

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

OCT 05 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 and the Commission on Audit pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Recover 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

Chairman Michael G. Aguinaldo

Commission on Audit
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy

Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila

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REP. ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO

Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

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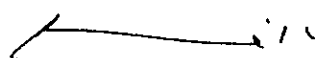
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL G. AGUINALDO
Commission on Audit
Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City

Dear Chairman Aguinaldo:

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**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11494 OR THE
BAYANIHAN TO RECOVER AS ONE ACT**

MONDAY, 05 OCTOBER 2020

In compliance with Section 14 of Republic Act (RA) No. 11494 or the "*Bayanihan to Recover as One Act*," I respectfully submit the developments relative to our whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This report contains updates on the programs and activities of 50 departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Executive branch, most of which were reported to the Office of the Executive Secretary on 02 October 2020 (Friday).

It has been six months from the declaration of the state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines. Through the joint efforts of the government and the public, significant strides have been achieved in enhancing and improving the country's capability to implement measures against the spread of COVID-19. This notwithstanding, the number of COVID-19 positive cases continues to rise. Thus, on 16 September 2020, I extended the declared State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of one (1) year, effective 13 September 2020 to 12 September 2021, unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant.

Necessary and effective measures have been implemented under Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the "*Bayanihan to Heal as One Act*." While Executive departments, agencies, and instrumentalities were able to continue the implementation of measures against COVID-19 consistent with their respective mandates and existing laws and regulations despite the expiration of the effectivity of RA No. 11469, I express my utmost gratitude to Congress for the passage into law of RA No. 11494.

Through RA No. 11494, we shall sustain and enhance our efforts and strengthen our capabilities to implement programs and projects which, among others, seek to (1) reduce the adverse socioeconomic impact of COVID-19; (2) enhance the capacity of the Philippine health care system to control and eliminate COVID-19; (3) accelerate the recovery and bolster the resilience of the Philippine economy; and (4) enhance fiscal and monetary policies to sustain COVID-19 measures.

I. Reduction of the Adverse Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19

Update on the Social Amelioration Programs (SAPs)

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), consistent with its mandate as the lead agency in social protection, continues to implement social amelioration measures (*i.e.*, Social Amelioration Program/Emergency Subsidy Program through Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation, Livelihood Assistance Grants, Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Supplementary Feeding Program, Augmentation Support for Local Government Units [LGUs], and Management of Returning Overseas Filipinos [ROFs]) to address the socio-economic needs of the poor, the vulnerable, and the disadvantaged individuals, families, and affected communities during this COVID-19 pandemic.

The DSWD is in the process of preparing special guidelines to further its COVID-19 response and recovery interventions. For said purpose, the DSWD has

consulted the Joint Oversight Committee of the Senate of the Philippines and the House of Representatives to ensure the alignment of the provision of social amelioration measures. The DSWD Field Offices have coordinated with the Regional Offices of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and regional mechanisms of the Interagency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF), in determining the areas certified under granular lockdown for the proper targeting of low-income family beneficiaries.

Establishing a Unified Database to Effectively Provide Socioeconomic Relief

The Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) is envisioned to contribute to a more efficient and seamless distribution of government emergency benefits through cashless mechanisms by enabling low-income households to have easier access to bank accounts, in support of the implementation of RA No. 11494.

As of 30 September 2020, 4,521 (94%) of the 4,829 required pre-registration personnel are already on board as reported by 31 out of 32 target provinces. 1,114 out of the 3,892 tablets to be used for field deployment were already received by 13 provinces. The remaining tablets are in-transit, most of which are allocated to provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao. By the end of 2020, the PhilSys targets to pre-register nine (9) million individuals and register five (5) million low-income household heads.

SAP for Transportation Industry

Emergency subsidy is continuously being distributed to drivers of Public Utility Jeeps, UV Express (UVs), Public Utility Buses, Point-to-Point Buses, Taxis, Transport Network Vehicle Service, school transport services, tourist transport services, and Motorcycle (MC) Taxis whose operations were suspended due to quarantine restrictions. The cash subsidy was claimed through the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and GCash (an electric money issuer and remittance transfer company) for easy distribution of cash assistance to the PUV drivers.¹

Assistance to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and Foreign Nationals

The National Government continuously implements measures to assist our fellow Filipinos as well as international visitors who have been stranded in the country. The Department of Foreign Affairs facilitated the repatriation of Filipino nationals to the Philippines² and foreign nationals³ to their home countries, the processing of international humanitarian assistance,⁴ and the issuance of IATF exemption certificates of diplomatic missions, international organizations, and honorary consulates.⁵

Transportation, Repatriation, and Mobility Assistance to Health Workers, Frontliners, OFWs, Stranded Passengers, and Other Entities or Individuals

Since the start of the pandemic, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies have led the implementation of various COVID-19 interventions and measures, such as: regulating the operation of all modes of public transportation by land, air, and sea;⁶ establishing transportation related programs in partnership with other government agencies and the private sector such as the DOTr Free Ride

Program for Health Workers to ferry medical frontliners to and from their respective hospitals, providing fuel subsidies,⁷ waiver of toll fees, and free rides to stranded passengers and repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs); establishing One-Stop Shops in Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminals 1, 2, and 3 to aid repatriated OFWs who will have to undergo their 14-day mandatory quarantine, which, in turn, is overseen by the Office for Transportation Security; and facilitating the conduct of RT-PCR tests on arriving passengers.⁸

The DOTr has continued to implement these programs even after the lapse of RA No. 11469, and shall continue to do so in compliance and consistent with the spirit of RA No. 11494.

The DILG, on the other hand, is continuously assisting the safe transportation of locally stranded individuals (LSIs) to their respective provinces.⁹ As of 30 September 2020, the DILG has assisted and monitored a total of 294,896 individuals registered as LSIs.

Other Forms of Assistance and Partnership with LGUs

The LBP offered to LGUs the LANDBANK Help via Emergency Loan Assistance for LGUs Program (HEAL) for emergency funding for the procurement of goods and services. It also partnered with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines in providing basic and support services for local enterprises' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the RISE UP LGUs or Restoration and Invigoration Package for a Self-Sufficient Economy towards UPgrowth for LGUs Lending Program.

The DILG Disaster Information Coordinating Center continues to monitor the proper management of the remains of COVID-19 casualties. There are 1,274 LGUs with organized Management of the Dead Clusters and 882 LGUs have designated funeral parlors/crematoriums that are willing to accept deceased persons under investigation and confirmed COVID-19 cases. As of 24 September 2020, 336 LGUs have implemented a price freeze for funeral services.

Ensuring Water and Energy Supply¹⁰

A continuing trend of excess power capacity over peak demand was seen and the highest recorded peak demand in each grid (from 15 – 30 September 2020) occurred on different days. The highest demand in Luzon was on 30 September 2020 at 10,344 MW (available capacity of 11,932 MW), 28 September 2020 in Visayas at 1,992 MW (available capacity of 2,495 MW) and 23 September 2020 in Mindanao at 1,872 MW (available capacity of 2,922 MW). In the downstream oil sector, the inventory of crude oil and petroleum products stood at 54.3¹¹ days equivalent to 3,083 million liters. The inventory level is broken down as 46.4 days of in-country stocks (on-shore) and 7.9 days of crude oil and petroleum products that are still in-transit.

