



**Implementation of Laws**

# **UPDATE**

**Seventeenth and Eighteenth Congresses**

**Senate of the Philippines  
Department of External Affairs and Relations**







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**Seventeenth and Eighteenth Congresses**

**November 2020**

**Senate of the Philippines  
Department of External Affairs and Relations**





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## Foreword

This report is the product of a nearly year-long effort by the Senate Department of External Affairs and Relations (DEAR) to monitor the implementation of nationally significant laws in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Congresses.

2020 has been a difficult year for the country. The Covid-19 pandemic and the quarantine measures put in place to mitigate its spread have adversely affected most sectors of society. Significant legislation during the 17th and 18th Congresses, most of them approved before the onset of the pandemic, can help cushion their impacts.

In the 17th Congress, 38 laws were passed creating or upgrading health facilities. In the 18th Congress, 4 such laws have been approved as of September 2020. There were also laws that seek to strengthen the health sector, such as RA 11332 (mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health events of public concern), RA 11463 (establishing malasakit centers), RA 10932 (strengthening the anti-hospital deposit law), RA 11223 (Universal Health Care Act), RA 11036 (establishing a national mental health policy), RA 11148 (strengthening the first 1,000 days strategy), RA 11166 (strengthening the comprehensive policy on HIV/AIDS), and RA 11215 (national integrated cancer control).

Non-health legislative measures, if implemented well, can also have a positive effect. RA 11037 (national feeding program), RA 11291 (magna carta of the poor), RA 11310 (institutionalizing 4Ps) and RA 11315 (community-based monitoring system) will provide targeted and evidence-based assistance for poor Filipinos; RA 11127 (payment systems act) and RA 11211 (New Central Bank Act) will strengthen oversight of the monetary system and develop a conducive environment for financial technologies; RA 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act) and RA 11032 (Ease of Doing Business Act) will lower transaction costs for individuals and businesses; RA 11058 (strengthening occupational safety and health standards), RA 11165 (institutionalizing telecommuting) and RA 11261 (First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act) will strengthen the labor market and minimize occupational hazards; and RA 11035 (Balik Scientist Act) and RA 11337 (Innovative Startup Act) will help unleash Filipino innovations that can help address the pandemic while preparing the country for the fourth industrial revolution.


Finally, the 18th Congress saw the passage of RA 11469 (Bayanihan to Heal as One) and RA 11494 (Bayanihan to Recover as One) to protect the vulnerable and lay the groundwork for a swift recovery.

Events such as the ongoing pandemic highlight the importance of monitoring the implementation of laws. Since 1993, DEAR has, in its own little way, contributed to this worthwhile effort.

To generate information for this report, DEAR conducted a survey of implementing agencies from July to October 2020. 28 out of 48 invited agencies replied to our request. The DEAR Seminar Series held in March, May and July 2020 was also a platform to gather information on how laws were implemented. Other sources of information included phone or e-mail inquiries and follow-ups with department legislative liaison officers, as well as the websites of implementing agencies, media, development institutions, and private organizations.

Through these efforts, we were able to produce narrative reports on 92 out of the 184 laws covered in our mapping of nationally significant laws. We are grateful to our partners in the Executive Branch, Judiciary, and independent government bodies for contributing to this report.

We hope that this humble work would assist the Senators and their staff, and officials and staff of other Departments and Offices in the Senate in performing their duties. We also hope that this report would serve as a handy reference for readers from outside the Senate who would like to know the status of the implementation of the laws that were approved in the 17th and 18th Congresses.



**ENRIQUE LUIS D. PAPA**  
Deputy Secretary,  
Department of External Affairs and Relations  
Senate of the Philippines

## Common Abbreviations and Acronyms

BSFI	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas-supervised financial institutions
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
BTr	Bureau of the Treasury
CDC	Child Development Center
CHD	Center for Health Development
DA	Department of Agriculture
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
DILG	Department of Interior and Local Government
DOF	Department of Finance
DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
DOST	Department of Science and Technology
DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
ESU	Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
FAB	Freeport Area of Bataan
FMI	Financial Market Infrastructures
FSCC	Financial Stability Coordination Council
FSF	Financial Sector Forum
GOCC	Government-owned and controlled corporation
IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
LGU	Local government unit
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSB	Money service business
NBFI	Non-bank Financial Institution
NGA	National government agency
NIA	National Irrigation Administration
NIS	National Irrigation System
NNC	National Nutrition Council
NOSCA	Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action
NPS	National Payment System
NSSLA	Non-stock savings and loan association
OFW	Overseas Filipino Worker
OSHC	Occupational Safety and Health Center



PCMH	Philippine Council for Mental Health
PDIC	Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
PFMI	Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures
Philhealth	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
PhilPASS	Philippine Payment and Settlement System
PhilSys	Philippine Identification System
PIPS	Prominently Important Payment System
PLHIV	People living with HIV
PNAC	Philippine National AIDS Council
PPAN	Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition
PQF	Philippine Qualifications Framework
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority
PSO	Payment and Settlements Office
QMS	Quality Management Systems
RTGS	Real-time Gross Settlement
S&T	Science and technology
SAFr	Supervisory Assessment Framework
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SIPS	Systemically Important Payment System
SNP	Supervised Neighborhood Play
TES	Tertiary Education Subsidy
TVET	Technical-vocational education and training
TVI	Technical-vocational institution
TWG	Technical working group

# About Senate

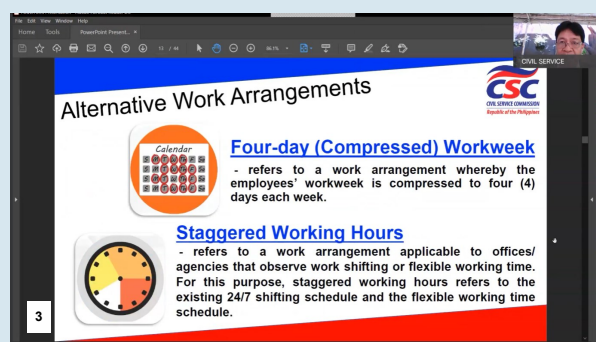
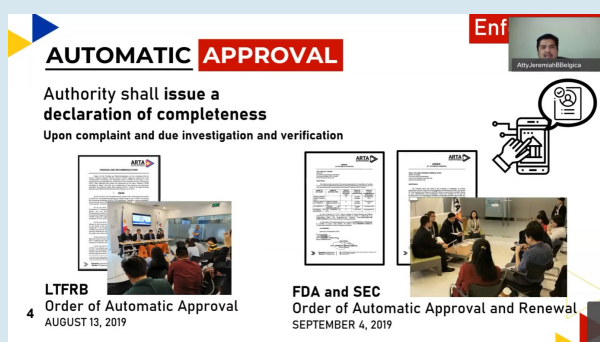
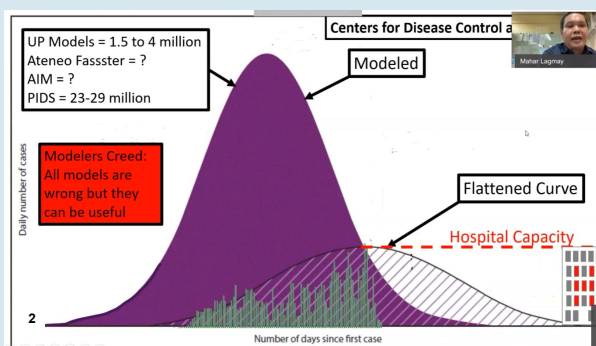
## Department of External Affairs and Relations

The Department of External Affairs and Relations (DEAR) as per Administrative Order No. 93-04 OSP is mandated to *generate goodwill between the Senate and its external environment*. To do so, it seeks to *institutionalize an efficient system of linkages of the Senate* with the agencies and offices of the Executive branch, the House of Representatives, the Judiciary, private sector, non-government and civic organizations, academe, and other institutions and sectors of society.

One of the functions of DEAR is to monitor the implementation of laws, treaties and resolutions passed by Congress. Our goal is to assist the Senators and their staff, officials and staff of the 39 standing Committees and 14 oversight/ad-hoc Committees of the Senate, and those from other departments and offices of the Senate Secretariat by informing them of key developments in the implementation of legislation that have a broad national impact. We also seek to provide a mechanism for implementing agencies/offices to put on record their proposed new laws or amendments to existing laws based on their experiences in implementing the laws that fall under their purview.

Published annually since 1994, this report is a compilation of the findings of DEAR's monitoring and liaison activities for the year that can be shared to the public. Some related DEAR activities are outlined below.

### DEAR Seminar Series



Launched in 2018, the DEAR Seminar Series seeks to inform the Senate community of updates on the implementation of laws, as well as provide a mechanism for the Senate community to interact with eminent speakers from other government agencies, the private sector, the non-profit/development sector, and the academe. Starting March 2020, the DEAR Seminar Series migrated to an online format during the imposition of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) measures to mitigate the spread of Covid-19. Photos: Screenshots of the presentations/talk of (1) Department of Health OIC Undersecretary Maria Rosario S. Vergeire, (2) University of the Philippines Resilience Institute Executive Director Alfredo Mahar Francisco A. Lagmay, (3) Civil Service Commission Director Rodolfo Encajonado, and (4) Anti-Red Tape Authority Director-General Jeremiah B. Belgica.

## Providing a platform for partners' advocacies in the Senate



DEAR provides a platform for government, non-government, academic and development institutions to showcase their plans, programs and advocacies to the Senate community. Notable events in 2020 include:

- (5) In March 2020, DEAR in coordination with the Office of Senator Pia S. Cayetano, Chair of the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Innovation and Futures Thinking, organized a weeklong exhibit and one-day seminar on the SDGs, specifically on SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production. The National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism and their partners in the non-government sector participated in the activities.
- (6) Organized by the Office of Senator Richard J. Gordon in coordination with DEAR, inmates of the Tagaytay City Jail mounted an art exhibit in the Senate in February 2020. Proceeds from the sale of artwork support the welfare of persons deprived of liberty and their families.

## Facilitating on-site services for the Senate community



DEAR works with other government offices and the private sector to offer select on-site services for the Senate community. Photos: (7) EasyTrip RFID installation in coordination with the Department of Transportation and EasyTrip; (8) and (9) LTOPF and NBI Clearance caravans in March and June 2020 organized by the Office of Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III and the Office of Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III, respectively.



Part 1

# Monitoring Matrix

### Monitoring Matrix

The matrix in this section maps the nationally significant laws that were monitored by Senate DEAR in 2020. It outlines information on the law's Republic Act number, title, approval date, Congress in which it was approved, and status of implementing rules and regulations (IRR). The DEAR IRR database can be accessed by scanning the QR code on the upper right corner of the cover page of this document.<sup>1</sup>

For laws whose IRRs have been approved, the date of approval, publication or dissemination is indicated. IRRs labeled *Not required* means that the law does not explicitly require the implementing agencies to promulgate an IRR. However, it does not prevent them from promulgating one if they so choose. Laws labeled *No information* means that the researchers were unable to determine the status of the IRR at the time of publication of this report.

The information presented in the matrix were sourced from the following:

- Online database of the Senate Legislative Bills and Index Service, which is publicly available through the Senate website ([www.senate.gov.ph](http://www.senate.gov.ph));
- Implementing agencies' reports to DEAR;
- Implementing agencies' websites;
- Office of the National Administrative Register at the College of Law, University of the Philippines; and
- Websites of reputable media, international development, nonprofit and private organizations.

Meanwhile, laws with narrative reports have a page number indicated in the last column.

<sup>1</sup> Links that were active during the creation of this report may become inactive in the future

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
10923	AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Oct 15, 2016	17	No information	
10924	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		17	Not Required	
10927	AN ACT DESIGNATING CASINOS AS COVERED PERSONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT OF 2001, AS AMENDED	Jul 14, 2017	17	October 11, 2017	
10928	AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Aug 2, 2017	17	October 25, 2017	65
10929	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FREE INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC PLACES IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 2, 2017	17	June 14, 2018	
10930	AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE POLICY REGARDING DRIVER'S LICENSE BY EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF DRIVERS' LICENSES, AND PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATION OF ITS ISSUANCE AND APPLICATION, AMENDING FOR THOSE PURPOSES SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE	Aug 2, 2017	17	June 26, 2019	
10931	AN ACT PROMOTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR FREE TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHING THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY AND STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM, STRENGTHENING THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 3, 2017	17	February 22, 2018	58
10932	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ANTI-HOSPITAL DEPOSIT LAW BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR THE REFUSAL OF HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS TO ADMINISTER APPROPRIATE INITIAL MEDICAL TREATMENT AND SUPPORT IN EMERGENCY, OR SERIOUS CASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 702, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEMAND OF DEPOSITS OR ADVANCE PAYMENTS FOR THE CONFINEMENT OR TREATMENT OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS IN CERTAIN CASES," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8344, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Aug 3, 2017	17	November 17, 2017	67
10951	AN ACT ADJUSTING THE AMOUNT OR THE VALUE OF PROPERTY ON WHICH A PENALTY IS BASED, AND THE FINES IMPOSED UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED	Aug 29, 2017	17	Not Required	



RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
10952	AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2017 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Oct 2, 2017	17	No information	
10962	AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCES, USE AND REDEMPTION OF GIFT CHECKS	Dec 19, 2017	17	February 18, 2019	
10963	AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 74, 79, 84, 86, 90, 91, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128, 129, 145, 148, 149, 151, 155, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 232, 236, 237, 249, 254, 264, 269, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 51-A, 148-A, 150-A, 150-B, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35, 62 AND 89, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Dec 19, 2017	17	Various	
10964	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		17	Not Required	
10966	AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES	Dec 28, 2017	17	Not Required	
10968	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF), ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (NCC) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jan 16, 2018	17	January 15, 2019	59
10969	AN ACT PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Feb 2, 2018	17	January 14, 2019	35
10970	AN ACT DECLARING THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL TECH-VOC DAY	Feb 7, 2018	17	Not Required	111
10973	AN ACT GRANTING THE CHIEF OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND THE DIRECTOR AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND DETECTION GROUP (CIDG) THE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER OATH AND TO ISSUE SUBPOENA AND SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990	Mar 1, 2018	17	Not Required	
11014	AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC	Apr 5, 2018	17	Not Required	
11032	AN ACT PROMOTING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	May 28, 2018	17	July 17, 2019	145
11035	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jun 15, 2018	17	October 4, 2018	118



RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11036	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS UTILIZING PSYCHIATRIC, NEUROLOGIC AND PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jun 20, 2018	17	January 22, 2019	68
11037	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN IN PUBLIC DAY CARE, KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO COMBAT HUNGER AND UNDERNUTRITION AMONG FILIPINO CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jun 20, 2018	17	January 31, 2019	60
11038	AN ACT DECLARING PROTECTED AREAS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jun 22, 2018	17	May 30, 2019	
11039	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCY FUND AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jun 29, 2018	17	December 14, 2018	63
11040	AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF LAPU-LAPU, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON APRIL 27, 1521, TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-LAPU	Jun 29, 2018	17	Not Required	
11052	AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BOARD OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jun 29, 2018	17	No information	
11053	AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049, ENTITLED "AN ACT REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR	Jun 29, 2018	17	No information	
11054	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734, ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9054, ENTITLED AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO	July 27, 2018	17	Not Required	
11055	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM	Aug 6, 2018	17	October 5, 2018	99
11057	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURED TRANSACTIONS LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION, PERFECTION, DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY, ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALIZED NOTICE REGISTRY, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERESTS IN PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Aug 17, 2018	17	October 10, 2019	

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11058	AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF	Aug 17, 2018	17	December 16, 2018	112
11059	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 17, 2018	17	October 22, 2018	
11081	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VETERANS REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, CHANGING ITS NAME TO REGION II TRAUMA AND MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Sep 28, 2018	17	Not Required	93
11082	AN ACT UPGRADING THE SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SANTIAGO CITY, PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO A TERTIARY GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN ISABELA MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Sep 28, 2018	17	July 25, 2019	93
11083	AN ACT UPGRADING THE SERVICES AND FACILITIES OF THE LA UNION MEDICAL CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION BY INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO THREE HUNDRED (300) AND ESTABLISHING A TRAUMA CENTER THEREIN, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Sep 28, 2018	17	Not Required	93
11084	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Sep 28, 2018	17	Not Required	93
11085	AN ACT UPGRADING THE DR. PAULINO J. GARCIA MEMORIAL RESEARCH AND MEDICAL CENTER EXTENSION HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TALAVERA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECUIJA, TO A LEVEL II HOSPITAL AND INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIFTY (50) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE TALAVERA GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Sep 28, 2018	17	July 3, 2019	94
11087	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER IN ZAMBOANGA CITY FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7272, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED AN ACT CONVERTING THE ZAMBOANGA REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Oct 10, 2018	17	Not Required	94
11102	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOCCSKSARGEN GENERAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF THE SOUTH COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Oct 26, 2018	17	September 16, 2019	94
11103	AN ACT UPGRADING THE AMAI PAKPAK MEDICAL CENTER IN MARAWI CITY, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Oct 30, 2018	17	Not Required	94

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11104	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LUIS HORA MEMORIAL REGIONAL HOSPITAL FROM ONE HUNDRED (100) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS	Oct 30, 2018	17	Not Required	94
11106	AN ACT DECLARING THE FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE AS THE NATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF THE FILIPINO DEAF AND THE OFFICIAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE DEAF, AND MANDATING ITS USE IN SCHOOLS, BROADCAST MEDIA, AND WORKPLACES	Oct 30, 2018	17	No information	
11107	AN ACT UPGRADING THE BATAAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN INTO A LEVEL III TEACHING AND TRAINING HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE BATAAN GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Oct 30, 2018	17	June 25, 2019	94
11108	AN ACT EXPANDING THE MANDATE AND SERVICE CAPABILITY OF THE BICOL SANITARIUM IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABUSAO, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE 'BICOL REGION GENERAL HOSPITAL AND GERIATRIC MEDICAL CENTER, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Oct 30, 2018	17	Not Required	95
11127	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS	Oct 30, 2018	17	Various	37
11131	AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF CRIMINOLOGY PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 6506, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT CREATING THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CRIMINOLOGISTS IN THE PHILIPPINES	Nov 8, 2018	17	No information	
11147	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE NARRA MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN FROM TEN (10) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BED CAPACITY, AND NAMING IT AS THE GOVERNOR ALFREDO MENDOZA ABUEG, SR. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Nov 9, 2018	17	Not Required	95
11148	AN ACT SCALING UP THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS THROUGH A STRENGTHENED INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR MATERNAL, NEONATAL, CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN THE FIRST ONE THOUSAND (1,000) DAYS OF LIFE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.	Nov 29, 2018	17	May 2, 2019	70
11163	AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL BIBLE DAY	Dec 20, 2018	17	Not Required	
11164	AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY OLD-AGE PENSION OF SENIOR VETERANS	Dec 20, 2018	17	Not Required	117
11165	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING TELECOMMUTING AS AN ALTERNATIVE WORK ARRANGEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR	Dec 20, 2018	17	March 25, 2019	114

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11166	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE, AND SUPPORT, AND RECONSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL AIDS COUNCIL (PNAC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS	Dec 20, 2018	17	2019 (Undated)	72
11167	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BILIRAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN ITS PROPOSED RELOCATION SITE IN BARANGAY LARRAZABAL, MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, FROM SEVENTY-FIVE (75) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jan 3, 2019	17	Not Required	95
11168	AN ACT ALLOWING HOME ECONOMICS GRADUATES TO TEACH HOME ECONOMICS SUBJECTS AND HOME ECONOMICS-RELATED TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SUBJECTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, RESPECTIVELY, CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10533 OR THE ENHANCED BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2013	Jan 3, 2019	17	No information	
11180	AN ACT REQUIRING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO REPORT PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPENDITURES IN ALL COLLEGE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS	Jan 3, 2019	17	No information	
11188	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF	Jan 10, 2019	17	Undated	
11189	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF ST. ANTHONY MOTHER AND CHILD HOSPITAL IN CEBU CITY FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) TO TWO HUNDRED (200), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jan 10, 2019	17	June 25, 2019	95
11194	AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jan 18, 2019	17	No information	
11195	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jan 18, 2019	17	Not Required	95
11199	AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997"	Feb 7, 2019	17	May 22, 2019	
11200	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RANK CLASSIFICATION IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990	Feb 8, 2019	17	March 24, 2019	
11201	AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Feb 14, 2019	17	July 19, 2019	

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11202	AN ACT REQUIRING MOBILE SERVICE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE NATIONWIDE MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY TO SUBSCRIBERS.	Feb 8, 2019	17	June 11, 2019	
11203	AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE IMPORTATION, EXPORTATION AND TRADING OF RICE, LIFTING FOR THE PURPOSE THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTION ON RICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Feb 14, 2019	17	2019 (Undated)	
11206	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 14, 2019	17	No information	
11207	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REASONABLE RATES FOR POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9006, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAIR ELECTION ACT	Feb 14, 2019	17	March 29, 2019	
11208	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF RIZAL MEDICAL CENTER IN PASIG CITY FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 14, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11210	AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY LEAVE PERIOD TO ONE HUNDRED FIVE (105) DAYS FOR FEMALE WORKERS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS WITHOUT PAY, AND GRANTING AN ADDITIONAL FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FOR SOLO MOTHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Feb 20, 2019	17	May 1, 2019	
11211	AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Feb 14, 2019	17	Not Required	42
11213	AN ACT ENHANCING REVENUE ADMINISTRATION AND COLLECTION BY GRANTING AN AMNESTY ON ALL UNPAID INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES IMPOSED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR TAXABLE YEAR 2017 AND PRIOR YEARS WITH RESPECT TO ESTATE TAX, OTHER INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, AND TAX ON DELINQUENCIES	Feb 14, 2019	17	April 5, 2019	
11214	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPORTS COMPLEX KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL SPORTS TRAINING CENTER, AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY, THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES AND THE ADMINISTRATION, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CENTER	Feb 14, 2019	17	Pending	144
11215	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONAL INTEGRATED CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 14, 2019	17	August 23, 2019	81
11216	AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 3 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE SURRENDER OF THE JAPANESE MILITARY FORCES LED BY GENERAL TOMOYUKI YAMASHITA IN BAGUIO CITY	Feb 14, 2019	17	Not Required	
11222	AN ACT ALLOWING THE RECTIFICATION OF SIMULATED BIRTH RECORDS AND PRESCRIBING ADMINISTRATIVE ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE	Feb 21, 2019	17	Pending	149
11223	AN ACT INSTITUTING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, PRESCRIBING REFORMS IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 20, 2019	17	October 10, 2019	84

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11227	AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) TO DEVELOP, PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE AND UPDATE A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022	Feb 22, 2019	17	Not Required	115
11228	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDs), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY	Feb 22, 2019	17	October 24, 2019	
11229	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILD PASSENGERS IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND PROVIDING APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 22, 2019	17	December 23, 2019	
11230	AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE LABOR FORCE COMPETENCIES COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM AND FREE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL - VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 22, 2019	17	May 21, 2019	116
11231	AN ACT REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE REGISTRATION, ACQUISITION, ENCUMBRANCE, ALIENATION, TRANSFER AND CONVEYANCE OF LAND COVERED BY FREE PATENTS UNDER SECTIONS 118, 119 AND 121 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC LAND ACT, AS AMENDED	Feb 22, 2019	17	Not Required	
11232	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES	Feb 20, 2019	17	May 1, 2019	
11233	AN ACT UPGRADING THE BACOR DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL HOSPITAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG REGIONAL HOSPITAL, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TEN (10) TO ONE HUNDRED (100), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Feb 20, 2019	17	Pending	96
11234	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ENERGY VIRTUAL ONE-STOP SHOP FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREAMLINING THE PERMITTING PROCESS OF POWER GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECTS	Mar 8, 2019	17	May 28, 2019	
11235	AN ACT PREVENTING AND PENALIZING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES BY REQUIRING BIGGER, READABLE AND COLOR-CODED NUMBER PLATES AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Mar 8, 2019	17	May 11, 2020	
11239	AN ACT ABOLISHING THE ROAD BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE USERS CHARGE COLLECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, ENTITLED AN ACT IMPOSING A MOTOR VEHICLE USERS CHARGE ON OWNERS OF ALL TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Mar 8, 2019	17	2019 (Undated)	
11241	AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES	Mar 11, 2019	17	No information	
11249	AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR	Mar 22, 2019	17	No information	

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11250	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN TANDAG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Mar 29, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11251	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ZIGA MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF TABACO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) BEDS, TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE DR. LORENZO P. ZIGA MEMORIAL DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Mar 29, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11256	AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (GIR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 32 AND 151 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Mar 29, 2019	17	March 6, 2020	148
11259	AN ACT DIVIDING THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN INTO THREE (3) PROVINCES, NAMELY: PALAWAN DEL NORTE, PALAWAN ORIENTAL, AND PALAWAN DEL SUR	Apr 5, 2019	17	Not Required	
11260	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN AND FOR OTHERS PURPOSES		18	Not Required	
11261	AN ACT WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES IN THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN THE APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF FIRST TIME JOBSEEKERS	Apr 10, 2019	17	July 11, 2019	53
11262	AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 85 AND 103 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TOURISM ACT OF 2009	Apr 10, 2019	17	Not Required	
11272	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIALTY HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN, TO BE KNOWN AS ST. BERNADETTE CHILDREN AND MATERNITY HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11273	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL HOSPITAL SERVICES OF THE EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM HOSPITAL IN MANDAUE CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, FROM FIFTY (50) BEDS TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, RENAMING THE HOSPITAL AS THE EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM AND GENERAL HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11279	AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA) AND THE NATIONAL POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI) FROM THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE (PPSC) TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 24, 35, 66,67 AND 68 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Apr 12, 2019	17	February 17, 2020	
11285	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, AND GRANTING INCENTIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS	Apr 12, 2019	17	November 22, 2019	

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11286	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE OF THE DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM IN TALA, CALOOCAN CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, REAPPORTIONING THE AUTHORIZED TWO THOUSAND (2,000) BED CAPACITY OF THE HOSPITAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9420, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11287	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Not Required	96
11288	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MARIVELES MENTAL HOSPITAL IN MARIVELES, BATAAN FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, TO INCLUDE THE OPERATION OF A LEVEL 1 GENERAL WARD WITH ONE HUNDRED (100)- BED CAPACITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIVELES MENTAL WELLNESS AND GENERAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	December 9, 2019	97
11289	AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ WOMENS HOSPITAL IN MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ GENERAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TEN (10) TO TWO HUNDRED (200 ) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	August 16, 2019	97
11290	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (MMM&MC), BATAAN CITY, ILOCOS NORTE FROM TWO HUNDRED (200 ) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700 ) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES, AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL AND NON-MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Not Required	97
11291	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR	Apr 12, 2019	17	Pending	130
11292	AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND ALLOCATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SEAL OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FUND	Apr 12, 2019	17	Pending	
11293	AN ACT ADOPTING INNOVATION AS VITAL COMPONENT OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO DRIVE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT, PROMOTE THE GROWTH AND NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Apr 17, 2019	17	February 7, 2020	
11304	AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY FOUR OF EVERY YEAR AS THE PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR MEMORIAL DAY	Apr 17, 2019	17	No information	
11310	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4PS)	Apr 17, 2019	17	December 10, 2019	131
11311	AN ACT TO IMPROVE LAND TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS, STOPS, REST AREAS AND ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF TERMINALS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Apr 17, 2019	17	No information	



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11312	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	121
11313	AN ACT DEFINING GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN STREETS, PUBLIC SPACES, ONLINE, WORKPLACES, AND EDUCATIONAL OR TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	October 28, 2019	149
11314	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Apr 17, 2019	17	Various	
11315	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	May 20, 2020	135
11321	AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	Apr 17, 2019	17	October 21, 2019	
11323	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DON EMILIO DEL VALLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (DEDVMH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM FIFTY (50) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	97
11324	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF GOVERNOR CELESTINO GALLARES MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (GCGMH) IN TAGBILARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (225) TO FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (525) BEDS AND UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7266, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	98
11325	AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINDANAO CENTRAL SANITARIUM IN PASOBOLONG, ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL CARE SERVICES FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	98
11326	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER IN DAVAO CITY FROM ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	98
11327	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VALENZUELA MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	98
11330	AN ACT CONVERTING THE DINAIG MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, INTO A FIFTY (50)-BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE DATU ODIN SINSUAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL, UPGRADING ITS FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	Not Required	98

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11331	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF TONDO MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MANILA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 17, 2019	17	February 3, 2020	98
11332	AN ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES	Apr 26, 2019	17	2020 (Undated)	85
11333	AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8492, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1998, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Apr 26, 2019	17	Not Required	
11337	AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM	Apr 26, 2019	17	December 19, 2019	121
11346	AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, IMPOSING EXCISE TAX ON HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS, INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS ON ARTICLES SUBJECT TO EXCISE TAX, AND EARMARKING A PORTION OF THE TOTAL EXCISE TAX COLLECTION FROM SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES, ALCOHOL TOBACCO, HEATED TOBACCO AND VAPOR PRODUCTS FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 144, 145, 146, 147, 152, 164, 260, 262, 263, 265, 288 AND 289, REPEALING SECTION 288(B) AND 288(C), AND CREATING NEW SECTIONS 263-A, 265-B, AND 288-A OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10963, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jul 25, 2019	17	June 25, 2020	
11349	AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT MACABEBE, PAMPANGA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jul 25, 2019	17	Not Required	108
11350	AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNCTIONS, ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL AND MONITORING BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jul 25, 2019	17	Pending	143
11358	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL VISION SCREENING PROGRAM FOR KINDERGARTEN PUPILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jul 31, 2019	17	Pending	
11359	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE JOSE B. LINGAD MEMORIAL GENERAL HOSPITAL IN SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE COMPLEMENT, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10355, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Jul 31, 2019	17	Not Required	98

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11360	AN ACT PROVIDING THAT SERVICE CHARGES COLLECTED BY HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS BE DISTRIBUTED IN FULL TO ALL COVERED EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES	Aug 7, 2019	17	November 19, 2019	
11361	AN ACT ENSURING THE CONTINUOUS AND UNINTERRUPTED TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRICITY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE INTEGRITY AND RELIABILITY OF POWER LINES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF	Aug 8, 2019	17	No information	
11362	AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COURT TO REQUIRE COMMUNITY SERVICE IN LIEU OF IMPRISONMENT FOR THE PENALTIES OF ARRESTO MENOR AND ARRESTO MAYOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER 5, TITLE 3, BOOK I OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE	Aug 8, 2019	17	No information	
11363	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION POLICY AND CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Aug 8, 2019	17	Pending	125
11364	AN ACT REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, CREATING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	Aug 8, 2019	17	October 12, 2020	
11369	AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF NOVEMBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY	Aug 8, 2019	17	Not Required	
11370	AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	Aug 8, 2019	17	Not Required	
11371	AN ACT REDUCING ELECTRICITY RATES BY ALLOCATING THE NET NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SHARE FROM THE MALAMPAYA NATURAL GAS PROJECT FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE STRANDED CONTRACT COSTS AND STRANDED DEBTS	Aug 8, 2019	17	February 26, 2020	
11372	AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND CONSTRUCTING A HOSPITAL FOR THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, ITS PERSONNEL, EMPLOYEES, THEIR DEPENDENTS AND THE RETIRED UNIFORMED PERSONNEL TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD GENERAL HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 8, 2019	17	Not Required	98
11381	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	108
11382	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN OZAMIZ CITY, CONVERTING THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CLARIN AND TUDELA INTO THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SINACABAN AND TUDELA, ALL IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	108

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11383	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF STO. TOMAS AND AGONCILLO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	108
11384	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	108
11385	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG AND FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANSUD, BULALACAO, GLORIA, AND MANSALAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	108
11386	AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	110
11387	AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN SAN PABLO CITY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	109
11388	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	109
11389	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES FOR BINAN CITY IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	109
11390	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BATANGAS MEDICAL CENTER IN BATANGAS CITY, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	November 14, 2019	99

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11391	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE COTABATO REGIONAL AND MEDICAL CENTER IN COTABATO CITY FROM FOUR HUNDRED (400) BEDS TO SIX HUNDRED (600) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	99
11392	AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR THE SELECTION OF NATIONAL PERFORMING ARTS COMPANIES, DESIGNATING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PERFORMING ARTS GENRES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	No information	
11393	AN ACT AUTHORIZING HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT AND GRADUATE TRAINING IN ADVANCED ENERGY AND GREEN BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	No information	
11394	AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE NEUTRAL DESKS TO STUDENTS	Aug 22, 2019	17	No information	151
11396	AN ACT REQUIRING STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) TO PREPARE AND IMPLEMENT A LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN THAT SHALL INCLUDE THE CONSTRUCTION OF DORMITORIES FOR STUDENTS AND HOUSING SITES FOR EMPLOYEES	Aug 22, 2019	17	No information	
11398	AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF THE FISHERIES PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF FISHERIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 22, 2019	17	No information	
11420	AN ACT GRANTING THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, LEASE, OWN, MANAGE, AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO END USER ANYWHERE IN ALL AREAS COVERED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992 EXCLUDING AREAS UNDER THE SUBIC SPECIAL FREEPORT AND ECONOMIC ZONE	Aug 22, 2019	17	Not Required	
11439	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND ORGANIZATION OF ISLAMIC BANKS	Aug 22, 2019	17	Various	152
11440	AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY	Aug 28, 2019	17	Not Required	
11441	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF CORAZON LOCSIN MONTELIBANO MEMORIAL REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL FROM FOUR HUNDRED (400) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 28, 2019	17	Not Required	99
11448	AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF TRANSNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 28, 2019	17	No information	
11449	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS TO AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8484, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACCESS DEVICES REGULATION ACT OF 1998	Aug 28, 2019	17	Not Required	

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RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11453	AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (AFAB), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (FAB) ACT OF 2009	Aug 30, 2019	17	Not Required	55
11454	AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND IN BARANGAY KRUS NA LIGAS, QUEZON CITY BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9500, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CHARTER OF 2008 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Aug 30, 2019	17	Pending	61
11455	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, ONE EACH TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ISULAN AND TACURONG CITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (M) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE	Aug 30, 2019	17	Not Required	111
11456	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 3RD DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 30, 2019	17	Not Required	110
11457	AN ACT CREATING THE DAVAO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY, TRANSFERRING EXISTING ASSETS OF FRANCISCO BANGROY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO THE AUTHORITY, VESTING THE AUTHORITY WITH POWER TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE FRANCISCO BANGROY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 30, 2019	17	Not Required	
11458	AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF EXEMPTIONS FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE BY INCLUDING JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST, NEWS AGENCIES AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT 53, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1477	Aug 30, 2019	17	Not Required	
11459	AN ACT CREATING THE POSITIONS FOR JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	Aug 30, 2019	17	December 3, 2019	110
11462	AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Dec 3, 2019	18	Not Required	
11463	AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALASAKIT CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY AND IN THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL (PGH), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Dec 3, 2019	18	2020 (Undated)	89
11465	AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES		18	Not Required	

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11466	AN ACT MODIFYING THE SALARY SCHEDULE FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jan 8, 2020	18	January 24, 2020	
11467	AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 150, 152, 263, 265, AND 288-A, AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 290-A TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Jan 22, 2020	18	June 26, 2020	
11468	AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR FAMILIES	Jan 23, 2020	18	No information	
11469	AN ACT DECLARING THE EXISTENCE OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) SITUATION AND A NATIONAL POLICY IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR A LIMITED PERIOD AND SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, TO EXERCISE POWERS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO CARRY OUT THE DECLARED NATIONAL POLICY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	Mar 24, 2020	18	April 1, 2020	34
11470	AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPORTS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR	June 9, 2020	18	No information	
11472	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE CARAGA REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY WASHINGTON, SURIGAO CITY, SURIGAO DEL NORTE FROM ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	June 19, 2020	18	Not Required	
11473	AN ACT UPGRADING THE TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TALISAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, INTO A MEDICAL CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU SOUTH MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7799	June 19, 2020	18	No information	
11474	AN ACT UPGRADING THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON INTO A LEVEL III GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIA L. ELEAZAR GENERAL HOSPITAL, UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	June 19, 2020	18	No information	
11476	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT AND VALUES EDUCATION IN THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	June 25, 2020	18	No information	
11478	AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BICOL MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL WORKFORCE COMPLEMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8053, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	July 1, 2020	18	Not Required	
11479	AN ACT TO PREVENT, PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE TERRORISM, THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "HUMAN SECURITY ACT OF 2007"	July 3, 2020	18	No information	

RA No.	Title	Date Approved	Congress	IRR Approval, Publication, or Dissemination Date	Narrative Report Page No.
11480	AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7797, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO LENGTHEN THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) DAYS TO NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED TWENTY (220) CLASS DAYS	July 17, 2020	18	No information	
11494	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY INTERVENTIONS AND PROVIDING MECHANISMS TO ACCELERATE THE RECOVERY AND BOLSTER THE RESILIENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	September 11, 2020	18	Not Required	



## Part 2

# **Narrative Reports**

### **Narrative Reports**

This section features narrative reports on the status of the implementation of selected nationally significant laws. These reports were generated through a survey of implementing agencies held from July to October 2020. Out of the 48 agencies invited to participate in the survey, 28 replied, representing a response rate of 58 percent. To supplement the survey results, data and information from the DEAR Seminar Series, phone or e-mail inquiries and follow-ups with implementing agencies, as well as the websites of reputable public and private organizations were also included. Through these efforts, DEAR generated narrative reports on 92 out of the 184 laws included in the matrix in the previous section.

