

**Office of the President
of the Philippines
Malacañang**

30 March 2020

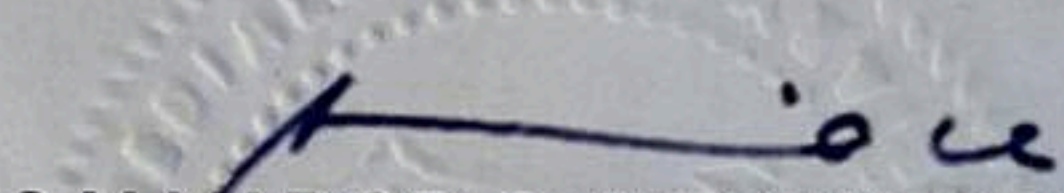
SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

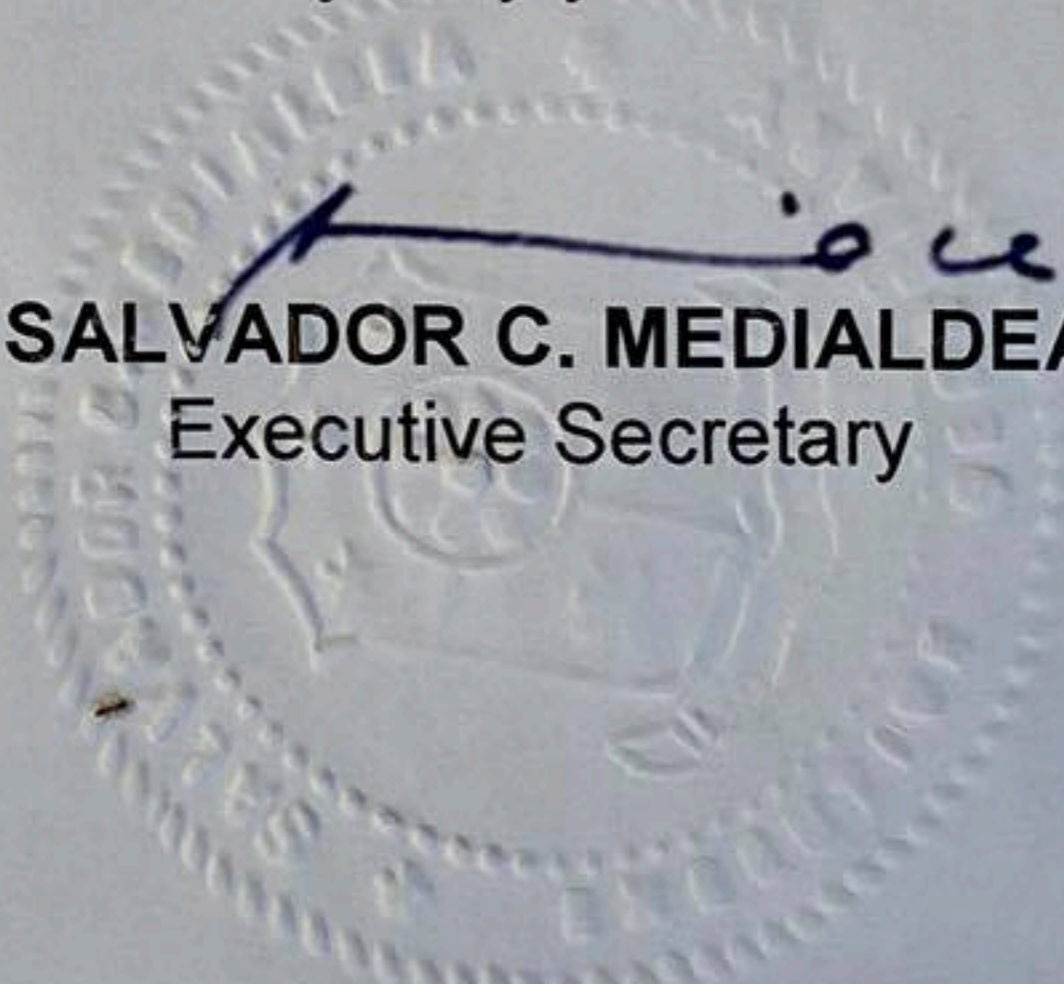
Mr. Senate President:

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

Best regards.

Very truly yours,



SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
Executive Secretary



Copy furnished:

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

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



**REPORT TO THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11469, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BAYANIHAN
TO HEAL AS ONE ACT**

30 MARCH 2020

The *Bayanihan to Heal as One Act* took effect on 26 March 2020 immediately following its publication in the Manila Bulletin.

All but two (2) of the powers granted to the President under said Act have been delegated to specific officials, clearly laying down their responsibilities. The President has given them their marching orders, emphasizing the need for expediency and giving them sufficient authority, so that they do not have to go back to the Office of the President and ask for clearance for each and every action they will take. To assure the public of the restrained and responsible exercise of the powers granted to the President, he reserved the two (2) powers that have the gravest potential impact on the private sector, if done without utmost care. One is the power to direct the operation of specified private establishments or to take over their operations in very specific conditions. The other is the power to require businesses to prioritize contracts for materials and services necessary for this crisis. The President will exercise these powers only when absolutely necessary.