Continuing Efforts on Information Dissemination

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) and its attached agencies have continued their communication efforts to inform and involve Filipinos on government efforts to combat COVID-19.

COVID-19 broadcast specials such as the *Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH*, *Network Briefing News*, and *Cabinet Report* are aired regularly to serve as platforms for immediate clarification of issues and concerns related to the COVID-19 response. The PCOO continuously updates the unified COVID-19 website, which is accessible via *covid19.gov.ph* and mirrored on *laginghanda.gov.ph* and *wehealasone.gov.ph*, with timely, relevant, and verified content from official sources.

To support learning continuity of Filipino students amid the new normal, the PCOO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Education (DepEd) on 30 September 2020 for the DepEd TV Project. The Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation and the Bureau of Broadcast Services serve as the primary television and radio stations for the execution of this project as part of the blended learning approach.

II. Enhancement of the Health Care System Capacity to Control and Eliminate COVID-19

Aligned with the National Action Plan for COVID-19, the Department of Health (DOH) remains committed to employing the following strategies to combat the threat of COVID-19: (1) increase resilience; (2) stop transmission; (3) reduce contact rate; (4) shorten duration of infectiousness; and (5) enhance quality, consistency, and affordability of care provision. These strategies aim to prevent cases and to ensure that contacts and cases are managed early on, without causing them financial hardship.

The DOH is in the process of reviewing policies and preparing, finalizing or updating guidelines on the following in relation to interventions under RA No. 11494:

1. Review of policies to ensure compliance with World Health Organization (WHO) and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, in consultation with experts and the IATF;¹²
2. Omnibus Guidelines on Prevention, Detection, Isolation, Treatment and Reintegration of COVID-19 Cases, which includes setting specific surveillance, contact tracing, and testing target and guidelines,¹³ and the nature, use, and interpretation of different test kits;¹⁴
3. Revisiting Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001, specifically on the provisions on the admission of confirmed asymptomatic and mild COVID-19 cases in Ligtas COVID-19 Centers to address the policy issues on the population required to be isolated;
4. Administrative Order on the Guidelines on the Testing of Healthcare Workers;¹⁵
5. Joint Administrative Order by the DOH, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to update existing issuance on compensation of Human Resources for Health (HRH) in case of mild, severe/critical cases or death;¹⁶
6. Guidelines on the Establishment of the One Hospital Command Center (OHCC) for COVID-19, which aims to provide for a system to facilitate coordination and streamline the referral and transfer of cases thereby avoiding unnecessary delays and resulting in better health outcomes through the establishment of the OHCC;¹⁷ and

7. Ongoing gathering of functional requirements for the creation and adoption of a national online electronic application system to provide contact tracing capacity.¹⁸

The DOH has issued Department Memorandum No. 2020-0398 to ensure harmonized reporting and avoid confusion on COVID-19 data and statistics among the public.¹⁹ The Memorandum mandates all DOH Centers for Health Development to use a standardized daily case bulletin reporting.

HRH

The DOH continues to hire additional HRH pursuant to its mandate under both RA No. 11469 and RA No. 11494.²⁰

From 11 to 30 September 2020, a total of 8,980 (76.72%) HRH were hired out of the 11,705 approved slots for emergency hiring in priority health facilities.²¹ A total of 10,673 nurses in the Nurses Deployment Program were deployed (3,680 in Luzon and 6,993 in Visayas and Mindanao) in primary care facilities to participate in hospital based and community-based COVID-19 responses,²² while 4,276 other deployed HRH under the DOH HRH Deployment Program are currently engaged in COVID-19 response.²³

Pursuant to Sections 4(h) and 4(w) of RA No. 11494,²⁴ the DOH has submitted to the DBM the cost estimates to cover the full requirement of the COVID-19 special risk allowance (SRA) and Actual Hazard Duty Pay (AHDP) of public and private healthcare workers. The DBM has submitted to the Office of the President proposed Administrative Orders providing for rates and guidelines on the grant of the said benefits.

The DILG continues to monitor the compliance of LGUs with the Department's Memorandum Circular (MC) directing LGUs to provide protection to health workers, including the provision of temporary shelter and the issuance of appropriate ordinances to deter discrimination against them. As of 25 September 2020, a total of 46 provinces and 726 cities and municipalities have extended assistance to a total of 38,570 health workers. Further, 710 cities and municipalities and 31 provinces have already passed ordinances providing sanctions and penalties for discriminatory acts against health workers.

Referral Hospitals, COVID-19 Bed Capacity, and Temporary Treatment Management Facilities (TTMFs)

There are currently 32 COVID referral hospitals (30 DOH hospitals, Philippine General Hospital, and Fe Del Mundo Medical Center), and 1,874 COVID accepting hospitals among other DOH, LGU, and private hospitals in the country.

The DOH reports that a total of 21,968 beds or 20% of the total authorized bed capacity in the country are dedicated for COVID-19. Of which, 14,663 beds (67%) are from government hospitals, while 7,305 beds (33%) are from private hospitals. Currently, of the total beds dedicated for COVID-19, 9,347 beds are occupied which translates to a utilization rate of 43%.

There are 10,878 TTMFs and 16 Mega TTMFs. Based on the 10,766 reporting facilities, there are 168,762 beds available in TTMFs nationwide.²⁵ Nationally, this is compliant with the minimum health system capacity standards in terms of bed-population ratio of 1:2500. As of 30 September 2020, 1,392 community isolation units are certified out of the 10,894 TTMFs, including Mega TTMFs.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), together with other agencies and LGUs, continue to establish new and manage existing temporary quarantine facilities, treatment centers/hospitals, and facilities for medical personnel.²⁶

The DPWH has been facilitating the construction of 394 facilities with a total bed capacity of 11,587 that will serve as temporary quarantine centers, off-site dormitories for medical personnel, and modular hospitals. It also continues with the establishment of testing laboratories, installation of tents and swabbing booths, and improvement of road access to quarantine facilities, and conversion of 197 evacuation centers to temporary quarantine/isolation facilities with an estimated total bed capacity of 8,865. Shown below is a summary of the abovementioned projects of the DPWH, their funding and utilization, and status as of 15 September 2020.

Table 1: Summary of DPWH Projects with Funded Amounts and Funds Utilized

Program	Particulars	Funded Amount/Funding Source	Amount Utilized		Status of Project
			Obligated Amount	Disbursed Amount	
Temporary COVID-19-related Facilities	Construction of 394 facilities such as: a. Quarantine/ Isolation Facilities; b. Off-site dormitories for medical personnel; and c. Modular hospitals	PhP3.487 Billion ²⁷ from DPWH Quick Response Fund, FY 2020 GAA	PhP2.206 Billion	PhP949.50 Million	Out of 394 COVID-19-related facilities, 111 were already completed with total bed capacity of 3,489.
Other COVID-19-related Infrastructure	a. COVID-19 testing laboratories b. Swabbing booths c. Tents with portalets d. Road access to quarantine facilities	PhP23.583 Million from DPWH Quick Response Fund, FY 2020 GAA	PhP21.277 Million	PhP7.830 Million	N/A
DPWH Evacuation Centers	Conversion of 197 evacuation centers as quarantine/isolation facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	66 evacuation centers were already converted to quarantine/ isolation facilities.