A narrative report on the implementation of RA 11469 (Bayanihan to Heal as One Act) is regularly updated on the Senate website: [http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/RA11469\\_Report.asp](http://legacy.senate.gov.ph/RA11469_Report.asp). Hence, it was not included in this document.

Laws are organized based on the primary Senate Committee in which they were referred to. Laws that were not referred to any specific Committee as per the Senate database are listed under *Uncategorized*.

## Agriculture and Food

### **RA 10969: An Act Providing Free Irrigation Service, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 3601, As Amended, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes**

*This law exempts all farmers with landholding of 8 hectares and below from paying irrigation service fees for water derived from National Irrigation Systems (NIS) and Communal Irrigation Systems (CIS) that were, or are to be funded, constructed, maintained and administered by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). NIA is mandated to implement this law in consultation with concerned government agencies, farmers, irrigators associations, farmers' cooperatives, and other stakeholders.*

*The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this law were issued by the NIA Board through Resolution No. 8574-18 series of 2018 dated December 18, 2018.*

NIA, through its Administrator Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), reported to the Senate DEAR that it had organized a total of 10,793 irrigators associations (IAs) covering an area of 1,568,644.77 hectares, and with 1,264,910 farmer beneficiaries on the NIS and CIS areas. Of this number, 7,914 IAs covering a total area of 1,309,390.79 hectares had partnered with NIA for the operation and maintenance of NIS and CIS under the agency's Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT) program. The breakdown is outlined in the table below.

Type	Number of IAs	Total Area (ha.)
National Irrigation System	2,893	832,046.12
Communal Irrigation System	5,021	477,344.67
Total	7,914	1,309,390.79

Table 1: Status of irrigation systems under the Irrigation Management Transfer Program (NIA)

#### **Incentives and technical assistance**

Irrigators associations that join the IMT Program are provided with an operation incentive of PhP 150.00 per hectare during the wet and dry cropping seasons per year. For the maintenance of irrigation canals, NIA provides IAs with a PhP 2,800 incentive per clearing of a 3.5 km unlined canal or 7 km lined canal. This is an increase from the PhP 1,750 per clearing incentive in 2019. This incentive can be availed for up to six times a year.

With the help of the Department of Agriculture (DA), 3,387 IAs had availed of equipment and machineries, and 464,515 farmers were provided with either seeds, fertilizer, cash, credit, vegetables, and other forms of assistance. With the help of the Agricultural Training Institute, 9,692 farmers had undergone training in modern farming technology. Administrator Visaya shared that NIA continuously provides training opportunities to IAs on organizational and irrigation systems management, as well as to prepare them for the IMT program. Moreover, once IAs are adequately equipped to venture into agribusiness, NIA coordinates with government and private organizations to help them become partners in the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty Program, which qualifies them to become suppliers for commodities demanded by the partner agencies.

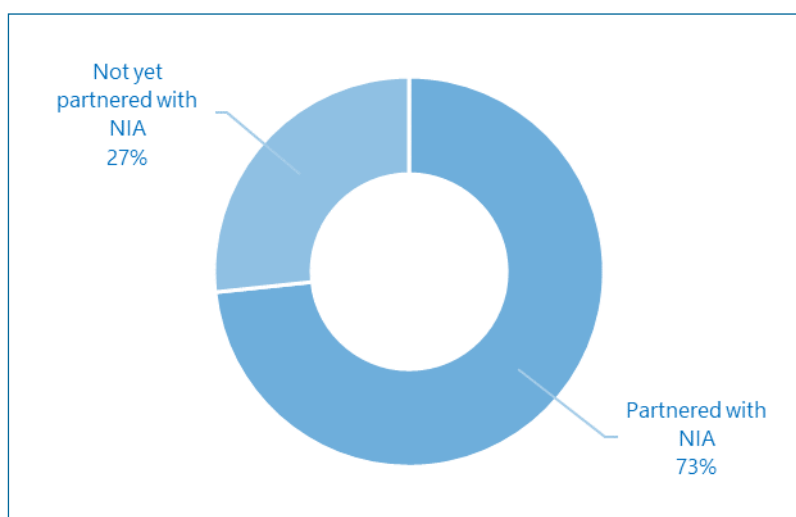


Image 1: Status of irrigators associations that have partnered with NIA (NIA)

### Identifying beneficiaries

As of June 30, 2020, NIA reported that 572,354 landowners were identified as having 8 hectares or less each, thereby qualifying them to the program. Qualified landowners owned a total of 763,329.82 hectares of land. They were asked to submit requirements so that they can apply for condonation and writing off of past due accounts and penalties.

One of the requirements is the proof of ownership of land, which many farmers were unable to produce. In some instances, the title of the land was still under the name of their parents or grandparents. To resolve this issue, NIA allowed the farmers to present any of the following documents to support their claim of ownership:

- Transfer Certificate of Title;
- Certificate of Land Ownership Award;
- Emancipation Patent;
- Tax Declaration;
- Certificate of Landowning issued by the Office of the Treasurer of the concerned local government, Land Registration Authority, or Department of Agrarian Reform; and
- Other relevant evidence that may support their claim.

### Total amount condoned and written off

As of August 20, 2020, NIA reported that the total irrigation service fee that was condoned and written off under this law had totaled PhP 14,451,454,923.00.

## Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

### RA 11127: An Act Providing for the Regulation and Supervision of Payment Systems

*Approved on October 30, 2018, this law authorizes the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to oversee and exercise supervisory and regulatory powers over payment systems in the country. This is to ensure the stability and effectiveness of the monetary and financial system. It defines a payment system as “the set of payment instruments, processes, procedures and participants that ensures the circulation of money or movement of funds.”*

*In addition to its powers under existing laws, BSP shall (a) have the authority to designate a payment system; (b) require payment system operators to secure prior authority from BSP; (c) accredit or require, if necessary, a payment system management body; (d) through the Monetary Board, issue relevant rules and regulations; and (e) if deemed necessary, own and operate its own payment systems, among other powers. This law also outlines the responsibilities of operators of payment systems, and the penalties and sanctions meted out to violators.*

The Financial Stability Report H1 2018-2019<sup>2</sup> of the Financial Stability Coordination Council (FSCC) noted that payment systems are systematically important. The risk that arises when one participant fails to meet payment obligations will reverberate to all other players in the system, leading to weak confidence in the country's financial infrastructure. If this happens, participants in the system may incur credit or liquidity problems. The report stated that *the delay or non-payment at one end, specifically large value transactions, will affect the other end. In this context, intraday liquidity facilities and overdraft credit lines are important to facilitate RTGS [real-time gross settlement].*

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### Implementing rules and regulations

BSP issued the following Circulars, Memorandum and Circular Letter to implement this law:

- BSP Circular No. 1049 dated September 9, 2019 on Rules and Regulations on the Registration of Payment Systems
- BSP Memorandum No. M-2019-023 dated September 25, 2019 providing for Guidelines on the Registration and Notification Requirement of Operators of Payment Systems (OPS)
- BSP Circular No. 1068 dated December 26, 2019 on the Extension of the Period for Registration/Notification of Operators of Payment Systems
- BSP Circular No. 1089 dated July 7, 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework
- Circular Letter No. CL-2020-036 dated August 3, 2020 on the Accreditation of the Philippine Payments Management, Inc. as a Payment System Management Body under the National Payment Systems Act.

#### Designation of payment system

BSP Circular No. 1089 dated 7 July 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework provided the criteria for the designation of a payment system. It states that a payment system shall be designated as a Systemically Important Payment System (SIPS) if it *poses or has the potential to pose systemic risk that could threaten the stability of the NPS [national payment system]*. Meanwhile, a Prominently

<sup>2</sup> Financial Stability Coordination Council (2019). 2018 H1-2019 H1 Financial Stability Report. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Important Payment System (PIPS) *may not trigger or transmit systemic risk but could have a major economic impact or undermine the confidence of the public in the NPS or in the circulation of money.* The following criteria are used to determine whether a payment system is classified as SIPS or PIPS: (a) market share; (b) aggregate settlement risk based on volume and value of transactions; (c) nature and complexity of transactions that the system processes; (d) interdependence with other payment systems or financial market infrastructures (FMI); and (e) absence of alternative payment system.

### Overall exercise of powers granted to BSP

BSP has so far issued the following Circular, Memorandum and Circular Letter as part of the exercise of its overall powers under this law:

- BSP Memorandum M-2019-020 dated July 19, 2019 on Lifting of Moratorium on Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Fees
- BSP Circular No. 1089 dated July 7, 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework
- Circular Letter No. CL- 2020-036 dated August 3, 2020 on the Accreditation of the Philippine Payments Management, Inc. as a Payment System Management Body under the National Payment Systems Act.

### BSP authority to own and operate a payment system

The following issuances pertain to the BSP's authority to own and operate a payment system under Section 8 of the law:

- BSP Circular No. 1089 dated July 7, 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework
- BSP Memorandum No. M-2020-031 dated April 25, 2020 on Fees on Interbank and ATM Transactions.

Meanwhile, BSP will consider other inputs from its Payment and Settlement Office for initiatives on policies on membership, fees, and other requirements for the use of PhilPaSS.

#### Box A

#### **BSP Role in Payment and Settlements System**

1. Operator and user of the real time gross settlement (RTGS) system called PhilPaSS
2. Provider of credit facilities to banks as a lender of last resort
3. Overseer of the payments and settlements system (through the Payment Systems Oversight Department of the Supervision and Examination Sector)
4. Conduct studies and research on payment systems to aid in initiating changes/reforms

Source: BSP

#### Box B:

#### **Philippine Payment and Settlement System (PhilPaSS)**

PhilPaSS is a real-time gross settlement (RTGS) system owned and operated by BSP that processes and settles interbank high value payment transactions of banks through the demand deposit accounts of the bank maintained with the BSP.

RTGS is a fund transfer system where transfer of money or securities takes place from one bank to another on a real-time and on gross basis. Settlement in real time means that payment transaction does not require any waiting period. The transactions are settled as soon as they are received, entered and processed into the system. Gross settlement means the transaction is settled on a one-to-one basis without netting with any other transaction. Once processed, payments are final and irrevocable.

Source: BSP

**Box C:**  
**Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI)**

PFMI covers standards for systemically important payment systems essential in strengthening and preserving financial stability. The standards detail the 24 principles on General Organization, Credit and Liquidity Risk Management, Settlement, Exchange-of-Value Settlement Systems, Default Management, General Business and Operational Risk Management, Efficiency and Transparency. Also included are the responsibilities of financial regulators.

PFMI was issued by the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures and the International Organization of Securities Commissions in April 2012.

Source: BSP report to Senate DEAR

**Adoption of international standards and practices**

The following issuances pertain to BSP's mandate under Section 9 of the law:

- BSP Memorandum No. M-2019-002 dated January 23, 2019 on Adoption of the ISO 20022 on Retail Payment Systems and on the Real-Time Gross Settlement System
- Issuance of BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2019-053 dated August 5, 2019 on Mandatory Adoption of ISO 20022 as the Message Standard for Electronic Retail and High-Value Payments that Settle in the Next-Generation Philippine Payment and Settlement System (PhilPaSS)
- BSP Circular No. 1055 s. 2019 dated October 17, 2019 on Adoption of a National Quick Response (QR) Code Standard
- BSP Circular No. 1089 s.2020 dated July 7, 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework

Meanwhile, BSP carried out the following activities to help ensure the compliance of PhilPaSS with international standards:

To comply with the Principles for Financial Market Infrastructures (PFMI) issued by the Bank for International Settlements (*see Box C*), BSP goes through an annual self-assessment. In August 2019, the BSP Payment and Settlements Office (PSO) went through a third-party assessment performed by the World Bank under the Financial Sector Assessment Program. The overall objective was to comprehensively assess the compliance of PhilPaSS against PFMIs, and to identify and address gaps in compliance.

To comply with the Customer Security Controls Framework issued by the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), PSO fulfilled all requirements to re-attest the BSP's full compliance with the framework, which includes a set of mandatory and advisory security controls for SWIFT customers.

To comply with the ISO 9001:2015 of the International Organization for Standardization, PSO participated in audit procedures, particularly those in coordination with the Internal Audit Office, Risk and Compliance Office (including business continuity plans), and the Systems and Methods Office. In September 2019, TUV SUD PSB Philippines, the Certifying Body for Quality Management [Systems] (QMS), conducted its surveillance audit of PSO's QMS covering the operations of PhilPaSS and its critical components. It reported no significant audit findings while noting that PSO consistently implements the system in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015. Additionally, the commitment of PSO's top management to guarantee the continuous compliance to the said standard as well as to sustain its operation was seen with *high confidence*.

ISO 9001:2015 *specifies requirements for a QMS when an organization: a) needs to demonstrate its ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and applicable statutory and*

*regulatory requirements, and b) aims to enhance customer satisfaction through the effective application of the system, including processes for improvement of the system and the assurance of conformity to customer and applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.*

Finally, BSP approved the mandatory adoption of ISO 20022 International Messaging and Communication Standard as the standard for electronic retail and high-value payments that settle in the next generation PhilPaSS, which is scheduled for implementation in June 2021. This is in line with BSP's goal to support greater interoperability and integration among domestic and global payment systems. The policy was formalized through BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2019-053 dated August 5, 2019.

### **Coordination with government agencies and other foreign regulators**

To comply with Section 9 of the law, BSP Circular No. 1089 dated 7 July 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework has a provision on Cooperative Oversight wherein the BSP *shall conform to the arrangements entered into by the Philippines through regional and global affiliations*. Conversely, BSP will coordinate with foreign regulators or overseers of payment systems in cases where a payment system participant in the Philippines also operates in other jurisdictions, or a domestic payment system interacts with financial market infrastructures in other countries.

BSP, primarily through its Payment System Oversight Department, held the following activities to implement this provision of the law:

- Coordinated with the World Bank on various policy initiatives and personnel education
- Continues to serve as member of the Technical Working Group that provides inputs to the Philippine Mission in Geneva for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Joint Statement Initiative in relation to WTO negotiations on eCommerce Agreement (through Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Bureau of International Trade Relations)
- Served as member of the Technical Working Group for the Implementation of the ASEAN eCommerce Agreement (through DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations)
- Served as member of the Working Group on Payments and Market Infrastructures of the Executives' Meeting of East Asia Pacific Central Banks
- Continues to serve as member of the Working Committee on Payment and Settlement Systems of the Association of South East Asian Nations
- Participated in consultations by the Department of Transportation on the Automatic Fare Collection System
- Provided inputs to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) on its Payment Gateway project.

### **Registration of payment system operators**

The following issuances pertain to the BSP's mandate under Section 10 of the law:

- BSP Circular No. 1049 dated September 9, 2019 on Rules and Regulations on the Registration of Payment System



- BSP Memorandum No. M-2019-023 dated September 25, 2019 providing for Guidelines on the Registration and Notification Requirement of Operators of Payment Systems (OPS)
- BSP Circular No. 1068 dated December 26, 2019 on the Extension of the Period for Registration/Notification of Operators of Payment Systems.

As of October 8, 2020, 104 payment system operators have acquired a Certificate of Registration.

### **Designating a manager to manage the operations of the operator of a designated payment system**

BSP Circular No. 1089 dated 7 July 2020 on Payment System Oversight Framework provides guidance on implementing Sec. 17 of the law. It states that *when a threat to the safety, efficiency and reliability of a designated payment system exists, the Bangko Sentral, upon determination of its appropriate payment system oversight department, and with prior approval of the Monetary Board, shall appoint without need for prior court hearing, a manager of recognized competence in payment systems to manage the operations of the ODPS [operator of a designated payment systems].*

### **Other accomplishments**

Governor Diokno reported the following additional accomplishments of BSP in implementing this law:

- Issuance of rules for enforcement of oversight powers (Phase III of the National Payment Systems Act implementation). This process includes drafting, holding public consultation, and issuing regulations to implement the law's provision authorizing BSP to designate a manager to manage the operations of a designated payment system. This phase likewise includes issuance of rules and regulations on Corporate Governance for Designated Payment Systems and licensing framework.
- Issuance of rules for resolution of payment system issues (Phase IV of the National Payment Systems Act implementation). This process includes drafting, holding public consultation, and issuing regulations on entities that can directly participate in the Next-Generation PhilPaSS operated by BSP.
- Promotion and adoption of e-payments in government collections and disbursements. This process includes the evaluation of the results of the pilot run of government e-payment initiatives as well as issuance of appropriate rules/guidelines. This also includes activities that seek to increase the number of new participants in government e-payments.
- Continuous monitoring and evaluation of condition of payment systems and progress of payments initiatives to facilitate transition of the country to a "cash-lite" economy
- Interim reporting requirements to facilitate oversight and monitoring activities of BSP were issued to some participants of payment systems
- Coordination with the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) on the arrangement and implementation of cooperative oversight over linked FMI's to BSP's Real-Time Gross Settlement System, particularly on Delivery versus Payment transactions.

### Issues and concerns

Governor Diokno highlighted the following issues that arose in the implementation of this law, and the proposed actions to address them:

Issue	Proposed action
Requests for extension of time to file for application for registration of Operators of Payment Systems	Determine if extending the time to file for applications for registration as operator of payment systems is warranted
Inadequate public information about this law and the BSP's role in its implementation	Educational campaign on this law through brownbag sessions, and providing resources speakers in the events sponsored by other BSP Departments (i.e. Center for Learning Inclusion and Advocacy, Economic and Financial Learning Center, and Payments and Settlements Office, etc.) and finance/trade sector associations
Inadequate number of personnel for the registration and oversight of payment systems	Engagement and capacity building of additional oversight personnel
Need for capacity building of personnel tasked with the implementation of the law	Review of organizational structure of payment system oversight department
The complexity of work required to oversee payment systems	Adoption of a phased approach in the implementation of the law

Table 1: Issues and concerns encountered in implementing this law (BSP)

### RA 11211: An Act Amending RA 7653, Otherwise Known as the “New Central Bank Act”

*This law expands the BSP's basis for determining monetary policy beyond money supply and credit levels. It restores the authority of BSP to issue debt papers as part of its regular operations and widens the coverage of institutions under BSP's supervision to include money service businesses, credit granting businesses and payment system operators. It also increases BSP's capitalization from PhP 50 billion to PhP 200 billion while exempting it from taxes on income derived from its governmental functions.*

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### Increase in capitalization

Under Section 2 of this law, any and all declared dividends of BSP in favor of the national government shall be deposited in a special account in the general fund and earmarked for the payment of BSP's increase in capitalization. Such payment shall be released and disbursed immediately and shall continue until the increase in capitalization has been fully paid.

BSP noted that the intention behind the said provision was to remove the payment of BSP capital from the ambit of the appropriation process. However, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Bureau of the Treasury clarified that the payment of BSP capital could not be removed from the appropriation process. Thus, BSP is required to submit to the DBM the proposal for the inclusion of BSP's capital infusion in the national government's annual budget every fiscal year. Given

that the payment of BSP's increase in capitalization will need to go through various steps in the appropriation process, the release and payment of the increase in capitalization would not be immediate as required under Section 2 of this law.

According to BSP, in FY 2020, PhP 10 billion was appropriated for the increase in capitalization of BSP. However, the Department of Finance (DOF) requested the deferment of the application of the 2019 dividends to BSP's additional capitalization. Moreover, BSP remitted PhP 20 billion as advance dividends for FY 2019 to support the national government's efforts to address the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Definition of "credit granting entities"**

Under Section 3, the BSP is mandated to exercise regulatory and examination powers over credit granting businesses, among other businesses. Since BSP's regulatory and examination powers were expanded to cover these entities, these powers must be supported by a comprehensive supervisory framework and approach. Thus, BSP is working to clarify and define "credit granting businesses" to delineate the extent of BSP's authority over these businesses. It will develop a regulatory framework for non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), including credit granting entities, to provide a more holistic approach in overseeing NBFIs while promoting a level playing field in the industry. Moreover, a proposed circular on the licensing and operations of covered non-bank entities engaged in credit granting businesses is currently under review.

### **Supervision, monitoring and examination**

BSP's Supervisory Assessment Framework (SAFr) became effective on July 1, 2020. It seeks to facilitate the robust and dynamic assessment of BSP-supervised financial institutions (BSFIs) and explicitly link the systemic importance and risk profile of a BSFI to the crafting of supervisory plans for each supervised institution. In addition, the SAFr is designed to apply to all BSFIs regardless of type, size, and risk profile as it is "business-model-centric." SAFr will replace the various rating systems currently employed by BSP, including CAMELS and ROCA.

However, due to the declaration of state of calamity as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic on March 16, 2020, BSP approved the deferment in the adoption of the SAFr from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021.

Nevertheless, BSP adopted some of its off-site supervisory tools such as the Enhanced Supervisory Dashboard and Monitoring Letter. BSP also rolled out certain supervisory activities such as requiring additional reports in order to strengthen BSP's off-site surveillance during the pandemic. Accordingly, BSP issued in May, June, and July 2020 the following:

- Baseline Assessment Survey – a comprehensive questionnaire designed to gather information from BSFIs to provide BSP with a better picture of the condition of the BSFI and the industry considering the pandemic;
- SAFr Lite Document Guide, i.e., Strengthening Off-site Surveillance in a Pandemic - a document to reinforce procedures for uniform observance across the financial supervision sector. The guide is subject to periodic review and updating, as may be necessary, to continually serve its purpose of being a common source of information; and
- Guidance on the follow through of the baseline survey responses from BSFIs and template letter with indicative contents for any additional documents or information that may be needed or required from the BSFIs, and/or request for a meeting to further discuss BSFIs' baseline survey responses.

In recognition of the important role of money service businesses (MSB), credit granting businesses, and payment system operators in building a more inclusive financial system and protecting the welfare of financial consumers, BSP issued the following regulations:

- Circular No. 1039 dated May 3, 2019 - enhancing BSP oversight over pawnshops and MSB operations for the primary purpose of promoting more effective compliance with the Anti-Money Laundering Law, as amended; and
- BSP Consumer Protection Framework (Circular No. 1048 dated September 6, 2019) - pawnshops and MSBs are expected to adopt minimum standards of consumer protection in the areas of disclosure and transparency, protection of client information, fair treatment, effective recourse and financial education.

### **Revisiting regulations on MSBs**

BSP seeks to revisit such regulations to adopt a broader framework covering MSBs. A proposed Circular on enhanced regulatory framework for MSBs is being reviewed and finalized for exposure to the industry for comments.

The enhanced regulatory framework for MSBs covers, among others, licensing, governance, risk management and internal control, MSB operational requirements, Anti-Money Laundering Act, and consumer protection.

A project team has been formed to study the supervisory framework and create an approach proportionate to the magnitude of risk that may arise from engaging in the business operation of MSBs.

### **Coordination with other government regulators and revisiting the mandate of inter-agency forums**

BSP issued Circular No. 1089 to define the cooperative oversight to be pursued by BSP with other government agencies in relation to systemically important FMIs.

Moreover, BSP will explore the possibility of merging the Financial Sector Forum (FSF) and FSCC to remove overlaps in functions, and providing an efficient sharing of information among the member-agencies.

Based on the initial assessment of BSP, the two inter-agency bodies focus on different but complementary roles. Specifically, the FSF focuses on microprudential policy and supervision whereas the FSCC focuses on the macroprudential scope. Thus, complementarities between these two bodies are recognized and efforts shall be geared towards enhancing coordination between them.

### **Oversight of payment systems**

On July 7, 2020, BSP issued Circular No. 1089, which sets out BSP's Payment System Oversight Framework that is aligned with PFMI. Payment system FMIs, at the minimum, shall observe the relevant PFMI and comply with applicable BSP rules and regulations. The framework provides that cooperative oversight shall be pursued by BSP for payment activities and interlinkages of other FMIs that relate to or interconnect with payment systems. The cooperation and information sharing process among government agencies and regulators shall be compliant with relevant statutory provisions and consistent with the responsibilities for authorities under the PFMI.

RA 11127 or The National Payment Systems Act sets out more detailed guidelines on the powers and responsibilities of BSP with respect to the regulation and supervision of payment systems.

### **Data and information collection for statistical and policy development**

Section 23 of the law authorizes BSP to require from any person or entity, including government offices, instrumentalities and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), any data for statistical and policy development purposes in relation to the proper discharge of its functions and responsibilities. Thus, to strengthen data gathering, BSP is revising messaging lines for adoption in reports requested from non-BSP supervised entities. Implementing guidelines covering Section 23 of the law are being drafted. An assessment of existing policies under the Manual of Regulations on Foreign Exchange Transactions will be performed upon the issuance of these guidelines.

BSP has identified a number of policy initiatives and targeted policy development. To further strengthen supervision and streamline BSP reportorial requirements, there is an ongoing policy proposal to redesign the existing Report on Credit and Equity Exposures to Individuals/Companies/Groups aggregating PhP 1.0 million and above (CREDEX Report) to capture exposures to related parties, conglomerates and other borrowers falling within the definition of large exposures. The data to be gathered will be used in the surveillance and analysis of emerging risks in the banking system. This proposed amendment is targeted for release by fourth quarter of 2020. However, BSP may consider deferment due to the operational challenges faced by BSFIs during the pandemic.

BSP has institutionalized the policy review and coordination function under the Policy Clearing House on departments engaged in policy initiation and development. It also regularly publishes prudential and statutory reports and conducts supervisory surveys on the overall condition and performance of the banking system, its attendant risks and medium-term outlook.

To enhance BSP's existing surveillance tool and help in the assessment of the banking sector's resilience, there is a proposal to establish a bank resilience index (BRI). This index, which will complement the Composite Vulnerability Index that BSP utilized in monitoring and evaluating banks' cross-border activities, aims to take a more horizontal, end-to-end view of the continuity and stability of banking services and business operations. The BRI employs bank-level indicators which are classified under seven categories, namely, (1) capital, (2) liquidity, (3) risk-aversion, (4) asset quality, (5) contagion, (6) profitability, and (7) governance of risk assessment and management.

Additionally, BSP conducts thematic surveys to gather information on identified areas of interest. BSP is continuously reviewing existing reports to streamline the reporting requirements as well as identify additional information that will be requested on a continuing basis.

Meanwhile, BSP signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on October 7, 2019 to produce blank cards for the National ID under the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys). PhilSys was established through RA 11055. The National ID system will help address the lack of formal identification which constrains the informal sector from transacting with banks.

Moreover, BSP partnered with the University of the Philippines on the use of big data in central banking. Big data will be a valuable tool for BSP as a data-driven institution because the flexibility and real-time availability of big data will allow BSP to open up the possibility of extracting more timely economic signals, applying new statistical methodologies, enhancing economic forecasts and financial stability assessments, and obtaining quick feedback on policy impacts, among other uses.

**Supervision over banking institutions, quasi-banks, and their subsidiaries and affiliates**

Under Section 25 of the law, BSP shall exercise supervision over banking institutions and quasi-banks, including their subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities. It defines a subsidiary as a corporation more than 50 percent of the voting stock of which is directly or indirectly owned, controlled or held with power to vote by a bank or quasi-bank. Meanwhile, an affiliate means a corporation the voting stock of which, to the extent of 50 percent or less, is owned by a bank or quasi-bank or which is related or linked directly or indirectly to such institution or intermediary through common stockholders or such other factors as may be determined by the Monetary Board.

To implement this provision, BSP will revisit and adopt regulations to reflect the new definitions of "subsidiary" and "affiliate," and to implement the regulatory and examination powers granted over MSBs, credit granting businesses, and payment systems operators.

BSP is reviewing the annual submission of the "Report on Conglomerate Structure" taking into account the information obtained pursuant to information sharing agreements with other regulatory agencies. It is undertaking capacity building in terms of conglomerate supervision through a technical working group (TWG) created for this purpose. Likewise, BSP has sought technical assistance from industry experts on conglomerate supervision.

There is a policy proposal requiring the electronic submission of the Report on Conglomerate Structure to facilitate easier monitoring and detailed analysis of the information submitted by BSFIs. Moreover, to enhance the use of the conglomerate maps, basic information, namely: (a) total assets of the entities forming part of the conglomerate; (b) extent of shareholdings of the controlling entities in the controlled corporations; and (c) major lines of business or activities that the member corporations are engaged in, are proposed to be included in the Report on Conglomerate Structure. This proposal is in line with the Final Report on the Supervision of Financial Conglomerates of the FSF's Financial Conglomerate Supervision Committee. This is targeted for release by fourth quarter of 2020. However, BSP may consider deferment due to the operational challenges faced by BSFIs during the pandemic.