The government continues to take action and undertake several key measures to overcome and recover from the effects of this pandemic. These measures have three main priorities namely: (1) Providing Emergency Assistance to Affected Sectors, (2) Securing Facilities and Resources for the Health Sector and (3) Performing Fiscal and Monetary Actions for the Economy.

Specifically, the following have been done by our government in the exercise of the powers granted to the President under the Act:

Section 4(a) authorizes the President to adopt and implement measures to suppress further transmission and spread of COVID-19 through effective education, detection, protection and treatment.

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) continues to protect our borders through measures adopted to prevent or suppress further transmission of COVID-19, which include immigration formalities for passengers arriving from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy. Prior to the approval of the Act, the BI has issued several memoranda on travel restrictions pursuant to the directives reflected under Resolution Nos. 4, 5, 9, and 11 (s. 2020) of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID), the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary on the Community Quarantine over Entire Luzon dated 16 March 2020, and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Foreign Service Circular No. 29-2020.

As early as 20 March 2020, all Bureau of Jail, Management and Penology jail facilities nationwide have been placed in total lockdown and visitation of privileges of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were temporarily suspended. Alternatives to physical visitation were adopted such as E-Dalaw where the PDLs may communicate with their family members through regulated phone calls and video conferencing. Avoidance of mass congregation activities have been strictly observed. Further, disinfection of jail cells, "no mask no entry" policies, among others, have been implemented. The Jail Bureau incurred a total of PhP47,363,816.47 for procurement of medicines, PPEs, and operational expenses for digital conferencing on jail monitoring.

The DFA has maintained its close links with the World Health Organization (WHO) and foreign governments to ensure timely exchange of critical information, such as status of Filipino nationals affected by COVID-19 pandemic, provision of the necessary assistance and facilitation of their safe repatriation. To date, the DFA was able to assist in the repatriation of 1,806 Filipinos. Currently, the DFA is closely coordinating with various Foreign Service Posts on the repatriation of at least 4,600 Filipinos for the next two (2) weeks.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has activated the National and Regional Emergency Operations Centers which is tasked to facilitate the coordination of operating units and partner agencies, as well as monitor Local Government Units (LGUs) compliance to the directives issued by the National Government on the handling of COVID-19 cases. Additionally, the DILG has been actively engaged in the utilization of various information, education and communications platform to help explain, clarify, and answer the complaints of the public relative the implementation of enhanced community quarantine.

DILG also ordered our law enforcement agencies to intensify its operations to ensure peace and order and public safety, as well the adoption of preventive and self-protection measures against the COVID-19. Through its Bureau of Local Government Supervision, the DILG has issued two (2) Memorandum Circulars (MC) guiding local government units in implementing the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon, as well as the management of human remains for COVID-19 cases. The DILG has also issued several Advisory Opinions on the unrestricted movement of food supply during the State of Public Health Emergency and the movement of cargo and business personnel operating during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

The Philippine National Police (PNP), together with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) created a National Joint Task Force Corona Virus Shield (JTF CV SHIELD) which establishes a collaborative effort among the aforementioned agencies in addressing the effects of COVID-19 in the country.

A Joint Implementing Directive has been issued containing the operational guidelines for the united effort of the law and order agencies in addressing the effects of COVID-19, specifically on the establishment of strategic quarantine control point and

protocols to be implemented on the unhampered movement of cargoes and essential personnel, among others. A sub-task force on air, land, and water has been created to complement the joint effort in ensuring public safety and security.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA) has issued several policy guidelines and directives on the management of COVID-19, as well as updates on restrictions imposed by countries for the guidance of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and other stakeholders. As of 30 March 2020, the POEA has issued twenty-eight (28) Advisories and five (5) MCs relative the following: (a) information and advice of Countries on COVID -19; (b) Advice for international travel and trade by the WHO; (c) advice on restrictions and deployment of returning workers in countries affected by COVID-19; (d) guidelines on POEA transactions and OFW arrivals and departures during the enhance community quarantine; and (e) monitoring and assistance of OFWs affected by COVID-19. The POEA has also been actively engaged in information dissemination by utilizing the various information and communications platform to help explain and answer the queries of various stakeholders on matters concerning the welfare and employment of OFWs.

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), along with its attached agencies, has employed communication strategies such as virtual pressers, TV and radio specials, social media cards and infographics, short video and audio materials/public service announcements, outdoor advertising, and news and feature articles to promote public awareness and understanding concerning the COVID-19 situation of the country.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has facilitated requests for transportation and provision of testing kits, personal protective equipment (PPEs), and other medical supplies to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and its provincial local government units; provided updated information on the status of COVID-19 threat in the BARMM as well as the state of health facilities in Mindanao; and facilitated relief assistance in the region during the implementation of the ECQ.