Manning of Quarantine Control Points

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) assists other agencies in manning the Quarantine Facilities Control Points within the area of responsibility of the 14 PCG Districts. As of 01 October 2020, the PCG manned 209 Quarantine Control Points.

Update on Test Kits, Testing Centers, and Expanded Testing

As of 30 September 2020, there are 138 COVID-19 testing laboratories (105 RT-PCR and 33 GeneXpert laboratories) in the Philippines with every region having a licensed COVID-19 testing laboratory in line with DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0016 dated 04 May 2020.²⁸ Collectively, these laboratories have conducted a total of 3,755,931 tests as of 30 September 2020, with an average daily testing output of 34,190 tests from 24 to 30 September.

From 11 September 2020 to 01 October 2020, the PCG administered RT-PCR tests to OFWs, ROFs and other individuals in Palacio De Manila, Hotels, and NAIA Terminals.

The Clark International Airport has been equipped with eight (8) swabbing booths to conduct RT-PCR swabbing of arriving international passengers. Since 05 June 2020, 35,620 passengers have been tested.

Clinical Trials

The DOH reports that as of 30 September 2020, the Philippines has 17 bilateral partners, and has expressed its interest to participate in the WHO Solidarity Trial for vaccines and the COVAX Facility. Acceptance of donated Remdesivir drugs from WHO for the Solidarity Trial has been completed. There are three (3) ongoing clinical trials (WHO Solidarity Trial for Treatment, Virgin Coconut Oil, and Lagundi) while seven (7) are in the process of completing approval.

Strengthening Contact Tracing Measures²⁹

As of 30 September 2020, the DILG has hired an additional 9,557 contact tracers nationwide. The newly-hired contact tracers will undergo training and orientation on how to efficiently trace individuals who had close contact with active/probable COVID-19 cases. The LGUs have organized a total of 26,854 contact tracing teams with 233,266 members. Of this number, 107,375 contact tracers were trained and have traced and monitored a total of 933,563 close contacts. The current ratio for close contact tracing is 1:5, wherein for every one (1) active case, the closest five (5) contacts are placed in isolation.

Provision of Healthcare Resources, Supplies, and Equipment

The Bureau of Customs issued implementing rules and regulations³⁰ on tax and duty-free importation of goods critical to boosting the country's healthcare capacity against COVID-19 and to facilitating the blended or online learning system. It also establishes the compliance system for importers and manufacturers entitled to exemption from import taxes, duties, and fees as set under RA No. 11494.

As of 02 October 2020, the DOH Donations team facilitated a total of 314 local and foreign donations to the department. A total of 215 transactions (68.47%) have already been completed. The team is currently facilitating 73 foreign donations and 26 local donations, while no transaction is on hold. A total of 1,686,048 testing kits (RT-PCR) have been donated by 13 donors, while the number of other medical products which have been donated are as follows: surgical masks: 7,687,950 pieces; N95 masks: 925,440 pieces; ventilators: 504 pieces; and Personal Protection Equipment (PPEs)/Medical Coveralls: 869,519.³¹

The DOH has submitted a PPE procurement plan to the DBM, which includes allocation for local health workers, barangay officials, and other indigent persons who need protection to prevent the spread of COVID-19.³²

III. Acceleration of the Recovery and Bolstering the Resilience of the Philippine Economy

Alternative Modes of Transportation³³

1. EDSA Busway: Dedicated Lanes on EDSA

The EDSA Busway, a collaborative project of the DOTr, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the DPWH aims to reform our City Bus system along EDSA by reducing the 61 routes of 3,340 bus units passing through EDSA into only one (1) integrated bus service with only a single route running fewer than 550 units on a dedicated lane and in a consolidated manner. Further, the EDSA Bus Loop Service will serve as the main corridor for the other 29 city bus routes that are interconnected to it.

The whole system will run from SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City to Monumento in Caloocan City with staging areas at Paranaque Integrated Terminal Exchange and Valenzuela Gateway Complex. The length of the said system is 24km per direction (48km in both directions) with a total of 29 stations along the stretch with two (2) staging areas at the end-points.

The EDSA Busway significantly reduces the travel time for the commuters, thus, reducing the risk of exposure from the virus. As an example, the two to three hours of travel from Trinoma to Ayala may now be reduced to thirty-five minutes.

2. Rationalization of City Bus Routes in Metro Manila³⁴

The rationalization of the bus routes in Metro Manila is pursuant to the recommendation of the IATF to prioritize buses over other types of vehicles, including jeepneys and vans, when land-based transportation is allowed, principally to address public health objectives.

To maximize the use of buses and for a more efficient bus system, the DOTr, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and consultants, with inputs from bus operators during several consultations, approved the rationalization from 96 existing bus routes to 31 rationalized routes, including the EDSA route. The 4,600 city bus units would be made available for these routes.

Most, if not all, of these routes, will feed into the EDSA main corridor, which is expected to run a single route under a dedicated service, thereby significantly addressing traffic congestion along EDSA and increasing efficiency of the bus service along the main corridor. As of 01 October 2020, the total number of opened routes is 31 with 3,960 bus units with Special Permits.

3. Consolidation of Bus Franchises in Metro Manila³⁵

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

4. Establishment of Protected Bike Lanes Along Edsa³⁶

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

Use of Science, Technology, and Innovation in COVID-19 Interventions

In order to limit physical interaction in road-based transportation and transactions, the LTFRB, the Land Transportation Office (LTO), and the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) have shifted to digitalizing transactions. Even prior to the enactment of RA No. 11494, the LTFRB directed all PUV operators using the tollways and expressways to install Radio Frequency Identification tags in their PUVs in an effort to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19.³⁷ The LTFRB launched the Public Transport Online Processing System, which will allow services to be made accessible online;³⁸ while the LTO implemented digital transactions through the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS).³⁹ Through the LTMS, application for driver/conductor's renewal of license, requests for revision of records, and requests for Certificate of No Apprehension can be processed online.

Identification of Infrastructure Flagship Projects

In line with its mandate under Section 4(mmm) of RA No. 11494 to identify infrastructure flagship projects (IFPs) to pump prime the economy and help promote national economic recovery, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) approved, on 19 August 2020, the revised list of IFPs, which now includes 104 projects under the government's Build, Build, Build Program. The seven (7) new IFPs included in said list are as follows: (1) National Broadband Program, (2) Information and Communications Technology Capacity Development and Management Program, (3) Water District Development Sector Projects, (4) National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project, (5) Balog-Balog Multi-Purpose Project Phase II in Tarlac, (6) Jalaur River Multi-Purpose Project – Stage II in Iloilo, and (7) Lower Agno River Irrigation System Improvement Project.