Other upcoming activities include the following:

- Harmonize Section 7 of RA 8791 or the "General Banking Law of 2000" with Section 25 of RA 7653, as amended, on the authority of BSP to examine, given that Section 7 of RA 8791 covers all enterprises that are wholly or majority owned or controlled by the bank, whereas Section 25 of RA 7653, as amended, only includes subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities.
- Revisit and accordingly enhance deployment of BSP supervisory enforcement policy and procedures.
- Issue updated guidelines and work processes and procedures and conduct trainings for supervision personnel on the proper application of enforcement actions available to BSP under existing laws, rules and regulations.
- Conduct a study on the mechanism to address bank examination issues.

Section 25 also outlines some guidelines on the transfer or acquisition of shares. For this purpose, BSP is conducting a study that seeks to align existing policy with the Basel Core Principles on Effective Banking Supervision, specifically, Principle No. 6 on the Transfer of Significant Ownership. The proposed policy aims to cover the following:

- Policy defining control of banks/quasi-banks and setting forth the criteria for BSP approval
- Scope for BSP approval will cover changes in beneficial ownership and control

- Enforcement policy on unauthorized holdings of voting stock
- Enhance the existing report on stockholdings to include details of beneficial owners of shares of bank held through nominees or other vehicles, and
- Disqualification of unfit shareholders.

Furthermore, the proposed policy will facilitate the updating and/or alignment of existing banking regulations relative to the thresholds for approval of acquisitions or transfers of voting shares of stock of banks with that of Section 25-A of the law.

BSP will also formalize arrangements with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) for sharing of information on transfer of shares, among other issues. It is expected to be completed by end-2020.

### **Supervisory Assessment Framework Review (SAFR)**

With the completion of the initial phase of the SAFR initiative, a handful of gaps between the current approaches of BSP and international practices were identified. Among them was the limited calibration of supervisory activities in relation to financial institution's impact and risk profile. Specifically, BSP is expected to examine the books and records of a financial institution on an annual basis regardless of its size or risk profile. For example, the mandated frequency of onsite examination shall be uniformly applied to a universal bank and a community-based rural bank having the same CAMELS composite rating, say "3" (or less than satisfactory).

Consistent with the risk-based approach, BSP envisions to match the intensity of supervisory engagement with that of the financial institution's risk profile and impact to the overall financial system. The advantage of this approach is that it would help BSP to focus the use of its limited resources given the numerous institutions under BSP's supervision. In brief, the combined assessment of an institution's impact and risk of failure is expected to translate to the appropriate supervisory intensity. The intensity ranges from "1" to "4," with "1" implying that an institution requires the least supervisory attention and resources. The combined ratings of "impact" and "risk of failure" elements shall determine the scope (full, focused) and drive the frequency (e.g., every other 2 years, every year) of examination.

BSP has constituted an Off-site Surveillance Team tasked with customizing the SAFr to NBF's operations and to execute other initiatives such as implementing SAFr Lite and other off-site supervisory activities.

Under the framework, the supervisory intensity which refers to the depth of supervisory attention required for and applied to a BSFI is anchored on the BSFI's impact on the financial system and risk profile as represented by the Composite Rating. Apart from the conduct of regular onsite examinations, other supervisory activities that may be employed by BSP with respect to a BSFI include requiring reports and meetings with pertinent stakeholders, and periodic risk assessment.

BSP's 2020 examination work program was based on the risk profile of banks, quasi-banks and their subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied undertakings using the initial risk profiles of banks using SAFr. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, examinations scheduled to start in March 2020 onwards have been deferred. The 2021 Examination Program, anchored on the risk profile of banks under SAFr, is currently being prepared.



### Standard examination intervals for Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (NSSLAs) and other non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs).

Below are the existing standard examination intervals for NSSLAs and NBFIs:

Type of institution	Approved interval (months)
Top 5 NSSLAs	12-18
High risk NSSLAs and other NBFIs	18-24
Non-high risk NSSLAs and other NBFIs	24-36

Table 2: Examination intervals for NSSLAs and NBFIs (BSP)

These intervals were based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Total Assets (PhP)	Interval
Complex	> 5 billion	Up to 24 months
Deemed Complex		
a. with major supervisory issues	< 5 billion, > 500 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of Moderate to High	Up to 24 months
b. without major supervisory issues	< 5 billion, > 500 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of Low	Up to 28 months
Simple		
a. Moderate		
i. with major supervisory issues	< 500 million, > 50 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of Moderate to High	Up to 28 months
ii. without major supervisory issues	< 500 million, > 50 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of Low	Up to 32 months
b. Low		
i. with major supervisory issues	< 50 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of High	Up to 32 months
ii. without major supervisory issues	< 50 million; previous exam with aggregate risk of Moderate to Low	Up to 36 months

Table 3: Criteria for examination intervals for NSSLAs and NBFIs (BSP)

Institutions that fall under **Complex** are those with extensive membership base e.g. membership extends to employees and retirees of two or more companies, agencies or institutions, and/or their relatives, and/or with serious issue on the well-defined group requirement. They may also employ non-conventional business models, such as those using non-traditional delivery platforms e.g. electronic platforms and agents. Those **Deemed Complex** have total assets of <PhP 5 billion and >PhP 500 million but with either of the conditions as those institutions that fall under Complex.



The following intervals are applied for pawnshops and money service businesses (MSBs):

Risk Profile	Minimum (months)	Maximum (months)
Low	>36	60
Medium	>28	36
High	>24	28
Very High	12	24

Table 4: Examination intervals for pawnshops and MSBs (BSP)

#### **Suspension or revocation of a government license of a BSP-supervised entity**

Section 28 of the law requires prior consultation with BSP before the suspension or revocation of any government license necessary for the operation of a BSP-supervised entity.

On November 15, 2019, BSP and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, s. 2019 on the Guidelines on the Issuance of Business License/Permit for Head Offices and Branches of Pawnshops and MSBs and on Information Sharing with BSP. The JMC is a re-affirmation of the commitment of BSP and DILG to their 2009 MOA on Information Sharing on Pawnshops, Money Changers/Foreign Exchange Dealers, and Remittance Agents for the coordinated conduct of their oversight functions given their respective mandates, i.e., over banks and non-bank financial institutions for BSP and the local government units (LGUs) for DILG.

The JMC aims to: (i) prescribe enhanced guidelines on the policies and procedures on the issuance and renewal of business license and/or permit of pawnshops and MSBs in consideration of the new registration procedures issued by BSP; (ii) institutionalize and ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of information sharing between LGUs and BSP pursuant to the MOA between the DILG and BSP; and (iii) further strengthen supervision and regulatory oversight, as part of BSP's comprehensive framework, given the growing number and presence of pawnshops and MSBs nationwide. To date, all cities and municipalities nationwide (1,634 in total) have been sent letters and e-mails relative to the said JMC, emphasizing their role and enjoining their support to ensure effective implementation.

#### **Expansion of the BSP QMS to include Non-Stock Savings and Loan Associations (NSSLAs)**

BSP will align existing issuances with the provisions of Section 30 of the law, which provides that NSSLAs may now be prohibited from doing business in the Philippines based on the same applicable grounds as in banks. Operationally, existing frameworks for banks will also be applied to NSSLAs, subject to further enhancements or customization taking into account peculiarities of NSSLAs operations.

BSP is currently studying the proposed Supervision Guidelines on the designation of receiver for NSSLAs that are (i) prohibited from doing business in the Philippines under Section 30 of RA 7653, as amended, or (ii) whose license to operate as NSSLAs was revoked by BSP pursuant to Section 22 of RA 8367 (Revised NSSLAs Act of 1997). Appropriate briefings will be conducted once the proposed Supervision Guidelines on designation of receiver for NSSLAs is approved by BSP management. The BSP TWG on the QMS on Prohibition from Doing Business is currently working on the revisions of related QMS processes and documents to align with the revised provisions of Section 30.

Meanwhile, there is an ongoing BSP TWG that is working on the revisions of BSP Guidelines on Section 30(c) of the law, i.e., cannot *continue in business without involving probable losses to its depositors or creditors*. It is also proposed that the said revised guidelines shall be applied to NSSLAs to the extent applicable, or by analogy, in accordance with the last paragraph of Section 30, which expressly provides that, *The authority of the Monetary Board to summarily and without need for prior hearing forbid the bank or quasi-bank from doing business in the Philippines as provided above may also be exercised over non-stock savings and loan associations, based on the same applicable grounds*.

As to the revised provision stating that *the Monetary Board shall notify in writing, through the receiver, the board of directors of the closed bank of its decision* BSP reported that the current practice is now aligned with the said amended provision.

### **Fines and penalties**

BSP Circular No. 957, dated April 17, 2017 on the Examination and Records of BSP-Supervised Financial Institutions covers the requirements set forth under the law on the refusal to make reports and/or permit examination, and the willful making of a false or misleading statement on a material fact to the Monetary Board or to BSP examiners. The BSP Circular already provides for the mechanisms and sanctions for banks that willfully refuse to permit examination, as well as those concerning false entry or willful omission of entries relevant to any transaction.

BSP will revisit existing regulations and guidelines on administrative sanctions to cover subsidiaries and affiliates engaged in allied activities, or other entities, which are now subject to BSP supervision under this law. The existing BSP Working Group on Enforcement Policy Framework may look into the current enforcement guidelines to align with the revised penalty structure under the Amended Charter.

### **Using rediscounts, discounts, loans, and advances to influence volume of credit**

Existing credit facilities of BSP, such as the Emergency Loan Facility and Loans to the PDIC, to be used as financial assistance to banks, may address the objective of maintaining financial stability. Nonetheless, BSP will study the area of extending credit in the context of the broader financial *stability* mandate of BSP, such as, but not limited to, lending to financial institutions not supervised by BSP.

BSP is also reviewing the additional types of acceptable collaterals to secure loans to banks. The policy review shall cover all credit facilities administered by BSP. As of end August 2020, coordination within the concerned departments of BSP relative to the proposed amendments to the Manual of Regulations for Banks, and research and benchmarking with other jurisdictions, are on-going.

Meanwhile, a letter to the Department of Justice will be prepared by BSP requesting the issuance of an Administrative Circular addressed to all Registers of Deed on the following:

- Implementation of exemption of BSP collaterals from attachments, executions, and any other court processes and administrative restrictions on land use; and
- The exercise of precautionary measures to prevent the registration of the said court processes and restrictions on collaterals submitted to BSP, whether the latter's lien or interest is registered or not.

This is in line with the preparation of a Circular and/or memorandum to all banks (MAB) to notify the banks and the public regarding the exemption of BSP collaterals from attachments, executions and other restrictions, and provide specific instructions to all banks.

With respect to the public auction to be conducted by BSP relative to the extrajudicial foreclosure of mortgage, BSP will consult with the Office of the Court Administrator of the Supreme Court to clarify the implementation of this provision.

### Lending to PDIC

The draft Guidelines on the Loans to PDIC and the Master Loan Agreement, which will serve as standard contract on future loans to be extended by BSP to PDIC, are currently being revised in accordance with Section 89(B) of this law and Sections 22(e) and 23 of RA 10846 (PDIC Charter) and in consideration of RA 11057 (Personal Property Security Act).

### Issuance of BSP securities

BSP and BTr signed the MOA for the linkage of the BSP's Monetary Operations System and the BTr's National Registry of Scriptless Securities (MOS-NRoSS) on July 1, 2020. The MOS-NRoSS linkage will facilitate the seamless process of the auction of BSP-issued securities and the registry and recording of these securities to enable primary market issuance and secondary market trading. Under the Amended BSP Charter, the issuance of central bank securities is now part of the BSP's instruments for regular monetary operations, in line with international central bank practices.

BSP first released the action schedule of its securities on September 18, 2020. It was initially traded by the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation for trading on September 21, 2020 (source: <https://www.pds.com.ph/index.html%3Fp=80605.html>).

Table below outlines the auction date, tenor, volume of offering and amount tendered.

Auction Date	Tenor	Offer (PhP billion)	Tender (PhP billion)	Award (PhP billion)	Weighted Ave Accepted Yield (%)
Sep 18, 2020	28-day	20.00	43.36	20.00	1.8355
Sep 25, 2020	28-day	30.00	69.00	30.00	1.8423
Oct 2, 2020	28-day	50.00	87.51	50.00	1.8423
Oct 9, 2020	28-day	60.00	109.20	60.00	1.8487
Oct 16, 2020	28-day	120.00	129.10	120.00	1.8956
Oct 23, 2020	28-day	80.00	141.00	80.00	2.0273
Oct 30, 2020	28-day	70.00	120.55	70.00	2.0367
Nov 6, 2020	28-day	60.00	121.72	60.00	1.9922
Nov 13, 2020	28-day	60.00	88.90	60.00	1.9621
Nov 20, 2020	28-day	60.00	123.80	60.0	1.7135
Nov 27, 2020	28-day	60.00	112.20	60.0	1.7053

Table 5: Auction details of BSP securities (BSP)

### Deposit substitutes

This law defines deposit substitutes as, *an alternative form of obtaining funds from the public, other than deposits, through the issuance, endorsement, or acceptance of debt instruments for the borrower's own account, for the purpose of relending or purchasing of receivables and other obligations. These instruments may include, but need not be limited to, bankers acceptances, promissory notes, participations, certificates of assignment and similar instruments with recourse, and repurchase agreements.* BSP Circular 1061 dated May 3, 2019 amended the definition of a deposit

substitute to exclude borrowings from financial intermediaries to align the same with the definition of deposit substitutes under this law.

### **Basel III reforms**

BSP will prioritize policy initiatives to adopt and implement Basel III reforms as part of its expanded mandate covering minimum capital ratios of banks. Section 108 of the law provides authority to the Monetary Board to require banks to hold capital beyond the minimum requirements commensurate to their risk profile. Hence, Circular Nos. 639 and 731 on Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process and Supervisory Review Process will be revisited on account of the following considerations: amended statutory provision, updated Basel provisions, and recommendations from the recently concluded assessment of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund on BSP's compliance with the Basel Core Principle for Effective Banking Supervision. A study on this proposal is ongoing. There is also an ongoing policy study to review and revise the minimum capitalization of banks.

The Basel III framework is a central element of the Basel Committee's response to the global financial crisis. It addresses key shortcomings in the pre-crisis regulatory framework and provides a foundation for a resilient banking system that will help avoid the build-up of systemic vulnerabilities. The framework will allow the banking system to support the real economy through the economic cycle (Source: [https://www.bis.org/bcbs/publ/d424\\_hlsummary.pdf](https://www.bis.org/bcbs/publ/d424_hlsummary.pdf)).

### **Monetary Board opinion on domestic credit transactions by government entities**

In 2019, BSP processed and issued Monetary Board opinions on 318 proposed domestic loans of government entities: GOCCs, LGUs and water districts, with loan amounts totaling PhP 122.86 billion. BSP also issued a Monetary Board opinion on the national government's 2020 domestic borrowing plan in the amount of PhP 1.05 trillion.

In January-June 2020, BSP processed and issued Monetary Board opinions on 124 proposed domestic loans of government entities with loan amounts totaling PhP 99.86 billion. BSP likewise issued a Monetary Board opinion on national government's supplemental domestic borrowing plan for 2020 in the amount of PhP 1.1 trillion.

### **Other concerns**

Governor Diokno highlighted the need to implement BSP's tax exemption from all national taxes, as provided for in the law. In 2019, BSP reported to the Senate DEAR that talks with the Bureau of Internal Revenue were on-going.

There is also a need for a regional information campaign to promote a better appreciation of the amended BSP Charter.

## Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation

### RA 11261: An Act Waiving Government Fees and Charges in the Issuance of Documents Required in the Application for Employment of First Time Jobseekers

*Known as the "First Time Jobseekers Assistance Act," this law waives fees and charges of the following documents for first time jobseekers:*

- *Police clearance certificate*
- *National Bureau of Investigation clearance*
- *Barangay Clearance*
- *Medical Certificate from a public hospital (except for laboratory tests and other medical procedures)*
- *Transcript of academic records issued by state universities and colleges*
- *Tax Identification Number*
- *Unified Multi-Purpose ID card*
- *Other documentary requirements issued by the government that may be required by employers from job applicants*

*To avail of this benefit, a jobseeker must possess a barangay certification stating their status as a first-time job seeker. Beneficiaries of the Jobstart Program under RA 10869 and other laws that give similar exemptions are not covered by this law.*

*The IRR of this law became effective on October 25, 2019*

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) through Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon informed the Senate DEAR that most implementing agencies are still in the process of issuing internal guidelines to implement this law, including procedures, process flow, and submission of reports.

Usec. Aragon noted that DILG has issued a memorandum for local governments to submit reports to DOLE. However, she highlighted the following issues:

- **Reporting format.** Despite clear instructions on the manner of submission, almost all submissions were in pdf format, making it difficult to transcribe and process the data. The National Database is currently lodged under the Bureau of Local Employment pending the online database of DICT. Some of the forms were unedited, with LGUs/Public Employment Service Offices/Barangays still using the sample data entry form, where the example "Dela Cruz, Juan" was still visible and may be counted. Headers were also unedited, where some used "City of Manila" as their city/municipality name. Most forms did not exhibit the month and year of data being reported.
- **Consistency of Data.** DOLE observed data inconsistencies and repetition from the report of the barangays, cities, and municipalities. Some barangays submitted directly to the Bureau, but when their LGU submits a consolidated list, the data from the subject barangay does not tally.
- **Accuracy of Data.** Some LGUs reported multiple months and/or a full year of data despite the implementation of this law starting only in October 2019. Some LGUs also reported thousands of beneficiaries, which may be questionable as of the cities/municipalities that already submitted their data do not even cross the 500 beneficiaries threshold.

DOLE will work closely with DILG, DICT and other members of the Interagency Committee to address these issues.

DOLE also noted that some initiatives were delayed due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. These include the issuance of internal guidelines on the implementation of this law, capacity building activities, and pilot launching of the first-time jobseekers act database.

## Economic Affairs

### **RA 11453: An Act Further Strengthening the Powers and Functions of the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan**

*This law expands the territory of the Freeport Area of Bataan (FAB) in Mariveles, Bataan and raises its capital stock to PhP 2.5 billion. Locators are exempt from paying local and national taxes. Instead, they are subject to a 5 percent final tax on gross income earned, of which 1 percent goes to the national government, 1 percent to the province of Bataan, 1 percent to the host LGU, and 2 percent to the Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan (AFAB). The law also empowers AFAB to act as an offshore financial center offering international financial and business services such as banking, offshore fund management, and cryptocurrency mining.*

*The IRR of this law was posted on the AFAB website on June 2, 2020 (source: <https://afab.gov.ph/?p=8512>).*

Atty. Reschel Amor D. Apigo of AFAB informed the Senate DEAR of the following updates on the implementation of this law, as well as the issues and concerns that the agency encountered.

#### **Expansion areas of the Freeport Area of Bataan**

RA 11453 provides for the declaration of FAB expansion areas, subject to the concurrence of affected LGUs and the approval of appropriate national government agencies, GOCCs and instrumentalities, and the AFAB Board. On July 29, 2020, the AFAB Board approved for implementation the policy on the declaration of FAB expansion areas. The document specifies the fees and processes involved in the evaluation and approval of such expansion areas.

Atty. Apigo reported that as of August 20, 2020, the Board has approved 9 applications for declaration as FAB expansion areas. 4 of which are in Mariveles, where AFAB's main facilities are located, while the remaining 5 are located outside the municipality. However, 6 of the 9 approved applications have yet to receive concurrence from the relevant LGUs. LGU concurrence was identified as a major bottleneck in the processing of applications.

#### **LGU permits**

LGUs require FAB locators and FAB expansion areas to secure permits and settle fees before a issuing a concurrence. Atty. Apigo noted that this requirement is imposed by LGUs based on their assumption that uncollected fees will instead be paid to AFAB. "This is an incorrect assumption as this posits that the applicant would still push through with the project even if they have to secure all these permits from the LGU. However, that may not be the case as losing the possible tax and fiscal incentives, even at the onset, could prove to be a deal breaker for potential investors, especially foreign investors," said Atty. Apigo.

Moreover, investors and/or locators may be influenced to file their application for other permits (e.g. building permits) with the LGUs when these are supposed to be issued by AFAB.

#### **Inspection of shipments**

AFAB's Enterprise Assistance Division examines all incoming and outgoing shipments of FAB Registered Enterprises (FRE) either in the FREs' premises or in the AFAB designated examination area. To ensure that shipments are properly documented, they are also inspected at the gates of AFAB's main facility in Mariveles, Bataan. Thus, the FREs' proximity to AFAB offices is one of the factors for the efficient and timely examination of shipments. Considering that there are several entry points in

Bataan, the creation of expansion areas present challenges with respect to the inspection of shipments being brought in or out by FREs. Atty. Apigo noted that “these issues boil down to the lack of manpower and facility to equip the AFAB for these events and scenarios.”

To help address these issues, AFAB is looking into the construction of temporary or alternative inspection facilities. For instance, designated examination areas will also serve as checkpoints may be placed at strategic entry and exit points across Bataan province.

### **Assumption of regulatory functions**

AFAB has gradually assumed the regulatory functions vested to it by the law. In particular, it exercised its regulatory mandate over a private port terminal facility by imposing certain requirements, conditions, restrictions and standards for some port-related activities; enforcing compliance; assessing and collecting vessel and cargo charges; and issuing permits and licenses related to its operations. AFAB has acquired 4 private port terminals as part of the exercise of its new powers.

However, AFAB is facing bottlenecks as it assumes some of its regulatory duties. Some national government agencies continue to exercise similar functions, resulting in overlaps and confusion. Other government agencies also insist on conducting their activities within FAB without prior coordination with AFAB to the detriment of locators and businesses inside their facilities. Specific concerns are as follows:

#### *Resistance of Philippine Ports Authority on AFAB’s assumption of port regulation*

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is reportedly insisting that PPA and AFAB exercise concurrent jurisdiction of ports and port operations within FAB. PPA allegedly claims that RA 11453 did not remove PPA’s authority to regulate ports within AFAB’s jurisdiction, including its expansion areas. According to Atty. Apigo, there was no proper turnover of functions and processes from PPA’s Bataan-Aurora office, adding that AFAB has “minimal to no control over the holding environment where the port facilities are located.”

#### *Philippine National Police jurisdiction over FAB*

The Philippine National Police (PNP) claims that prior coordination or “any semblance thereof” with the AFAB police is not required for PNP law enforcement agents to arrest, investigate, or conduct any of its activities within FAB. AFAB is planning to execute a MOA with PNP to clarify this issue. Moreover, a usufruct agreement for the establishment of a PNP substation within AFAB is in the works.

#### *Enforcement of the national building code*

Atty. Apigo informed that residents inside FAB continue to disregard AFAB’s authority to enforce the national building code. They continue to undertake construction activities without securing the necessary permits from AFAB. “Their usual position is that the land is private and not covered by the Presidential Proclamations from which AFAB anchors its ownership.”

AFAB hopes that other government agencies and Congress can assist in clarifying the functions vested in AFAB to prevent confusion. There is a “strong need to recognize AFAB as a government entity possessing regulatory functions which [are] separate, exclusive and distinct from the LGUs and other government agencies which exercise similar functions as that of AFAB,” noted Atty. Apigo.

In the meantime, AFAB is planning to coordinate with other investment promotion agencies to prevent duplication of incentives. It will also clarify with the Bureau of Internal Revenue whether a



business with its own books of account, or a declared branch, is sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the law. Under the law, a FAB registered enterprise “must establish a separate business organization to conduct business exclusively within the FAB which shall be a separate taxable entity,” said Atty. Apigo.

### Blockchain and fintech initiatives

According to its website, AFAB has instituted measures to assist companies intending to use blockchain technology and fintech, as spelled out in its Offshore Blockchain and Financial Technology Solutions (OBFTS) Policy. An OBFTS Group, composed of Grand Innovasia Concept Corporation and Impero Consortium Management Corp., is tasked with evaluating, processing, verifying, and endorsing all applications of local service providers and offshore licensees to engage and operate OBFTS business activities within FAB.

The table below outlines activities and entities covered by the OBFTS group:

Blockchain	Fintech
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital asset related exchange, tokenization and crowd funding platform;</li> <li>Companies engaging in token offerings, including but not limited to, Security Token Offering (STO), Token Generation Event (TGE), Initial Coin Offering (ICO);</li> <li>Payment providers using blockchain technology to store data or generate funds;</li> <li>Blockchain developer service and/or software platform provider that is blockchain based;</li> <li>Utilization of a digital wallet that stores virtual currencies either through a website or a mobile application;</li> <li>Tokens or digital securities within the business model;</li> <li>Distributed Ledger Technology; and,</li> <li>Any blockchain-enabled financial technology solution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any foreign exchange trading company;</li> <li>Online trading companies for securities, commodities;</li> <li>Online or mobile payment solutions and wallets;</li> <li>Loan or mortgage disbursing or processing company;</li> <li>Financial consultancy or financial advisory companies;</li> <li>Insurance or insurance processing company;</li> <li>Company or service that seeks to serve disadvantaged or low-income individuals who do not have access to traditional banks or mainstream financial services companies; and</li> <li>Company or individual brokering or hedging on digital asset exchanges or other exchanges</li> </ul>

Table 6: Activities and entities covered by the AFAB OBFTS group ([https://afab.gov.ph/?page\\_id=8235](https://afab.gov.ph/?page_id=8235))

### Manpower, facilities, and equipment

Atty. Apigo mentioned that the current manpower complement of AFAB is insufficient to fully implement the agency’s expanded mandate as set out in the law. She also acknowledged the need for “capacity building, partnerships, membership and involvement in relevant activities (e.g. future technology, blockchain, port-related, etc.) to acquire more knowledge and technical expertise.”

### Other plans

AFAB intends to hold benchmarking activities related to emerging and future technology, and port processes and operations.

### Budget source to implement this law

AFAB reported that the General Appropriations Act of 2020 allotted PhP 243.677 million for capital outlay. Meanwhile, AFAB has allotted corporate funds amounting to PhP 1.727 billion for capital outlay, personal services, MOOE and financial expenses.

## Education, Arts and Culture

### **RA 10931: An Act Promoting Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education by Providing for Free Tuition and Other School Fees in State Universities and Colleges, Local Universities and Colleges and State-Run Technical-Vocational Institutions, Establishing the Technical Education Subsidy and Student Loan Program, Strengthening the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education, and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*Known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, this law mandates the implementation of free higher education in state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local universities and colleges (LUCs) covering bachelor's degree, certificate, or any comparable undergraduate degree. It mandates free technical-vocational education and training (TVET) in post-secondary technical-vocational institutions (TVIs). This law also establishes a tertiary education subsidy (TES) and a student loan program for tertiary education administered by the UniFAST Board to support the cost of tertiary education.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on February 22, 2018.*

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **TESDA scholarship programs**

The agency has been implementing scholarship programs (such as TWSP, STEP, PESFA, UAQTEA, and TTSP) to enhance TVET access and encourage technical education and skills development for the workers needed by key employment generating and emerging industries.

TESDA Circular No. 002 s. 2019 was issued to meet the objectives of the TESDA Scholarship Programs. It clarifies relevant provisions of this law and adopts a schedule of training costs per qualification. It was based on the following factors: variable costs (consumables; utilities, facilities, equipment aid tools maintenance; honoraria of trainers; and living allowance); and fixed costs (miscellaneous fees, national assessment fees, instructional materials, starter toolkits).

#### **Status of beneficiaries**

As of September 2020, there were a total of 34,042 enrolled students and 24,757 graduates of free TVET. In 2019-2020, 35 institutions were added to the implementers of the program. Under TES, there were 32,018 enrolled and 17,806 graduates. In 2019-2020, 158 institutions were added to the list of implementers of TES for Diploma program.

Meanwhile, the student loan program could not be implemented this year due to the reduction in the TESDA budget (from PhP 3.9 billion to PhP 2.9 billion).

#### **Issues and concerns**

TESDA highlighted the following issues and concerns in implementing this law:

- DSWD Listahanan is not readily available in some regions and provinces. The law requires implementing agencies to prioritize those included in Listahanan. To remedy the situation, TESDA requires a Certificate of Indigency and proof of family's income for applicants in areas where the Listahanan is not available.

- Suboptimal number of implementers of diploma programs. TESDA continues to coordinate with private and public universities and TVET implementers. From 239 registered diploma programs when the program started, As of September 2020, TESDA had 432 registered diploma programs.
- Mismatch between Fiscal Year and School Calendar Year.
- Limited budget to accommodate more incoming diploma takers.

### **RA 10968: An Act Institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), Establishing the PQF-National Coordinating Council (NCC) and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*This law establishes a Philippine Qualifications Framework which shall describe the levels of educational qualifications and set the standards for qualification outcomes.*

*It creates the Philippine Qualifications Framework National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC) to harmonize and promote a seamless education and training system. The Council is chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Education, with the following officials as members: Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education (CHED); Director-General, TESDA; and Chairperson, Professional Regulation Commission. 1 representative each from the economic sector and industry sector also form the Council.*

*The IRR was approved on January 15, 2019.*

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **PQF comprehensive review**

As per the IRR of this law, the PQF National Coordinating Council deemed it necessary to hold a comprehensive review of the PQF. The World Bank through the Future of Jobs project provided technical assistance to the PQF – National Coordinating Council (PQF-NCC) in the conduct of the PQF review. The working timeframe for the PQF review is until September 2020.

#### **Economic and industry representatives**

The nomination and selection of the PQF–NCC economic and industry sector representatives have been approved in principle. During the TWG meeting on January 7, 2020, TWG members and technical staff revised the PQF–NCC Internal Rules and Guidelines and Nomination Process for the Selection of Economic and Industry Sector Representatives. TESDA circulated the revised documents to the TWG members on February 4, 2020 for review. A review is necessary prior to its approval by the Council.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CHED**

On June 5, 2020, TESDA and the Commission on Higher Education signed an MOU for the harmonization of programs in the implementation of PQF through the program offerings in Level 5 of the PQF or the Diploma, Philippine Credit Transfer System (PCTS), and the Philippine Qualifications Register (PhQuaR). The MOU also sought to address the issues and concerns affecting both the TVET and higher education. Both agencies are set to finalize the policy document on the full

implementation of the PCTS for publication within 2020. After this, both agencies shall implement the provisions of the MOU in overseeing education and training providers.

### **RA 11037: An Act Institutionalizing a National Feeding Program for Undernourished Children in Public Day Care, Kindergarten and Elementary Schools to Combat Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*This law establishes a National Feeding Program to address undernutrition among Filipino children consisting the following components:*

- *Supplemental feeding program for day care children;*
- *School-based feeding program;*
- *Milk feeding program;*
- *Micronutrient supplementation;*
- *Health examination, vaccination and deworming;*
- *Gulayan sa paaralan;*
- *Water, sanitation and hygiene;*
- *Integrated nutrition, education, behavioral transformation and social mobilization.*

*The law also creates a National Nutrition Information System to harmonize all existing national and local nutrition databases from national government agencies (NGAs), LGUs and other relevant agencies of government to identify individuals, groups and localities with the highest magnitude of hunger and malnutrition. LGUs are required to assist NGAs in implementing this law by allocating a portion of the Special Education Fund and/or their 20 percent development fund. Private sector participation is encouraged.*

*The IRR of this law was pending approval as of October 2020.*

Undersecretary Luzviminda C. Ilagan of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP)**

SFP provides hot meals prepared by parent-volunteers to children enrolled in local government-managed Child Development Centers (CDC) and Supervised Neighborhood Play (SNP) groups. Implemented for 120 feeding days, the meals provided under SFP are in addition to the meals regularly provided to the children.

Target beneficiaries are 2 to 4-year-olds in SNPs, 3 to 4-year-olds in CDCs, and 5-year-olds not enrolled in the Department of Education pre-schools but are enrolled in CDCs. SFP seeks to achieve the following:

- Provide augmentation support for the feeding program for children in CDCs;
- Improve knowledge, attitude and practices of beneficiary children, parents and caregivers through intensified nutrition and health education; and
- Improve and/or sustain the nutritional status of all the target children.

As of March 2020, 1,095 out of 1,297 LGUs were implementing the program, but only 387 were able to complete the 120 feeding days.

Usec. Ilagan noted that the implementation of community quarantine measures resulting from the pandemic caused the suspension of the 9th cycle of SFP implementation. Thus, the Department issued new guidelines on the implementation of SFP, which integrates health protocols while taking into consideration the welfare of beneficiaries and service providers.

DSWD Field Offices in coordination with local governments were able to resume the feeding in May 2020. As of October 2020, 523 LGUs resumed the feeding and a total of 780,862 children have received the hot meals. 335 out of 523 LGUs were reported to have completed the 120 feeding days during the pandemic. In all, as of July 26, 2020, 1,706,321 children or 90.67 percent of the target 1,881,979 children were served in the 9th cycle implementation. 100 percent completion was expected within August 2020. The 10th cycle implementation has begun in some LGUs in Region X and Caraga.