To help unburden hospitals that are now at their full capacities, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) is studying the deployment of "floating quarantine hospitals" on ships fitted with the required medical equipment to different parts of the country to accommodate Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs), or those with travel history to affected areas, and those who exhibit any symptoms but have no history of exposure.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), through its field units, assisted in providing disinfection and sanitation services for vehicles traversing national highways, and public establishments and places, through installed sanitation tents and gantry facilities. Three hundred thirty-six (336) decontamination tents and seventy-six (76) gantries were installed, while four hundred fifteen (415) convergence areas such as checkpoints, government facilities, schools, hospitals, and markets were decontaminated. The DPWH also provided support to hospitals by (1) sending

designated technical personnel to assist in the assessment of needed facilities in the Philippine General Hospital and (2) providing eighteen thousand (18,000) surgical masks to three major hospitals dealing with COVID-19.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) provided assistance to the Department of Health (DOH) by (1) extending the communications dispatch capabilities of the DOH central dispatch team and various DOH Hospitals within the National Capital Region (NCR) by providing the DOH with LTE Push to Talk over Cellular Radios and centralized POC Emergency Radio dispatch system to streamline the logistical operations of the DOH and the DOH Ambulances to COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patient referral; (2) assisting in the design and implementation of internal Executive Information Dashboards which would assist DOH decision makers in the performance of their functions (Project Health Alert Watch for Community Emergencies or HAWC-Eye); (3) providing technical assistance for the DOH Call Center Expansion and DOH Telemedicine initiative; and (4) exploring and drafting protocols for digital solution to track the steps of COVID-19 positive patients and augment the DOH Epidemiology Bureau's data gathering and disease surveillance and response functions compliant with cybersecurity and privacy laws, rules and regulations. It also launched the Laging Handa website, together with the Presidential Communications Operations Office, to provide reliable government information regarding Covid-19 and facilitate effective education of the public.

The DPWH created a task force to facilitate the conversion and utilization of different public buildings and evacuation centers as health facilities and emergency operation centers or food hubs. In this regard, the DPWH Task Force has prepared the conversion of one hundred ten (110) evacuation centers, out of which nineteen (19) are now being utilized as health facilities, while fifteen (15) are used as emergency operation centers or food hubs. It is also looking into the conversion of public buildings and open spaces to establish treatment facilities and isolation centers, and the installation of prototype tents for such purpose. The DPWH also assisted the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the establishment of isolation areas in Sibakel, Lantawan, Basilan for quarantine of returning Filipinos from Sabah and Malaysia.

To ensure the proper and sanitary disposal of COVID-19 wastes, the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) has issued ninety (90) special permits to transport pathological and infectious wastes to augment the capacity of thirty-two treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) facilities nationwide.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has launched a public information drive, through the social media, on (i) proper nutrition during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) and (ii) dispelling fake news on food that supposedly heals COVID-19.

The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) entered into an agreement with the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) for the use of TransCo dormitory facilities

located at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani grounds to house the health workers of LCP, or serve as a quarantine area;

Section 4 (b) authorizes the President to expedite and streamline the accreditation of testing kits and facilitate prompt testing by public and designated private institutions of PUIs and PUMs, and the compulsory and immediate isolation and treatment of patients.

The DOST did the following:

- ₱53.2 Million funding for the GenAmplify™ CoronaVirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) rRT-PCR Detection Kit, or the vaccine that is being locally developed by the University of the Philippines (UP) – National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Manila HealthTek Inc. The field validation for the COVID-19 testing kits is ongoing and is expected to be finished by Wednesday, 01 April 2020. From 04 to 25 April 2020, there will be a field implementation for the 26,000 tests funded under the Project, for distribution to five (5) hospitals that can do the testing.²
- Enhancement of the Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance Using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler (FASSSTER) for Early Detection of Diseases, in partnership with the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), an application for visualizing spread of diseases and outbreaks, using data from the Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSR) system, Electronic Medical Records, and SMS-based reports of primary care facilities.
- A study on the Clinical Characteristics and Transmission Patterns of COVID-19 in Confirmed Cases and their Contacts in the Philippines, which will be implemented by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), and aims to determine the transmission patterns of COVID-19 to help prevent its further spread and support the Department of Health (DOH) in crafting policies for the containment and prevention of COVID-19.
- The In-vitro Study on the Efficacy of Lauric Acid and its Derivatives against SARS-CoV-2, in partnership with ADMU, which aims to test whether certain coconut oil components can diminish or prevent the infectivity of SARS-CoV2, the causative virus of COVID-19.
- Production of 500,000 re-useable, washable and re-wearable facial masks as protective face wear by DOST- Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI) in cooperation with the local government of Taytay and the private sector.
- Study on the use of RxBox for telemetry monitoring of COVID-19 cases at the Philippine General Hospital, with the team from UP-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH), UP Diliman Electrical and Electronics Engineering

² Philippine General Hospital, Makati Medical Center, The Medical City, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Southern Philippines Medical Center, and Baguio General Hospital

Institute (UP-EEEI), UP Manila National Telehealth Center (UP-NTHC), and IONICS EMS, Inc.

Section 4(c) authorizes the President to provide an emergency subsidy to low income households.

IATF-EID approved the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) for the implementation guidelines of the Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP) on 28 March 2020. The JMC serves as a guide to streamline social amelioration programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA), and LGUs, among others, to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. The ESP includes the provision of cash or non-cash subsidy for low-income household beneficiaries amounting from PhP5,000.00 to 8,000.00 per month for 2 months.

The DOF will provide technical assistance to the DSWD in forming a consolidated database that will host COVID-19 social amelioration programs. The database will be derived from existing beneficiary lists submitted by government agencies and LGUs, and will be used to determine the subsidy amounts for household beneficiaries.

The DOF is also working with the IATF-Technical Working Group for the submission of the budget augmentation requests to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), mapping of household beneficiaries based on the consolidated database, and finalization of the operational guidelines for the ESP implementation, to be rolled out on 01 April 2020.