For MSME and Other Key Sectors⁴⁰

In line with the key assistance role of encouraging the banking sector to continue lending to the micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) and other key sectors, the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PhilGuarantee) is processing the accreditation of more banks to ensure a nationwide reach. As of 30 September 2020, a total of 42 banks have either been accredited or undergoing evaluation, and a total of 3,000 MSME beneficiaries have been served nationwide as a result of PhilGuarantee's accreditation process with the participating banks.⁴¹

As of September 2020, the Small Business Corporation (SBCorp) under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has received a total of 24,991 applications for loans in the COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program,⁴² of which 20,100 have been approved, amounting to PhP1.1 Billion. The SBCorp has released a total of 7,560 approved loan applications amounting to PhP480.1 Million. In the pipeline are the release of 7,541 approved applications and the approval of 16,152 applications recommended for the grant of loans.

Access to Agri-Fishery Products and Ensuring an Uninterrupted Supply Chain⁴³

With the aim of increasing local rice production and securing supply in response to international trade concerns due to the pandemic, the Department of Agriculture (DA) implemented the following: (1) Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, (2) Expanded Inbred Rice Production, and the (3) Expanded Hybrid Rice Production in Suitable Areas under its Rice Resiliency Project. As of 30 September 2020, 879,937 farmer beneficiaries in Regions III, IV-A, VI, and VII have benefitted from the distribution of 237,266 bags of certified seeds, 393,194 bags of hybrid seeds, and 1,335,485 bags of fertilizers.⁴⁴

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources intensified its urban and backyard aquaculture through the Fisheries Development Program⁴⁵ to increase the country's fish sufficiency. As of 30 September 2020, it has provided fingerlings, seed stock, fishing gears, and postharvest equipment as well as training services worth PhP107,272,000 to 32,246 fishers and fish farmer groups.⁴⁶

The operations of the DA Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita (KAK) Program in various modes and platforms⁴⁷ is being sustained all over the country to ensure the availability of affordable, safe, and fresh food and agri-products.⁴⁸

The DA is also fast-tracking the procurement of Kadiwa trucks with a total fund allotment of PhP44,000,000 to facilitate the delivery of the agri-fishery products to low income communities. Likewise, in order to help farmer cooperative associations that need storage or warehouses in the metropolis to ensure food supply in high demand consumer areas, the Central Food Depot, which will serve as a facility or food bank, is being established at FTI, Taguig City with a fund allotment amounting to PhP 20,000,000.⁴⁹

Extension of Permits and Licenses

The LTFRB extended the effectivity of the one-year Provisional Authority granted to PUV operators whose Certificate of Public Convenience expired on or before 30 June 2020 and was converted to a one (1) year Provisional Authority, or those issued with provisional authority under the transitory⁵⁰ period for the implementation of the PUV Modernization Program (PUVMP). The effectivity was extended until 31 December 2020, subject to the conditions set forth as required under the PUVMP.⁵¹

Sixty (60)-Day Grace Period for loans⁵² and Related Moratoriums

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) issued directives⁵³ and implementing rules and regulations⁵⁴ directing all BSP-supervised financial institutions to implement Section 4(uu) of RA No. 11494 and not to charge or apply interest on interest, penalties, fees or other charges during the mandatory one-time 60-day grace period to future payments/amortizations of the borrowers for all existing, current and outstanding loans with principal and/or interest, including amortizations, falling due on or before 31 December 2020. The BSP has also extended relief measures such as extension of waiver of fees and extension of measures implemented in rediscount facilities.⁵⁵

The Securities and Exchange Commission published a Notice, dated 21 September 2020, directing all financing companies, lending companies, and microfinance non-government organizations to implement the mandatory one-time 60-day grace period.

Pursuant to Section 4(uu) of RA No. 11494, the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), LBP, PhilGuarantee, and Development Bank of the Philippines granted a moratorium for the payment of all existing, current and outstanding loans or any part thereof falling due on or before 31 December 2020. The PhilGuarantee also provided a 60-day grace period for the payment of premium on the renewal of guarantee coverage related to housing, where a total of Php8.81 Million in estimated penalties (based on 30% availment) will be waived.

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has released MC No. 19-2020, which provides a moratorium on all loan payments falling due in November and December 2020. It has also re-opened the granting of Emergency Loan to active members and old-age pensioners from 28 September to December 2020.

The DOTr has coordinated with banks for the provision of the grace period for loans in relation to the PUVMP.⁵⁶

Regulatory Relief and other Relief Measures⁵⁷

On 30 September 2020, the Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Regulations implementing Sections 6,⁵⁸ 4(uu),⁵⁹ and 4(bbbb)⁶⁰ of RA No. 11494, providing that dispositions through Initial Public Offering of shares of stock in closely held corporations are no longer subject to tax under Section 127(B) of the National Internal Revenue Code,⁶¹ exempting from documentary stamp tax loans extended or credits restructured that fall due on or before 31 December 2020, as well as the

maturity periods that may result from the grant of grace periods for said payments;⁶² and allowing businesses which incurred net operating losses for the taxable years 2020 and 2021 to carry over the same as a deduction from its gross income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of loss.⁶³

The Insurance Commission suspended from 22 September 2020 until 31 December 2020 the imposition of penalty for the non-filing, late filing, and failure to comply with compulsory notification and other reportorial requirements during the period of community quarantine for entities which it regulates and supervises.⁶⁴

Ensuring the Safety and Well-being of our Workforce

As we slowly re-open the economy and restart businesses anew, the DTI is working closely with other relevant government agencies in crafting policies/guidelines to secure the overall well-being of employees of private companies and businesses, such as but not limited to: (1) DTI-DOLE Joint Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19; (2) clarification on the expanded risk-based testing for COVID-19 of at-risk individuals; and (3) clarification on the provision of shuttle services, workers allowed to report for work, the requirement of isolation areas, and disinfection procedures under DTI-DOLE Joint MC No. 2020-04-A (s. 2020).

IV. Enhancement of Fiscal and Monetary Policies to Sustain COVID-19 Measures

Budgetary Measures to Fund COVID-19 Efforts

On 15 September 2020, the Bureau of the Treasury issued certifications of additional revenues and availability of funds worth at least PhP140.0 Billion for the implementation of RA No. 11494.

Since the effectivity of RA No. 11494, the DBM has released funds to the following departments/agencies for COVID-19-related programs, activities and projects (P/A/Ps) as of 01 October 2020:

Table 2. Releases to Departments/Agencies

	Department/ Agency	Allotments (in PhP)	Funding Source	Purpose
1.	DPWH	994,745,247.00	FY 2020 NDRRM Fund ⁶⁵	For replenishment of FY 2020 Quick Response Fund
2.	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)	28,371,099.00	FY 2019 OPAPP Funds ⁶⁶	To support the role and engagement of the OPAPP Secretary as the Chief Implementer against COVID-19
3.	DILG	2,522,660,000.00	FY 2020 Unprogrammed Appropriations ⁶⁷	To cover funding requirements for the hiring and training of contact tracers
	Total	3,545,776,346.00		

Budgetary Support for LGUs for Anti-COVID-19 Efforts⁶⁸

The DBM issued Local Budget Circular (LBC) No. 128 on 17 September 2020, providing the guidelines on the release of the PhP1.5 Billion Local Government Support Fund for Anti-COVID-19 efforts. The LBC outlines the eligible P/A/Ps for funding,⁶⁹ the documentary requirements, and the mode of release to beneficiary LGUs.

