



Republic of the Philippines

Senate

OFFICE OF SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

I have the honor to present comments and recommendations to the Sixth Report of the President to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee pursuant to Section 5 of Republic Act 11469, otherwise known as the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

Allow me to recognize the collective efforts of the Executive Department and all of its agencies and instrumentalities in responding to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and in addressing the pressing needs of our countrymen in these extraordinary times.

May these inputs from this humble Representation be of help to the concerned agencies in pursuing a more effective and efficient implementation of our laws and policies in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank you and more power.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recognize and commend the efforts of our social workers and barangay officials in distributing the Emergency Subsidy to families severely affected by the imposed community quarantine brought about by Covid-19 pandemic. They are also our frontliners in delivering the much-needed financial assistance to our low-income households. It is imperative that social workers should also be protected from health risks and exposure to infection, given the nature of their work and constant contact with members of the community. It was reported that exposure of staff to Covid-19 and non-observance of preventive measures of beneficiaries during distribution have caused postponement of payout in some areas. Social workers must be provided with ample protection and safety gear in the performance of their duties. Health measures should be in place and strictly enforced during distribution of these subsidies. Moreover, other options such as door-to-door delivery and online transactions, must be adopted by the LGUs in distributing aid to the beneficiaries, as to prevent mass gathering of people in accordance with the Department of the Interior and Local Government Memorandum Circular 2020-065 dated March 30, 2020. ¹
2. While we appreciate the increase in the number of non-4Ps beneficiaries served compared to the previous report (from 2,504,221 as of April 23 to 6,445,906 as of April 30), we urge the local governments to accelerate further the release of the emergency subsidy to the people and address disruptions and logistical obstacles to the speedy delivery of the program, particularly in BARMM and NCR which have the lowest percentage of beneficiaries paid (6.41% and 19.90%, respectively) . As of April 30, only 47.55% of the total estimated beneficiaries have been served.

¹ Guidelines for Local Government Units in the Provision of Social Amelioration Measures by the National Government to the Most Affected Residents of the Areas Under Enhanced Community Quarantine

Region	% of beneficiaries paid to total target low-income beneficiaries (non-4Ps)
1	51.82%
2	71.53%
CAR	70.37%
3	56.52%
NCR	19.90%
4-A	42.26%
4-B	69.60%
5	69.32%
6	47.50%
7	38.35%
8	43.97%
9	41.67%
10	45.04%
11	34.84%
12	60.76%
CARAGA	89.87%
BARMM	6.41%
National	47.55%

3. Based on the latest report, there is no movement in the number of beneficiaries served in the TNVS-PUV sector in NCR. To wit, 40,418 beneficiaries have been served (out of 90,000 estimated beneficiaries) and was reported both in the 5th and 6th Bayanihan Reports. May we know an update about the emergency assistance being extended to this sector? Is the project discontinued? What are the challenges which prevent the speedy distribution of such assistance to TNVS-PUV?
4. DILG directed all Punong Barangays to post the masterlist of beneficiaries of the Social Amelioration Program² in the spirit of transparency. What is the compliance rate of LGUs in ensuring transparency in the implementation of the SAP?
5. On the assistance of the Department of Agriculture for marginalized small farmers and fisherfolk, a small number of beneficiaries has been reported (1,376 out of 40,000 estimated beneficiaries). The report cited “difficulties in coordinating with partner lending conduits and LGU officials due to connectivity problems, and in conducting validation activities due to strict quarantine regulations of LGUs.” How can the DA speed up the distribution of such assistance? It is highly recommended that they relax some of the requirements to accommodate the urgent needs of the small farmers and fisherfolk.
6. We have been receiving reports that some cancer patients have to walk for hours just to bring themselves to hospitals for their treatment sessions. Some patients have redeveloped cancer cells

² <https://www.dilg.gov.ph/news/DILG-to-Punong-Barangays-Post-list-of-SAP-beneficiaries-in-barangay-hall-for-transparency/NC-2020-1100>

because they missed chemotherapy sessions. Some immunocompromised patients refused to go to treatment centers for fear of contracting Covid-19.

I encourage the Department of Health (DOH) and the DILG to come up with new guidelines to ensure that cancer and dialysis patients as well as distributors of cancer drugs can easily pass through checkpoints. I am also calling on the treatment centers to follow and be guided by DOH Memorandum Circular 2020-0162 mandating the continuous operation of dialysis facilities throughout the Philippines during the Enhanced Community Quarantine.

I call on the LGUs and the private sector to assist these cancer and kidney patients, especially those who live in the provinces and need to go to Manila, through provision of free shuttle services to enable them to continue their treatment.

7. Given the figures on the number of testing kits, accredited laboratories, procured protective equipment, converted quarantine facilities among others, how does the DOH appreciate all these data in relation to their set targets, strategies and overall objectives? How much are still needed? How many are needed to be sourced out? How much funding is still required to support our health care systems?