On 25-26 March 2020, 8,641 beneficiaries received payment of P5,000.00 financial assistance under DOLE – Covid 19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP). For the DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program, a beneficiary works for a ten (10) -day disinfection/sanitation of his/her house and its vicinity to be paid pursuant to the prevailing regional daily minimum wage. The current total number of beneficiaries is 51,293. The payout shall be made in batches--30 March 2020, 06 April 2020 and 07 April 2020. As of date, the total amount disbursed for CAMP and TUPAD is Php95,430,782.00.

Section 4(d) authorizes the President to provide special risk allowance to the health workers in addition to hazard pay.

The DBM is currently drafting an executive issuance to cover the COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance for all public health workers, in addition to the hazard pay granted under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers. The DBM has also issued Budget Circular No 2020-1 dated 24 March 2020 to guide the implementation of Administrative Order No. 26 (s. 2020) on the grant of the COVID-19 Hazard Pay to government employees and workers engaged through contract of service or job order

basis, who physically report for work during the implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine.

Section 4(g) authorizes the President to ensure that all LGUs are acting within the letter and spirit of all the rules, regulations and directives issued by the National Government pursuant to RA No. 11469, including the implementation of the community quarantine.

The NBI is investigating and filing charges against local government officials who willfully disregard, contravene, or violate national guidelines on community quarantine set by the IATF-EID.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has issued guidelines and drafted a pro-forma agreement for the use of SUC facilities as quarantine centers;

The Department of Education (DepEd) has issued guidelines to ensure observance by LGUs of proper standards in the use of school facilities as quarantine areas and other purposes;

Section 4(g) also authorizes the President to authorize all LGUs to utilize more than five percent (5%) of the amount allocated for their calamity fund subject to additional funding and support from the National Government.

Local Budget Circular (LBC) No. 124 has been issued last 26 March 2020 which provides policy guidelines on the provision of funds by LGUs for P/A/Ps to address the COVID-19 situation. JMC No. 01 dated 27 March 2020 was also issued by the DBM and the DILG which provides additional guidelines on the utilization of the 20% of the Annual Internal Revenue Allotment for Development Projects in view of the COVID-19 situation.

Section 4(h) authorizes the President to direct the operation of any privately-owned hospitals, medical and health facilities, and other establishments, to house health workers, serve as quarantine areas, quarantine centers, medical relief and aid distribution locations, or other temporary medical facilities

The DPWH Task Force is preparing an inventory of privately owned properties to be recommended as temporary facility to be used as isolation and treatment center.

Section 4(i) empowered the President to continue to enforce measures to protect the people from pernicious practices affecting the supply, distribution and movement of food, clothing, hygiene and sanitation products, medicine and medical supplies, fuel, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements, machinery equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and other essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether imported or locally produced or manufactured.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has issued Joint MC No. 2020-01 and MC No. 2020-07 to ensure compliance with the Price Act and Consumer Act, especially on automatic price control until 15 May 2020 and provisions against hoarding, panic buying and profiteering. The DTI and Department of Agriculture (DA) have conducted a joint market inspection to ensure compliance with the mandatory price freeze on all basic necessities. DTI also launched a Campaign against hoarding and profiteering through a Task Force composed of DTI, PNP-CIDG and NBI. A total of 36 nationwide operations from 19 until 28 of March 2020 led to 59 persons arrested.

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is continuing its law enforcement operations against persons who are either hoarding or profiteering from articles of prime necessity during the state of public health emergency.

The DA, together with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Health, has reactivated the Local Price Coordinating Councils nationwide to monitor prices and enforce price freeze.

The DPWH deployed four hundred two (402) vehicles nationwide to serve as transportation services to frontliners and health workers.

The National Economic and Development Authority is setting up a networks 'hub' where public and private stakeholders can share information on supply chain concerns and address bottlenecks to ensure the unhindered supply, distribution, and movement of essential goods and services. Said hub shall utilize tools for transport analytics to generate relevant data and inputs from the stakeholders to guide the IATF-EID in their decision-making.

Section 4 (j) authorizes the President to ensure that donation, acceptance and distribution of health products intended to address the COVID-19 public health emergency are not unnecessarily delayed.

The DFA has processed and/or has been assisting in the facilitation of in-kind donations from four (4) foreign governments, (1) international organization and twelve (12) private companies, individuals and civil society organizations. The DFA closely engages with foreign governments, international agencies, and private donors abroad in providing critical information on the medical supplies and equipment needed by the DOH.

The DICT is coordinating with the DFA to create an accessible website which shall contain comprehensive information on International Humanitarian Assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic to promote transparency and to aide in the immediate acceptance and distribution of donations of health products intended to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The DPWH provided logistical assistance to the DSWD and the National Housing Authority in transporting and mobilizing manpower, equipment, and goods for the

repacking and distribution of food packs in Western Visayas and La Union. The DPWH, in coordination with DOH, also assisted in delivering donated tents from Pampanga to East Avenue Medical Center.