In view of the extension of the State of Calamity throughout the country pursuant to Proclamation No. 1021 (s. 2020), the validity of the *Bayanihan* Grant to LGUs provided under LBC Nos. 125 and 126 were likewise automatically extended. As of 30 September 2020, fund utilization reports from 837 LGUs were submitted to and consolidated by the DBM covering 47 provinces, 82 cities, and 708 municipalities. The consolidated reports cover PhP18.058 Billion worth of P/A/Ps or 48.78% of the total *Bayanihan* grants released to LGUs with the following breakdown:

Table 3. *Bayanihan* Grant to LGUs

Items of Expenses	Amount (in PhP)
Food assistance and other relief goods for affected households	9,380,226,684.86
Procurement of hospital equipment and supplies	1,516,057,659.83
Other necessary COVID-19-related P/A/Ps and expenses	1,987,230,658.45
Expenses for the construction/repair/lease/rental of additional space/building to accommodate COVID-19 patients and persons under monitoring/investigation	987,347,637.05
Procurement of medicines and vitamins	1,045,746,052.68
Food, transportation (includes fuel), and accommodation expenses of medical personnel and other LGU personnel directly involved in the implementation of COVID-19 related P/A/Ps	918,432,930.35
Procurement of PPEs	896,037,094.53
Procurement of equipment, reagents, and kits for COVID-19 testing	862,312,600.36
Procurement of disinfectants, sprayers, disinfection tents, and other disinfecting supplies and misting equipment	293,130,447.80
Expenses for the purchase/rental of tents/spaces for temporary shelters of the homeless	67,769,907.74
Expenses for the operation of stand-alone/mobile testing laboratory	81,114,783.04
Expenses for training of personnel in the conduct of COVID-19 testing and other related trainings	22,639,311.20
TOTAL	18,058,045,767.89

The Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) has approved the following: (1) rules on the conduct of procurement activities under RA No. 11494 through GPPB Resolution No. 18-2020 on 18 September 2020; (2) rules in the conduct of procurement of goods with application of domestic preference through GPPB Resolution No. 19-2020; and (3) streamlining of procurement of common-use supplies and equipment (CSE) items from the DBM - Procurement Service (PS) to enable all procuring entities to procure CSE items from other sources without the need of securing a Certificate of Non-Availability of Stock from the DBM-PS, subject to conditions outlined under GPPB Resolution No. 17-2020. The GPPB-Technical Support Office has conducted webinars on these streamlined procurement rules for various procuring entities, and local suppliers and manufacturers last 30 September and 01 October 2020, respectively.

As of 02 October 2020, the Department of Finance has secured USD9.91 Billion in budgetary support financing (**Annex A**), of which USD9.29 Billion was secured from

the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Agence Française de Développement, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the dual-tranche issuance of USD-denominated global bonds. A total of USD621.36 Million in grant and loan financing from the ADB, WB, and JICA have been contracted for the implementation of COVID-19 specific projects.⁷⁰

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- ¹ **Section 4(f)(2).** Provision of any of the following subsidies: xxx (2) Five thousand pesos (P5,000) to Eight thousand pesos (P8,000) unemployment or involuntary separation assistance for displaced workers or employees due to COVID-19 including probationary, project, seasonal, contractual and casual employees in private health institutions, culture and arts, creative industries, including but not limited to film and audiovisual workers, broadcast, construction, public transportation, trade and industries, cooperatives, and other sectors of the economy, as may be identified by the DOLE, freelancers, the self-employed and repatriated OFWs, including OFWs whose deployment were suspended due to a government-imposed deployment ban: Provided, That any assistance given to OFWs shall be separate and distinct from the benefits or assistance, if any, they receive as members of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA): Provided, further, That any subsidy previously received under Republic Act No. 11469 does not preclude the displaced worker or employee, the freelancers, self-employed, and repatriated OFWs from receiving the unemployment or involuntary separation assistance provided herein: Provided, further, That members of the Social Security System (SSS) who have received the unemployment benefit under Section 14-B (Unemployment Insurance or Involuntary Separation Benefits) of Republic Act No. 11199 or the "Social Security Act of 2018", during the COVID-19 pandemic shall no longer be eligible to avail of the benefits under this subsection: Provided, finally, That the SSS shall take proactive steps to ensure all qualified members be given unemployment benefits under Republic Act No. 11199 xxx.
- ² 22,365 Filipino nationals were repatriated from 01 to 30 September 2020 and 981 out of 1,185 requests for flight permits for the repatriation of Filipino nationals were facilitated as of 30 September 2020.
- ³ As of 30 September 2020, the DFA has facilitated/approved 421 out of 422 requests for diplomatic clearance.
- ⁴ Assistance from 11 foreign governments, 5 international organizations and 43 private companies, groups and individuals were processed.
- ⁵ 530 General Community Quarantine exemption certificates issued to 96 diplomatic missions, international organizations and honorary consulates with expiry until 31 October 2020 and during the Enhanced Community Quarantine, the DFA issued 116 exemption certificates to 92 diplomatic missions and international organizations
- ⁶ **Section 4(kk).** Regulation and limitation of the operation of all sectors of transportation through land, sea or air, whether private or public and provide the necessary infrastructure and support, including emergency pathways, LGU bicycle sharing scheme with proper safety equipment and pop-up bike lanes, for commuters, particularly health workers and other frontliners.
- ⁷ **Section 4(gg).** Directing the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and such other agencies or instrumentalities that may be authorized under this Act to extend the following assistance to critically-impacted businesses in the transportation industry, including transport cooperatives: xxx (4) Provide grants for fuel subsidy and/or digital fare vouchers, as may be necessary; and xxx
- ⁸ **Section 4(a)** of RA No. 11494. Following the World Health Organization (WHO) or the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and best practices, adoption and implementation of measures to prevent or suppress further transmission and spread of COVID-19 through effective education, detection, protection, and treatment: Provided, That the percentage of the population that will undergo COVID-19 testing shall be in accordance with WHO standards and global benchmarks, in areas identified by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) as epicenters of COVID-19 infections and in other areas where higher possibility of transmission of COVID-19 may occur or have occurred. The DOH and DILG shall adopt a COVID-19 disease surveillance protocol that shall define minimum health standards for workplaces and business activities which shall include COVID-19 testing and the establishment of a contact tracing system including personal contact tracing whereby a person maintains a record of the places that he/she had been to and the people he/she had contact with: Provided, That any individual who tested positive for COVID-19 through laboratory confirmation at the national reference laboratory, sub-national reference laboratory, or a DOH-certified laboratory testing facility shall be automatically treated and if necessary, isolated in a DOH-accredited quarantine and isolation facility: Provided, further, That the IATF-EID shall identify and prioritize the areas and business activities critically impacted and severely affected by COVID-19 and with high probability of COVID-19 transmission, and coordinate with the relevant LGUs and government agencies for the implementation of the COVID-19 surveillance protocol: Provided, Furthermore, That the DILG, in partnership with the LGUs and other government agencies, shall distribute the testing kits to DOH-accredited government hospitals and facilities that can perform testing: Provided, Finally, That the DILG, in partnership with the LGUs, shall lead the contact tracing efforts of the government.
- ⁹ **Sections 4(p).** Ensuring that all LGUs are acting within the letter and spirit of all the rules, regulations and directives issued by the national government pursuant to this Act; and implementing standards of CQ consistent with what the national government has laid down for the subject area, while allowing LGUs to continue