### **Private sector participation**

DSWD partnered with the United Nations World Food Programme for the public consultations on the IRR of this law. Meanwhile, DSWD's Field Offices partnered with Kabisig ng Kalahi in the implementation of this program. DSWD and Kabisig ng Kalahi are working on a new partnership dubbed *Food Share Program*. The agency also collaborated with the Knowledge Channel, Jollibee Groups Foundation, and Zuellig Foundation on early childhood education and facility sharing.

### **Budget source to implement this law**

In 2020, the General Appropriations Act allotted PhP 3,700,416,000.00 for SFP and Milk Feeding Programs. The amount is being used to provide hot meals and milk to beneficiaries in CDCs and SNP groups ages 2-5 years old. SFP grants total PhP 3,455,547,152.00 equivalent to PhP 15.00/child/day for hot meals and PhP 19.00/child/day for milk. The PhP 166,868,848.00 is for administrative cost that covers cost of service, travel, and communications of SFP staff at the Field Offices. PhP 100,000,000 was withdrawn as per DBM NBC No. 580 (i.e.: <https://www.dbm.gov.ph/index.php/258-national-budget-circular-2020/1648-national-budget-circular-580>). DSWD proposes to increase the budget for hot meals to PhP 18.00 per child per day given the current prices of food commodities such as rice (PhP 45.00/kg or PhP 4.50 per child per day) and viand (PhP 40.00-50.00 for 2-3 children or about PhP 15.00 per child per day).

## **RA 11454: An Act Authorizing the Sale of Certain Parcels of Land in Barangay Krus na Ligas, Quezon City by the University of the Philippines to the Quezon City Government**

*This law amends the charter of the University of the Philippines (UP) to authorize the sale of certain parcels of land in Barangay Krus na Ligas with a total area of not more than 22.467 hectares. However, authorization is automatically revoked when both parties fail to agree on the terms and conditions of the sale within one year from the law's effectivity.*

*It calls for the creation of a TWG under the Quezon City government to determine the legitimate residents of the barangay who are eligible to become subsequent buyers of the land, and to assist the university to resettle residents found in university properties adjacent to the parcels of land to be sold under this law. It also mandates the creation of an Interagency Committee headed by the Quezon City government and composed of representatives from UP, Department of Housing and*

*Urban Development, and the National Housing Authority that will issue the implementation guidelines.*

The Quezon City government through Mr. Ramon T. Asprer of the Housing, Community Development and Resettlement Department informed the Senate DEAR of the following updates on the implementation of this law:

#### **Quezon City Technical Working Group (TWG)**

Mayor Josefina G. Belmonte issued Executive Order No. 17 series of 2020 dated March 4, 2020 creating the TWG. It held its first meeting on March 13, 2020, during which it agreed to conduct a census of the residents of the barangay to identify all current residents and structure owners who may be qualified beneficiaries of the land distribution program. It agreed to use as starting point the census conducted in 1974 by the city's planning and development office. A Beneficiary Selection and Awards Committee will be formed to screen and evaluate documentary evidence presented by prospective beneficiaries proving continuous occupancy of their residence in the barangay for at least 30 years. The group also agreed to set a meeting with Mayor Belmonte to recommend an initial price offer to the university. Issues and concerns raised during this meeting include the mode of subdividing the land to heirs, clarification on whether those who bought property rights from the owners are qualified under the program, and possible obstacles to reblocking.

A second TWG meeting was held on June 2, 2020. The members discussed the offer price, payment terms, and the availability of funds to purchase the land considering the possible impact of the pandemic on the city's tax collections. The group also raised concerns about meeting the 1-year deadline for setting the terms of the sale. This law was signed on August 30, 2019 and published on the website of the Official Gazette on September 10, 2019. (Source: <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2019/08/30/republic-act-no-11454/>)

#### **UP TWG**

UP created its own TWG on July 15, 2020 through AO No. PDLC 20-21 signed by UP President Danilo L. Concepcion. Chaired by Dr. Elvira A. Zamora, the TWG was tasked with the following:

- Review and analyze the implications of the sale;
- Identify potential issues that may arise in negotiating the sale;
- Formulate strategies that will address the potential issues;
- Determine and recommend the reasonable terms and conditions of the sale of the parcels of land authorized under RA 11454 that are fair and most advantageous to UP; and
- Ensure that the terms and conditions are in accordance with the provisions of RA 11454 and RA 9500, as well as relevant laws, rules and regulations.

(Source: <https://osu.up.edu.ph/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/July-Sept.pdf>)

#### **Meeting with UP**

Mayor Belmonte held a meeting with UP President Danilo L. Concepcion on August 10, 2020 to offer to purchase the land for PHP 764.898 million. The offer was rejected and both parties agreed to set another meeting before the end of the 1-year prescriptive period.

## Energy

### **RA 11039: An Act Institutionalizing the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*This law creates the Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund to be managed and administered by the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The fund will be used to provide financial assistance to electric cooperatives (ECs) in the event of damage to infrastructure brought about by force majeure events.*

*Under this law, NEA is mandated to formulate policies and coordinate the activities of the ECs relative to emergency and resiliency management, as well as to require ECs to submit and monitor their Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, Emergency Response Plans, and other disaster management programs, among others. On the other hand, ECs are responsible for ensuring the protection, preparedness, and mitigation of adverse impacts of force majeure events to their infrastructure.*

*The IRR of this law was issued on December 14, 2018.*

NEA Deputy Administrator for Technical Services Artis Nikki L. Tortola provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### ***Electric Cooperatives Emergency and Resiliency Fund (ECERF)***

Under this law, PhP 750 million will be taken from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund to create the ECERF. Deputy Administrator Tortola reported that the allocation for ECERF was first introduced to the NEA budget in FY 2020; no allocation was provided in 2019. Moreover, the allocation in FY 2020 amounted to only PhP 500 million. This was further reduced to PhP 250 million in compliance with the Governance Commission for GOCCs' Memorandum Order No. 2020-04 (i.e. <https://gcg.gov.ph/files/pKzvXoLqG7I4tpt5DuBR.pdf>), as well as the recommendation of DBM in a letter dated April 24, 2020. The PhP 250 million was reallocated to help fund the country's response to the pandemic, as authorized under RA 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.

On February 3, 2020, NEA requested the DBM's approval for the release of funds for the restoration of infrastructure damaged by typhoon Ursula, which struck the western Visayas region in late December 2019. As requested by DBM, additional documents were provided by NEA on May 15, 2020. As of September 2020, the request is awaiting approval. However, Deputy Administrator Tortola noted that "the PhP 250 million allocated for ECERF this year is not enough to cover the funding requirement of the restoration/rehabilitation works with total damage cost of PhP 640.89 million. This leaves a balance of PhP 390.89 million without corresponding/identified funding source."

#### ***Expanded NEA powers***

Even before the approval of this law, NEA has launched several initiatives to help build the resiliency of ECs to force majeure events. In September 2017, NEA conducted a seminar on Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) and Emergency Response Planning (ERP) to ECs in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. 100 out of 121 ECs that attended the seminar submitted a VRA of their critical facilities. NEA

also created an ad-hoc office in 2018 to oversee disaster risk reduction and management activities. Thus, this law essentially institutionalized some of NEA's key efforts to promote resiliency among ECs.

Currently, NEA annually reviews ECs' Resiliency Compliance Plan (RCP), Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and VRA. The agency also provides ECs assistance in the following areas:

- Preparation of RCP and ERP based on VRA and other reference tools;
- Simulation of ERP;
- Supervision of power restoration after a disaster;
- Determining the required Task Force in coordination with ECs' national and regional organizations for the immediate restoration of power affected by disaster;
- Facilitating request for assistance in the form of loan from the NEA;
- Facilitating request for assistance in the form of subsidy from the National Government through the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and DBM;
- Inspection of distribution system and facilities to ensure their resiliency.



## Foreign Affairs

### **RA 10928: An Act Extending the Validity of Philippine Passports, Amending for the Purpose Section 10 of Republic Act No. 8239, Otherwise Known as the “Philippine Passport Act of 1996,” and for Other Purposes**

*This law extends the validity of Philippine passports from 5 to 10 years, except for those of minors whose passports would only have a 5-year validity. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), as the passport issuing authority, can choose to limit passport validity to less than 10 years whenever in the national economic interest or political stability of the country such restriction is necessary.*

*This law also mandates the DFA to make necessary reforms to make the passport processing system seamless, convenient, and pro-people, and to make the production and security of passports at par with technological advances and world standards.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on October 25, 2017 by former DFA Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano.*

Mr. Voltaire O.C. Mauricio, DFA Legislative Liaison informed Senate DEAR that the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of 2019 allotted PhP 3.266 billion for the purchase of passport booklets and personalization of passports. For 2020, the GAA allotted PhP 4.080 billion.

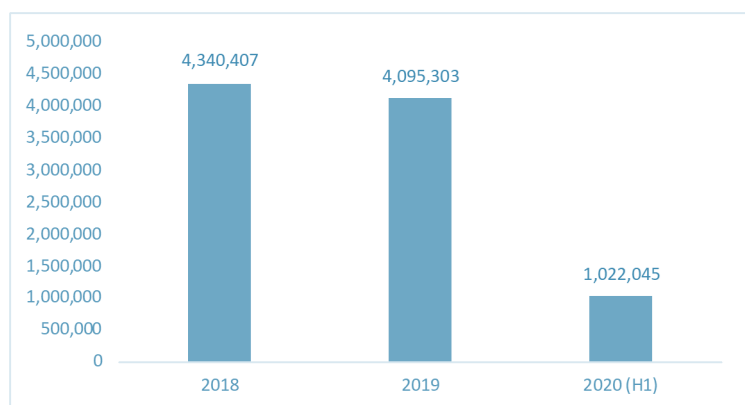


Image 2: No. of 10-year ePassports issued from January 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020 (DFA)

The DFA noted a 20 percent increase in the number of passports issued in 2017 and 2018, outpacing the projections made in the Multi-Year Obligation Authority (MYOA). This led to deficiencies in the ePassport budget for the two-year period. Mr. Mauricio said that the passage of this law has encouraged more Filipinos to apply for new passports. To cover the shortfall, in 2017, DFA sought the DBM's guidance and approval to use the FY 2016 Continuing Appropriations for ePassports per Republic Act No. 10717, the FY 2016 GAA, and the available FY 2016 Continuing Appropriations amounting to PhP 173.282 million. The DBM advised that the deficiency be covered by the previous year's savings. In 2018, DFA made numerous representations with DBM and received advise that the shortfall be taken from the Passport Revolving Fund (PRF). However, the Department could only cover PhP 300 million out of the PhP 553,994,290.00 shortfall as the PRF is also used to fund the salaries of casual and contractual personnel of the Office of Consular Affairs and other consular offices in the country. A total of PhP 253,994,290.00 remains unfunded.

	No. of Passports Produced		Total Cost (PhP)		Deficiency (PhP)
	MYOA Projection	Actual Production	MYOA Allotment	Actual Cost	
2017	3,570,000	3,743,880	2,967,518,158.55	3,114,908,160.00	144,668,160.00
2018	3,748,500	4,484,354	3,112,127,879.15	3,722,013,820.00	253,994,290.00
2019	3,935,925	4,097,880	3,266,987,463.43	3,401,240,400.00	134,254,190.00
2020	4,132,721	1,019,931 (as of June 2020)	3,432,860,784.34	847,232,375.00 (as of June 2020)	N/A

Table 7: No. of passports produced, total cost, and deficiency, 2017-2020 (DFA)

Meanwhile, despite an 8 percent decline in passport production in 2019, there was still a budget deficiency of PhP 134.3 million as the MYOA projection was exceeded by 4 percent, or by 161,954 booklets. DFA utilized the remaining MYOA allotment of PhP 45,518,830.00 (as of end-November 2019) to cover the payment of printed and personalized ePassports for December 2019. However, a total of PhP 134,254,190.00 remains unfunded.

As of mid-2020, DFA has only utilized 25 percent of its annual allotment due to the implementation of community quarantine measures and health protocols resulting from the pandemic. Thus, the agency does not expect to meet its production projection for 2020, which would lead to a budget surplus – the first in five years. DFA is looking into using these savings to cover the previous years' budget deficiencies.

#### Other updates

DFA is planning to refresh the design of the passport booklet and enhance the ePassport system such that it would be possible to renew the passport without the need for a personal appearance.

## Health and Demography

### **RA 10932: An Act Strengthening the Anti-Hospital Deposit Law by Increasing the Penalties for the Refusal of Hospitals and Medical Clinics to Administer Appropriate Initial Medical Treatment and Support in Emergency or Serious Cases, Amending for the Purpose Batas Pambansa Bilang 702, Otherwise Known as "An Act Prohibiting the Demand of Deposits or Advance Payments for the Confinement or Treatment of Patients in Hospitals and Medical Clinics in Certain Cases," As Amended by RA 8344, and for Other Purposes**

*This law makes it unlawful for any officer or personnel of a hospital or medical clinic to request, solicit, demand, or accept any deposit or any other form of advance payment as a prerequisite for administering basic emergency care. Violators shall face imprisonment ranging from 6 months to 2 years and 4 months, and/or a fine ranging from PhP 100,000 to PhP 300,000. If the violation was committed due to the established policy of the medical facility or upon the instruction of management, the director or officer of the medical facility responsible for formulating and implementing such a policy shall face imprisonment of 4 to 6 years, and/or a fine of PhP 500,000 to PhP 1,000,000. Three repeated violations by management shall lead to the revocation of the health facility's license to operate by the Department of Health (DOH). The Health Facilities Oversight Board (HFOB) is mandated to receive and assess complaints against health facilities.*

*The IRR of this law was signed by DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque III on November 17, 2017.*

The DOH Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **Creation of Health Facilities Oversight Board**

DOH issued a Department Personnel Order (DPO) dated December 15, 2017 creating the HFOB, followed up by DPOs dated March 1, 2019 and May 13, 2020 reconstituting and further reconstituting the HFOB, respectively. The HFOB is composed of a DOH representative with minimum rank of Director to serve as Chair, as well as 1 representative each from Philhealth, Philippine Medical Association, and private medical institutions, and 3 representatives from non-government organizations advocating for patients' rights and public health, one of whom should be a licensed physician.

These seats are currently occupied by DOH Assistant Secretary Atty. Charade B. Mercado-Grande, Philhealth Senior Vice President Dr. Israel Francis A. Pargas, Philippine Medical Association Secretary General Dr. Ricardo A. Batac, Philippine Hospital Association representative Dr. Jaime Almora, Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations President Ms. Fatima Garcia-Lorenzo, Medical Action Group Inc. Chairperson Dr. Nemuel Fajutagana, and Philippine Alliance of Persons with Chronic Illness representative Mr. Dominador B. Delos Santos.

#### **Investigation of cases**

The HFOB has so far promulgated decisions on 11 cases. HFOB has taken the initiative to investigate complaints made known via news reports, but definitive action on such complaints can only be made if cases are filed before it. Meanwhile, the draft Rules of Procedure in Handling Complaints for Violations of RA 10932 has been finalized, and a public consultation will soon be held.

DOH said that HFOB convenes once a month to discuss cases for disposition. However, some investigations have been interrupted due to the emergence of “equally important and urgent concerns.” Moreover, changes in the administrative structure of HFOB tend to affect the staff complement, leading to further disruption in the investigations. Thus, to help prevent further delays, some cases have been referred to DOH Centers for Health Development (CHD). DOH noted that a more permanent solution would be to strengthen the capacity of the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau and CHDs by increasing the number of officers and investigators holding plantilla positions dedicated to resolving RA 10932 cases.

#### **Honoraria of HFOB members who are not DOH employees**

Mindful of legal impediments such as DBM Circular No. 2007-510 dated May 8, 2007, as well as Budget Memorandum No. 131 dated February 29, 2019, DOH is seeking clarification on whether it would still be feasible to grant honoraria or some financial incentive to HFOB members who are not DOH employees. This is to compensate for the time, effort, and out-of-pocket expenses they incur in connection with their services to the body.

### **RA 11036: An Act Establishing a National Mental Health Policy for the Purpose of Enhancing the Delivery of Integrated Mental Health Services, Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Persons Utilizing Psychiatric, Neurologic and Psychological Health Services**

*This law seeks to provide mental health patients with access to the benefits of government medical insurance under PhilHealth. These benefits include payment coverage for medical check-up, medicine, and hospital confinement. It also mandates the government to develop capabilities and manpower dedicated to attending to the needs of mental health patients. It establishes the Philippine Council for Mental Health to oversee implementation.*

*The IRR of this law was signed by Department of Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III on January 22, 2019.*

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **Creation of Internal Review Boards of public and private health facilities**

DOH has issued the guidelines and rules of practice on the operationalization of the Internal Review Board in Mental Health Facilities. It also issued joint implementation guidelines for pilot implementation in the following sites: Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital (Region III), Cavite Center for Mental Health and Panganlungan Halfway House and Rehabilitation Center (Region IV-A); Sorsogon City Health Office and Bicol Medical Center (Region V); and National Center for Mental Health, DSWD Sanctuary Center, and Elsie Gaches Village (NCR). While there have been some delays in the pilot implementation, DOH has resumed its engagement with the pilot sites in the third quarter of the year.

#### **Standards of mental health services**

The scope of services per level of care and type of facility is currently being determined by the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau and Health Facilities Development Bureau (HFDB) for

licensing requirements of facilities. HFDB has listed mental health services identified in the Resource Stratified Framework for the establishment of specialty centers for mental health. The National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) is designated as the National Special Center, while 9 other facilities were designated as Advanced Comprehensive Centers and 14 as Basic Comprehensive Centers.

### **Community-based mental health facilities**

The IRR of this law defines a community-based mental health facility as a facility that operates outside a mental health hospital. This includes community mental health centers, outpatient care centers, and halfway houses. The baseline research for the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health 2019-2023 is currently underway. The research will determine the available mental health services in regions. With the help of the World Health Organization, DOH is also developing guidelines for the design and implementation of community-based mental health care.

Meanwhile, DOH is conducting training programs for mental health coordinators on community-based intervention for behavioral emergencies. The proportion of LGUs providing mental health services serves as indicator for the prioritization of training. Moving forward, DOH will develop evidence-based standardized training modules for non-professional mental health service providers, including barangay health workers, that are contextualized in the local setting. This effort is expected to be completed in 2021.

### **Compliance of LGUs to reportorial requirements**

The strategic plan of the Philippine Council for Mental Health (PCMH) has included indicators for the quarterly reports to be submitted by LGUs. For 2020, DOH seeks to have at least 3 LGUs per province providing adequate mental health services and submitting regular reports to the agency's Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service.

### **Expansion of the capacity of the National Center for Mental Health**

NCMH is undergoing an organizational development process to fulfill its mandate as set out in the law. It has so far organized the Committee on Mental Health Information System and Research to develop its capacity to serve as a training and research center under the DOH. PCMH is expected to assist NCMH through its technical committee on research.

### **Duties and responsibilities of DOH**

DOH has formulated a revised National Mental Health Strategic Plan. It has improved its research capacity and academic collaboration by partnering with academic institutions on mental health research. There are 3 ongoing studies expected to be completed in 2021: (1) National Survey for Mental Health and Well-Being; (2) Analyzing Mental Health in the Philippines: Perception, Access and Delivery; and (3) Mental Health Protocol within the Urban and Rural School Systems. Future research areas include mental health literacy, and suicide surveillance. Meanwhile, the creation of a Mental Health Division under the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau is pending the approval of the Department of Budget and Management. Once created, the division will oversee DOH's commitments on the implementation of this law, as well as serve as secretariat to PCMH.

DOH noted that the priorities of institutions may not include the expansion and specialization of mental health services and thus, they may deviate from their intended function as outlined in this law. To help address this, the DOH Executive Committee require PCMH to inform the committee about its

planned activities. Implementing agencies will also be informed of these plans to ensure focus and alignment.

#### **World Health Organization technical assistance**

The World Health Organization Technical Assistance on the Special Initiative for Mental Health is undertaking a 5-year plan to strengthen the implementation of this law and look for donors to help fund key programs and projects. The PCMH Strategic Plan has been “subsumed and incorporated” into this plan.

#### **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority initiatives**

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported that in 2020, the agency incorporated mental health topics by coordinating with the Occupational Safety and Health Center during the workshop on the Development of Competency-based Learning System Exemplars (June-September 2020). Material developed during this workshop now forms part of what it considers as “basic competencies.” Topics include recognizing basic signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression, suicidal impulses, and indicators of mental illness such as hallucinations or delusion. Knowledge of appropriate referral and intervention services in the community was also incorporated. Moreover, on November 19, 2019, TESDA hosted a symposium on mental health attended by central office, NCR and Region IV-A personnel facilitated by Dr. Danilo BV. Tuazon.

#### **Budget source to implement this law**

DOH reported that the General Appropriations Act of 2020 allotted PhP 1,882,499,084.03 to implement this law based on appropriations for NCMH, Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital (including Capital Outlay from Health Facilities Enhancement Program), and the Work and Financial Plan 2020 of the National Mental Health Program. The National Mental Health Program has an allocation of PhP 196,151,084.03.

### **RA 11148: An Act Scaling Up the National and Local Health and Nutrition Programs Through a Strengthened Integrated Strategy for Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health and Nutrition in the First One Thousand (1,000) Days of Life, Appropriating Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes**

*Called the “Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act,” this law seeks to refocus interventions in addressing malnutrition among the most nutritionally at-risk, prioritizing women of reproductive age, especially adolescent girls, teen-age mothers, pregnant and lactating women, and children from birth up to 24 months.*

*Timely immunization, promotion of breastfeeding and complimentary feeding, micronutrient supplementation, and assurance of women and child-friendly spaces during calamities, disasters and other emergencies are some of the program components.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on May 2, 2019.*

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division informed the Senate DEAR that the implementation of this law is overseen by the agency’s Children’s Health Development Division under the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau of the Public Health Services Team. The Division’s goal is to reduce child morbidity

and mortality, specifically, under-5 mortality, infant mortality, newborn mortality, and all forms of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency. DOH reported the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### **Promulgating the IRR**

The drafting of the IRR of this law began on January 28, 2019, led by a multisectoral TWG organized by DOH in coordination with the National Nutrition Council (NNC). Consultative meetings and public consultations were conducted until April 2019. The IRR is based on a policy framework anchored on the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2017 to 2022. The goals and objectives of PPAN served as the “strategic framework” for planning, operations, and monitoring and evaluation. The UNICEF Philippine Country Office and the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development provided technical and secretariat support to the TWG. The TWG was led by the DOH Children’s Health Development Division in partnership with NNC.

### **Study on malnutrition**

In June 2019, DOH commissioned a study that sought to identify determinants of malnutrition in the country and examine Philippine public expenditure on malnutrition programs and activities. The results of the study will provide inputs to the updating of PPAN and the Philippine Development Plan. It will also guide the development of a comprehensive and strategic implementation plan for RA 11148, particularly on determining where investments on nutrition-sensitive and nutrition-specific interventions should be focused to achieve high-impact results. The study was made possible through the financial support of UNICEF.

### **Capacity building and knowledge sharing activities**

Two batches of the national training of trainers program were held on October 15 to 18, 2019 and October 22 to 25, 2020. The training aimed to improve the capacity of community health workers such as barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars and breastfeeding support groups – frontline implementer of programs under the “First 1,000 Days” strategy. The modules consisted of a harmonized maternal, newborn, infant and young child health and nutrition (MNIYCHN) training package. The cohort comprised 78 regional Infant and Young Child Feeding Coordinators, Regional Nutrition Coordinators and Development Management Officers.

With technical assistance from UNICEF and the Philippine Legislators’ Committee on Population and Development, DOH and NNC held a webinar series on RA 11148 in July 2020, in time for the celebration of Nutrition Month. Participants consisted of representatives of government agencies, health workers, and local government units down to the barangay level. The event also served as a platform to secure the commitment of participants in implementing this law through the signing or pledging of a “virtual commitment tracker.” A follow-up activity will be held to monitor these commitments.

A forum on Multi-Sectoral Actions on Preventing Stunting was held on October 2 to 4, 2019 to assess the extent to which nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions and targets specified in the PPAN results framework were achieved. It also provided an opportunity to determine adjustments required for the remaining plan period to accelerate the achievement of PPAN targets. This is in line with an agreement during the July 2019 NNC Governing Board meeting to conduct a review of the PPAN results framework and to align national government agency roles with the “First 1,000 Days” strategy. To clarify responsibility and accountability on the implementation of nutrition-sensitive



interventions, consultative meetings were held with DSWD, Department of Education, DA, DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, DA-Philippine Coconut Authority, and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Through the support of UNICEF and Zuellig Family Foundation, a Results Mapping Workshop on the Health Governance and Leadership Program was conducted in July 2019 to improve the capacity of DOH and NNC nutrition program managers. It was a follow up to the harmonization workshop between DOH and NCC in February 2019 to delineate the roles and functions of the two agencies, specifically on providing technical assistance to improve the local government component of RA 11148 and PPAN. The technical assistance component, due to be rolled out within this year, was made possible through funding from the DOH's Children's Health Development Division.

In 2019, DOH held a series of consultative workshops to develop the Nutritional Guidelines for Women of Reproductive Health with technical and funding assistance from the Nutrition Center of the Philippines and a Nutrition International-UNICEF project. The guidelines are envisioned to assist health service providers in assessing and monitoring the nutritional status of women of reproductive age from pre-conception up to the first 1,000 days of the child to ensure better health and nutrition outcomes. Moreover, the Manual of Operations for the Micronutrient Supplementation Program was updated to include new global recommendations for micronutrient supplementation. The Micronutrient Supplementation Program is one of the major nutrition-specific programs of PPAN.

An orientation on RA 11148 and its IRR was held in all regions of the country, led by the DOH CHDs and NNC regional offices. To encourage the localization of this law, NNC emphasized the need to integrate the Local Nutrition Action Plan in the Local Investment Plan for Health. NNC is likewise coordinating with members of the NNC Governing Board to ensure alignment of nutrition-sensitive interventions for convergence budgeting.

**RA 11166: An Act Strengthening the Philippine Comprehensive Policy on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention, Treatment, Care, and Support, and Reconstituting the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC), Repealing for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8504, Otherwise Known as the "Philippine AIDS Prevention and Control Act of 1998," and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*This law reconstitutes and streamlines the Philippine National AIDS Council (PNAC), which shall become an attached agency of DOH with a separate budget under the General Appropriations Act, as well as its own secretariat and staffing pattern. PNAC is mandated, among others, to develop, operationalize, implement and monitor the AIDS Medium Term Plan (AMTP) in coordination with other government agencies and civil society organizations. The AMTP is a national multisectoral strategic plan to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS in the country.*

*The IRR was issued in 2019.*

**DOH updates**

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division informed the Senate DEAR that relevant government agencies are developing policies and guidelines in line with their mandate under the IRR.



The DILG was elected as PNAC Vice Chair during the PNAC plenary meeting on October 29, 2019. The following Technical Committees were also created during the said meeting: (1) Finance; (2) Information, Education and Communication; (3) Policy and Planning; (4) Human Rights; and (5) Monitoring and Evaluation. PNAC is set to hold a planning activity for the 6th AMTP Post Implementation Evaluation in December 2020.

DOH noted the release of the following key guidelines to implement this law:

- DM No. 2020-0352: Interim Guidelines on the Implementation of Education and Comprehensive Health Intervention for Key Populations and Vulnerable Communities in HIV and AIDS;
- (Upcoming) Revised Guidelines on the Integrated Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of Human Immunodeficiency Virus;
- DM No. 2020-0338: Adoption of PSMID Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in HIV Infected Adults and Adolescents in the Philippines;
- DM No. 2020-0340: Interim Guidelines on the Medical Management of PLHIV [people living with HIV] and Protocol on Precaution Against HIV Transmission During Medical, Surgical and Other Related Procedures;
- (Upcoming) Interim Guidelines on the Accreditation of Institutions or Organizations that Train HIV Counselors;
- (Upcoming) Amendment to AO No. 2017-0019 entitled Policies and Guidelines in the Conduct of HIV Testing Services in Health Facilities dated September 15, 2017;
- DM No. 2020-0339: Interim Guidelines on Subsidizing Medical Expenses Incurred by Indigent and Financially Incapacitated PLHIV in DOH-Designated HIV Treatment Hubs;
- (Upcoming) Interim Guidelines on Care and Support for Affected Families, Intimate Partners and Significant Others and Children Living with HIV;
- DM No. 2020-0326 Interim Guidelines on STI, HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control for Drug Abuse Treatment Rehabilitation Centers.

The DOH budget to implement this law in 2020 is PhP 778,700,480.

### **Civil Service Commission updates**

CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala informed the Senate DEAR that to implement Section 16 of the law (Education in the Workplace), the CSC will provide standardized basic information and instruction on HIV and AIDS, including topics on confidentiality in the workplace and reduction or elimination of stigma and discrimination. These will be based on the PNAC's standardized and key messages on the prevention and control of HIV and AIDS. CSC is currently reviewing Memorandum Circular No. 11 s. 2013 (Guidelines in the Implementation of Workplace Policy and Education Program on HIV and AIDS) to align CSC policies on this matter. Meanwhile, to implement Sec. 48 of the law (Duty of Employers, Heads of Government Offices, Heads of Public and Private Schools or Training Institutions, and Local Chief Executives), the CSC shall issue a policy on the procedure for the investigation of discrimination cases in the workplace and learning institution, as well as the associated penalties. However, this effort has been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) updates**

DOLE Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon informed the Senate DEAR that the agency's labor officers monitor compliance to these initiatives in the workplace. The responsibility is in line with DO 183-17 or the Revised Rules on the Administration and Enforcement of Labor Laws pursuant to Article 128 of the Labor Code.

DOLE is planning to review and strengthen DO 102-10: Guidelines for the Implementation of HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control in the Workplace to align it with the provisions of RA 11166. It is examining whether to include provider-initiated HIV and AIDS counselling and testing as part of the health services provided in the workplace in the revised DO.

Meanwhile, HIV and AIDS topics, including key provisions of RA 11166, are included in mandatory and advanced occupational safety and health training and learning sessions conducted by the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC). Relevant information material is also provided to employers and employees in the private sector at no extra cost. For Filipino overseas workers living with HIV, DOLE extends its assistance through the Integrated Medical Repatriation Assistance Program for overseas Filipinos who are repatriated due to HIV status. The agency also shares relevant information through its pre-employment orientation seminars and pre-departure orientation seminars for overseas Filipinos.

DOLE, through OSHC, is the current Chair of the Interagency Committee on HIV and AIDS, which represents the Philippines in the ASEAN Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS (ASEAN BCA). As an ASEAN member-state actively participating in ASEAN BCA, the Philippines thru DOLE and the inter-agency committee on HIV and AIDS has been sending deserving establishments with exemplary HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Programs to the ASEAN Red Ribbon Awards (ARROW). In 2018 to 2020, the Philippines was the Coordinator and Secretariat of the ASEAN BCA, with DOLE thru the OSHC as the focal agency spearheading this endeavor.

Region	Compliant	Non-compliant	Total	Compliance rate (%)
NCR	19,707	1,062	20,769	89.11
CAR	1,599	66	1,665	94.89
I	661	1,207	1,868	96.04
II	1,151	135	1,286	35.39
III	5,056	1,730	6,786	89.50
IV-A	7,530	335	7,865	74.51
IV-B	1,812	120	1,932	95.74
V	2,244	423	2,667	93.79
VI	3,184	133	3,317	95.99
VII	4,569	555	5,124	89.17
VIII	1,567	210	1,777	88.18
IX	1,477	250	1,727	85.52
X	3,799	4	3,803	99.89
XI	3,531	189	3,720	94.92
XII	1,902	231	2,133	89.17
CARAGA	525	722	1,247	42.10
TOTAL	60,314	7,372	67,686	89.11

Table 8: Status of inspected establishments' compliance to Labor Standards on the Policy on Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B, 2019 (DOLE)

Appreciation Course	Region	Batches	Participants
OSH for the informal sector	Luzon	8	1,038
	Visayas	2	67
	Mindanao	2	110
	Total	12	1,215
OSH for non-government agencies and local government units	Luzon	9	318
	Visayas	1	24
	Mindanao	1	16
	Total	11	358
OSH for schools	Luzon	18	2,329
	Visayas	2	563
	Mindanao	4	269
	Total	24	3,161
Learning sessions	Luzon	4	160
	Visayas	-	-
	Mindanao	-	-
	Total	4	160
	Grand total	51	4,894

Table 9: Free appreciation courses and learning sessions on HIV/AIDS in the workplace, 2019 (DOLE)

Usec. Aragon acknowledged that some of the agency's planned activities for 2020 were delayed by the pandemic. To make up for the delay, it will leverage available technologies to deliver its programs. For instance, OSHC is implementing online capability building and information dissemination. It will continue to foster public-private partnerships to ensure the sustainability of occupational safety and health programs and leverage its networks and linkages to extend the reach of its services.

The OSHC budget to implement this law in 2020 was PhP 4,847,430.00.