To ensure the unhampered processing of shipments of medical and other emergency supplies, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) issued orders providing for online filing of goods declaration, clearance of relief consignments entered during a state of calamity, and suspension of the seven (7)-day period to lodge goods declarations. As of 26 March 2020, the BOC has released a total of 2,081 shipments with no pending loads for processing. It has expedited the release of six (6) ventilators and 40,000 test kits from the Temasek Foundation, forty-eight (48) cartons of PPEs from the Xiamen Boson Biotech, and 57,600 test kits from the Alibaba Foundation.

Section 4(k) authorizes the President to undertake procurement in the most expeditious manner, as an exemption from RA No. 9184 or the “Government Procurement Reform Act.”

The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) has already adopted GPPB Resolution No. 03-2020 providing efficient, effective and expedient procurement procedures during a State of Public Health Emergency through Negotiated Procurement (Emergency Cases) and DBM-Commission on Audit Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1 dated 26 March 2020, regarding the use of Emergency Procurement to respond to the COVID-19 situation.

Section 4 (n) authorizes the President to ensure the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the economy especially in the countryside.

The DTI is currently preparing for the implementation of the PhP1.0 Billion P3 Enterprise Rehabilitation Financing (ERF), which includes restart and/or restock of businesses to avoid foreclosure of their business assets. This program will start once quarantine restrictions are lifted.

Section 4(o) authorizes the President to liberalize the grant of incentives for the manufacture or importation of critical or needed equipment or supplies, including healthcare equipment and supplies.

The IATF-EID has recommended the suspension of the export percentage requirements for export enterprises engaged in the manufacture of much needed medical supplies to allow them to operate and sell domestically for the use of our local medical facilities.

Section 4(p) authorizes the President to ensure availability of essential goods by adopting measures to facilitate and/or minimize the disruption to the supply chain

The DA has formulated the Food Resiliency Action Plan which includes (1) quick response measures such as enhanced operation of *KADIWA ni Ani and Kita* by facilitating the movement, trucking, and marketing of food supplies from the provinces to the metro areas in partnership with LGUs and the private sector, the implementation of rice farmers financial assistance program, and SURE Aid Loan Recovery; (2) refocusing of nationwide implementation of existing banner programs to ensure food security; and (3) implementation of *ALPAS (Ahon Lahat, Pagkain Sapat) Kontra COVID-19* or “Plant, Plant, Plant Program” to increase food sufficiency level in the country.

To further ensure the availability of essential goods, the DA is also coordinating with ASEAN trading partners on rice to ensure continuous trading transactions with our importers and a possible government to government arrangement of 300,000 MT of rice as contingency.

In line with this, the DA reported that basic food requirements nationwide (i.e. rice, fish, pork, chicken, and vegetables) are sufficient, with the national rice inventory this quarter enough to last for the next 75 days.

The DICT is coordinating with the Department of Science and Technology for the creation of the RapidPass.Ph, a public platform for requesting and generation of community access pass for cargo, authorized vehicles, and authorized persons outside residence. Further, it also issued guidelines on the adoption of protocols on the issuance of agency IDs, IATF-IDs and Accreditation Orders which shall aid in the smooth delivery of essential goods.

Section 4 (r) authorizes the President to regulate and limit the operation of all sectors of transportation through land, sea or air, whether private or public.

The DOTr established the DOTr Emergency Operations Center to respond to transportation-related queries from the public and provide better understanding on the transport policies implemented during the Luzon-wide Enhanced Community Quarantine.

DOTr’s Air Sector established a coordination mechanism with relevant agencies for the repatriation of Filipinos abroad as well as sweeper flights for foreign nationals in various places in the Philippines. Bus routes and Sweeper flights to carry foreign nationals from different provinces in the Philippines to Manila, Clark, or other international airports were arranged to ensure their return to their respective countries.

Sections 4 (t) authorizes the President to continue to authorize alternative working arrangements in the Executive branch and, when it becomes necessary, in the private sector.

All government offices in the Executive branch have adopted alternative working arrangements in their respective offices.

The DOLE has actively engaged private sector participation via teleconferencing in clarifying policies and issues relative to the program implementation. The DOLE has likewise noted 3,082 establishments (with 137,496 affected workers) implemented flexible work arrangements, while 6,060 (with 190,932 affected workers) opted temporary closure.

Section 4(u) authorizes the President to adopt temporary emergency measures to conserve and regulate the distribution of and use of power, fuel, energy, and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, through the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), ordered all water utilities and water service providers to refrain from disconnecting water supply to individual households for the entire duration of the State of Public Health Emergency. In addition to approving the water allocation of the National Irrigation Authority and the Manila Water Sewerage System (MWSS), the NWRB already initiated the cloud seeding operations in the Angat Water Reservoir as well as directed the MWSS to continue the activation of its existing deep wells.

The TransCo is proceeding with the Feed In Tariff (FIT) Payments for FIT-Eligible Renewable Energy Developers to ensure that they have the means to support their operations.

Section 4 (v) authorizes the President to direct the discontinuance of appropriated programs, projects or activities (P/A/P) of any agency of the Executive Department, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), in the FYs 2019 and 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA), whether released or unreleased, the allotments for which remain unobligated, and to utilize such savings to augment the allocation for any item directly related to support operations and response measures, which are necessary or beneficial in order to address the COVID-19 emergency

The DBM is coordinating with all NGAs to utilize any and all released allotments from the FY 2019 and 2020 GAA to support their corresponding COVID-19 response activities that are attributable to their existing appropriations. For instance, the use of the released allotment of the DOST under its P/A/P "Support to Harmonized National S&T Agenda" to accommodate the Php53.230-million requirement for the production of 1,300 COVID-19 testing kits for 26,000 tests, delivery, training for the administration of the tests, and genome sequencing validation.