exercising their autonomy in matters undefined by the national government or are within the parameters it has set; and are fully cooperating towards a unified, cohesive and orderly implementation of the national policy to address COVID-19: Provided, That pursuant to the Constitutional right of freedom of movement of persons, the IATF-EID shall be responsible for providing guidance on cross-border concerns, including but not limited to Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs), OFWs, domestic travellers and residents, while the LGUs shall determine the policies and regulations within their respective jurisdictions.

¹⁰ **Section 4(nn).** Conservation and regulation of the distribution and use of power, fuel, energy and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same.

¹¹ As of 21 September 2020.

¹² Section 4(a).

¹³ Section 4(a).

¹⁴ **Section 4(b).** Implementation of an expedited and streamlined registration process of viral testing kits that diagnose Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR), nucleic acid, antigen, and other COVID-19 testing kits recommended by the Health Technology Assessment Council (HTAC) and facilitation of prompt testing by public and designated private institutions of suspected, and probable COVID-19 cases and those with no symptoms but with relevant travel history, or may have been exposed due to the nature of their work or due to their living conditions or had contact with a confirmed, suspected or probable case, and the compulsory and immediate isolation, and treatment of confirmed, suspected and probable COVID-19 patients: Provided, That the cost of testing and treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). In addition to testing, isolation and treatment of these patients, the contacts of these patients shall also be immediately and properly traced through the use of efficient technology for data collection and analysis, and by engaging contact tracers that may include, but not limited to, displaced workers both in the formal and informal sectors, from existing networks of barangay health workers, parent-leaders from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), and members of duly accredited Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) by national government agencies, subject to the rules and regulations to be issued by the DILG which shall include provisions on recruitment, training, and compensation, among others, of contact tracers;

Sections 4(c). Adoption of protocol on the conduct of viral testing and other COVID-19 testing kits recommended by HTAC. For this purpose, the IATF –EID, in full cooperation with the DOH, the DILG, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Bureau of Immigration (BI), shall ensure the following: (1) Adequate number of COVID-19 testing centers that provide available, affordable and accessible testing to the public, subject to reimbursement by PhilHealth under existing guidelines: PROVIDED, That people in geographically isolated or highly populated and depressed areas shall be provided the same level of access to COVID-19 xxx.

¹⁵ **Section 4(j).** Implementation of mandatory COVID-19 testing of public and private health workers every fifteen (15) days to ensure their protection.

¹⁶ **Section 4(k).** Provision of compensation to public and private health workers who have contracted COVID-19 in the line of duty, with the following amounts, upon submission of required documents to support claims.

¹⁷ **Section 7. National Referral System.** - There shall be established a COVID-19 National Referral System jointly developed by the DOH and the Philippine Red Cross to provide patients a fast and efficient way to locate and avail of the services of hospitals, clinics, isolation centers, other health facilities, blood banks, convalescent plasma facilities, and ambulance systems: PROVIDED, That this Section shall remain in effect even after the expiration of this Act.

¹⁸ **Section 4(rrr).** Subject to the provision of Republic Act No. 11332 or the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Health Concern Act", mandating the DOH, in consultation with the National Privacy Commission, DICT, and DILG, to immediately create and adopt a national online electronic application system accessible to everyone in each LGU to provide contact tracing capacity, scheduled transport capability, and information necessary to enable the government to do effective contract tracing of all individuals in each locality; thereafter, mandating the DTI to require adoption of the nationwide online electronic application at all private establishments to monitor the movement of individuals and to serve as a means of enabling contact tracing for suspected COVID-19 positive.

¹⁹ **Section 4(e).** Adoption by the DOH of a uniform and consistent reporting standard in a language understandable by the general public.

²⁰ **Section 4(w).** Engaging temporary Human Resources for Health (HRH) such as medical and allied medical staff to complement or supplement the current health workforce or to man the temporary medical facilities to be established in accordance with Section 4(u)(4) of this Act: Provided, That HRH to be hired on temporary basis shall receive the appropriate compensation and allowances: Provided, Further, That all HRH serving in the front line during the state of emergency due to COVID-19, shall receive an actual hazard duty pay from the national government: Provided, Furthermore, That the actual hazard duty pay shall be in addition to the hazard pay granted under Republic Act No. 7305 and the COVID-19 special risk allowance granted under this Act: Provided, Furthermore, That the active hazard duty pay received by all HRH serving in the front line during the state of national emergency as declared by the President shall be exempt from income tax: Provided, Finally, That DOH, the DOLE and their attached agencies shall closely coordinate to ensure that returning OFW-health workers, or those whose deployments were suspended due to COVID-19, shall be properly referred to the ongoing hiring of temporary HRH by DOH

²¹ 40.4% are hired in DOH hospitals, 16.1% in COVID-19 Diagnostic Facility, 15.2% in Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities, 13.5% in LGU and Other Hospitals, 6.7% in DOH Designated COVID-19 Referral Facility, 2.2% in Mega Ligtas COVID-19 Centers, 3.0% in Private Health Facilities, 1.9% in Epidemiology and