OSH Training Course	Region	Batches	Participants	Companies
40 hours basic occupational safety and health (BOSH) training course for Safety Officer 2	Luzon	90	4,431	2,803
	Visayas	46	2,070	1,314
	Mindanao	42	2,122	1,311
	Total	178	8,623	5,428
10 hours basic occupational safety and health (BOSH) training for Safety Officer 1	Luzon	88	4,516	3,090
	Visayas	33	1,581	1,006
	Mindanao	25	1,312	750
	Total	146	7,409	4,846
Construction safety and health (COSH) training course	Luzon	48	2,895	1,171
	Visayas	32	1,282	454
	Mindanao	26	1,007	437
	Total	106	5,184	2,062
Training on managing emerging health issues in the workplace	Luzon	1	33	25
	Visayas	1	69	43
	Mindanao	-	-	-
	Total	2	102	68
Drug assessment team training	Luzon	2	73	47
	Visayas	-	-	-
	Mindanao	1	51	32
	Total	3	157	102
Training on work relatedness of diseases	Luzon	2	128	90
	Visayas	-	-	-
	Mindanao	-	-	-
	Total	2	128	90
	Grand total	437	21,603	12,569

Table 10: OSH training courses with HIV and AIDS topics, 2019

### Philippine Information Agency (PIA) updates

PIA Director-General Ramon L. Cualoping III reported to the Senate DEAR the following activities to implement this law.

Objective	Activity	Timeline	Status
Information dissemination	Publicity assistance for AIDS Candlelight Memorial, World AIDS Day and IRR signing (media fora, press releases, guesting on PIA radio program, media coverage, text blast, posting on PIA FB pages)	January to May 2019 January to May 2020	Completed
	Media production -One (1) 6-minute "I Promise" AVP -Two (2) 30-second edit down videos -One (1) 30 sec. radio advertisement	January to May 2019 December 2019 to May 2020	Completed (posted on PIA social media accounts)
	Partnership building, coordination meeting with Department of Tourism and Department of Transportation	First semester 2020	Ongoing
Increase HIV/AIDS awareness in the workplace	Orientation on HIV and AIDS 101 for PIA Central Office personnel (in accordance with Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular 11-2013 Guidelines in the Implementation of Workplace Policy and Education Program on HIV and AIDS). 137 participants from PIA Central Office, NCR and MIMAROPA Regions attended the orientation.	2019: Feb. 18, June 18, Aug. 5, Nov. 8 (4 batches)	
PNAC participation/institutional mandate	Attended 10 technical representatives' meetings, 4 plenary meetings, 2 workshops, 2 consultations, 24 local interagency meetings	2019-2020	

Table 11: PIA activities to implement RA 11166 (PIA)

Meanwhile, agency-identified issues and concerns and the proposed actions to address them are outlined below.

Issues and concerns	Proposed Actions
Limited on-ground communication activities due to COVID-19 pandemic	Adapt to new normal by using online platforms to disseminate information on HIV and AIDS; suggest to PNAC to develop communication plan
Discrimination and social stigma prevent people from undergoing HIV/AIDS screening and testing	Enhance awareness/advocacy campaign on HIV/AIDS; NGAs, LGUs should increase access to consultation and confidential testing
Lack of enough “safe spaces” that offer HIV counseling and education aside from treatment	More support from government for setting up “safe spaces” that offer HIV counseling, education, and treatment
Institutionalization of local AIDS councils/groups in municipal and barangay levels	Establish measures/strategies to work closer with community stakeholders - LGUs, line agencies, academe, private entities
Lack of available area-specific and consolidated data regarding HIV cases in the country	DOH should develop a database of national and regional data on HIV/AIDS status

Table 12: Issues and concerns encountered in implementing this law (PIA)

PIA reported that the total amount allotted for these activities in 2020 was PhP 286,393.00.

### Technical Education and Skills Development Authority updates

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña informed the Senate DEAR that TESDA Women’s Center conducted HIV Awareness and Prevention session to its trainees on October 23, 2019. Organized in partnership with LoveYourSelf, Inc., the 1-day seminar entitled: HIV 101: Awareness and Prevention Program” was held at the Tandang Sora Hall, TESDA Women’s Center. The presentation discussed the importance of awareness and safe practices to prevent HIV infection, the “breaking of myths and stigma,” and stressed the importance of support from family and friends to people living with HIV. HIV Education is also integrated in the Training Induction Program (TIP) of TVIs, which is conducted at the beginning of all training programs. Under TESDA Circular No.78 s.2020, TIP conducted through video or online conferencing channels must adopt the prescribed format, which included topics on HIV/AIDS awareness.

Secretary Lapeña noted that the lack of qualified trainers on HIV Education, and the non-conduct of the training of trainers on HIV Prevention and control are some key issues in the implementation of this law. He also highlighted the need for TVIs to invite health officers to discuss HIV Prevention and Control.

### Department of Social Welfare and Development updates

DSWD Undersecretary Luzviminda C. Ilagan reported that in 2019, the DSWD through its Program Management Bureau allotted a total of PhP 29 million to all Field Offices (FOs) and utilized PhP 11,725,127.00 for the implementation of the PLHIV program. Based on data provided by some FOs, the agency was able to serve 985 cases nationwide as of December 2019. Clients were mostly provided with medical and/or financial assistance based on the assessment of the attending Social

Worker. However, DSWD noted that the data may be incomplete as some FOs were unable to submit their annual report for the year.

The agency acknowledged the PLHIV sector as one of the most vulnerable sectors in this time of pandemic. It reported a decrease of referrals of PLHIV clients seeking assistance in most FOs and treatment hubs due mainly to community quarantine measures.

The table below shows the sex and age disaggregated data of PLHIV and the key affected population served by respective FOs, as well as the corresponding fund allocation and utilization in Q1 2020.

Region	Grant Allocation (PhP)	Cases Served (Jan-Mar 2020)			Funds Utilized (PhP)	Utilization Rate
		Male	Female	Total		
I	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
CAR	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
II	1,200,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
III	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
IV-A	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
IV-B	600,000.00	2	-	-	-	0%
NCR	3,000,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
V	600,000.00	127	14	141	705,000.00	118%
VI	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
VII	600,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
VIII	600,000.00	8	2	10	50,000.00	8%
IX	600,000.00	10	1	11	42,024.00	7%
X	600,000.00	3	1	4	30,000.00	5%
XI	1,200,000.00	-	-	-	-	0%
XII	600,000.00	86	18	104	520,000.00	87%
CARAGA	600,000.00	41	5	46	162,500.00	27%
Total	13,200,000.00	277	41	318	1,509,524.00	11%

Table 13: Grant allocation, cases served, and funds utilized by DSWD field offices (DSWD)

The Program Management Bureau downloaded a total of Php 13,200,000.00 grant allocation for the CY 2020 PLHIV Program. Only 8 FOs (CAR, IVB, V, VIII, IX, X, XII, CARAGA) were able to submit their 1st Quarter reports. Crisis Intervention Unit-CAR submitted a report, but it did not reflect any accomplishments since it has not yet utilized the intended CY 2020 program grants. Likewise, FO IV-B served 2 PLHIV clients by providing livelihood assistance amounting to Php 30,000.00 charged to 2019 PLHIV grants accounts payable, but was only served this quarter. Thus, it was included in the physical accomplishment but not in the financial accomplishment of the quarter.

As of Q1 2020, 318 PLHIV (277 males and 41 females) were served by FOs with Region V (141) and XII (104) having served the most cases, respectively. Php 1,404,524.00 (less the excess of Php 105,000.00 from FO V) or 11 percent of the Php 13,200,000.00 was utilized.

FO V exhausted its CY 2020 grant allocation and has requested for augmentation for the succeeding quarters. FO XII is already at 87 percent utilization for their Php 600,000.00 grant allocation. DSWD noted that once FOs exhaust their grant allocation, they have the option to seek for augmentation from the DSWD Central Office. They may also have it charged to the Crisis Intervention Unit funds.

The development of a Case Management Protocol Manual for PLHIV clients is expected to be completed before the end of 2020.

Meanwhile, the table below summarizes the issues and concerns encountered by the agency in implementing this law, as well as its recommendations and/or actions taken.

Issues and Concerns	Action Taken/ Recommendation
1. Most of the field offices (FO) that submitted report requested for additional skills enhancement trainings to staff handling PLHIV clients	Due to the implementation of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) most of the training funds for CY 2020 was pulled out to augment the SAP implementation, hence, central office (CO) advised FO that no trainings will be conducted for the 1st semester of 2020 unless a supplemental budget will be given.  CO also mentioned that there is a planned nationwide training for PLHIV focal persons once the proposed case management protocol for PLHIV is approved.
2. Lack of staff to handle PLHIV concerns	CO advised the FO that there will be no funds to be released for hiring in 2020
3. FO V mentioned in their reports for CO a request to provide NCDA with a list of PLHIV clients for the availment of PWD IDs	PMB issued a memorandum dated April 16, 2020 for FO to submit the names (with complete contact details) of those who served in the region, and CO will endorse the list to NCDA for action
4. Some of the FOs are requesting for additional fund augmentation for PLHIV clients	PMB to explore other possible funding sources for augmentation

Table 14: Issues and concerns encountered in implementing this law (DSWD)



## RA 11215: An Act Institutionalizing a National Integrated Cancer Control Program and Appropriating Funds Therefor

Called the "National Integrated Cancer Control Act," this law establishes the National Integrated Cancer Control Program to serve as the framework for all cancer-related activities of the government. It creates a National Integrated Cancer Control Council to act as the policy making, planning and coordinating body on cancer control attached to DOH. It establishes a Philippine Cancer Center, also under DOH, to provide for accommodation, facilities and medical treatment of patients suffering from cancer, hold training programs, and conduct research and development activities, among others. Cancer care centers and regional cancer centers will also be established.

Under this law, a Cancer Assistance Fund will support cancer medicine and treatment. Philhealth is also mandated to expand its benefit packages to include primary care screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment assistance, supportive care, survivorship follow-up care rehabilitation, and end-of-life care, for all types and stages of cancer, in both adults and children.

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division informed the Senate DEAR of the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### Cancer prevention and control program

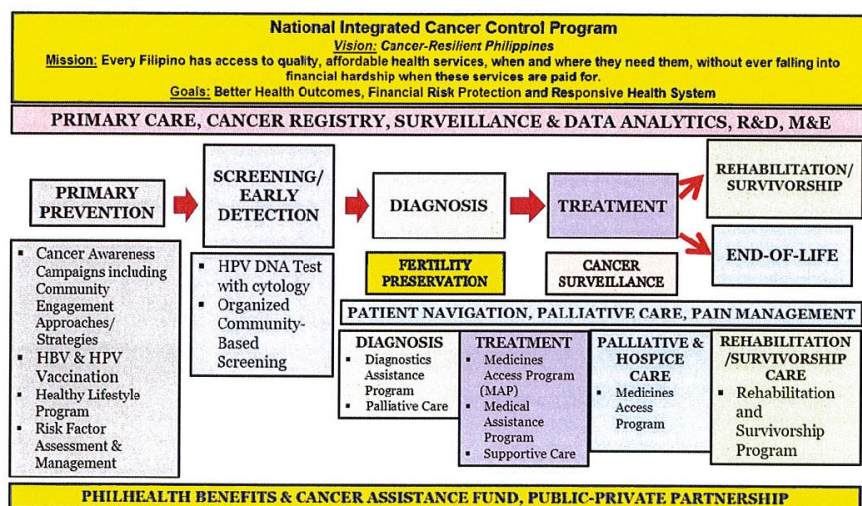


Image 3: National Integrated Cancer Control Program framework (DOH)

DOH noted the following components of the program:

- Primary prevention such as HBV and HPV vaccination, cancer awareness campaigns, healthy lifestyle campaign in all settings, and risk factor assessment and management;
- Screening or early detection such as HPV DNA co-testing with cytology for cervical cancer and other organized community-based screening tests of selected cancer types;
- Access to diagnostics not covered by Philhealth; patient navigation and palliative care will start from cancer diagnosis and precision medicine will be utilized for both diagnosis and treatment;
- Medicines access program will be strengthened for palliative and hospice care; and
- National health insurance program of Philhealth and Cancer Assistance Fund will provide the necessary and sustainable funding for the entire continuum.

### National Integrated Cancer Control Strategic Plan 2021-2025

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Observance of Cancer Awareness Months				
National Integrated Cancer Control Program Stakeholders' Summit				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public-Private Partnership (Community-Based) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screening/Early Detection</li> <li>Out-patient Diagnostics</li> <li>Palliative/Hospice Care Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>National Conference on Cancer Research</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Policies/Guidelines</li> <li>Development of Training Modules and Piloting</li> <li>Procurement of Cancer Medicines</li> <li>Rollout of new/updated Philippine Registry for Persons with Disabilities (PRPWD)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scale-up of Training/Capacity Building</li> <li>Priority Cancer Control Access Programs (CCAP)</li> <li>Development and Dissemination of Manual of Operations, Procedures and Standards</li> <li>Development of Compendium of Clinical Practice Guidelines for Cancer</li> </ul>	Transition of other access programs from CCAP to expanded PhilHealth Z Benefit packages		
				Development of NICCAP 2026-2030

Image 4: Highlights of the draft National Integrated Cancer Control Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (DOH)

In 2021, the plan will focus on the development of policies, guidelines and standards, and the continuation of procurement for the breast cancer and childhood cancer medicines access program. DOH will explore public-private partnership on screening or early detection, outpatient diagnostics, and palliative and hospice care (home- and community-based) as part of population-based interventions. It will also hold the annual National Conference on Cancer Research during the year.

2022-2023 will focus on the scaling-up of training and other priority cancer access programs; development and dissemination of manual of operations, procedures and standards; and the development of a compendium of clinical practical guidelines. 2024 will focus on the transition of the cancer medicines access program to Philhealth, and the expansion of "Z" benefit packages to other priority cancer types. In 2025, the next strategic plan for 2026-2030 will be developed.

#### Philhealth benefits and treatments for cancer

Philhealth is in the process of developing revised benefit packages for cancer. Existing "Z" benefit packages are available for the following cancers:

- Colon Stages I to II (low risk): PhP 150,000; Stages II to III (high risk): PhP 300,000.
- Rectum Stage I (clinical and pathologic): PhP 150,000; pre-operative clinical Stage I with post-operative pathologic Stages II-III using linear accelerator as mode of radiotherapy: PhP 400,000; same stages but using cobalt as mode of radiotherapy: PhP 320,000.
- Breast Stages 0 to IIIA: PhP 100,000
- Cervical: Chemoradiation with cobalt and brachytherapy (low dose) or primary surgery for Stages IA1, IA2 to IIA1: PhP 120,000; chemoradiation with linear accelerator and brachytherapy (high dose): PhP 175,000.
- Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Anemia (standard risk): PhP 500,000.
- Prostate (Low to Intermediate Risk): PhP 100,000.
- Preventive services under Primary Care Benefit-Outpatient benefits: consultation, visual inspection with acetic acid or pap smear, periodic clinical breast examination; digital rectal examination.

The Manual of Operations, Procedures and Standards for Palliative and Hospice Care, including training modules, is currently being developed. DOH noted that palliative and hospice care have a vital role in the implementation of this law, as well as the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223). Meanwhile, the development of clinical practical guidelines for liver and lung cancer has been budgeted for 2020, while those for other priority cancers are planned for 2021.

### Cancer medicines access programs

The table in the next page outlines the number of patients enrolled in medicine access programs. The task of overseeing the implementation of these programs was transferred to the Disease Prevention and Control Bureau in 2017 from the Pharmaceutical Division.

Access Program	Period	No. of Access Sites	No. of Patients Enrolled
Breast Cancer Medicines Access Program (BCMAP)	2012-2017	7	4,934
	2018	7	753
	2019	14	1,598
	2020	20	3,786 (as of July)
Childhood Cancer Medicines Access Program (CCMAP), formerly ALLMAP	2012-2017	16	4,576
	2018	14	733
	2019	10	3,034
	2020	17	2,651 (as of July)

Table 15: No. of access sites and no. of patients enrolled in cancer medicine access programs (DOH)

### Supporting environment for cancer patients and persons living with cancer and cancer survivors

The National Council on Disability Affairs issued Board Resolution No. 01 s. 2020 on the guidelines on the issuance of persons with disability (PWD) ID card to cancer patients, persons living with cancer and cancer survivors. Thus, all cancer patients, persons living with cancer and cancer survivors are entitled to 20 percent discount on some products and services, and non-discrimination privileges. Every workplace is also mandated to have a Cancer Control Policy for the protection and benefit of its workers.

### Development of cancer care infrastructure and establishment of the Philippine Cancer Center (PCC)

DOH reported that the PCC Management Office is now functional, with its own set of managers and personnel. The agency submitted to DBM on May 20, 2020 its request for plantilla positions for the PCC Management Office. The request is pending approval as of October 2020. Meanwhile, the final review of the usufruct agreement between Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) and PCC is ongoing. The future PCC building will be built on land owned by LCP located on Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

A sub-allotment of PhP 49 million was provided to 25 DOH hospitals identified as Specialty Centers for Cancer Care. The amount will be used to support education, training, organizational development, and operations. The Terms of Reference for the hiring of a consultant for the development of a Cancer Registry Development Plan has also been finalized.

**Organizational updates**

Dr. Samuel Ang and Dr. Mae Dolendo were appointed to the National Integrated Cancer Control Center by the Office of the President in May 2020. The appointment of three non-ex officio members is still pending. DOH hired job order personnel in August 2019 pending the creation of a Cancer Control Division with plantilla positions based on the approved Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action (NOSCA) of DBM. Currently, the Cancer Prevention and Control Program is still lodged under the Lifestyle Related Diseases Division. Meanwhile, the National Integrated Cancer Control Strategic Plan 2021-2025 will be developed within the year through the assistance of the World Health Organization

**Cancer awareness campaign**

DOH has lined up various cancer awareness campaigns in 2020 and 2021. Many of these activities are held in February, which is Cancer Awareness Month.

**Other updates**

DOH has conducted a preliminary meeting on social protection mechanism. A workshop to finalize guidelines for this mechanism has been put on hold due to the pandemic. The establishment of a Cancer Assistance Fund, one of the requirements of this law, is also pending.

**Budget source to implement this law**

DOH reported that under the NCD line item, the General Appropriations Act of 2020 allotted PhP 157,931,658.90 to implement this law.

**Civil Service Commission updates**

CSC Chairperson Alicia dela Rosa-Bala informed the Senate DEAR that the Commission issued Office Order No. 0053 s. 2020, constituting a TWG on January 4, 2020 to draft a policy on Cancer Protection for the Public Sector pursuant to the IRR of this law. The following documents have been completed as of September 2020: Project Implementation Plan, Work and Financial Plan, 2020 Supplemental Project Procurement Management Plan, and Supplemental 2020 Approved Budget for the Contract. Chairperson Bala noted that TWG members found the development of some specific provisions of the policy, especially those relating to the clinical and medical concerns, quite challenging to contextualize. Thus, it was agreed that during consultation meetings, medical specialists shall be invited.

CSC has approved a budget of PhP 299,750 to cover implementation activities. For the public consultations, 50 representatives from national government agencies, LGUs, state universities and colleges, and GOCCs were expected to participate. Chairperson Bala said that the Covid-19 pandemic and the quarantine measures put in place have resulted in some delays in the implementation of this law.

**RA 11223: An Act Instituting Universal Health Care for All Filipinos, Prescribing Reforms in the Health Care System, and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*Under this law, all Filipino citizens are automatically enrolled in the new National Health Insurance Program managed by Philhealth. Members are classified as either direct contributors (i.e. paying members), or indirect contributors whose premiums are subsidized by the government. However,*

*population-based services such as mass immunization and health promotion will continue to be the responsibility of DOH.*

*This law defines the responsibility of city and provincial health systems on health services in their respective localities. It creates a Health Technology and Assessment Council to assess the safety and effectiveness of relevant health technology, medicines, vaccines, and other related tools and procedures. It also requires healthcare providers to maintain a health information system containing the health records of patients, among others. This law also mandates the creation of a National Health Human Resource Master Plan, a National Health Workforce Support System, as well as scholarship and training programs.*

*The IRR of this law was signed on October 10, 2019.*

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division reported to the Senate DEAR the following key activities in the implementation of this law:

- Disseminated the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act and its IRR to stakeholders;
- Developed the UHC Policy Agenda to serve as the policy roadmap of the Department, and crafted operational guidelines to establish the systems, processes and mechanisms for the implementation of the law. DOH noted that 62 percent of UHC policies from the policy agenda has been approved and published. 60 policies were in the pipeline as of October 2020;
- Aligned the DOH budget to UHC for 2020 and the proposed 2021 budget;
- Drafted a proposal for new staffing requirements as required by the law; and
- Prepared UHC integration sites to prepare them to implement integration-related reforms in the law in coordination with the agency's Field Implementation and Coordination Team and CHDs. As of October 2020, 58 LGUs have signified their intent to become UHC integration sites, with 23 formalizing this initiative through an MOU with the Department.

#### **Budget source to implement this law**

DOH reported that the 2020 General Appropriations Act provided PhP 171.91 billion to implement this law.

### **RA 11332: An Act Providing Policies and Prescribing Procedures on Surveillance and Response to Notifiable Diseases, Epidemics, and Health Events of Public Health Concern, and Appropriating Funds Therefor, Repealing for the Purpose Act No. 3573, Otherwise Known as the "Law on Reporting of Communicable Diseases"**

*Known as the "Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern Act," this law mandates the DOH to issue and continually update a list of nationally notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern based on criteria established by the agency. DOH shall establish and maintain disease surveillance and response systems, including coordination mechanisms, implementation protocols for reporting and response, measures for data security and confidentiality, and procedures and provision for safety of personnel conducting disease surveillance and response. Under this law, the Secretary of Health shall have the authority to declare epidemics of national and/or international concern, while the President can declare a State of Public Health*



*Emergency when an epidemic threatens national security. The DOH in coordination with LGUs is tasked with overseeing the establishment of Epidemiology and Surveillance Units (ESUs) in all levels of DOH and its local counterparts, as well as in public and private health facilities and laboratories, and ports and airports across the country. ESUs shall capture and verify all reported notifiable diseases and health events of public concern; and provide timely, accurate and reliable epidemiologic information to appropriate agencies, among others.*

The DOH Legislative Liaison Division reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **Updating and issuance of list of nationally notifiable diseases and health events of public concern**

A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is set to be convened by the Public Health Surveillance Division of the DOH Epidemiology Bureau to study the inclusion and delisting of diseases, syndromes, and health events in the list of nationally notifiable diseases and health events of public health concern. The TAG is composed of the following DOH offices: Disease Prevention and Control Bureau, Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service, Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau, national reference laboratories, and 3 representatives from the Regional Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit of DOH Regional Offices representing Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, respectively. The University of the Philippines National Institutes of Health and/or the World Health Organization Philippine Country Office and others will also be invited to provide specialized input to the Epidemiology Bureau and TAG. The convening of TAG is in line with AO 2018-0028 or the Guidelines for the Inclusion and Delisting of Diseases, Syndromes and Health Events in the List of Notifiable Diseases, Syndromes and Health Events of Public Health Concern. Covid-19 is included in the list of notifiable diseases. The National Tuberculosis Control Program has also proposed to include Tuberculosis in this list.

#### **Establishment of epidemiology and surveillance units**

The February to March 2020 period saw a rapid increase in the number of functional ESUs. As of September 23, 2020, the following ESUs were deemed functional based on phone interviews conducted by the DOH: 11 of 17 regional ESUs (65 percent), 24 of 80 provincial ESUs (30 percent), and 35 of 128 city ESUs (27 percent). In February 2020, the DOH Epidemiology Bureau provided the Senate DEAR with the following data on functional ESUs: 2 of 79 provincial ESUs (2 percent) and 9 of 135 city ESUs (6 percent). No information was provided on regional ESUs during this time.

A functional ESU is defined as having all the following elements: (1) Ordinance or Executive Order creating the ESU; (2) dedicated manpower; (3) distinct organogram; (4) a dedicated budget/work and financial plan; and (5) processes and generates epidemiologic reports. The DOH is working to ensure the functionality of all provincial and city ESUs within the first 3 years of implementation of the Universal Health Care Act (RA 11223, approved on February 20, 2019) and those of all municipal ESUs within 3 years thereafter.

DOH noted that while epidemiological surveillance remains weak in some areas of the country, it remains optimistic of the future as "resources are set to increase in the next few years." Moreover, a development plan for ESUs is in the pipeline. It will be based on data from an ongoing functionality assessment and gap analysis. The monitoring and evaluation tool was sent to regional ESUs on October 8, 2020.

### Implementation of mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases and health events of public concern

The table below outlines key updates of DOH on the implementation of indicator-based surveillance (IBS) and event-based surveillance (EBS).

Surveillance Type	Update
IBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement/updating of IBS-Hospital Sentinel Surveillance (HSS) Manual of Procedures (ongoing)</li> <li>• Pilot testing of HSS in San Lazaro Hospital, National Children's Hospital, and Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (ongoing)</li> <li>• Development of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and Measles-Rubella (MR) Surveillance Training Modules</li> <li>• Budgetary support to Regional ESUs in hiring vaccine preventable diseases surveillance officers (for AFP and MR)</li> <li>• Held training of AFP surveillance officers on September 28-30, 2020 and MR surveillance officers on October 28-30, 2020</li> <li>• Held national and regional expert committee training on February 26, 2020</li> <li>• Held quarterly AFP expert panel meeting</li> </ul>
EBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancement/updating of Manual of Procedures and Standard Operating Procedures (ongoing)</li> <li>• Enhancement/development of information system platforms (ongoing)</li> <li>• Development of International Health Regulations (IHR) 2020 state party annual report technical area input (ongoing)</li> <li>• Development of IHR-Joint External Evaluation National Action Plan for Health Security on January 20-24, 2020</li> <li>• Continuous coordination with attached agencies, laboratories and other partners in detecting, investigating, risk assessing, and responding to health events of public health concern</li> </ul>
IBS and EBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building and staff development of IBS and EBS officers</li> <li>• Enhancement of basic epidemiology and public health surveillance training of Regional ESUs, Local ESUs and hospital ESUs</li> </ul>

Table 16: DOH updates on implementation of IBS and EBS (DOH)

### Hiring of public health associates (PHAs)

DOH said that the establishment of ESUs and the proposed hiring of 5,560 PHAs will support the effective and efficient implementation of this law, as well as RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Act. The next table outlines the proposed distribution of PHAs.

	NO. OF PHAs	RESU	ROSM	PHO	PDOHO	Muni & Comp Cities with <50,000	Muni & Comp Cities with >50,000	Main City Health Centers of HUCs (33HUCs)	HUC Catchment Health Centers (33HUCs)	UHC Integration Sites	GIDA	Total
	as of 8/2020	(2 PHAs)	(2 PHAs)	(1 PHA)	(1 PHA)	(1PHA)	(2 PHAs)	x 20 PHAs	2 PHAs for Technical 2 PHAs for Managerial	(2 PHAs)	(1 PHA for every 5 GIDA Barangays)	
DOH - CO	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
NCR	466	2	2	0	0	0	34	32	320	12	0	402
CAR	212	2	2	6	6	71	10	2	20	16	113	248
ILOCOS	305	2	2	4	4	89	72	0	0	8	102	283
CAGAYAN VALLEY	189	2	2	5	5	70	46	0	0	16	158	304
CENTRAL LIZON	445	2	2	7	7	46	160	4	40	16	42	326
CALABARZON	407	2	2	5	5	62	158	2	20	12	69	237
MIMAROPA	89	2	2	5	5	50	44	2	20	16	94	240
BICOL	206	2	2	6	6	58	112	0	0	12	241	439
WESTERN VISAYAS	281	2	2	5	5	79	104	4	40	24	119	455
CENTRAL VISAYAS	1785	2	2	4	4	83	92	6	60	8	190	380
EASTERN VISAYAS	175	2	2	6	6	117	50	2	20	24	222	451
ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA	116	2	2	3	3	56	30	2	20	12	215	345
NORTHERN MINDANAO	143	2	2	5	5	64	54	4	40	12	146	334
DAVAO	138	2	2	5	5	17	62	2	20	16	93	224
SOCCKSARGEN	146	2	2	4	4	8	82	2	20	8	114	246
CARAGA	119	2	2	5	5	57	30	2	20	12	80	215
BARMM	276	2	2	5	5	101	34	0	0	6	170	327
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3898</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>1028</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>2168</b>	<b>5560</b>

Table 17: Proposed distribution of public health associates for the position of Health Program Officer I per region, FY 2021 (DOH)

#### Budget source to implement this law

DOH reported that the 2020 General Appropriations Act allotted PhP 115,501,000 under the line item "Epidemiology and Surveillance Program" to implement this law.

### RA 11463: An Act Establishing Malasakit Centers in All Department of Health (DOH) Hospitals in the Country and in the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes

*Known as the "Malasakit Centers Act," this law mandates the establishment of a Malasakit Program in all DOH hospitals and the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH) to serve as a one-stop shop for medical and financial assistance. It will also provide patient navigation and referral to health care provider networks, as well as information on membership and coverage in the National Health Insurance Program (Philhealth), among others. It establishes a Malasakit Program Office in the DOH by augmenting, reclassifying and strengthening the agency's Public Assistance Unit.*



The DOH Legislative Liaison Division reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### **Creation of Malasakit Program Office**

After initial disapproval of DBM, DOH will resubmit to DBM the requirements for the creation of plantilla positions and staffing pattern of the office.

### **Policy development, capacity building and governance updates**

The next table outlines the agency's accomplishments in these areas.

Task	Action Taken	Target Date	% Completed (as of October 2020)
<b>Capacity Building</b>			
Intensify coordination with DOH Hospitals through hospital directors and heads of Social Services departments with Malasakit Centers	Requested updates on the operationalization of the existing Malasakit Centers in the country and consolidated reports of various DOH Hospitals for the 1st Quarter up to	April 18, 2020	100%
	Consolidate all reports submitted by DOH Hospitals with Malasakit Centers	July 24, 2020	60%
<b>Governance</b>			
Creation of the Malasakit Program Office (MPO) in the Department of Health	Documentary requirements were already submitted for substantial compliance to DBM through email for the creation of the MPO subject for final approval. This includes staffing pattern prepared and approved by the TWG under the proposed 'Staffing and Organizational Structure of DOH Central Offices'	June 26, 2020	90%
		June 17, 2020	90%
Establishment of Malasakit Centers in all DOH Hospitals and in the PGH	31 out of 70 DOH Hospitals have Malasakit Centers. In the Pipeline: 39 DOH Hospitals will be established before the end of 2020	Pre-Covid Target: 60% of DOH Hospitals have MCs by	10% of DOH Hospitals (with ongoing preparation)

Task	Action Taken	Target Date	% Completed (as of October 2020)
<b>Capacity Building</b>			
Intensify coordination with DOH Hospitals through hospital directors and heads of Social Services departments with Malasakit Centers	Requested updates on the operationalization of the existing Malasakit Centers in the country and consolidated reports of various DOH Hospitals for the 1st Quarter up to April 17, 2020.	April 18, 2020	100%
	Consolidate all reports submitted by DOH Hospitals with Malasakit Centers	July 24, 2020	60%
<b>Governance</b>			
Creation of the Malasakit Program Office (MPO) in the Department of Health	Documentary requirements were already submitted for substantial compliance to DBM through email for the creation of the MPO subject for final approval. This includes staffing pattern prepared and approved by the TWG under the proposed 'Staffing and Organizational Structure of DOH Central Offices'	June 26, 2020	90%
		June 17, 2020	90%
Establishment of Malasakit Centers in all DOH Hospitals and in the PGH	31 out of 70 DOH Hospitals have Malasakit Centers. In the Pipeline: 39 DOH Hospitals will be established before the end of 2020	Pre-Covid Target: 60% of DOH Hospitals have MCs by EO of 2020	10% of DOH Hospitals (with ongoing preparation)

Table 18: DOH accomplishments on policy development, capacity building, and governance (DOH)

**Budget status**

The Malasakit Program Office was able to sub-allot PhP 747 million for the Malasakit Centers with the following breakdown:

- DOH Hospitals and UP-PGH: PhP 552 million
- CHD LGU Hospitals: PhP 195 million

The January to July 2020 accomplishments of Malasakit Centers established in DOH hospitals are summarized in the next table.

	Hospital	No. of Patients Served	Amount of Fund Used (PhP)
1	LCP	938	15,882,198.00
2	PHC	417	41,504,988.65
3	EAMC	1,140	26,391,446.19
4	RMC	3,270	37,110,693.02
5	RIMC	4,510	48,000,000.00
6	CVMC	53,449	72,437,120.17
7	BGHMC	1,670	7,443,719.59
8	BGH	5,425	17,709,892.13
9	JBLMGH	1,638	16,549,917.05
10	ONP	708	15,000,000.00
11	BMC	723	1,678,169.08
12	BRTTH	382	5,049,776.70
13	CLMMRH	44,589	5,850,387.09
14	WVMC	33,237	43,440,121.97
15	ECS	15,391	23,500,000.00
16	GCGMH	17,222	93,651,594.84
17	TDH	3,550	821,061.17
18	VSMC	63,387	477,299,464.18
19	EVRMC	12,500	63,039,468.24
20	ZCMC	35,748	258,188,600.41
21	MHRSTTH	2,125	22,900,963.00
22	DRMC	1,888	22,513,561.22
23	SPMC	46,393	109,550,530.59
24	CRMC	5,346	21,160,732.34
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355,676</b>	<b>1,446,674,405.63</b>

Table 19: Number of patients served and amount of fund used per DOH hospital and UP-PGH, June 2020 (DOH)

The 2020 General Appropriations Act allotted PhP 10,483,474,000 under the line item "Assistance to Indigent Patients" to implement this law.

### Issues and recommendations

The table below summarizes the issues encountered by DOH in implementing this law, as well as its proposed actions.

Issue	Recommended Action
DBM disapproved the MPO recommended budget for Personnel Services (PS)	To resubmit the justification and other pertinent documents
Slow progress in policy formulation and dissemination due to the inevitable and changeable status on community quarantine	Strategize and plan through remote communication and other alternative modes such as Zoom or WebEx meetings with concerned stakeholders and other identified national government agencies.
Limited or insufficient funds allotted for the DOH Hospitals and UP-PGH due to increase in hospitalization expenses resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic	Continue to sub-allot additional funds for those requesting hospitals, particularly with those Malasakit Centers, subject to availability of funds.
Delay in the submission of liquidation reports of DOH Hospitals due to Skeleton Work Arrangement	Regular reminder to all DOH hospitals and set target date of submission considering the SWA
Lack of human resource in the Malasakit Centers	Reiterate to participating agencies the urgent need to formulate their own respective guidelines for the hiring of their representative or personnel to be designated at the Malasakit Centers
Malasakit Centers found to be violators of no balance billing policy	Philhealth to temporarily revoke accreditations of health facility

Table 20: Issues and concerns encountered by DOH in implementing this law (DOH)

## Seventeenth Congress laws on the creation or upgrading of health facilities

In the 17th Congress, 38 laws were passed creating or upgrading health facilities. A summary of the implementation of these laws is outlined in the tables in the succeeding pages. Information was provided by DOH (37 facilities) and the Philippine Coast Guard (1 facility). Some of these laws were not listed under the Committee on Health and Demography in the Senate database, but are included in this subsection to better organize the flow of this report.

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11081	Veterans Regional Hospital, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	622,724,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0023 approved on July 25, 2019 and published on February 14, 2020</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 3 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>Name changed to Region II Trauma and Medical Center (R2TMC). Presently 300 beds are being implemented. Awaiting funds for a building to add 200 beds</li> <li>Plans of 200 bed building submitted to HFEP-DOH, awaiting funds</li> </ul>
11082	Southern Isabela General Hospital, Santiago City, Isabela	643,374,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0020 approved on July 25, 2019 and published on October 23, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>Other accomplishments include construction of molecular laboratory, opening of Tower A, and creation of 5-year development plan</li> <li>Awaiting endorsement of HFDB to DBM regarding request for additional plantilla positions</li> <li>Submitted application for MYOA to fund the completion of tower B, upgrading of electrical system (3 — Units 1 MVA Generator Set, Automatic Transfer Switch, Synchronizing Panel, Switchyard and Wirings), construction of perimeter fence and improvement of drainage and sewerage system, hospital site development and improvement of car park</li> </ul>
11083	La Union Medical Center, Agoo, La Union	10,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospital development plan pending</li> </ul>
11084	Baguio General Hospital, Baguio City	400,039,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0016 approved on June 25, 2019 and Administrative Order 2019-0016-A was approved on July 31, 2019. Both were published on October 23, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 3 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>Hospital reported that budget provided not enough to meet high demand for services. In 2020, it needed PhP 657 million MOOE but only PhP 219 million was released. On Capital Outlay, the released PhP 95 million was not enough to purchase a CT scan originally worth PhP 106 million. Additional plantilla positions are needed to man the additional 300 beds For the 2nd and 3rd tranches, BGHMC needs an additional 839 and 757 new positions, respectively</li> </ul>

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11085	Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center Extension Hospital, Talavera, Nueva Ecija	896,300,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0012 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on July 3, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11087	Zamboanga City Medical Center, Zamboanga City	953,523,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0014 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on October 23, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 2 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11102	Socskargen General Hospital, Surallah, South Cotabato	49,625,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0037 approved on September 16, 2019 and published on November 4, 2019</li> <li>With NOSCA for 144 plantilla position; with MOOE amounting to PhP 45 million. Committee formed for the transition, but activities delayed due to pandemic</li> <li>Facility not yet turned over by the provincial government of South Cotabato. DOH to continue and follow up discussion</li> </ul>
11103	Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur	680,381,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0013 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on October 13, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 2 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>Draft IRR and 5-year Hospital Development Plan pending</li> </ul>
11104	Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital, Bauko, Mountain Province	275,501,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0015 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on July 18, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 3 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>DBM released the NOSCA of the 1st tranche of the human resource complement for the upgrading of the hospital in November 2019. 125 plantilla positions out of the 200 additional positions approved. The remaining 75 plantilla positions were requested and awaiting approval from DBM</li> </ul>
11107	Bataan General Hospital and Medical Center, Balanga City, Bataan	858,528,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0017 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on October 13, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity shall be achieved within 2 years of implementation of the law and expansion of service capabilities as medical center shall be implemented not more than 5 years upon approval of IRR</li> <li>Pre-pandemic, although restricted by the limited infrastructure, hospital's average daily census ranged from 400-600 patients</li> <li>From the 2019 actual expenses of PhP 359.744 million, the hospital's per capita is PhP 2,200 (MOOE/patient/day) based on the actual average daily census of 448</li> <li>During pandemic, although average daily census decreased, the hospital's MOOE intended for Covid related expenses significantly escalated yielding an average of PhP 4,700 per capita (PhP 257.413 million / 182 / 300 average patients from January to June 2020)</li> <li>Hospital is requesting to sub-allot the deficiency amounting to PhP 62.734 million to at least break even on the FY 2020 MOOE of PhP 222.832 million</li> </ul>

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11108	Bicol Sanitarium, Cabusao, Camarines Sur	436,937,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0011 approved on June 18, 2019 and published on September 28, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 3 years of implementation of the law</li> <li>The facility is now licensed as a Level II 200-bed General Hospital. It completed its PGS Launching in December 2019 and is preparing for its initiation stage while still maintaining its ISO 9001:2015 Certification. During the onset of the pandemic, management activated its Covid 19 response team and implemented preventive and control measures. Some ongoing infrastructure projects have been delayed due to the pandemic</li> <li>The Albay Skin Clinic has been turned over by the province of Albay to BRCGMC as mandated. The outpatient building for geriatric and multi-specialty services is nearing completion</li> </ul>
11147	Narra Municipal Hospital, Narra, Palawan	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation is ongoing in line with the hospital development plan</li> <li>DOH CHD-Mimaropa provided technical assistance to the facility through a workshop conducted in 2019 to finalize the said development plan. The CHD also provided technical assistance as to the licensing requirements needed to upgrade the service capability of the facility from an infirmary to a Level I hospital.</li> <li>The facility obtained its License to Operate in May 2020 as a Level I hospital with an authorized bed capacity of 20.</li> <li>The Provincial Government has appropriated funds for future expansion of this facility</li> </ul>
11167	Biliran Provincial Hospital, Naval, Biliran	5,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH provided technical assistance to the LGU in the formulation of the IRR and Hospital Development Plan</li> </ul>
11189	Saint Anthony Mother and Child Hospital, Cebu City	151,544,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0018 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on July 24, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 4 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11195	Santa Elena District Hospital, Santa Elena, Camarines Norte	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH provided technical assistance to the LGU in the formulation of IRR and Hospital Development Plan</li> <li>Provincial Government of Camarines Norte has applied for a loan to finance the construction of the proposed hospital in the municipality of Santa Elena as no funds were appropriated by the national government for the purpose</li> <li>Medical equipment will be requested from DOH thru HFEP</li> <li>There is a proposal to change the official name of the facility from Santa Elena District Hospital to Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital - Annex</li> <li>The Provincial Government noted that it was not consulted prior to the passage of the law</li> </ul>

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (Php)	Update
11208	Rizal Medical Center, Pasig City	920,622,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0025 approved on June 25, 2019 and published on February 14, 2020</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 3 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11233	Bacoor District Hospital, Bacoor City, Cavite	246,225,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0039 approved on October 14, 2019 and published on November 15, 2019</li> <li>Hospital renationalized with approved Memorandum of Agreement between DOH and STRH</li> </ul>
11250	Adela Serra Ty Memorial Medical Center, Tandag City,	413,844,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0034 approved on August 28, 2019 and published on April 30, 2020</li> </ul>
11251	Ziga Memorial District Hospital, Tabaco City, Albay	140,750,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH provided technical assistance to the LGU in formulating the IRR and Hospital Development Plan</li> </ul>
11272	San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH provided technical assistance to the LGU in formulating the IRR and Hospital Development Plan</li> </ul>
11273	Eversley Childs Sanitarium Hospital, Mandaue City, Cebu	212,469,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0024 approved on July 25, 2019 and published in October 2019</li> </ul>
11286	Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium, Tala, Caloocan City	880,306,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0038 approved on September 30, 2019 and published on October 19, 2019</li> </ul>
11287	Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center, Marikina City	845,772,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0032 approved on August 27, 2019 and published on November 22, 2019</li> <li>Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>



RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11288	Mariveles Mental Hospital, Mariveles, Bataan	361,307,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0059 approved on December 9, 2019 and published on December 23, 2019</li> <li>• Incremental annual increase in bed capacity and expansion of service capabilities shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation</li> <li>• GAA 2020 appropriated MOOE for additional 25 bed general services and 700 bed psychiatric services.</li> <li>• HR additional complement already submitted to DBM.</li> <li>• 10-bed infirmary completed in mid-2020 with equipment awarded and waiting for delivery; this infirmary building was started prior to filing of the bill that led to RA 11288. This 10-bed infirmary shall serve as a facility for general ward services while waiting for CO for 100 bed general hospitals.</li> <li>• Preparations for LTO as Level 1 hospital underway from previously custodial psych facility</li> <li>• Proposal for construction of 100 bed general hospital for HFEP 2021. DAEC already prepared.</li> <li>• Converted 2 newly constructed wards for psychiatric services as Covid facility and classified as CIU by May 2020 and accredited by PHIC.</li> <li>• With name change to Mariveles Mental Wellness and General Hospital, facility seeks to position itself as center of wellness offering complementary and alternative medicine in Central Luzon by 2023. Proposal to convert the ruins to a wellness center through PPP has been submitted to DOH and has been included among the PIP with an approved feasibility study by the PDMF</li> <li>• Residency training in Psychiatry initiated in March 2020 with 7 medical officers now in training</li> <li>• Set up 27-bed Covid ward with 100 percent recovery rate (as of August 2020)</li> <li>• Successful ISO 9001:2015 recertification on August 19, 2020</li> <li>• Included as recipient of Asian Development Bank-funded project that will construct isolation facility for “emerging and re-emerging infections”</li> </ul>
11289	San Lorenzo Ruiz Women's Hospital, Malabon City	163,727,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0030 approved on August 16, 2019 and published on December 2, 2019</li> <li>• Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11290	Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, Batac City, Ilocos Norte	580,371,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0022 approved on July 25, 2019 and published on October 13, 2019</li> <li>• Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11323	Don Emilio del Valle Memorial Hospital, Ubay, Bohol	234,158,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0056 approved on November 26, 2019 and published on December 6, 2019.</li> <li>• Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11324	Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital, Tagbilaran City, Bohol	2,414,243,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0050 approved on November 11, 2019 and published on November 22, 2019.</li> <li>HDP shall be consistent with the Philippine Health Facility Development Plan (PHFDP) leading towards a 525-bed Level 3 General Hospital with specialty and sub-specialty services, and research, teaching and training programs within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11325	Mindanao Central Sanitarium, Pasobolong, Zamboanga City	339,214,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0053 approved on November 28, 2019 and published on February 3, 2020</li> </ul>
11326	Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao City	2,756,931,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2020-0006 approved on February 6, 2020 and published on February 24, 2020</li> </ul>
11327	Valenzuela Medical Center, Valenzuela City	533,334,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0042 approved on October 22, 2019 and published on November 8, 2019</li> <li>Submitted plans for 500-bed hospital to DOH outlining manpower complement, MOOE, infrastructure and equipment. Infrastructure plans under development</li> <li>Relocation of informal settlers occupying expansion area deferred due to pandemic</li> <li>Some planned and existing services deferred due to pandemic.</li> <li>Increase in beds did not materialize due to pandemic. Thus, hospital reduced bed capacity to comply with physical distancing and other infection prevention and control measures</li> </ul>
11330	Datu Odin Sinsuat District Hospital, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao	3,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DOH provided technical assistance to LGU on preparing the IRR and Hospital Development Plan</li> </ul>
11331	Tondo Medical Center, Manila	634,079,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0045 approved on October 23, 2019 and published on February 3, 2020</li> <li>Ongoing construction to increase bed capacity to 300</li> <li>Moving forward, hospital seeks to develop specialized centers (i.e. Trauma, Geriatric, Reproductive, Dermatology) and increase capability in the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases</li> </ul>
11359	Jose B. Lingad Memorial Hospital, San Fernando, Pampanga	841,879,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Order 2019-0044 approved on October 23, 2019 and published on November 18, 2019</li> <li>Application for license to operate 654 beds pending approval</li> <li>Additional plantilla positions and staffing pattern pending approval</li> </ul>
11372	Philippine Coast Guard General Hospital, Taguig City	75,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philippine Coast Guard is awaiting the release of the SARO for the initial PhP 75 million</li> <li>A total of PhP 709,338,000 will be provided until FY 2023 under a Multi-Year Contracting Authority</li> </ul>

RA No.	Health Facility	2020 Budget Source (PhP)	Update
11390	Batangas Medical Center, Batangas City, Batangas	1,085,104,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0052 approved on November 14, 2019 and published on December 6, 2019.</li> <li>• Incremental annual increases in bed capacity and commensurate services shall be achieved within 5 years of implementation of the law</li> </ul>
11391	Cotabato Regional and Medical Center, Cotabato City	749,631,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0043 approved on October 24, 2019 and published on November 15, 2019</li> </ul>
11441	Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental	840,608,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrative Order 2019-0057 was approved on December 9, 2019 and published in the general circulation on January 20, 2020</li> </ul>

Table 22: Update on health facility laws (DOH and PCG)

## Justice and Human Rights

### RA 11055: An Act Establishing the Philippine Identification System

*This law seeks to establish a single national identification system (PhilSys) for all citizens and resident aliens of the Republic of the Philippines that will provide a valid proof of identity as a means of simplifying public and private transactions.*

*Data to be collected under this system shall be limited to the following: demographic data (full name, sex, date of birth, place of birth, blood type, address, Filipino or resident alien), optional demographic data (marital status, mobile number, e-mail address), biometric information, front facing photograph, full set of fingerprints, iris scan, and other identifiable features as may be determined by the IRR.*

*The IRR of this law was approved and signed on October 5, 2018 by former National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Lisa Grace S. Bersales.*

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) through National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Dennis S. Mapa reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### Annual targets

PSA targets the enrolment of majority of Filipinos by 2022, with the last mile population including children below 5 years old targeted for registration until 2023. Specific targets are outlined in the table below.

Program, Activity, Project (PAP)	2020	2021	2022	2023
Local registration (based on the updated Projected Mid-Year Population for 2023 from the 2015 Census of Population of the Philippine Statistics Authority; exact population estimate is 112,892,871)	At least 5 million low-income household heads	40 million Filipinos (including 10 million low income household heads)	42 million Filipinos	25 million Filipinos
Overseas registration		Pilot overseas registration launched	Overseas registration expanded	Overseas registration sustained
Use cases	Strategy and implementation roadmap for pilot use cases developed	Pilot use cases on financial inclusion and social protection operational	Additional use cases for public and private sector operational	

Table 23 Yearly targets in the implementation of Philsys (PSA)

#### Implementing the Philippine Identification System

The next table summarizes progress in terms of procurement, systems development and testing, and the establishment of data centers. The remaining technology components are expected to be completed by Q4 2020, in time for the target pre-registration and registration roll-out in October and November 2020. Groundwork for the development of use cases in utilizing PhilSys authentication services has been laid, with a focus on bank account opening for the low-income sector.

Initiative	Target	Accomplishment
<b>1. Major procurement blocks</b>		
1.1. Registration Kits	5,000 kits delivered by 30 June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract was awarded in August 2019 with contract amount of PhP 1.2 billion.</li> <li>Delivery of the 5,000 registration kits was completed on July 3, 2020.</li> </ul>
1.2. Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)	Contract awarded by April 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract was awarded in April 2020 with contract amount of PhP 684 million.</li> <li>Procurement was completed and contract implementation stage is ongoing.</li> </ul>
1.3. Card production, personalization, and distribution	Completion of requirements for agency-to-agency agreement with BSP by June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between PSA and BSP for the production and personalization of 116 million PhilID cards for 2020-2023 was signed on June 10, 2020.</li> <li>PhilSys Policy and Coordination Council (PSPCC) approved the engagement of BSP in the provision of card production and personalization services for PhilSys in August 2019.</li> </ul>
	PhilID delivery services procured by September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The multi-year budget for the PhilID card delivery services amounting to PhP 4.3 billion for 116 million PhilID cards from 2020-2023 was approved by PSA. Request for the approval of a Multi-Year Contracting Authority (MYCA) for the project was submitted to DBM in the first week of August 2020.</li> <li>Negotiated procurement via agency-to-agency agreement with PHLPost shall be implemented for the project, based on PSA's market research findings. Mobilization activities began in July 2020 to meet the target procurement completion by Q3 2020.</li> </ul>
1.4. Systems Integrator (SI)	Contract awarded before August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The procurement process for consulting services was launched on May 15, 2020.</li> <li>The first stage of procurement was completed in June 2020, which yielded five shortlisted bidders.</li> </ul> <p>The second stage of procurement immediately followed – bid preparation began on June 11, 2020 and was concluded on August 3, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bid evaluation is ongoing (as of August 2020). Contract is expected to be awarded by the end of August 2020.</li> </ul>
1.5. Pre-registration tablets and SMS services	4,000 pre-registration tablets delivered by September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PSPCC has approved in its July 2020 meeting PSPCC Resolution No. 15 Approving the PhilSys Pre-registration Process. Procurement activities to acquire 4,000 pre-registration tablets and SMS services were initiated thereafter. Completion of procurement is expected in August 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Systems development and testing</b>		
2.1. Registration kit acceptance testing and registration client installation	5,000 registration kits underwent hardware acceptance test by July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% (5,000 units) registration kits have undergone hardware acceptance test by the end of July 2020.</li> </ul>
2.2. ABIS development	ABIS production hardware delivered by July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The hardware delivery for ABIS production at the primary data center in MK2 Makati was completed in July 2020. The production hardware requirements delivered include servers, racks, and other related equipment.</li> </ul>

	ABIS solution delivered by October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three sub-systems are being developed by the ABIS service provider for the PhilSys biometric deduplication system. The following completion rates were reported as of August 3, 2020:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Software Development Kit (SDK) – 90% completed</li> <li>- ABIS solution – 90% completed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.3. Pre-registration System development	Pre-registration system developed and installed by September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pre-registration system will be composed of three application modules – mobile application, staging server, and reporting module for data analytics and performance reporting. As of July 2020, the first version of the mobile application was developed and initially tested during the mock pre-registration exercise conducted on July 28, 2020.</li> <li>• All module development will be completed by end August 2020. Systems testing will be embedded in the module development process and shall continue until September 2020. Deployment of the final version of the preregistration system for roll-out is projected by October 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3. Establishment of Data Centers</b>		
3.1. Identification of Data Centers	Primary and secondary data centers, and disaster recovery site identified by March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Locations for the PhilSys permanent data centers were finalized as of July 2020 as follows:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary Data Center – National Capital Region</li> <li>- Secondary Data Center – Central Luzon</li> <li>- Disaster Recovery Site – Central Luzon</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The MOA with DICT was signed on July 20, 2020, which formalizes the technical assistance to be provided by DICT to the PhilSys program, including the provision of data centers to</li> </ul>
3.2. Handover and Commissioning of Data Centers	MOSIP sandbox requirements delivered, installed, and commissioned to data centers by July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a necessary component in setting up the ABIS sandbox environment, PSA has installed and configured five servers for the Modular Open Source Identity Platform (MOSIP) sandbox requirements to the primary data center in the National Capital Region.</li> </ul>
	ABIS requirements delivered, installed, and commissioned to data centers by August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ABIS requirements to be established pertain to (1) sandbox requirements, which are for the testing environment, and (2) production requirements, which are for the actual deployment environment. The sandbox requirements will be setup in the primary data center, while the production requirements be established in both the primary data center and the disaster recovery site.</li> <li>• Delivery of both requirements to the primary data center were completed on June 23, 2020 for the sandbox and on July 17, 2020 for the production requirements.</li> <li>• Installation, configuration, and testing for both the sandbox and production requirements are ongoing and expected for completion in August 2020.</li> </ul>



4. Use case development		
4.1. Identification of pilot use cases	Pilot use cases determined by June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PSPCC issued a directive during its 13th and 14th meetings to operationalize bank account opening as the first PhilSys use case. It is a means to facilitate the distribution of social and emergency social benefits to low-income households, particularly during the pandemic, while contributing to the larger government program on financial inclusion.</li> </ul>
	Detailed plan and business process on harmonized PhilSys registration and bank account opening determined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To operationalize the opening of bank accounts for the targeted low-income household heads upon their registration to PhilSys within the year, two options were presented by the Inter-agency Committee (IAC) on Use Cases and Authentication.</li> <li>The first option is to set up kiosks for opening bank accounts in the registration sites, while the second is to share the pre-registration data to banks for batch account opening. As of September 2020, the IAC is in the process of consulting with relevant stakeholders regarding the feasibility and efficiency of each of the options. It is also gathering data on bank account ownership among the targeted registrants to determine the extent of roll-out that should be done by Q4 2020.</li> </ul>
5. Organizational Development		
5.1. PhilSys plantilla positions	Phase 1 PhilSys plantilla positions filled up by June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nine organizational units and 45 positions (42 regular and 3 contractual) under the PhilSys Registry Office were created by the DBM in August 2019.</li> <li>According to the Human Resources Division report, 62% (28) of the positions were filled up as of June 2020. A second round of posting was done in July 2020 for the recruitment of the remaining vacancies.</li> </ul>
	Proposal for Phase 2 PhilSys plantilla positions submitted by June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal for Phase 2 plantilla positions was submitted by the PSA in June 2020. The highlights of the proposal include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creation of a separate service for registration and validation</li> <li>- Creation of a service for use case development and management</li> <li>- Creation of a division for advocacy and grievance</li> <li>- Creation of divisions for PhilSys operations at the PSA regional and provincial offices</li> <li>- Additional positions in the PSA Central Office</li> </ul> </li> <li>The proposal reflects the existing gaps in operational functions necessary to carry out the end-to-end implementation of the PhilSys program.</li> <li>The initial meeting with the DBM was conducted in July 2020 to discuss this request. Revisions to come up with a leaner number of requested positions, based on the initial comments of the DBM, is ongoing and is to be finalized in August 2020.</li> </ul>

Table 24: Updates on procurement, systems development and testing, and the establishment of data centers (PSA)

**Update on registration to PhilSys**

The amended PhilSys Implementation Plan approved in August 2019 called for a pilot registration scheme to test the functionality and efficiency of the registration system and processes, and to ensure seamless implementation of registration operations once it opens to the public. It was designed to be implemented in multiple runs to allow the detection of gaps in the implementation of adjustments. Demographic and biometric data of targeted pilot registrants were captured from September to December 2019.

The pandemic highlighted the potential of PhilSys to facilitate the delivery of social protection and emergency programs. Thus, PSA shifted its registration strategy to target at least 5 million low-income household heads in 2020. This is to (1) facilitate efficient identity verification of the selected government support program beneficiaries, and (2) enable bank account opening for low-income households without identity documentation and contribute to a more efficient and seamless distribution of aid through cashless mechanisms.

The PhilSys registration process was modified to integrate a pre-registration scheme which aims to ensure safe conduct of registration activities while improving operational efficiency. By pre-collecting the demographic data of targeted registrants and pre-scheduling their registration appointments through doorstep enumeration, the PSA was able to shorten the processing activities conducted within the registration centers, while closely managing the number of expected registrants at the registration area at any given time. Moreover, on-site registration protocols were revised to address the health risks posed to both the registrants and the registration team. The revised protocols involve the use of personal protective equipment, strict crowd control and physical distancing measures, setting up of physical barriers in registration areas, and frequent sanitation and disinfection of equipment.

The next table summarizes key accomplishments in this area.



Initiative	Target	Accomplishment
6. Registration operations		
6.1. Implementation of 2019 pilot registration	Pilot registration launched in September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first run of pilot registration was launched in September 2019. The initial system was tested with a few PSA employees and DSWD beneficiaries.</li> <li>• The second run of the pilot registration was rolled out in November 2019, capturing a total of 10,166 registrants covering 10,018 government employees and 148 DSWD beneficiaries across 10 sites in Metro Manila.</li> <li>• Registration in government agencies was set up to mimic a fixed registration site while mobile registration was demonstrated at the DSWD beneficiary site in Navotas, Metro Manila.</li> <li>• Findings from the pilot provided valuable insights on the operationalization of the registration system and processes. System enhancements were put in place to address bugs and technical deficiencies found during the pilot, and registration guidelines were adjusted in areas where bottlenecks were experienced.</li> </ul>
6.2. Development of 2020 registration strategy	2020 PhilSys registration strategy approved by July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The list of the 40 priority areas (eight cities in NCR and 32 provinces in 10 regions) was finalized in July 2020. These areas were selected primarily based on the results from the 2018 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) bottom 40 percent families. In addition, the ease of deployment of registration kits and mobilization of registration staff, level of COVID-19 cases, and security of locations were considered in the selection of areas.</li> <li>• The list of the 5 million low-income household heads will be produced using the Listahanan 3 dataset to be provided by DSWD. A MOA and Data Sharing Agreement between PSA and DSWD has been signed, and the dataset is expected to be received in August 2020.</li> <li>• The partial summary on the distribution of the target registrants down to the barangay level, along with the initial allocation of IT and manpower resources required at the provincial level was released in July 2020, for the guidance of the PSA Field Offices as they prepare for the pre-registration and registration activities later this year.</li> <li>• To enjoin the support of LGUs, a Memorandum Circular was issued by DILG in July 2020.</li> </ul>

Initiative	Target	Accomplishment
6.3. Development of registration policies and protocols	PhilSys registration manuals finalized by August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PhilSys Policies and Guidelines Manual, along with the PhilSys Field Operations Manual and the PhilSys Work Instructions Manual, were revised following the modification of the registration process to include a pre-registration scheme.</li> <li>• As of August 2020, the revised draft of the PhilSys Policies and Guidelines Manual has been completed and consultations with groups representing PWDs, Muslim, and indigenous peoples will be undertaken in August.</li> <li>• The PhilSys Field Operations Manual and PhilSys Work Instructions Manual are currently undergoing revisions to include key learnings from the mock pre-registration and registration exercise conducted in July 2020. The revised drafts are expected for completion in August 2020.</li> </ul>
6.4. Establishment of registration centers	Fixed Registration Centers established by September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilization for the establishment of registration centers is ongoing. 10 initial sites for PSA-based Registration Centers were identified, and procurement of fixtures and supplies for all sites were completed in June 2020.</li> <li>• The strategy also included the establishment of LGU-based registration centers to align with the targeted registration of low-income household heads, in collaboration with LGUs. Guidelines on establishment of such centers were cascaded to PSA Field Offices on July 21, 2020 for appropriate planning and mobilization.</li> </ul>

Table 25: Update on registration to PhilSys (PSA)

### Safeguards in PhilSys

To ensure that PhilSys systems and processes are compliant with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (RA 10173), PSA conducted a Privacy Impact Assessment from September 2019 to March 2020.

The key result area of the exercise was the development of a data privacy risk register and action plan. It identified possible exposures of data in 11 front-end and back-end processes concerning personal information flow throughout the registration cycle, as well as some data privacy gaps in certain policies and guidelines, which are currently being addressed. The registration kits, registration client, and pilot registration server were also subjected to Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) to identify areas of vulnerabilities that may be exploited. The PhilSys technical team noted that the findings were linked to the level of maturity of the registration system and server, as both are still under the development and testing stage. The systems are expected to be fully developed, configured, and integrated by Q3 2020.

The PhilSys Data Privacy Manual has been produced, which will anchor the data privacy and security standards and protocols for PhilSys. Dr. Mapa noted that while the groundwork for establishing a privacy management program for PhilSys has been established, focus must now be directed to the implementation stage given the scale of personal data that the project will need to collect, manage and use to be successful. Thus, the PSA will prioritize the onboarding of a dedicated data privacy governance team by Q3 2020 to ensure implementation, monitoring, and continual improvement of the data privacy management program for PhilSys.

Moreover, a second round of Privacy Impact Assessment will be conducted beginning Q4 2020 to assess compliance of the modified registration business process (i.e. with pre-registration process) with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, as well as the new business processes brought about by the completion of the major system components (i.e., Automated Biometric Identification System, card production and personalization, and Systems Integrator). As a key block of the PhilSys privacy management program, PSA is planning to regularly conduct the Privacy Impact Assessment to ensure PhilSys' adherence to statutory and regulatory requirements on data privacy and security.

In addition, a VAPT is in the pipeline to identify the vulnerabilities of the PhilSys end-to-end solution, including its primary and secondary data centers and disaster recovery site, and enable the installation of appropriate mitigating measures that will ensure the information and cyber security of the system prior to the registration roll-out.

#### Budget source to implement this law

The table below summarizes the budget allocation in the General Appropriations Act of 2020 for the implementation of this law, as reported by PSA.

Budget source (2020)	Amount
GAA (new appropriations)	PhP 3,000,000,000.00
GAA (2019 continuing)	PhP 2,012,483,342.87

Table 26: Budget allocated to implement this law (PSA)

#### Issues and concerns

PSA identified the following issues and concerns in the implementation of this law:

Issues and concerns	Proposed actions
1. Possible difficulties in mobilizing equipment and personnel due to recurring Modified/Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ/ECQ) status in priority registration areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage the coordination and mobilization support provided by the LGUs and regional DILG Offices for PhilSys registration operations</li> <li>• Shifting of registration targets to priority registration areas which are not in MECQ or ECQ status and with high incidence of low-income families</li> </ul>
2. Health and security risks during registration operations under pandemic conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strict implementation of health and safety protocols during registration operations</li> <li>• Specific health and safety protocols in conducting registration operations must be emphasized when training registration officers</li> </ul>
3. Additional budgetary requirements for pre-registration operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In view of changes to the implementation plan, additional budget requests amounting to PhP 1.9 billion to cover for the costs of pre-registration operations was submitted to DBM. Timely evaluation and approval of the said request is necessary to ensure that mobilization activities will be in place in time for the pre-registration roll-out in October 2020.</li> </ul>
4. Gaps in PhilSys Registry Office organizational structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure completion of the revised proposal for the Phase 2 plantilla positions and additional requisite documents within the target timeline, duly considering the initial comments of the DBM to fast track the evaluation and approval of the said proposal.</li> </ul>

Table 27: Issues and concerns in implementing this law (PSA)

## Seventeenth Congress laws on the creation of courts and Judges-at-Large

12 laws were passed in the 17th Congress creating courts or branches of courts in Macabebe (Pampanga); Paracelis (Mountain Province); Ozamiz City and Sinacaban-Tudela (Misamis Occidental); Santo Tomas and Agoncillo (Batangas); Asingan (Pangasinan); Bongabong, Bansud, Bulalacao, Gloria and Mansalay (Oriental Mindoro); Zamboanga City; San Pablo City, Santa Rosa City and Biñan City (Laguna), Isulan and Tacurong City (Sultan Kudarat); and Liloy (Zamboanga del Norte). A law creating positions for "Judges-at-Large" was also passed during this Congress.

Court Administrator Jose Midas P. Marquez informed the Senate DEAR of the following updates on the implementation of laws on the creation of courts and "Judges-at-Large" positions.

RA No.	Title	Update
11349	AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT MACABEBE, PAMPANGA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report submitted; Supreme Court Resolution pending</li> </ul>
11381	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court issued a Resolution in A.M. No. 19-10-252-RTC dated 11-19-19 (RTC Paracelis) to implement this law. The Court's Financial Management Office is awaiting the Notice of Organization, Staffing, Compensation Action (NOSCA) from DBM. The organization of newly created courts is held in abeyance pending the release of the Supplemental Allotment Release Order (SARO) and Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</li> </ul>
11382	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN OZAMIZ CITY, CONVERTING THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CLARIN AND TUDELA INTO THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COVERING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SINACABAN AND TUDELA, ALL IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court issued a Resolution in A.M. No. 201-01-02-RTC dated 1-28-20 (RTC Ozamiz City) to implement this law. The Court's Financial Management Office is awaiting the Notice of Organization, Staffing, Compensation Action from DBM for the RTC at Ozamiz City. The organization of newly created courts is held in abeyance pending the release of SARO and NCA by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).</li> </ul> <p>Meanwhile, Supreme Court Resolution in the MCTC Sinacaban-Tudela is pending.</p>

RA No.	Title	Update
11383	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF STO. TOMAS AND AGONCILLO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11384	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ASINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11385	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG AND FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANSUD, BULALACAO, GLORIA, AND MANSALAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11385	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONGABONG AND FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANSUD, BULALACAO, GLORIA, AND MANSALAY, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) AND SECTION 30 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>

RA No.	Title	Update
11386	AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11387	AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN SAN PABLO CITY, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980 AS AMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11388	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11388	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (E) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>

RA No.	Title	Update
11389	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES FOR BINAN CITY IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AS AMENDED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11455	AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT, ONE EACH TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ISULAN AND TACURONG CITY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (M) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980', AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11456	AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 3RD DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda Report being prepared</li> </ul>
11459	AN ACT CREATING THE POSITIONS FOR JUDGES-AT-LARGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Supreme Court issued a Resolution in A.M. No. 19-12-01-SC dated 12-3-19 to partially implement this law. It creates 50 positions for Judges-at-Large, of which 30 shall be RTC Judges-at-Large and 20 shall be MTC Judges-at-Large.</li> </ul>

Table 28: Update on the creation of courts and Judges-at-Large (Supreme Court)



## **Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

### **RA 10970: An Act Declaring the Twenty-Fifth Day of August of Every Year as the National Tech-Voc Day**

*This law calls for the annual observance of a "National Tech-Voc Day" led by TESDA and the Department of Education.*

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **World Café of Opportunities (WCO)**

Launched in 2018 in 17 regional sites simultaneously, WCO through JoLINS (Job Linkaging and Networking Services) is one of the strategies to create employment opportunities for jobseekers by matching their competencies against available employment of a particular sector. This can also be a venue for any TVET alumni/graduate to be assisted in availing of scholarships, financial assistance, skills upgrading, and entrepreneurship training, among others.

In 2019, TESDA conducted a Capability Building Program for WCO Focal Persons (PD/RO/TI) in preparation for the 2019 WCO conduct in celebration of the National Tech-Voc Day. Accomplishments during the 2019 National Tech-Voc Day were as follows:

- WCO was conducted in various venues (54 sites in the different provinces)
- Attended and participated by 993 companies/industries both local and abroad bound
- Attended and participated by a total of 318 NGAs
- Total TVET graduates served/assisted with various services: 20,706
- Total hired on the spot (hots): 3,606

#### **TESDA Anniversary**

TESDA regional and provincial offices conducted their respective outreach programs on August 25, 2020 to coincide with the TESDA Anniversary celebration. The week-long celebration concluded with the simultaneous launch of various development projects of the TESDA regional and provincial offices nationwide.

This included the simultaneous launching of a development program for an identified geographically isolated and disadvantaged area (GIDA) in their locality. The programs will help beneficiaries to recover from the pandemic-induced economic crisis, especially the repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and those in far-flung areas. These programs are summarized in the next table.



Region	Program
NCR	TESDA and other PRLEC member agencies launched the “Gulayan ng Bayan, Bagong Pag-asa sa Gitna ng Pandemya” Program which is an urban community agriculture project for the residents of Sitio San Roque, Bagong Pag-asa Village in Quezon City.
I	Implemented Project Nam-ay: A Poverty Reduction Program for Barangay Tablac and Project Empowering Indigenous Peoples of Bugnay, both in Candon City in which 143 beneficiaries including Bago Tribes were given skills training on agriculture and food production programs. A 12-day skills training program for Isneg Tribe in Ilocos Norte was also launched.
III	Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (K3) Project at Sitio Ipo Dam, San Mateo, Norzagaray, Bulacan.
IV-A (CALABARZON)	Launched Project Turn-On-The-Sun (TOTS) in Barangay Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal and in Barangay Patungan, Maragondon, Cavite. The project is a 5-day training on basic solar (off-grid) lighting and charging system which aims to improve the living conditions of special clients such as the IPs, and supply the selected barangays with electricity through renewable energy.
IX	Project Integrated Community Assistance and Rural Enterprise or Project ICARE was brought to Barangay Dalapan, Guipos, Zamboanga Del Sur with Training Induction Program wherein the Subanen tribe were the identified beneficiaries.
Others	Launched their respective barangay development projects such as training on smart farming systems and other agri-related programs, solar lights installation, among others.

Table 29: TESDA outreach programs (TESDA)

## RA 11058: An Act Strengthening Compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Standards

*This law outlines the duties of employers, workers, and other persons in ensuring that occupational safety and health (OSH) standards are met. It applies to all establishments, projects, sites, and all other places where work is being undertaken in all branches of economic activity (including those regulated by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority) except in the public sector.*

*It enshrines workers' right to know all types of hazards in the workplace, their right to refuse unsafe work, their right to report accidents to authorities, and their right to personal protective equipment (PPE) whenever necessary. Covered workplaces are required to have a safety and health program in place, an OSH Committee to ensure that the program is observed and enforced, and a Safety Officer to oversee the overall management of the program. Covered workplaces must also have on-site qualified occupational health personnel such as physicians, nurses, certified first aiders, and dentists alongside the required medical supplies, equipment, and facilities.*

*The IRR of this law was issued on December 16, 2018.*

DOLE Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### **PPEs and safety in the use of equipment**

The agency through its Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) conducts standard testing of PPEs such as safety footwear, protective headwear, eyes and face protective equipment, personal fall arrest system, and electrical rubber gloves. OSHC recently acquired a new dust respirator efficiency testing apparatus to effectively assess respiratory protective equipment. Commissioning is currently underway while technical staff are undergoing training on how to properly operate the machine. Usec. Aragon reported that in the first year of the law's implementation, "there has been a 69.04 percent increase for the total number of PPE tests conducted as compared to 2018 or before the issuance of the law (546 requests received for 2019 versus 323 for 2018)."

Meanwhile, to help ensure safety in the use of equipment, OSHC accredits testing organizations for construction heavy equipment as per DOLE Administrative Order No. 407, series of 2017. OSHC has so far accredited 24 organizations nationwide.

### **Occupational safety and health program**

OSHC accredits safety consultancy organizations (SCO) that help establishments comply with occupational safety and health standards, including those specified under this law. It has so far accredited 17 SCOs nationwide.

To help establishments in their risk assessment evaluation and in establishing proper protocols, OSHC provides technical services such as occupational health (OH) examination (biological monitoring) and work environment measurement (WEM) activities, among other services. In 2019, it acted on 12 requests for OH examination (biological monitoring) and 115 requests for WEM. In 2020, 45 requests have so far been received for both OH examination (biological monitoring) and WEM services. It has also accredited 13 WEM providers that assist establishments in complying with WEM-related standards.

OSHC recognizes the importance of communication and advocacy to improve compliance to this law. In 2019, it held 13 regional public information campaigns and the biennial Gawad Kaligatasan at Kalusugan (GKK). In the first half of 2020, it posted 1,185 posts in its various social media accounts, 6 billboard advertisements, and 3 advertisements in railway transits. It held 7 KamOSHtahan regional webinars and completed a set of infographics for the DOLE-DTI Interim Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of Covid-19, Construction Safety Guidelines for the Implementation of Infrastructure Projects During the Covid -19 Public Health Crisis, Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Public Sector, Occupational Safety and Health and Work From Home Arrangement, as well those on other OSH and Covid-related issues.

### **Safety and health training**

In 2019, there were 249 batches of both the Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) for Safety Officer (SO) 2 and Construction Safety and Health (COSH) training courses. These are mandatory 40-hour training programs. Moreover, OSHC held 25 specialized OSH training, 9 OSH orientation sessions for the informal and marginalized sector, and 13 batches of OSH orientation sessions for senior high school students. In 2020, OSHC has so far held 2 BOSH for SO2, 16 sessions with the regional Occupational Safety and Health Networks, and two batches of specialized OSH training

courses before the start of the quarantine period. All OSH training, including BOSH and COSH are currently delivered online.

OSHC accredits safety training organizations (STO), and OSH consultants and practitioners to help establishments comply with the law. So far, it has accredited 83 STOs, 330 consultants, and 3,876 practitioners.

#### **Budget source to implement this law**

OSHC derives the budget to implement this law from the State Insurance Fund. In 2020, it allocated PhP 51,701,444.56 for implementation, of which PhP 43,302,402.50 or 83.7 percent goes to Information Dissemination activities under the Occupational Safety and Health Promotion Program. Other items in the budget include the following: Training on Occupational Safety and Health amounting to PhP 4,223,284.21, Technical Assistance amounting to PhP 3,624,034.50, and accreditation activities amounting to PhP 431,723.35.

#### **Technical Education and Skills Development activities**

Meanwhile, TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate DEAR that the agency issued Memorandum No. 32 s. 2019 providing all TESDA Offices the list of the approved laws with relevance to TESDA to serve as legal basis in the policy formulation and guidelines for applicable TESDA activities. In December 2019, TESDA conducted an Evaluation of Curriculum for RO/PO Unified TVET Program Registration and Accreditation System (UTPRAS) Focal, which highlighted the use of the Curriculum Checklist that incorporates requirements of occupational safety in the workplace.

### **RA 11165: An Act Institutionalizing Telecommuting as an Alternative Work Arrangement for Employees in the Private Sector**

*This law authorizes an employer in the private sector to offer a telecommuting program to its employees on a voluntary basis. Telecommuting employees are given the same treatment as comparable employees working at the employer's premises, such as rate of pay, rest periods and holidays, access to training and career development opportunities, and collective rights, among others. Employers are responsible for taking appropriate measures to protect the data handled by telecommuting employees in the course of their work.*

DOLE Undersecretary Joji V. Aragon reported to the Senate DEAR that the IRR of this law was issued through Department Order No. 202 s. 2019. It was published in the Manila Times on April 24, 2019 and took effect on May 10, 2019. Usec. Aragon highlighted the following provisions of the IRR:

- **Notice and monitoring (Section 7).** Employers are required to notify DOLE on the adoption of a telecommuting work arrangement. DOLE regional offices submit to the Bureau of Working Conditions (BWC) a quarterly report on the implementation of telecommuting work arrangement for monitoring and evaluation.
- **Effect on existing agreements, practices or policies (Section 9).** Any pre-existing agreement between employer and employee on telecommuting, including those that provide higher benefits, shall not be impaired. The employer is simply required to notify DOLE regarding such agreement.
- **Periodic review (Sec. 10).** The IRR shall be subjected to a mandatory review 3 years from the date of its effectivity and every 3 years thereafter.

These provisions “will aid the Department in determining industries which will adopt telecommuting work arrangement while ensuring that those who will telecommute will be afforded fair treatment. By fair treatment, this means that telecommuting employees shall be covered by the same set of applicable rules and existing Collective Bargaining Agreement, if any, as that of comparable employees working at the employer’s premises or traditional workplace,” she explained.

“Moreover, the provision on periodic review allows the Department and its stakeholders to have a developmental and progressive approach in crafting appropriate rules and regulations and other relevant issuances to safeguard the rights of telecommuting employees, ensure protection of confidential and proprietary information at all times, and anticipate technological advancements which may affect how workers perform their tasks at their given workplace,” she added. DOLE likewise committed to further develop its monitoring system to ensure the accuracy and completeness of data being generated to aid in decision-making.

Based on the latest data submitted to DOLE-BWC, there were 26,487 establishments with 1,160,677 workers that adopted flexible working arrangements due to the pandemic (other flexible working arrangements included reduction of workdays, rotation of employees and implementation of forced leave). Of this number, there were 4,727 establishments with 196,147 workers that adopted telecommuting.

On July 8, 2020, DOLE-BWC launched the DOLE Establishment Report system to allow the online filing of flexible working arrangement notices to DOLE. The system is an alternative to the traditional paper-based filing. It can be accessed at <https://reports.dole.gov.ph/>.

### **RA 11227: An Act Mandating the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to Develop, Publish, Disseminate and Update a Handbook on the Rights and Responsibilities of Migrant Workers, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 8042, Otherwise Known as the “Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995,” as Amended by Republic Act No. 10022**

*Known as the Handbook for OFWs Act of 2018, this law mandates the creation of a handbook for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to serve as a ready reference of their rights and responsibilities.*

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) informed the Senate DEAR that to avoid lengthy paragraphs and to make the handbook easy-to-read, the TWG decided to adopt a “question and answer” format. It was also divided into three phases – Pre-Employment, Employment, and Post-Employment.

The OFW Handbook will be printed in Filipino and English. A total of 200,000 copies of each version will be printed this year (125,000 for Landbased, 75,000 for the Seabased). As of September 2020, the OFW Handbook English version was in the BAC post-qualification phase, while the OFW Handbook Filipino version was for bidding. The final translation was also pending with the Komisyon ng Wikang Filipino. Procurement delays were encountered due to the pandemic. Any remaining budget for 2020 would be used for initial digitization of the OFW Handbook to ensure that links to relevant websites and documents would be made available to OFWs.

To help the government respond to the pandemic, the TWG revised the initial OFW Handbook and partnered with the DOH Bureau of International Health Cooperation for the inclusion Covid-19 related information for the protection and welfare of OFWs. The General Appropriations Act of 2020 allotted PhP 15,000,000 for the development and printing of this handbook, of which PhP 5 million was realigned to support the national government's pandemic response.

For 2021, the OFW Handbook will undergo another revision to integrate a responsiveness, readability, and useability study of the current version of the OFW Handbook.

**RA 11230: An Act Instituting a Philippine Labor Force Competencies Competitiveness Program and Free Access to Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and Appropriating Funds Therefor**

*This law creates a Tulong Trabaho Fund to provide qualified recipients with access to selected TVET programs. The fund will provide full payment of training fees, as well as additional financial assistance such as transportation allowance and laboratory fees, as needed.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on May 21, 2019.*

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña reported to the Senate DEAR that the Implementing Guidelines together with the Selected Training Programs was drafted and approved on December 17, 2019 through TESDA Circular No. 131 s.2019 . However, the implementation of the act was suspended as the PhP 1.015 billion allocated in the 2020 General Appropriations Act was reverted to DBM to support the national government's Covid-19 pandemic response.

## National Defense and Security

### **RA 11164: An Act Increasing the Monthly Old Age Pension of Senior Veterans**

*This law increases the old age pension of veterans who served in World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam War from PhP 5,000.00 to PhP 20,000.00, provided that they do not receive pension from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.*

Lt. Gen. Ernesto G. Carolina (Ret.), Administrator of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), reported to the Senate DEAR that since the approval of the law in 2019, the agency has continuously delivered the mandated pension increase to qualified veterans. Based on PVAO's records, as of June 30, 2020, there were 3,733 living senior veterans that receive the mandated benefits under this law.

The PVAO Administrator observed that there is growing clamor from the surviving spouses of veterans to have their monthly pension increased as well, which is currently pegged at PhP 5,000.00 as per RA 6948 (as amended). While PVAO supports any increase in pension of all veterans and their surviving spouses, the agency is asking Congress to prioritize those surviving spouses "who are already old and sickly." Administrator Carolina noted that bills currently filed in the Senate and House of Representatives propose to increase the spouses' pension to PhP 8,000.00.

## Science and Technology

### **RA 11035: An Act Institutionalizing the Balik Scientist Program, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes**

*This law mandates the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to award short-term, medium-term, and long-term engagements to Balik Scientists. These are science, technology or innovation experts or professionals accorded with benefits and incentives to undertake science and technology (S&T) activities with a host institution in the Philippines. Both Filipino citizens and foreigners of Filipino descent are eligible to be Balik Scientists.*

*Benefits accorded to Balik Scientists include the following: (1) exemption from licensing or permitting requirements of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC); (2) accident and medical insurance; (3) tax and duty exemption in the importation of professional equipment, instruments, and materials; (4) for non-Filipino citizens, exemption from renouncing their oath of allegiance to the country where they took the oath; and (5) grants and allowances, depending on the length of their participation in the program.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on October 4, 2018 by DOST Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña.*

DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Rowena Cristina L. Guevara describes the Balik Scientist Program as the agency's "flagship program for reversing brain drain in the country." It is complemented by the agency's programs on S&T infrastructure and S&T human resource development, which DOST has been implementing in the past decade.

Balik Scientists are classified under four categories: (1) Academe, (2) DOST Agencies, (3) Other Government Agencies, and (4) Industries. The program is implemented by the DOST Office of the Undersecretary for Research and Development (OUSecRD) alongside the agency's sectoral planning Councils, namely: Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), and Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD).

Usec. Guevara noted that prior to the passage of this law, the program was implemented and funded through the agency's Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Program beginning in 1975. To date, there has been a total of 555 Balik Scientists, of which 49 (8.9 percent) were accredited in 2019. She directly attributed this achievement to the passage of RA 11035.

#### **Duration of engagement**

The practice of giving the balik scientists the option to choose the duration of their engagement in the program was introduced in 2007. This practice was retained with the approval of the law. The types of engagements are as follows:

- Short-term engagement covers a minimum duration of 15 days to a maximum duration of six months per award to be served within one year from the date of award.
- Medium-term engagement covers a minimum duration of more than six months but not to exceed one year per award to be served within two years from the date of the award.
- Long-term engagement covers a duration of more than one year to three years, subject to renewal to be determined by DOST and to be served within five years from the date of the award.

From 2007 to June 2020, there were 263 Balik Scientists covering 394 engagements that have been involved in this arrangement. Of this group, 47 Balik Scientists permanently returned to the Philippines and were absorbed by their respective host institutions. An additional 11 Balik Scientists that did not have the option to choose the duration of their engagement (i.e. pre-2007 policy) permanently relocated to the country.

### Role of Balik Scientists in research and development (R&D) leadership

Usec. Guevara said that Balik Scientists exercise R&D leadership by sharing their expertise, developing technologies, conducting capacity building activities, assisting in the implementation of on-going projects, and publishing articles in reputable international scientific journals.

### Other activities

DOST held the following activities to further strengthen the implementation of this law:

- Online Kumustahan with previous and ongoing Balik Scientists as a venue to discuss the proposed supplemental guidelines on program implementation amid the pandemic.
- Online discussion with host Institutions to solicit inputs/suggestions on the proposed supplemental guidelines.

### Selected data

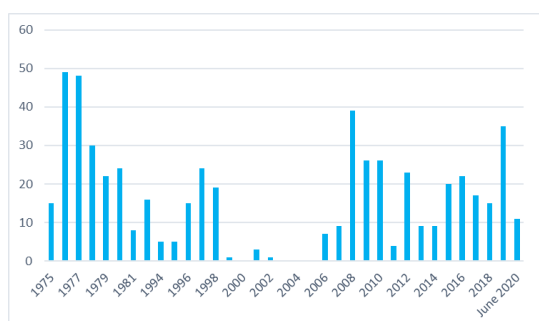


Image 5: New Balik Scientists by year, 1975-June 2020 (DOST)

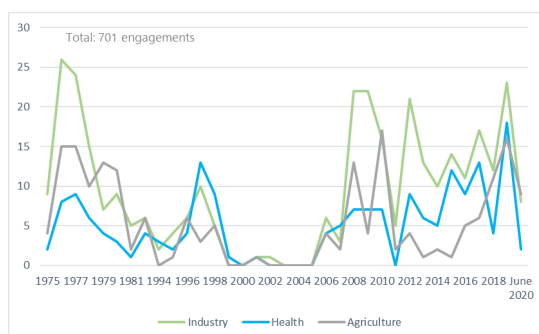


Image 6: Total engagements by industry, 1975 to June 2020 (DOST)

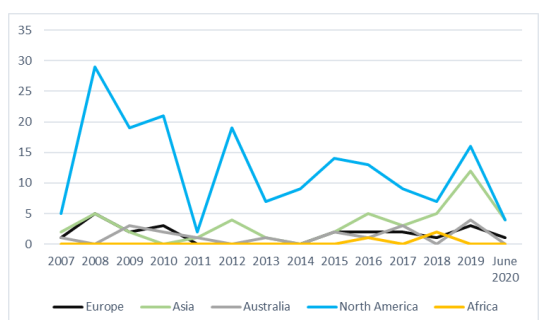


Image 7: Balik Scientists by origin continent, 2007 to June 2020 (DOST)



## Issues and concerns

Usec. Guevara identified the following issues and concerns arising from the implementation of this law, as well as the agency's proposed actions to address them.

Issue/concern	Proposed action
<b>Health and medical</b>	
(1) Meeting the target number of Balik Scientists and implementation of the program affected by the COVID19 pandemic	(1) Drafting of guidelines on the implementation of the program amid the COVID-19 pandemic and in the new normal
(2) Since the provision of medical insurance is still in its first stage, the budget allocation for its procurement was projected lower than the actual amount needed. Procurement of health insurance was difficult due to failure in the bidding process with insurance providers.	(2) Additional budget was requested to successfully procure the comprehensive health and medical insurance for Balik Scientists. Efforts have been made through series of secretariat meetings with other Councils and potential providers (Medicare, AXA, etc.) to come up with a plan considering the demographics of the on-going Balik Scientists and the specifications (PhP 250,000/illness) in the DOST Memo Circular No. 006 Series of 2018. The option of applying for group insurance as another strategy for successful health insurance acquisition is also being explored.
<b>Technical</b>	
Concerns of Balik Scientists relative to the submission of DOST-GIA proposals	Create a separate procedure for the evaluation of proposals submitted/assisted by the Balik Scientist, which comply with the DOST Monitoring and Evaluation Protocol.
<b>Logistics</b>	
Question on the number of times that an expert will be allowed to serve as Balik Scientist	Specify the limit or the number of times that a Balik Scientist will be allowed to apply under short term and medium-term engagements
<b>Budget and funding</b>	
(1) Setbacks in the release of funds was due to the approved budget of the Program being lower than the submitted/projected 2019 budget; hence, an additional budget was requested during the 3rd quarter. Further, the budget of the Program was included in the DOST's Tier II which was released during the 2nd semester of the year.	(1) The matter was raised to the office of Usec. Guevara. The submitted/projected 2020 budget was approved during [the] EXECOM [meeting] and was included in DOST's first releases for CY 2020
(2) Institutions, most especially academic institutions, do not have the capability to provide positions and compensate rates of long-term Balik Scientists.	(2) DOST to coordinate with Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for inclusion in plans or flexible arrangements for Balik Scientists
(3) Since the implementation of the program by the sectoral councils, the program is being handled by project staff who managed to support the implementation of Balik Scientists' engagement. With the enactment of RA 11035, the purpose is to institutionalize the program under DOST and it needs to be handled by permanent staff to ensure the efficient administration of the program	(3) The sectoral Councils through the DOST Secretary and Undersecretary requested the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the deployment of plantilla positions to the implementing councils. In 2019, said request has been granted by providing two plantilla positions per sectoral Council; however, the request for a plantilla position at OUSecRD was not granted by DBM.

Table 30: Issues and concerns encountered in the implementation of this law (DOST)

**Budget source to implement this law**

DOST reported that the 2020 General Appropriations Act provided Php 148,309,750 to implement this law through DOST-GIA.

**RA 11312: An Act Strengthening the Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and Other Science and Technology Personnel in the Government, Amending for the Purpose RA 8439**

*This law allows S&T personnel who render services beyond the established regular workload to receive honorarium. There shall be no limit on the amount of additional honoraria sourced from externally funded grants. Retired S&T personnel may be rehired on contractual basis without refunding the unexpired portion of the gratuity and accumulated leave benefits, provided that no qualified S&T expert is available to undertake the required activities. A scientist due for compulsory retirement may be extended for up to 5 years subject to certain conditions. S&T personnel who are not employed by the DOST are eligible to avail of benefits provided under this law upon certification of the head of their agency that they are involved in S&T activities.*

DOST Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña reported to the Senate DEAR that an Interagency Technical Working Committee composed of officials of DOST and its attached agencies has issued guidelines on the certification of non-DOST personnel. It was signed by the Secretary on June 10, 2020 and took effect on July 13, 2020. DOST is coordinating with DBM on the honoraria and hiring of retired scientists and technical personnel.

**RA 11337: An Act Providing Benefits and Programs to Strengthen, Promote and Develop the Philippine Startup Ecosystem**

*This law creates the Philippine Startup Development Program, which will provide benefits and incentives for startups and startup enablers. These include grants and subsidies, venture capital, and expedited processing of applications, among others. It defines a startup as "any person or registered entity in the Philippines which aims to develop an innovative product, process, or business model." DOST, DICT, and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were identified as the lead agencies in implementing this law. The IRR was approved on November 22, 2019.*

DOST Secretary Fortunato T. Dela Peña and DTI Assistant Secretary Mary Jean T. Pacheco provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

**Philippine Startup Development Program**

Even before the enactment of RA 11337, the DTI, DOST, and DICT have been implementing various programs for startup development. These include, among others, support for incubation and other mentorship services, participation in local and international events and competitions, and networking

with potential collaborators. These programs that are being implemented will form part of the Philippine Startup Development Program: DOST's Technology Business Incubator (TBI) Program, DTI's Startup Ecosystem Development Program, as well as incentives for startups under the Board of Investment's Investment Priorities Plan, and DICT's SeedPH Program.

Since March 2020, the lead agencies have been working to finalize the guidelines for availing of the programs, benefits, and incentives for eligible startups. Efforts were disrupted due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, but online meetings between representatives of lead agencies and their private sector counterparts continue to take place.

As of October 2020, DTI has prepared a draft of the guidelines for (a) General Registration to the Program, (b) Availment of Benefits and Incentives, (c) Participation in Local/International Events/Competitions, (d) Startup Venture Fund in coordination with the National Development Company; and (e) business registration for startups (Startup Business One Stop Shop) in coordination with the Anti-Red Tape Authority. Meanwhile, DOST has prepared the draft guidelines for Grants-in-Aid, while DICT has begun to set up the Philippine Startup Website. Moreover, the lead agencies continue to tap online opportunities for local startups, including an information session for the Online Seedstars World Competition 2020/21, StartUp Asia Berlin Virtual MeetUp, various webinars conducted by QBO Innovation Hub (a public-private partnership platform for startups supported by DTI and DOST), and DTI-7's StartupIsland.PH program.

#### **Budget source to implement this law**

Asec. Pacheco reported that the Php 85 million allotted in the 2020 General Appropriations Act for the implementation of this law was reverted to the Treasury to support the national government's pandemic response. Thus, it is working to implement provisions of the law that do not require substantial funding, such as registration to the Philippine Startup Development Program, issuance of endorsement letters, and processing of startup visas. Benefits and incentives that require funding and travel (such as full/partial subsidies and participation in events/competitions) will be provided as funding becomes available and travel advisories allow.

#### **Covid-19 solutions**

Sec. Dela Peña said that when DOST through the Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD) opened a call for Covid-19 solutions, startups housed in DOST's technology business incubators were among those that responded. Some of the more notable contributions are outlined in the next table.

Startup	Description
Futuristic Aviation and Maritime Enterprise Inc.	The Specimen Collection Booth is designed to provide an effective barrier between the healthcare worker and patient during swab collection. Positive pressure is maintained inside the booth using a pressure sensor to prevent outside contamination from entering the booth. It uses a company-designed temperature scanner, where the temperature of patients may be obtained and recorded in the cloud. It is also equipped with a Bluetooth speaker for clear communication between the healthcare worker and the patient. DOST provided a PhP 20 million grant for the development, transportation, delivery, and installation of 132 units, which were deployed to selected government hospitals around the country.
Geographic Innovations for Development Solutions, Inc.	Project RAMDAM (Resource Allocation Management, Distribution, and Monitoring) seeks to aid the government and the private sector in allocating food resources for quarantined communities
Genii Hut Technologies	WeTrace is a community tracing app for patient mapping, case reporting and location tracking. Officially endorsed by the Provincial Government of Cebu, the app is available on Google Play.
USHER Technologies Inc.	<p>The Universal Structural Health Evaluation and Recording (USHER) system is a next generation structural health monitoring system composed of an accelerograph or sensor and a web portal. The technology can be installed in buildings to allow building managers to monitor the structure's integrity and ensure hassle-free compliance with government regulators.</p> <p>Go-Clean is a mobile disinfection chamber that sanitizes the body of a person entering the enclosure. Proper protocols are designed to help ensure protection of sensitive areas such as the eyes, nose, and mouth from possible irritation brought about by the disinfectant mist.</p>
DWARM Technologies Inc.	Developed an artificial intelligence-powered thermal scanner system that is able to scan and identify the temperature of people, thus minimizing exposure of frontline workers.

Startup	Description
AI4GOV & Senti AI	<p>PH Kontra Covid, an initiative of the DOH, is a web-based digital triage platform and chatbot deployed in Viber and Facebook messenger. It uses an algorithm approved and endorsed by DOH based on official case definitions and classifications. Meanwhile, KIRA (Katuwang na Impormasyon para sa Responsableng Aksyon) is a bot deployed at the official DOH page that provides updated information based on the agency's latest guidelines and issuances.</p> <p>The DOH has also partnered with Senti AI for the development of a "central brain" for the agency's communication channels. It will leverage AI technologies such as natural language processing, intent detection, and entity detection to accurately capture the context behind an inquiry and provide the most relevant and up to date answer derived from DOH's knowledge base.</p>
Mataverse	<p>Project LUPAD (Liloan UAV Patrol Augmentation Division) was developed in partnership with the Municipality of Liloan, Cebu. It involves the use of aerial 360-degree cameras for the enforcement of Covid rules and regulations. It also involves the development of a mobile app for the Cebu Provincial Government that allows 360-degree virtual tours of key tourist destinations.</p>
CHRG Inc.	<p>The company's charging systems and electric vehicles provided localized transport services in areas where public transportation was suspended. ETrikes were also used in the distribution of food packs and other essential items to affected communities.</p>
Nanotronics	<p>Developed a 3D printed reusable antiviral face mask using nanocomposite materials.</p>
CBG Enterprise	<p>Developed modular mass testing facilities consisting of phone booth-style enclosures with negative air pressure that allow medical staff to safely examine patients. Each facility holds 10 testing booths and can process up to 3000 patients a day.</p>
ArkiTeK	<p>QVID is a contact tracing system using mobile applications and QR codes. The DOH is preparing for its initial roll-out.</p>

Table 31: Selected technologies developed by startups housed in DOST facilities (DOST)

**Philippine Startup Week**

The first Philippine Startup Week (PHSW) was held on November 18 to 22, 2019. Jointly organized by DTI, DOST, DICT, and QBO Innovation Hub and supported by various startup community enablers, it featured a 3-day main summit with over 49 nationwide community events in 10 cities across the country. The second PHSW will be held virtually and online in November 2020.

**Global Startup Ecosystem Report**

Asec. Pacheco noted that the Philippine startup ecosystem has been featured twice (in 2019 and 2020) in the annual Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) by Startup Genome. In its inaugural ranking of the world's top 100 emerging ecosystems in 2020, Manila is ranked 36th globally and is among the startup ecosystems in their activation phase (source: <https://startupgenome.com/reports/gser2020>). The GSER is the world's most comprehensive and widely read research on startups with 250 ecosystems studied. It is published by Startup Genome in cooperation with the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN). DTI is a member of the GSER Global Network.

**RA 11363: Philippine Space Act**

*This law mandates the creation of a Philippine Space Development and Utilization Policy (or Philippine Space Policy) to serve as the country's primary strategic roadmap for space development. The policy embodies the country's central goal of becoming a "space-capable" and "space-faring" nation within the next decade. It focuses on 6 key development areas: (1) national security and development, (2) hazard management and climate studies, (3) space research and development, (4) space industry capacity building, (5) space education and awareness, and (6) international cooperation.*

*This law creates the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) to oversee implementation, as well as the Philippine Space Council (PSC), chaired by the President, to serve as the principal advisory body. It also establishes the Philippine Space Development Fund consisting of (1) PhP 10 billion from the national government (through the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and the Bases Conversion and Development Authority), (2) income derived from the specialized products, services, and royalties produced by PhilSA, and (3) loans, contributions, grants and gifts from local and foreign sources. Moreover, this law appropriates PhP 1 billion as initial operating fund of PhilSA. Subsequent funding will come from the General Appropriations Act.*

PhilSA Director General Joel Joseph S. Marciano said that as of October 9, 2020, the IRR of this law was still pending the approval of the PSC and other concerned agencies. The draft was initially circulated in March 2020. His office provided the Senate DEAR with the following updates on the implementation of this law.

**Policy, planning and coordination**

Work on revising and updating the Philippine Space Policy is also ongoing.

Dr. Marciano also highlighted the following activities:

- Providing inputs on the Space Technology Applications Research and Development (R&D) Roadmap being prepared by SGV and commissioned by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD);
- Submission of a position paper on the proposed House Substitute Bill on Public Schools of the Future in Technology (PSOFT) and House Bill 7801; and

- Coordination between PhilSA and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on the status of the ratification of United Nations international space treaties as part of their legislative agenda recommendation for Congress. These treaties include: (1) The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies (The Outer Space Treaty); (2) The Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Objects Launched into Outer Space (The Rescue Agreement); (3) The Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects (The Liability Convention); and (4) The Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (The Registration Convention). PhilSA and the Department of Foreign Affairs planned to organize a webinar in October to discuss these treaties and related matters.