The DBM noted that the following agencies should similarly use their existing released allotment to accommodate their respective COVID-19 response activities:

Agency	P/A/P	Appropriations	Allotment Released to Agency (FCR)	Allotment under FLR
DSWD	Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)	108.765-Billion	108.765-Billion ¹	-
	Social Pension for Indigent Filipino Citizens	23.184-Billion	23.184-Billion	-
	Assistance for Indigents in Crisis Situations (AICS)	8.733-Billion	6.608-Billion	2.125-Billion
	Quick Response Fund (QRF) ²	1.250-Billion	1.250-Billion	-
DOH	Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients (MAIP)	10.483-Billion	9.440-Billion	1.043-Billion
	QRF ³	0.600-Billion	0.500-Billion	0.100-Billion
DOLE	Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa ating Disadvantaged or Displaced Workers Program and Government Internship Program (TUPAD-GIP)	6.787-Billion	4.357-Billion	2.430-Billion

As of 27 March 2020, there are still no P/A/Ps that have been discontinued considering the advice to utilize all existing released allotments for COVID-19 response activities and pending the submission of the IATFEID of its validated P/A/Ps that will require budget augmentation.

The DBM has already started the preparation of a master list of all items categorized as “For Later Release” under the Agency Specific Budgets (ASBs) from the FY 2020 GAA. The preparation of the master list will enable the DBM to easily identify: (a) P/A/Ps that will be directly affected by any discontinuance order; and (b) items that may be excluded from the discontinuance order due to their importance to existing COVID-19 response activities (i.e., DOH, DOLE, DSWD, among others).

Section 4(w) authorizes the President to consider abandoned the purpose of any unutilized or unreleased balance as of date of declaration of State of Emergency, and all such funds, including future collections and receipts, shall be deemed appropriated for measures to address Covid-19.

The DOTr remitted dividends in advance in the amount of over P10 Billion, through its three (3) attached agencies, the Philippine Ports Authority, the Manila International Airport Authority, and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines to fortify the government spending measures to address the COVID-19 emergency.

The DBM is currently preparing an initial master list of all unreleased appropriations under the SPFs (estimated at Php372.719 Billion) with the following components:³

³ Such list does not include SPFs that are deemed relevant to existing COVID19 response activities (i.e., Contingent Fund, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund [NDRRMF], among others), as well as those that cover PS-related claims and are, therefore, considered mandatory items (i.e. Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund, Pension and Gratuity Fund, among others).

Particulars	Programmed Appropriations	Allotment Releases (as of 22 March 2020)	Unreleased Appropriations
Budgetary Support to Government Corporations	195.485-Billion	49.768-Billion	145.717-Billion
Allocation to LGUs			
Metropolitan Manila Development Authority	4.778-Billion	3.730-Billion	1.047-Billion
Special Shares of LGUs in the Proceeds of National Taxes	29.093-Billion	0.678-Billion	28.414-Billion
Barangay Officials Death Benefits Fund	0.050-Billion	-	0.050-Billion
Local Government Support Fund	28.852-Billion	1.540-Billion	27.311-Billion
Special Shares of LGUs in the Proceeds of Fire Code Fees	0.365-Billion	-	0.365-Billion
BARMM	7.000-Billion	-	7.000-Billion
Total	266.125-Billion	55.718-Billion	209.907-Billion

Note: Figures may not add up due to rounding off

As of 27 March 2020, no SPFs have been utilized for COVID-19 measures except for the Php500-Million replenishment of the DOH's Quick Response Fund, which is charged against the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund.

Section 4 (x) authorizes the President to reprogram, reallocate, and realign savings on other items of appropriations in the FY 2020 GAA in the Executive Department, as may be necessary and beneficial to fund measures that address and respond to the COVID-19 emergency, including social amelioration for affected communities and the recovery of areas, sectors and industries severely affected. All amounts so reprogrammed, reallocated or realigned shall be deemed automatically appropriated for such measures to address the COVID-19 situation.

As of 27 March 2020, funds are yet to be reprogrammed, reallocated or realigned pending the submission of the IATFEID of its final budgetary requirements especially on the social amelioration measures.

Section 4 (y) authorizes the President to allocate funds held by any GOCC or national government agency to address the COVID-19 emergency

The DOF is in discussions with GOCCs on the dividends to be collected, taking into account the actual remittances to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) until the end of March 2020. The first PhP100 Billion dividend collection will include the excess revenue collected or unprogrammed revenue.

The BTr, with the DBM, formulated guidelines that will enable the transfer of excess and unauthorized balances of national government agencies and GOCCs to finance the social amelioration program. The BTr has identified an estimated amount of over PhP100 Billion as eligible for the "cash sweep."

To ensure uninterrupted access to cash, the DOF and BTr added PhP300 Billion to its cash reserves by securing a repurchase agreement facility with the BSP. The national government will be allowed to convert up to PhP300 Billion of government securities holdings into cash on the condition that it will repurchase the securities at a predetermined period of not more than six (6) months.

