



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Senate

Pasay City

Office of:

Hon. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

SENATOR

October 08, 2020

SENATOR VICENTE "TITO" SOTTO III

Senate President

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

SENATOR JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" ANGARA

Chairperson of the Committee on Finance

Senate of the Philippines

Pasay City

Dear **Senate President Sotto and Senator Angara:**

I am respectfully submitting my comments in response to the first report of the President which was submitted to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act.

I. *SAP for Transportation Industry*

As stated in the President's report, emergency subsidy is continuously being distributed to drivers of Public Utility Jeeps, UV Express, Public Utility Buses, Point-to-Point Buses, Taxis, Transport Network Vehicle Service, school transport services, tourist transport services, and Motorcycle Taxis whose operations were suspended due to quarantine restrictions. The cash subsidy was claimed through the Land Bank of the Philippines and GCash. In relation to the distribution of SAP for transportation industry, the Senate should be provided with the following data or information:

- 1) List of target beneficiaries for the transportation industry;
- 2) Total number of target beneficiaries for the transportation industry, how many beneficiaries have been provided with assistance and the amount of assistance given per beneficiary; and

3) Timeline for the distribution of SAP to target beneficiaries.

II. *Total lifting of temporary ban on overseas deployment of health workers*

On August 17, 2020, the Interagency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases issued Resolution No. 64, Series of 2020 which temporarily suspended the overseas deployment of medical and allied health workers pursuant to Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Governing Board Resolution No. 09, Series of 2020. It was reported by the Philippine News Agency (PNA) on September 21, 2020 that the President has approved the proposal of the POEA to extend the exemption period for healthcare workers from the temporary deployment ban and the President has allowed nurses and other healthcare workers with complete documents as of August 31, 2020 to leave and work overseas. However, the PNA has also reported that the President has yet to make a decision on the total lifting of deployment ban.

Considering the appeal made by various groups of Filipino nurses and their request for assistance on the total lifting of deployment ban, the Senate should be provided with an update on the status of the temporary ban on overseas deployment of health workers and whether the IATF has reviewed its policy on this matter.

III. *Exemption from Tax of Retirement Benefits*

The Senate should be provided with an update on the implementation of Section 5 of the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act. Under this section, retirement benefits received by officials and employees of private firms, whether individual or corporate, from June 5, 2020 until December 31, 2020 shall be excluded from gross income and shall be exempt from taxation.

IV. *Reopening of Museums*

As the country prepares to revive and reopen tourism in the country, the Senate should be provided with an update on the following:

- (1) Reopening of museums; and
- (2) Has the IATF issued the necessary guidelines on the minimum public health standards to be observed should museums reopen? The necessary guidelines will help museums to plan accordingly.

I am grateful for your continued support and assistance.

Very truly yours,



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY