department, along with various government agencies/offices, has also implemented diverse programs to address the pressing concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the DICT programs are as follows:

National Broadband Program (NBP)

The National Broadband Program (NBP) is the government's blueprint in deploying broadband connectivity to reach unserved and underserved areas, or the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) of the country, where services of private telecommunications companies are limited. The DICT has successfully tested 158 dark fiber segments and lighted up 124 nodes of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP). It is also improving the government interconnectivity with the Philippine Government Network (GovNet), which provides government offices with high-speed broadband connection linked to a secure data center, allowing the processing and transfer of sizeable data for more efficient public services. Presently, 792 agencies in 13 GovNet sites have been connected.



Free WiFi for All Program (FW4A)

Republic Act (RA) No. 10929, also known as the Free Internet Access in Public Places Act, authorizes the DICT to be the lead implementing agency that will oversee the provision of free Internet service in public areas in the country especially in the underserved and unserved areas. The Free WiFi for All (FW4A) Program aims to cover the Internet connectivity of the national and local government offices, schools, hospitals, parks, plazas, libraries, airports, seaports, terminals, health centers, among others. A total of 7,386 sites were implemented in 2020, where more than 2,000 sites were allocated to Government Hospitals and Rural Health Units (including Quarantine Facilities), and more than 2,200 sites were allocated to public schools, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and TESDA institutions.

Source: DICT

Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project

The Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Project provides critical e-government and ICT-enabled services in communities with minimal or no access to information and government services. The Tech4ED was the government's response to the World Summit on Information Society Plan of Action of which the Philippines was a signatory which states that "Governments and other stakeholders should establish multi-purpose community public access points, providing affordable or free-of-charge access for their citizens to the various communication resources, notably the internet." Currently, there are a total of 4,544 Tech4ED centers covering 81 provinces nationwide. The Tech4ED conducted five virtual conferences with a total of 3,969 participants.



Government Emergency Communications System (GECS)

The Government Emergency Communications System (GECS) provides an enhanced level of public safety by providing early advisories and warning before the onset of an emergency or disaster. It also provides services to affected communities to come up with better response and coordination with local emergency service providers in order to use this information during the rehabilitation of the affected community. The DICT partnered with the UN World Food Program (WFP) for the establishment of the Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency (MOVE) and conduct emergency awareness campaigns. The DICT has started information caravans and communication exercises in the four deployment sites of the GECS-MOVE in Baguio City, Cebu City, Cagayan de Oro, and Davao.

Common Tower Initiative

The DICT has issued the Department Circular No. 008, series of 2020 which establishes the Policy Guidelines on Co-Location and Sharing of Passive Telecommunications Tower Infrastructure (PTTI). Shortly after the issuance of the Policy on Shared PTTIs, Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, series of 2020, was issued. The objective of the JMC is to streamline requirements and reduce procedural delays in securing necessary permits, licenses, clearances, certificates, and other requirements in constructing shared PTTIs or common towers. The DICT recently launched its online portal for common tower registration (<https://commontower.gov.ph/>) where telecommunication companies can see the requirements and register as an Independent Tower Company (ITC). A total of 4,644 construction permits were issued from July to November 2020 and the total number of existing towers is 22,405.

Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI)

The Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure (PNPKI) aims to secure government online transactions through the implementation of digital certificates for signing email and documents. The key benefits of digital certificates are confidentiality, integrity, authenticity, security, and non-repudiation. The DICT has more than 3,000 subscribers nationwide, more than 50% of which is allocated to national government agencies (NGAs) and their attached agencies.

Source: DICT

Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS) Project

The Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS) project aims to provide an ICT solution that enhances the delivery of services by the Local Government Units (LGUs). It integrates three more frontline services/systems of LGUs which are related to the issuance of business permits and licenses. The iBPLS develops, maintains, and implements the application system that would help the LGUs expedite the processing and issuance of business permit, building permit, certificate of occupancy and barangay clearance. As of November 2020, 159 LGUs have already been provisioned with the iBPLS-cloud in support of enabling the Ease of Doing Business.

Central Business Portal (CBP)

The Republic Act (RA) No. 11032, otherwise known as the “Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018” mandates all government agencies and offices to simplify its requirements and procedures to reduce red tape and expedite business and non-business related transactions in the government. As a response, the DICT developed the Central Business Portal (CBP). It is a central system to streamline the business processes in the government. It receives application and capture application data involving business-related transactions and shall provide links to the online registration or application systems established by national government agencies (NGAs). The planned national launch in early 2021 will train over 150 participants from the concerned agencies. The objective of the training is to ensure that all agencies will be able to support business applicants in their respective regional offices.