As of 27 March 2020, the DBM has already transmitted to the Department of Finance (DOF), a draft Joint Circular that will cover utilization of eligible cash and cash equivalents of National Government Agencies (NGAs) and GOCCs, which stands at around PhP100 Billion. The DBM has issued Circular Letter No. 6 dated 27 March 2020 informing all Departments/Agencies that the DBM shall directly remit the Government Share in Retirement and Life Insurance Premiums (RLIP) Contributions to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) beginning April 2020.

Section 4(z) authorizes the President to move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease the burden on individuals under Community Quarantine.

The BIR promulgated issuances extending the deadlines for the filing of the 2019 ITR from 15 April 2020 to 15 May 2020; filing of Certificate of Residence for Tax Treaty Relief Forms until 30 April 2020; and availment of Tax Amnesty on Delinquencies from 23 April 2020 to 23 May 2020.

In order to cushion the economic impact of COVID-19 on the country's aviation industry and its stakeholders, the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) were instructed to extend to airport concessionaires "rental holiday" for one (1) month and a deferral of charges on the succeeding month to cover the ECQ period, with further extensions if required, subject to regular monthly review.

Validity of Flight Standard Inspectorate Service issued permits, licenses, and certificates were extended for those expiring during the ECQ.

The NWRB extended the validity of the temporary water permits issued to MWSS for the continuous activation of its existing deep wells.

The EMB ordered the automatic extension for sixty (60) days of all existing TSD registration certificates nationwide which may expire during the ECQ period.

Section 4(aa) authorizes the President to direct all banks, quasi-banks, financing companies, lending companies, and other financial institutions, public and private, to implement a minimum of thirty (30)-day grace period for the payment of all loans falling due within the period of the Enhanced Community Quarantine without incurring interests, penalties, fees, or other charges.

According to the DTI, the moratorium on payment of loans has benefitted 127,000 micro enterprises under the Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso (P3) Program and 15,000 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the Small Business Corporation (SBCorp) corporate-funded loan portfolios.

GOCCs under the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) declared a three (3)-month moratorium on the payment of loan amortization commencing on 16 March 2020 to 15 June 2020. This measure, which covers an aggregate amount of Php 31.4 Billion in amortization payments due for the three (3)-month duration, stands to benefit a total of 5,521,611 Pag-IBIG member-borrowers and beneficiaries of the housing programs of these agencies. Under the moratorium, the collection of amortization for loan repayment is suspended from 16 March 2020 to 15 June 2020 and the borrower shall not be imposed any additional interest or penalty for non-payment. The breakdown of the amount and beneficiaries for each of the GOCCs are as follows: (1) Home Development Mutual Fund – Housing loan payments worth Php 13.8 Billion of one (1) million borrowers, and multipurpose and other short term loans worth Php16.7 Billion in loan payments of four (4) million borrowers; (2) National Housing Authority – loan repayment/amortization dues in the amount of Php 450 Million, covering a total of 263,611 residential accounts; (3) Social Housing Finance Corporation – Php300 Million worth of monthly collection from some 240,000 informal settler families; and (4) National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation – Php165.5 Million in borrower's payments for more than 18,000 housing units.

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) crafted a package of relief measures for various customers, including waiver of fees for fund transfers via PesoNet and Instapay, grace period for maturing loan obligations of salary loans, credit card payments, and commercial loans, as well as extension of loan maturities of commercial term loans. The LBP is also working with the DOLE for the distribution of cash grants nationwide.

The TransCo Provident Fund Board of Trustees issued Resolution No. 2020-002 approving a moratorium on the payment of monthly amortizations.

Section 4(cc) authorizes the President to implement an expanded and enhanced Pantawid Pamilya Pilipino Program and to provide other assistance programs.

The DSWD implemented the President's authority under Section 4(cc) through the introduction in JMC No. 1 of an Expanded and Enhanced Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program. Said Program shall be implemented for two (2) months and, in carrying out the same, the DSWD Secretary and the Department of Labor and Employment Secretary may approve the temporary standards of eligibility and level of benefits.

As to the authority of the President to implement other assistance programs, the DSWD is undertaking the implementation of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS), also identified under JMC No. 1 as a SAP. Pursuant to the DSWD

report, among the recipients of the assistance, as of 23 March 2020, include residents from Quezon City, Manila, Rizal, San Juan, Taguig City, Caloocan City, Cavite City, and Bulacan, among others. Requests of groups such as BANDA, GRAB, TNVS, ANGKAS, JOYRIDE, SNMNO, and TODA are currently being facilitated, subject to the submission of requirements needed.

The DSWD is likewise currently implementing Food and Non-food Items (FNI) Distribution, likewise a part of the SAP under JMC No. 1. In the report, the total number of clients served from 13 March to 29 March 2020 is at 4,753, in which the total cost amounts at Php22,315,982.38. Currently, there are notable augmentations in the FNI. Particularly, under food items, the DSWD has procured 69,200 family food packs which is targeted to benefit at least 69,200 families or 346,000 individuals for 2 to 3 days. For non-food items, the DSWD has procured 15 family tents, 577,830 face masks, and 10,000 sando bags for rice repacking. In addition, there is still 16,000 family food packs produced for replenishment of the current stock. To further the distribution of said FNI, the DSWD has mobilized 159 Philippine Coast Guard volunteers for 26 March to 28 March 2020.