- Surveillance Units, 1.1% in Other Health Care Facility (Philippine Red Cross), and 0.0% in Primary Care Facilities.
- ²² Of these, 1,355 nurses under the Nurses Deployment Program (NDP) are deployed in DOH and LGU hospitals handling COVID-19 cases and 9,318 nurses are deployed in their respective communities involved in contact tracing and specimen collection (swabbing).
- ²³ Of these, 3,887 Public Health Associates are assigned in Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Units, Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Units, and Municipal Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit which play active roles in contact tracing and surveillance and 389 physicians under the post-residency deployed program are in priority health facilities.
- ²⁴ **Sections 4(h).** Provision of a "COVID-19 special risk allowance" by the national government for all public and private health workers directly catering to or in contact with COVID-19 patients for every month that they are serving during the state of national emergency as declared by the President: Provided, That the COVID-19 special risk allowance of public health workers shall be in addition to the hazard pay granted under Republic Act No. 7305 or the "Magna Carta of Public Health Workers" and the active hazard duty pay granted under this Act: Provided, Further, That the COVID-19 special risk allowance for both public and private health workers shall be exempt from income tax.
- ²⁵ There are 10,878 Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs) managed by LGUs which cater to recovering, confirmed, suspect, and probable COVID-19 cases, with 166,515 available beds (LIGTAS COVID). 2,247 beds are also available at the 16 MEGA LIGTAS COVID facilities managed by the National Government
- ²⁶ **Section 4(yyy).** Construction of temporary medical isolation and quarantine facilities, field hospitals, and dormitories and expansion of capacities of public hospitals nationwide.
- ²⁷ Out of PhP3.487 Billion, 81% or PhP2.824 Billion was funded from July 2020 to 15 September 2020.
- ²⁸ Minimum Health System Capacity Standards for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategies.
- ²⁹ **Section 4(a) and Section 10(t).** Appropriations and Standby Fund. - The amounts that will be raised under Section 4 (pp), (qq), (rr), (ss), (sss) and (ttt) of this Act shall be used for the response and recovery interventions for COVID-19 pandemic authorized in this Act and the following: (t) Five billion pesos (P5,000,000,000), subject to Section 4(b) hereof, to finance the hiring of at least 50,000 contact tracers to be implemented by the DILG which shall include, but not limited to, recruitment, training, compensation, monitoring, logistics, and operational expenses; xxx
- ³⁰ Customs Administrative Order No. 12-2020 dated 18 September 2020.
- ³¹ **Section 4(s).** Ensuring that donation, acceptance and distribution of health products intended to address the COVID-19 pandemic are not unnecessarily delayed that the health products for donation duly certified by the regulatory agency or their accredited third party from countries with established regulation shall automatically be cleared: PROVIDED, That this shall not apply to health products which do not require a certification or clearance from the FDA.
- ³² **Section 4(t).** Provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) including, but not limited to, protective suits, facemasks, shoe covers, face shields, and goggles to public and private COVID-19 referral hospitals, both national and local, barangays, and other indigent persons that need protection from the spread of COVID-19 by the national government through the DOH: PROVIDED, That Preference and incentives shall be given to medical safety products that are locally manufactured.
- ³³ **Section 3(h).** Accommodate alternative modes of transportation, including a network of bicycle lanes in all roads in every city, municipality, and province for the people who may opt to use the bicycle as an alternative mode of transportation to address health, environment, and traffic concerns; xxx
- Section 4(II).** Regulation of traffic on all roads, streets, and bridges, and access thereto xxx.
- ³⁴ Section 4(II) of RA No. 11494.
- ³⁵ Section 4(II) of RA No. 11494.
- ³⁶ Section 4(kk).
- ³⁷ Memorandum Circular No. 2020-020 dated 14 May 2020.
- ³⁸ Launched on 16 June 2020.
- ³⁹ Pilot testing commenced in June 2020.
- ⁴⁰ **Section 4(x).** Ensuring the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the economy especially in the countryside through measures such as, but not limited to, lowering the effective lending rates of interest and reserve requirements of lending institutions xxx.
- ⁴¹ **Section 4(bb).** Directing the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PhilGuarantee) to issue an expanded government guarantee program for non-essential businesses, to ease current rules and regulations and give preference to critically impacted businesses, MSMEs, cooperatives and activities that support DOH initiatives towards ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of health care services, and to guarantee the loan portfolio of partner financial institutions of eligible MSME and cooperatives loans;
- ⁴² The CARES Program is a loan assistance and economic relief program for micro and small enterprises, managed by the SBCorp. It is part of the DTI's Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-Asenso program, which was first launched in 2017. The CARES Program is specifically catered to entrepreneurs whose businesses were affected by the pandemic and community quarantine restrictions.
- ⁴³ **Section 4(d).** Ensure the availability of essential goods, in particular food and medicine, by adopting measures as may reasonably be necessary to facilitate and/or minimize disruption to the supply chain, especially for basic commodities and services to the maximum extent possible xxx.
- ⁴⁴ **Section 4(dd).** Ensuring the availability of essential goods, in particular, food and medicine, by adopting measures as may reasonably be necessary to facilitate and/or minimize disruption to the supply chain and/or improve the national end-to-end supply chain, including measures to reduce logistics costs, especially for basic

- commodities and services to the maximum extent possible; Further, the DTI may suspend export requirement for export enterprises that produce critical goods as referred to in Section 4(u)(1) and require them to supply locally subject to the application of Section 4(cc);
- 45 The Fisheries Development Program has four (4) sub-programs, namely: i) Capture Fisheries Sub-Program which is focused on the provision of fishing boats and other fishing gears and paraphernalia; ii) Aquaculture-Sub-Program which is focused on the production and distribution of quality broodstocks and fingerlings; iii) Post-Harvest Sub-Program which is focused on providing interventions that will help reduce post-harvest losses, protect the health of the consumers, increase fisheries exports, establish appropriate product standards, implement quality inspection procedures for fishery products, and provision of transport for better market access; and iv) Market Development Sub-Program which aims to augment the value and competitiveness of the fisheries products by giving fisherfolk more market opportunities including KADIWA activities.
- 46 Section 4(dd).
- 47 The KAK Program consists of the following: Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita On Wheels, KADIWA ni Ani at Kita ONLINE, KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Retail Selling, Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita in partnership with RestoPH and Armed Forces of the Philippines, Ekadiwa, Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita RFOs, Direct Market Linkage, and the Kadiwa IsDA on the Go.
- 48 Section 4(zz). Provision of assistance to the agriculture industry, including agriculture cooperatives by creating the "Plant, Plant, Plant" Program which shall be composed of the following: (1) Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) kontra sa COVID-19; (2) food markets – food logistics and other interventions; (3) Urban agriculture program of the DA; and (4) Cash for work program in agriculture;
- 49 Id.
- 50 **Section 4(tt).** Moving of 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 CQ
- 51 Memorandum Circular No. 2020-027 issued on 10 July 2020.
- 52 **Section 4(uu).** Directing all banks, quasi-banks, financing companies, xxx to implement a one-time sixty (60)-day grace period to be granted for the payment of all existing, current and outstanding loans falling due, or any part thereof, on or before December 31, 2020 xxx.
- 53 Memorandum No. M-2020-068 dated 18 September 2020.
- 54 Memorandum No. M-2020-074 dated 28 September 2020.
- 55 Memorandum No. M-2020-079 dated 01 October 2020 and Memorandum No. M-2020-076 dated 29 September 2020.
- 56 Section 4(tt).
- 57 **Section 4(www).** Provision of regulatory relief during the effectivity of this Act for business entities by directing the SEC and other regulatory agencies to desist from imposing fines and other monetary penalties for non-filing, late filing, failure to comply with compulsory notification and other reportorial requirements relating to business activities and transactions that promote continuity and capacity-building in all sectors of the economy during the CQ.
- 58 Section 6. Tax on Sale, Barter or Exchange of Shares of Stock Listed and Traded through Initial Public Offering. – Section 127(B) of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, is hereby repealed.
- 59 **Section 4(uu).** xxx to implement a one-time sixty (60)-day grace period to be granted for the payment of all existing, current and outstanding loans falling due, or any part thereof, on or before December 31, 2020 xxx Provided, finally, That the loan term extensions or restructuring pursuant to this subsection shall be exempt from documentary stamp taxes.
- 60 **Section 4(bbbb).** Notwithstanding the provision of existing laws to the contrary, the net operating loss of the business or enterprise for taxable years 2020 and 2021 shall be carried over as a deduction from gross income for the next five (5) consecutive taxable years immediately following the year of such loss: Provided, that this subsection shall remain in effect even after the expiration of this Act.
- 61 Revenue Regulation (RR) No. 23-2020.
- 62 RR No. 24-2020.
- 63 RR No. 25-2020.
- 64 Circular Letter No. 2020-93 dated 22 September 2020
- 65 **Section 4(rr).** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, to reprogram, reallocate, and realign from savings on other items 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 pandemic, 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 within the period specified under Section 18 hereof: PROVIDED, That such reprogram, reallocation and realignment shall be limited to the sources of funding enumerated under Section 11 of this Act.
- 66 **Section 4(rr).**
- 67 **Section 4(ss).** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the President is hereby authorized to allocate cash, funds, investments, including unutilized or unreleased subsidies and transfers, held by any GOCC or any national government agency in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 68 **Section 4(q).** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the local chief executives of all LGUs are hereby authorized to realign their respective local funds including, but not limited to, their development fund, Gender and Development Fund, Sangguniang Kabataan Fund, Special Education Fund (SEF), and other local funds, including unutilized or unreleased subsidies and transfers in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic.xxx
- 69 LBC No. 128 (s. 2020) provides that the LGSF shall be exclusively used to support the following COVID-19 P/A/Ps of LGUs: food assistance and other relief goods for affected households; procurement of hospital