Contactless Payments in Tollways

Efforts have been made to make payments in tollways contactless to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Frontliners and authorized personnel can now flash their unique QR codes, reducing unnecessary physical contact. As of October 2020, more than 700,000 registrations were received by the DICT of which 95% were approved.

Supply Chain Management (SCM):

The Supply Chain Management (SCM) aims to manage the distribution of procured and donated medicines, medical equipment and supplies, from local and foreign countries, that are intended to address the COVID-19 pandemic. It tracks the inventory and effectively allocates donations to receiving entities. It provides transparency and accountability on how the donations are distributed through real time generation of reports. This project was in collaboration with the Office of the Civil Defense (OCD).



The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) used its regulatory mandate to act on the order of President Duterte in July for the country's telecommunications companies to improve their services. In coordination with other relevant government agencies, local government units, and with the telcos, the NTC reported that from July to November 2020, the average monthly construction permits issued to Globe has increased to 590 percent, while for Smart, the increase was 190 percent. This has brought the total number of construction permits issued to telcos to 4,644 from July to November this year that resulted to an additional 2,510 new towers and physical sites built by the telcos in the same period.

Sources: DICT, NTC

MEDIA AND INFORMATION



The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) continues with its Laging Handa press briefings by providing 24/7 essential information and public service announcements on the government's COVID-19 response efforts, among other relevant public issues.



The Mindanao Media Hub (MMH) in Davao City officially opened. It now serves as the government's main broadcast hub for regions 10 to 13 and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). It aired its first television broadcast on 5 December 2020.



The MMH building houses the People's Television, Radyo Pilipinas, News and Information Bureau - Philippine News Agency, the Philippine Information Agency, National Printing Office, APO Production Unit, and other attached agencies of the PCOO.

Source: PCOO

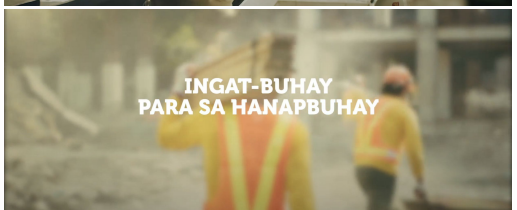
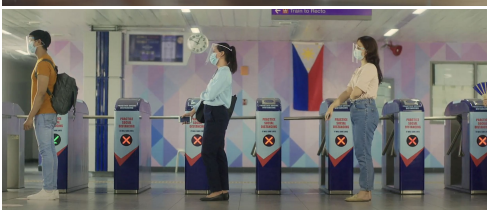
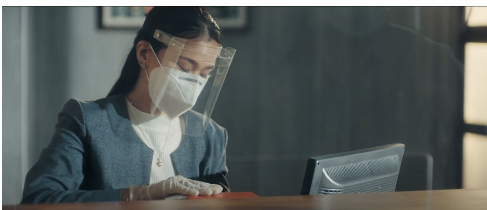
MEDIA AND INFORMATION



In line with the government's efforts to keep the public up-to-date with timely and accurate information especially during calamities and this pandemic, the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson (OPS) held press briefings at the New Executive Building and remotely, especially during the series of devastating typhoons to help bring immediate assistance to areas, families, and individuals in need.



The OPS spearheads the strategic communications for the COVID-19 response and has actively promoted the wearing of mask, washing of hands, and social distancing in its regular press briefings, including the “Ingat Buhay Para sa Hanapbuhay” and the President’s “Mask, Hugas, Iwas” campaign.



Source: OPS



CONCLUSION

Ten months since COVID-19 surfaced in the Philippines means we must learn to live with the virus, especially now that we know more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how to avoid it.


The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' latest survey on consumer outlook and business sentiment sends a positive view of the country's economic recovery in 2021. This is rooted in Filipinos' hope for an end to the pandemic as vaccines are expected to be available, thereby raising possibilities of more available jobs and higher income for family members.

The road to recovery will be upon us soon as the earliest roll out of a vaccine is expected in the first quarter next year, per the Philippine National Vaccine Roadmap. Geographical and sectoral priorities have already been identified, negotiations and discussions with vaccine manufacturers are ongoing, and tripartite agreements with the government, the private sector, and allied governments are now rolling.


With this first batch of the vaccine expected to reach the country early next year, and the improved capacities of our medical and healthcare workers in dealing with the virus, the national government is hopeful that more industries will be opened next year, thereby paving the way for a revival of the economy.

As we address the challenges of COVID-19 let us not lose sight of our medium and long-term goals of returning to the path of growth and development.

Together and united, let us make the Year 2021 a year of healing, recovery, and of bouncing back.



We thank the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Tourism, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Telecommunications Commission, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Justice, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, Philippine National Police, Department of National Defense, Task Force Bangon Marawi, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and Presidential Communications Operations Office.





DECEMBER 2020