With regard to the DSWD Field Offices (FO), the FO-NCR has coordinated with 17 LGUs⁴ for the initial wave of FO-NCR's food augmentation for stockpiling purposes and has delivered to said 17 LGUs a total of 67,150 food packs at the total cost of Php26,042,000.00. For FO-Region III, it was able to provide 10,538 food packs to 13 affected LGUs in the Central Luzon Region, amounting to Php4,518,349.50, and cash assistance to at least 54 stranded passengers at Clark International Airport and 18 clients at Angeles City and Porac, Pampanga due to the suspension of transportation therein. Said passengers were also provided with Php 3,000.00 cash assistance each with a total amount of Php216,000.00. On the other hand, the Crisis Intervention Section served a total of 556 walk-in clients (region-wide) requesting for medical, educational and burial assistance from 16 March to 27 March 2020. On the part of FO-Region VI, the implementation of AICS catered to 436 clients, in the total amount of Php4,492,760; the distribution of food packs has catered to 963 clients, in the total amount of Php346,680.00, while non-food items has catered to 144 clients, in the total amount of Php4,944,056.00. FO-Region VI further represented that still on hand are other FNI amounting to Php69,449,193.10. For FO-Region VII, it represented that it has provided various aides ranging from medical assistance, to food, transportation, education, and burial. Finally, for FO-Region IX, it represented that there are available 31,579 stockpile food packs amounting to Php11,396,672.00, raw materials amounting to Php 7,781,860.00, and NFI amounting to P13,570,698.09. For standby funds and welfare goods, there is a total of Php941,450.00 available Disaster Calamity Funds as of 26 March 2020, with pending voucher for the procurement of raw materials amounting to Php10, 678,990.00.

⁴ Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Manila City, Navotas City, Municipality of Pateros, Taguig City, San Juan City, Marikina City, Pasay City, Paranaque City, Makati City, Las Pinas City, Caloocan City, Pasig City, Malabon City, Mandaluyong.

Section 4(dd) authorizes the President to lift the thirty percent (30%) cap on the amount appropriated for the quick respond fund, as provided for in RA No. 10121,⁵ during the existence of the state of national emergency due to COVID-19.

In order to guide the local government units (LGUs) in implementing Sections 4(g) and 4(dd) of RA No. 11469, the National Economic Development Authority, through its Regional Directors who act as vice chairpersons of their respective Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC), rendered assistance to the local chief executives to aid the latter in properly interpreting and implementing the budget implications of Sections 4(g) and 4(dd) of RA No. 11469.

Section 4(ee) authorizes the President to undertake such other measures as may be reasonable and necessary to enable him to carry out the declared national policy subject to the Bill of Rights and other constitutional guarantees.

The ARTA issued an advisory to all government agencies including LGUs, laying down measures and tools which are to be adopted to fast track and simplify their respective procedures and documentary requirements during the Covid-19 State of Calamity. These include (1) extension of the validity of permits, licenses, certifications, and other similar authorizations that are expiring within the period of State of National Emergency; (2) electronic submissions and approvals; (3) suspension of notarization requirement; (4) reduction of signatories and requirements; (5) employment of online payment schemes or outsourced payment collection centers for the transacting public and waiver or deferment of payments; and (6) submission of regulations by e-mail to the University of the Philippines-Office of the National Administrative Register.

Since 17 March 2020, the OWWA has provided transport, food, and accommodation assistance to returning and departing Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). Under the "*Hatid-Sundo Program*," the arriving and departing OFWs were provided bus transport plying four (4) routes. The total number of transported and reunited OFWs with their families is 1,958. Those OFWs who landed in NAIA and who are from Visayas and Mindanao were billeted in various hotels around Metro Manila and they were provided food during their stay. The total number of OFWs that were provided shelter is 652. The OWWA also provided special assistance to the OFWs who were stranded in Clark. Some OFWs who landed in NAIA were made to believe that they could take domestic flights from Clark Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) to Visayas or Mindanao, as such they were stranded in Clark. The OWWA provided food, accommodation, and transport assistance to 363 stranded OFWs. From 17 March 2020 to 29 March 2020, the OWWA has assisted 2,973 OFWs.

The National Prosecution Service has introduced Electronic Online Inquest (E-inquest) in the NCR on 27 March 2020. All other prosecution offices located within provinces or cities under the enhanced community quarantine were given the option to

⁵ Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010.

adopt the E-inquest guidelines which were made known to the DILG, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary.

The CHED issued advisories to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) on matters such as suspension of school and related activities and the adoption of alternative modes of learning delivery to students. It also produced and published infographics on social media to disseminate correct information regarding COVID-19 and related CHED initiatives and activities. In addition, the CHED mobilized HEIs to assist in the production and distribution of items (such as disinfectants, alcohol, face shields, etc.) for use by frontline service providers.

The DepEd issued guidelines on matters such as alternative learning delivery platforms, completion of school requirements, computation of final grades, and graduation;

The CHED facilitated the return of students and higher education institutions (HEIs) personnel who were stranded due to the implementation of the community quarantine, released subsidies to 51 state and local universities and colleges and appealed to private HEIs for consideration in the collection of tuition payments and school fees.

The DepEd fast-tracked the processing and release of the salaries and other benefits (such as clothing allowance, provident fund and performance-based bonuses) for its employees.