equipment and supplies; expenses for the construction/repair/lease/rental of additional space/building to accommodate COVID-19 patients and persons under monitoring/investigation; procurement of medicines and vitamins; food, transportation (includes fuel), and accommodation expenses of medical personnel and other LGU personnel directly involved in the implementation of COVID-19 related P/A/Ps; procurement of PPEs; procurement of equipment, reagents and kits for COVID-19 testing; procurement of disinfectants, sprayers, disinfection tents and other disinfecting supplies and misting equipment; expenses for the purchase/rental of tents/spaces for temporary shelters of the homeless; expenses for the operation of stand-alone/mobile testing laboratory; expenses for training of personnel in the conduct of COVID-19 testing and other related trainings; and other necessary COVID-19-related P/A/Ps and expenses.

⁷⁰ Information on the type of grant assistance or loan financing, the corresponding amounts, and copies of the agreements are available at <https://www.dof.gov.ph/data/fin-agreements/>.

FINANCING SECURED FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE (AS OF 28 SEPTEMBER 2020)

Particulars	Signing/Issuance Date	Amount in USD million
Budgetary Support Financing		
WB Third Disaster Risk Management Development Policy Loan	10-Apr-2020 (Effective: 27-Apr-2020)	500.00
ADB COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program	23-Apr-2020 (Effective: 27-Apr-2020)	1,500.00
ADB Social Protection Support Project - Second Additional Financing	28-Apr-2020 (Effective: 5-May-2020)	200.00
ROP Bonds Due 2045 with 2.950% coupon	5-May-2020	1,350.00
ROP Bonds Due 2030 with 2.457% coupon	5-May-2020	1,000.00
WB Emergency COVID-19 Response Development Policy Loan	3-Jun-2020 (Effective: 19-Jun-2020)	500.00
ADB Support to Capital Market Generated Infrastructure Financing, Subprogram 1	4-June-2020 (Effective: 29-Jun-2020)	400.00
AIIB CARES Program	5-Jun-2020 (Effective: 30-Jun-2020)	750.00
AFD Expanding Private Participation in Infrastructure Program, Subprogram 2 ^(a)	9 Jun-2020 (Effective: 7-Aug-2020)	165.42

ANNEX A

Particulars	Signing/Issuance Date	Amount in USD million
AFD Inclusive Finance Development Program, Subprogram 1 ^(b)	9-Jun-2020 (Effective: 7-Aug-2020)	110.28
ADB Expanded Social Assistance Program	15-Jun-2020 (Effective: 21-Jul-2020)	500.00
JICA COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan ^(c)	1-Jul-2020 (Effective: 11-Aug-2020)	458.95
ADB Competitive and Inclusive Agriculture Development Program, Subprogram 1	20-Aug-2020 (Effective: 16-Sep-2020)	400.00
ADB Inclusive Finance Development Program, Subprogram 2	27-Aug-2020	300.00
JICA Post Disaster Standby Loan (Phase 2) ^(d)	15-Sep-2020	458.95
ADB Disaster Resilience Improvement Program ^(e)	15-Sep-2020	500.00
WB Social Welfare Development and Reform Project II - Additional Financing ^(f)	28-Nov-2019 (Effective: 6-Jan-2020)	200.00
Subtotal, Budgetary Support Financing		9,293.60
Grant Assistance		
ADB COVID-19 Emergency Response Project	16-Mar-2020	3.00
ADB Rapid Emergency Supplies Provision ^(g)	27-Mar-2020	5.00

Particulars	Signing/Issuance Date	Amount in USD million
Government of Japan Non-Project Grant Aid for the Provision of Medical Equipment to DOH ^(a)	8-Jun-2020	18.36
		26.36
Project Loan Financing		
WB COVID-19 Emergency Response Project	28-Apr-2020 (Effective: 6-May-2020)	100.00
WB Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Tiling Project	14-Jul-2020	370.00
ADB Health System Enhancement to Address and Limit COVID-19 Program	8-Sep-2020	125.00
Subtotal, Project Loan Financing		595.00
TOTAL		9,914.96

^(a)Amount in original currency: EUR150.00 million

^(b)Amount in original currency: EUR100.00 million

^(c)Amount in original currency: JPY50.00 billion

^(d)Amount in original currency: JPY50.00 billion. Disbursement is contingent on pre-agreed triggers including the declaration of a state of calamity as a result of a natural or health-related disaster, declaration of a public health emergency, and imposition of an enhanced community quarantine or its functional equivalent.

^(e)For disbursement, a Disaster Event shall have occurred and in connection therewith: (i) for a natural hazard, the President has declared a state of calamity or taken equivalent measures; and (ii) for a health related emergency, the Borrower has enacted a law in response to a public health emergency, or the President has (a) declared a state of public health emergency, or (b) taken an equivalent measure including issuance of a proclamation or an executive order declaring or describing a worsening health situation, or imposing an enhanced community quarantine or its functional equivalent

^(f)Total loan amount is USD300.00 million, of which USD200.00 million is availed for budgetary support purposes in light of COVID-19 response

^(g)Executed through the issuance of a no-objection letter dated March 27, 2020

^(h)Provided through Exchange of Notes dated June 8, 2020; Amount in original currency: JPY2.00 billion; Agent Agreement which will provide basis for procurement is yet to be signed