### **Access and resource sharing**

PhilSA continues to hold discussions with government agencies and private sector groups, including satellite manufacturers and integrators, to create better awareness of space science and technology applications while soliciting updated end user requirements as inputs to the Philippine Space Policy.

Key meetings included the following:

- Meeting with the Department of Education to discuss modes of collaboration and partnership on the use of satellites for school mapping and connectivity;
- Meeting with the Naval Research and Technology Development Center of the Philippine Navy to demonstrate electronic communications, surveillance, and monitoring technologies;
- Meeting with the BSP Financial Inclusion Group to discuss satellite technologies that support financial transactions especially in the countryside; and
- Meeting with DSWD to discuss a proposed MOA covering access to and the use of satellite images for detection of damage to infrastructure.

### **Space R&D**

PhilSA is working closely with units/offices of DOST and the University of the Philippines, including the Philippine Earth Data Resources Observation (PEDRO) Center, Remote Sensing and Data Science (DATOS) Help Desk, and the Space Technology and Applications Mastery, Innovation and Advancement (STAMINA4Space) Program for developing R&D programs.

Moreover, the FY 2020 and FY 2021 budget of PhilSA support R&D initiatives that are aligned with the national government's priorities such as developing a "digital government and economy," and in addressing challenges in health, food security, and rural development. Major components include the following: (1) developing and using satellites and relevant space technologies to enhance the "information infrastructure fabric" of the country through the Build, Build, Build in Space (B3iS) initiative, and (2) mobilizing space-enabled data for addressing immediate and long term concerns in disaster risk reduction and management, national security, maritime domain awareness, infrastructure monitoring, environmental protection, and food security for use by both the public and private sectors.

### **Education and capacity building**

PhilSA, along with the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute and the University of the Philippines, is implementing public outreach activities to support the agency's thrust on space education and capacity building. These include participating in public webinars on space technology and satellites, and meetings with proponents of university-based technology facilities on



opportunities for cooperation in developing structures for nanosatellites and other satellite components.

Dr. Marciano has accepted an invitation to be a resource person and interim member of the Program Advisory Committee for new academic programs such as Aerospace Engineering of the Batangas State University. He has also agreed in principle to be part of the Advisory Board for the Center for Integrated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education (CISTEM), which aims to support the Department of Education and other government agencies in delivering quality education.

### **Industry development**

PhilSA held meetings with satellite manufacturers, integrators, and providers, as well as local electronics companies to discuss updated technology and business options for earth observation and telecommunications satellites. Topics included the following:

- Commercial launch and deployment opportunities using the International Space Station (ISS);
- Technology transfer in small satellite development;
- Options for leasing vis-a-vis owning a sovereign telecommunications satellite; and
- Alignment of government and academe programs with industry for electronics design and manufacturing.

Moving forward, PhilSA will work to localize subsystems considered essential to sustain local satellite-building capabilities. Dr. Marciano has also reached out to the academic community in social sciences and economics for building PhilSA's core competencies on socio-economic impact assessment and planning. PhilSA intends to partner with them in the areas of project conceptualization, planning and implementation, to closeout and outcome evaluation.

### **International cooperation**

The PhilSA has been coordinating with DFA and DOST on various matters relating to space diplomacy, policy and international cooperation. Highlights included the following:

- Attending the 2020 Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STSC) of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS);
- Meeting with Director of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), Ms. Simonetta de Pippo, to discuss joint activities between UNOOSA and the Philippines. The parties proposed signing a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize the partnership;
- Participation in webinars hosted by UNOOSA and other organizations such as the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on the role of space technology in mitigating the COVID-19 health crisis;
- Representation of the country in the 24th session of the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee (ICC) on Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP) in August 2020;
- Exchanges with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), through its President, Dr. Hiroshi Yamakawa, and the Director for International Cooperation on a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between JAXA and PhilSA on space development and applications cooperation;
- Participation in the National Space Legislation Initiative (NSLI) of JAXA;



- Discussions with DOST-International Technology Cooperation Unit and the Russian Space Agency ROSCOSMOS on the draft of an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the Philippines and the Russian Federation; and
- Correspondence with the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA) of Thailand on the appointment of its new Executive Director, Dr. Pakorn Apaphant.

### **Organizational updates**

***Appointment of PhilSA Director General.*** Dr. Joel Joseph S. Marciano Jr. was appointed as PhilSA Director General by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on January 8, 2020. He formally assumed office on March 5, 2020 after being administered the Oath of Office by Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea. A professor at the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute (EEEI) of University of the Philippines Diliman, his secondment to PhilSA required the concurrence of the university's Board of Regents.

Upon his assumption, Dr. Marciano pursued the following priorities:

- Formation of an Interim Team and nomination of the Deputy Directors General to assist in the administrative setup and technical activities of PhilSA;
- Coordination with the Office of the President, DBM and other pertinent agencies to secure the personnel, budget resources, and offices of PhilSA;
- Drafting of the IRR of RA 11363; and
- Coordination with DOST and other relevant groups in undertaking space science, technology, and applications activities.

As per Section 10 of this law, the PhilSA Director General shall have the rank and compensation of a Cabinet Secretary and shall be appointed by the President subject to confirmation by the Commission on Appointments (CA). Dr. Marciano submitted complete documents to the CA, which led to the scheduling of a confirmation hearing at the Senate in March 2020. During the hearing, some members of the CA said that the position of PhilSA Director General is not one of the appointments required to be confirmed under the Constitution. In response, the Office of the Senate President withdrew the Office of the President's referral to the CA. Thus, the CA did not deliberate on the appointment further, and Dr. Marciano was advised to carry on at PhilSA. Subsequently, PhilSA sought an official statement from the CA regarding the matter. In light of the CA opinion, PhilSA is requesting Congress to consider amending Section 10 of RA 11363 on the confirmation requirement for the Director General position.

***Philippine Space Council.*** PhilSA proposed to hold the first PSC meeting in Q3 2020. An invitation to the Office of the President was subsequently referred to DOST for their appropriate action.

***Transfer of astronomical and space-related functions.*** Dr. Marciano and the interim team developed a plan to address the transition into PhilSA of various related ongoing programs or projects. Before the approval of this law and the creation of PhilSA, DOST and its implementation partners such as UP has initiated some space science and technology activities, notably on the development and utilization of small satellite technology and by-products through DOST's Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program. Moreover, Dr. Marciano has been coordinating with the Director of DOST's Science Education Institute to facilitate the institutionalization of capabilities developed through the agency's space science and technology activities, as well as on the implementation and transition of space-related scholarships.

The PhilSA Director General noted that the title of Section 14 of the law reads "Transfer of Astronomical and Space-related Functions." However, succeeding provisions under this section "do not refer to nor include any astronomical activities, facilities or functions relating to the transfer to PhilSA."

**Structure and staffing pattern.** PhilSA has obtained the NOSCA for 28 positions under its executive offices. These include the position of Director General, 3 Deputy Directors General (DDG), 9 personnel under the DG, and 5 under each of the DDGs. PhilSA is in the process of filling up these positions. However, the agency's proposed Organization Structure and Staffing Pattern (OSSP) is pending the approval of the DBM Position Classification and Compensation Bureau (OPCCB). PhilSA anticipates the approval of its OSSP by yearend.

**Primary location of PhilSA offices and research facilities.** The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) informed PhilSA that it shall reserve a portion of the land in New Clark City (NCC) for lease or usufruct to PhilSA. The two sides are working to finalize the agreement. The NCC's Master Development Plan allocates an area for a Clark Science Corridor and National Government Administration Center (NGAC), which were both identified to be viable locations for PhilSA's offices and research facilities.

**Philippine Space Development Fund (PSDF).** Dr. Marciano reported that PhilSA has conducted extensive consultations with DBM and BTr on the treatment of the PSDF. PhilSA likewise communicated with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and BCDA on the allocation of the PSDF from their income. However, the two agencies voiced their concerns regarding the availability of funds and their capacity to produce it. BCDA noted that RA 7917 already apportions in full BCDA's equity contribution from sales and disposition of Metro Manila camps. BCDA opined that PhilSA's required funding should instead be taken from the national government share in the dividends that BCDA annually remits to BTr. However, these dividends are based on "net taxable income" and not "gross income," which is the term used in Sec. 22 of RA 11363. At the same time, the BCDA advised them that the said dividends are not guaranteed and will largely depend on the net income that BCDA will generate for a given year.

## Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

### RA 11291: An Act Providing for a Magna Carta of the Poor

*This law calls on the government to establish a system to provide the requirements, conditions and opportunities for the full enjoyment of the following rights of the poor: (1) right to adequate food; (2) right to decent work; (3) right to relevant and quality education; (4) right to adequate housing; and (5) right to the highest attainable standard of health. It mandates the implementation of a social protection system and a system for targeting beneficiaries. A National Poverty Reduction Plan (NPRP) will be crafted to set the thresholds to be achieved by the government for each of the recognized rights of the poor. It also encourages private sector participation in the government's anti-poverty programs and projects, and provides for tax exemptions for contributions to initiatives implemented under the NPRP.*

National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) Secretary and Lead Convenor Atty. Noel K. Felongco informed the Senate DEAR that as of August 2020, the IRR of this law was awaiting the signature of the President, who is Chairperson of the NAPC.

To craft the IRR, the NAPC Secretariat held 7 inter-agency technical meetings, a two-day "writeshop," and regional consultations with LGUs and civil society organizations in all 17 regions of the country. During the crafting of the IRR, NAPC consulted with 30 government agencies, 4,040 LGU officials and staff, and 3,338 civil society and basic sector representatives.

#### National Poverty Reduction Plan

While awaiting the signature of the President, the NAPC secretariat initiated the crafting of the NPRP. Under Section 8, NAPC is mandated to compile and harmonize the NPRP based on inputs from government agencies, as well as the development plans of provinces, cities, and municipalities. The law defines the NPRP as the "aggregation and consolidation of sectoral and local plans through a bottom-up approach, from the Local Poverty Reduction Action Plan towards the formulation of the national plan."

A preliminary inter-agency technical meeting was held on March 3, 2020 to set the stage for the inventory of output and outcome indicators for the programs, activities, and projects involved in implementing this law. Moreover, the NAPC is preparing a draft NPRP formulation process for review by the partner agencies.

#### Covid-19 impact

Sec. Felongco said that these initial efforts were overtaken by the community quarantine measures resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, he also noted that the NPRP "represents a timely opportunity for enacting poverty reduction planning relative to the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis and the country's transition to the new normal." Thus, the NAPC Secretariat took the initiative to implement a Post Distribution Monitoring tool to assess the appropriateness, effectiveness, and immediate outcomes of the assistance provided to vulnerable Filipinos under the Social Amelioration Program of RA 11469. Sec. Felongco said that it would augment the agency's ongoing efforts on community monitoring and reporting through field personnel and "Ka-Sambayanihan" volunteers. NAPC is studying the possibility of collaborating with DSWD for the re-evaluation of the situation of poor households in light of the pandemic. Sec. Felongco said that this activity is "essential to setting the baselines and thresholds to be achieved by the government for each of the recognized rights of the poor under the NPRP."

#### Issues and concerns

Sec. Felongco noted the lack of funds for the consultations to be done once the IRR is signed by the President. Under Section 9 NAPC is mandated to ensure that basic sectors and LGUs are engaged in formulating the NPRP.

## RA 11310: An Act Institutionalizing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)

*This law institutionalizes the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), which seeks to reduce poverty and invest in human capital by providing conditional cash transfer to poor households for a maximum of 7 years. To avail of the benefits under this law, grantees need to meet specific conditionalities with respect to school attendance, health check-ups and vaccination.*

*The IRR of this law was signed on December 10, 2019.*

Launched in 2008 and institutionalized with the passage of this law on April 17, 2020, DSWD Undersecretary Luzviminda C. Ilagan emphasized that the 4Ps program is both a (1) human capital development program and (2) national poverty reduction strategy of the national government thru convergence with other pro-poor programs and services.

Usec. Ilagan reported to the Senate DEAR the following updates on the implementation of this law.

### Status of beneficiaries

As of June 30, 2020, the program covered a total of 4,295,738 active household beneficiaries across 41,606 barangays in the entire country. This figure represented 97.6 percent of the target 4,400,000 target households based the General Appropriations Act 2020. The table below outlines the geographic distribution of active beneficiaries.

Island Group/ Region	Target	Actual	Difference	% of Target
NCR	229,824	220,583	9,241	96.0
CAR	62,907	60,111	2,796	95.6
I	201,164	205,615	(4,451)	102.2
II	103,851	105,240	(1,389)	101.3
III	291,858	293,696	(1,838)	100.6
CALABARZON	319,573	317,356	2,217	99.3
MIMAROPA	197,623	194,124	3,499	98.2
V	374,255	368,177	6,078	98.4
LUZON	1,781,055	1,764,902	16,153	99.1
VI	318,030	321,348	(3,318)	101.0
VII	288,328	284,627	3,701	98.7
VIII	283,309	279,872	3,437	98.8
VISAYAS	889,667	885,847	3,820	99.6
IX	318,470	298,697	19,773	93.8
X	268,659	265,717	2,942	98.9
XI	263,229	256,740	6,489	97.5
XII	261,561	247,184	14,377	94.5
CARAGA	187,404	188,531	(1,127)	100.6
BARMM	429,955	388,120	41,835	90.3
MINDANAO	1,729,278	1,644,989	84,289	95.1
GRAND TOTAL	4,400,000	4,295,738	104,262	97.6

Table 32: 4Ps active household beneficiaries as of June 2020 (DSWD)

In terms of grants and subsidies, a total of PhP 37,009,393,100 have been paid to 4P households. Of this amount, 24.5 percent were education grants, 41.8 percent were health grants, and 33.8 percent were rice subsidies. Rice subsidies are additional cash transfers provided on top of the 4Ps education and health grants since 2017. It was added in response to the President' State of the Nation Address in 2016. The program was able to immediately provide the increase in the amount of grants (for Senior High School and Health) to beneficiaries as stated in the law.

Effective Pay Period 3 of 2020, the amount of cash grants provided to households was adjusted to comply with this law. DSWD noted that the additional grants will help beneficiaries cope better with the effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The next table outlines the grants and subsidies paid out to 4P households as of June 2020.

Island Group/ Region	Education (PhP)	Health (PhP)	Rice (PhP)	Total (PhP)	% of Total
NCR	446,435,400	784,668,750	642,727,200	1,873,831,350	5.06
CAR	137,938,400	204,315,500	165,780,000	508,033,900	1.37
I	482,522,800	756,344,000	612,676,200	1,851,543,000	5.00
II	234,254,800	384,722,500	312,010,800	930,988,100	2.52
III	633,691,200	1,071,614,000	869,107,800	2,574,413,000	6.96
CALABARZON	708,893,800	1,160,243,250	939,448,800	2,808,585,850	7.59
MIMAROPA	431,039,600	710,300,000	573,703,800	1,715,043,400	4.63
V	895,517,700	1,353,562,250	1,093,900,200	3,342,980,150	9.03
LUZON	3,970,293,700	6,425,770,250	5,209,354,800	15,605,418,750	42.17
VI	766,226,400	1,191,184,000	958,448,400	2,915,858,800	7.88
VII	667,066,100	1,041,820,750	843,358,200	2,552,245,050	6.90
VIII	563,527,000	846,155,000	685,859,400	2,095,541,400	5.66
VISAYAS	1,996,819,500	3,079,159,750	2,487,666,000	7,563,645,250	20.44
IX	644,243,700	1,099,394,500	886,737,600	2,630,375,800	7.11
X	580,287,700	971,895,750	787,399,800	2,339,583,250	6.32
XI	539,301,400	941,522,000	762,702,600	2,243,526,000	6.06
XII	450,206,200	862,051,500	694,495,800	2,006,753,500	5.42
CARAGA	426,620,100	694,062,250	560,445,000	1,681,127,350	4.54
BARMM	452,777,100	1,376,968,500	1,109,217,600	2,938,963,200	7.94
MINDANAO	3,093,436,200	5,945,894,500	4,800,998,400	13,840,329,100	37.40
TOTAL	9,060,549,400	15,450,824,500	2,498,019,200	37,009,393,100	100.00

Table 33: Grants and subsidies paid to 4P households as of June 2020 (DSWD)

### KILOS-UNLAD Strategy

Prior to RA No. 11310, beneficiaries had no 7-year tenure in the program, such that they would remain recipients of the grants until their last monitored children aged-out (i.e. became 19 years old), or finished High School, or their level of well-being improved to self-sufficiency. Thus, DSWD adopted the KILOS-UNLAD: 4Ps 7-Year Social Case Management Strategy (KU). It is described as a “comprehensive and collaborative process to shepherd beneficiaries and achieve improvement in their level of well-being,” from survival to subsistence to self-sufficiency, within their 7 years stay in the program. Its goal is for beneficiaries to transition from poverty within their tenure in Pantawid using a “client-centric and participatory approach that harnesses the strengths of individuals, families, groups, and communities.”

The National Project Management Office is aligning procedures, mechanisms and approaches to help ensure that beneficiaries will be able to transition and graduate from the program. These include the development of a 7-year learning intervention under the Family Development Session for the household beneficiaries, along with the development of Behavioral Monitoring Checklist to follow through on the expected and necessary behavioral changes required for every household to achieve improved well-being, economic productivity and self-reliance. Additionally, strengthening the capacity development component of the program both for the field workers and parent leaders, as well as pursuing more partnership and collaboration with different stakeholders are also a priority.

### Standardized National Targeting System vis-à-vis Community-Based Monitoring System

This law states that qualified household beneficiaries will go through a standardized targeting system while RA 11315 (Community-Based Monitoring System Act) states that community targeting should be established in every city and municipality as an economic and social tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and development programs. Usec. Ilagan said that these potentially conflicting provisions seem to create confusion on the ground i.e. which provision should be adopted for 4Ps household targeting. For now, DSWD uses Listahanan as the method of identifying poor households that may be eligible to the program. DSWD is seeking clarification from the legislature on this matter.

### 4Ps program human resources

Despite the institutionalization of 4Ps, program staff still hold contractual or COS/MOA positions both at the Central and Regional Offices. As of June 30, 2020, the program had 13,298 employees or 94.6 percent of the total number of approved positions. Additionally, 8,752 personnel were hired for contractual positions representing 65.8% of the total number of hired personnel. DSWD’s request to DBM for the contractualization of 3,030 field workers was pending during the reporting period.

Level	Employment status	No. of approved positions	No. of hired personnel	%
National	Contractual	292	264	90.4
	COS/MOA	83	66	79.5
	Subtotal	375	330	88.0
Regional	Contractual	8,733	8,488	97.2
	COS/MOA	4,928	4,480	90.9
	Subtotal	13,661	12,968	94.9
	Grand total	14,051	13,298	94.6

Table 34: 4Ps contractual and COS/MOA staff from DSWD national and regional offices as of June 30, 2020 (DSWD)

**Impact of Covid-19 pandemic**

Full implementation of the program was scheduled in April 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. Thus, the program remains in “transition period” due to the difficulty of beneficiaries to comply with program requirements. Moreover, some staff were temporarily pulled out of the program to implement the government’s Social Amelioration Program. Field workers that remain with the program focused on facilitating the release of emergency cash assistance, as well as in conducting Intensive Case Management (ICM) in areas under general community quarantine. ICM will facilitate the delivery of interventions leading to the 7-year intervention period, and from there arrive at specific policy recommendations on how exceptional circumstances can be defined and implemented.

Meanwhile, to overcome limitations brought about by quarantine measures resulting from the pandemic, the National Project Management Office is maximizing the use of social media, web-based training and virtual meetings, and other media to reach out to program beneficiaries, field workers and the general public.

**Budget source to implement this law**

The agency reported that PhP 108,765,970,000 was allotted in the 2020 General Appropriations Act for the implementation of this law. Of this amount, PhP 7,880,740,000 was used for the Social Amelioration Program in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This law provides no restriction on the number of children ages 0 to 18 years to be covered by the program. Presently, DSWD only selects up to 3 children within this age bracket per household. For FY 2021, to cover the target 8,259,514 children (within the 4.4 million household target coverage), PhP 38.1 billion is required for the education grants. To cover all 0 to 18-year-olds outside the 3-child cap per household, the program will need an estimated PhP 2 billion.

**RA 11315: An Act Establishing a Community-Based Monitoring System**

*This law establishes a community-based monitoring system (CBMS) in every city and municipality in the country. It defines a CBMS as “an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation and impact monitoring at the local level.” The CBMS is seen as a tool to formulate and implement poverty alleviation and development programs that are specific, targeted, and responsive to the basic needs of the community. Establishing a CBMS entails a census of households using an “accelerated poverty profiling system” in collecting, processing, mapping, and analyzing data. The census is to be undertaken by LGUs with the participation of the community. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) shall be the lead implementing agency of this law.*

*The IRR of this law was approved on May 20, 2020 and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on July 11, 2020.*

National Statistician and Civil Registrar General Dennis S. Mapa informed the Senate DEAR of the following milestones in the implementation of this law.

**Creation of new positions**

The PSA requested DBM approval for the creation of 424 plantilla positions in both central and provincial offices to support the implementation of this law, as well as to provide additional manpower for the implementation of the Philippine Identification System (Philsys) law (RA 11055).



PSA is also proposing the creation of the Community-Based Statistics Service (CBSS) to be lodged under the agency's Censuses and Technical Coordination Office. CBSS shall be responsible for developing, enhancing, and implementing an "organized technology-based system of data collection, processing, validation, management of data, and dissemination of information useful for planning and impact monitoring at the local level." It shall be composed of three divisions: Community-Based Monitoring System Planning and Coordination Division, Community-Based Statistics Division, and Geospatial Management Division.

While waiting for the approval, an interim CBSS office was set up on July 1, 2020 to handle the administrative and technical preparations for the pilot CBMS in selected municipalities. The interim office's main activities include the following:

- Prepare an operational framework for the implementation of CBMS and the overall three-year plan for one full cycle of implementation;
- Conduct consultations with stakeholders on the data items to include and for advocacy purposes;
- Develop an enhanced CBMS standard protocol;
- Conduct a series of pretests of the survey instruments;
- Revise the survey tools based on results of pretests for the pilot run;
- Conduct collaborative meetings on resource sharing arrangements with CBMS Network
- Act as secretariat to the CBMS Council; and
- Recruit and hire temporary staff (contract of service workers) pending the approval of the organizational structure and plantilla positions.

Dr. Mapa noted that the law requires the creation of city/municipal statisticians, whose qualification standards were to be set by PSA. "Setting the qualification standards that will support the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will help in the pursuit of professionalism, independence and impartiality among city/municipal statisticians who will take on a significant role in the implementation of the CBMS. Further, the funding requirements to hire and maintain the city/municipal statisticians in each local government unit is also a necessary condition. The issue on the Personnel Services cap should be reviewed to allow the said hiring," he said.

### **Preparations for the nationwide synchronized rollout**

The PSA employs the following strategies to prepare for the CBMS rollout: (1) consult and converse with stakeholders, (2) build capacity, (3) modify data collection approach, and (4) standardize tools and processes.

The CBMS Council, composed of PSA as chair and the DILG and DICT as members, held its first meeting on August 14, 2020. The general plan for CBMS, operational framework, and timeline of activities for 2020-2021 were discussed during the meeting. Moreover, PSA is closely coordinating with the key stakeholders to refine its instruments and processes for CBMS.

For the rest of the year, PSA will conduct the following activities to prepare for the rollout:

- Further improvement of the CBMS questionnaires;
- Further development of tablet-based CBMS household profile questionnaire and online barangay profile questionnaire;

- Preparation of training plans and manuals for operations;
- Pretest of CBMS instruments; and
- Assessment of ICT equipment availability in LGUs for possible use in the CBMS data collection and management.

**Issues and concerns**

Dr. Mapa cited the following issues and concerns in the implementation of this law.

***Budget allocation***

PSA originally proposed PhP 2.54 billion to allow it to cover 729 cities and municipalities in the 4th to 6th income classes. "The CBMS under the law is a technology-based system and shall be a complete enumeration of households every three years. With the indicative budget of PhP 85 million [as originally proposed by DBM], meeting these fundamental characteristics of the CBMS under the law poses a big challenge to the PSA as the lead implementing agency," remarked Dr. Mapa. Other agencies such as DILG, DICT and LGUs would also need additional funds to meet the data collection requirements of the law. "The intricacies in resource-sharing among these agencies will be a challenge, especially as many government agencies/LGUs have already planned for their 2021 activities which may or may not consciously include the CBMS," he added.

Moreover, the PhP 85 million budget would not be able to cover items to be procured under the CBMS Information Systems Strategic Plan. These include tablet computers for data collection and geotagging, as well as cloud storage and servers for data storage and the National CBMS Databank. The plan has been submitted to DICT for consideration.

In the meantime, PSA is preparing alternative plans, and endorsing multi-agency budget proposals for CBMS. It is exploring the use of medium-term expenditure framework, as well as the development of standard costs for CBMS implementation (e.g. cost per respondent) to facilitate the inclusion of CBMS appropriations for the internal revenue allotment of LGUs. It is also seeking local and international partners that could support the ICT infrastructure for CBMS.

***Timing of nationwide and synchronized rollout***

The actual timing of the rollout is still under discussion. Stakeholders such as DILG, Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, and DSWD generally favor 2021, but the years 2022 and 2023 are also a possibility.

***Field operations amid the pandemic***

The spread of Covid-19 and the resulting fear of infection on the part of respondents and data collectors could adversely affect the recruitment of both data collections and respondents. After all, the law explicitly states that participation in the CBMS is purely voluntary.

For now, PSA is building on existing tools while planning for alternative modes of data collection. It is studying and revisiting experiences from the 2020 Census of Population and Housing and the Labor Force Survey to determine the effectiveness of telephone and web-based instruments. PSA is piloting an online CBMS or remote interview method of data collection in Orion, Bataan.

***Legal basis for integration of CBMS with Philsys and the civil registration system (CRS)***

One of the recurring themes of PSA's interactions with stakeholders is the integration or linking of databases to optimize the value that can be derived from them. However, key provisions in RA 11315, RA 19625 (Philippine Statistical Act of 2013) and RA 10173 (Data Privacy Act) prevent it from doing so.

Dr. Mapa wondered whether some legal authority could be “explicated” from these laws and their IRRs that would allow the linking of CRS and Philsys databases with CBMS. The laws and related provisions are summarized below.

#### **Republic Act No. 10625 (Philippine Statistical Act of 2013)**

Section 5. Second Paragraph.

...The data produced by the PSA shall be the official and controlling statistics of the government. The PSA shall be primarily responsible for all national censuses and surveys, sectoral statistics, consolidation of selected administrative recording systems and compilation of the national accounts.

Section 26. Confidentiality of information

Individual data furnished by a respondent to statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses of the PSA shall be considered privileged communication and as such shall be inadmissible as evidence in any proceeding.

The PSA may release aggregated information from statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses in the form of summaries or statistical tables in which no reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall appear.

The National Statistician and all staff of the PSA shall take a solemn oath regarding confidentiality of information. However, confidentiality of information does not apply to:

- a. Information in the form of a list or index of individual business firms, establishments or organizations that contain any or all of the following information:
  - The name, address and telephone numbers;
  - The business and products that they are engaged in; and
  - The specific ranges of number of employees.
- b. Microdata from statistical inquiries or survey form/questionnaire/schedule prepared by the PSA for purposes of research, with care to ensure that identities of a particular person, business or organization will not be disclosed in whatever form; and
- c. Access to census data after one hundred (100) years for historical, genealogical, scientific or other research purposes.

#### **Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10625**

TITLE VII. Rule 29. Obligation to Provide Information, Confidentiality of Information and Penalties

ART. 54. The PSA is authorized to gather data from other government agencies for statistical purposes

ART. 55. “.... The PSA may release aggregated information from statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses in the form of summaries or statistical tables in which no reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall appear

**Republic Act No. 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act)**

Section 6. Philippine Identification System Components.

b) The PhilSys Registry. - The PSA, as repository and custodian of all data shall create and maintain a PhilSys Registry that will contain the PSN, registered records, and information of all persons registered in the PhilSys. The information in the PhilSys Registry shall be classified in a manner that allows safeguards for data privacy and security, access controls, and change management.

Section 17. Protection Against Unlawful Disclosure of Information/Records

No person may disclose, collect, record, convey, disseminate, publish, or use any information of registered persons with the PhilSys, give access thereto or give copies thereof to third parties or entities, including law enforcement agencies, national security agencies, or units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, except in the following circumstances:

- a. When the registered person has given his or her consent, specific to the purpose prior to the processing; and
- b. When the compelling interest of public health or safety so requires, relevant information may be disclosed upon order of a competent court, provided that the risk of significant harm to the public is established and the owner of the information is notified within seventy-two (72) hours of the fact of such disclosure.

Information disclosed shall not be used except for the specific purposes for which it was authorized and shall not be divulged by any person to any third party other than the person so authorized.

PSA must ensure that information in the PhilSys is used only in accordance with its intended purpose as set forth in this Act.

Any information obtained as a result of unlawful disclosure under this Act shall be inadmissible in any judicial, quasi-judicial or administrative proceedings.

Registered persons may request the PSA to provide access to his or her registered information and record history subject to the guidelines and regulations to be issued by the PSA.

Section 18. Safeguards on the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

The PSA with the technical assistance of the DICT shall be implement reasonable and appropriate organizational, technical and physical security measures to ensure that the information gathered for the PhilSys, including information stored in the PhilSys Registry, is protected from or unauthorized access, use, disclose, and against accidental or intentional loss, destruction, or damage. Moreover, PSA shall ensure that individuals are adequately informed upon registration for PhilSys on how their data will be used and how they can access their registered information and record history.

While upholding the confidentiality provisions under Republic Act No. 10625, otherwise known as the "Philippine Statistical Act of 2013," all data collated by the PSA under the PhilSys may be used to generate aggregate data or statistical summaries without reference to or identification of any specific individual: Provided, That nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting or limiting the sharing or transfer of any personal data that is already authorized or required by law.

### **Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11055 (Philippine Identification System Act)**

Rule II. Philippine Identification System. Section 6. Philippine Identification System Components

The PhilSys Registry shall be kept, owned, managed, and administered by the PSA separate and distinct from all other databases of the PSA and registration centers.

### **Republic Act No. 11315 (Community-Based Monitoring System Act)**

Declaration of Policy. Fourth Paragraph.

This data collection system shall respect the fundamental human right of privacy, ensure data quality, and uphold data protection principle of legitimate purpose of transparency, and proportionality.

Section 4. Data Collection.

A CBMS is hereby established and instituted in every city and municipality as an economic and social tool towards the formulation and implementation of poverty alleviation and development programs which are specific, targeted and responsive to the basic needs of each sector of the community. The CBMS shall have the appropriate security measures for data protection.

Section 8. Storage and Access of Data.

The cities and municipalities are allowed to maintain their own CBMS database for use in local level planning and program implementation. The provinces shall have access to their respective local and territory-specific data.

Section 10. Confidentiality of Information.

The right to privacy of every respondent remains inviolable. The citizen participating in the data collection shall be fully informed of the nature and extent of processing intended for his or her personal data. Participation in all data collection activities is purely voluntary. Notwithstanding Section 4 of this Act, respondents may refuse to answer any question or reveal any information at any point, or terminate data collection activities with no further action needed. The person conducting the data collection shall ask the respondents whether they would like to make an explicit waiver to authorize the city and municipality to disclose their identity and other relevant information about their household to the government agency which provides social protection programs for them.

### **Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11315 (Community-Based Monitoring System Act)**

Rule II. Definition of Terms

For purposes of this IRR, the following definition of terms shall apply:

(f) Data Sharing, pursuant to R.A. No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, is the disclosure or transfer to a third party of personal data under the custody of a personal information controller or personal information processor. In the case of the latter, such disclosure or transfer must have been upon the instructions of the personal information controller concerned. The term excludes outsourcing, or the disclosure or transfer of personal data by a personal information controller to

**Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 11315 (Community-Based Monitoring System Act (continued))**

(k) Processing of Personal Information, consistent with R.A. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, refers to any operation or any set of operations performed upon personal information including, but not limited to, the collection, recording, organization, storage, updating or modification, retrieval, consultation, use, consolidation, blocking, erasure or destruction of data.

Rule VII. Data Sharing and Information Management and Dissemination

Section 2. Platform for Data Sharing.

Every data sharing agreement must comply with the conditions set forth in R.A. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, and other applicable laws and statutory requirements.

**Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012**

Section. 12. Criteria for Lawful Processing of Personal Information.

The processing of personal information shall be permitted only if not otherwise prohibited by law, and when at least one of the following conditions exists:

- a. The data subject has given his or her consent;
- b. The processing of personal information is necessary and is related to the fulfillment of a contract with the data subject or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract;
- c. The processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the personal information controller is subject;
- d. The processing is necessary to protect vitally important interests of the data subject, including life and health;
- e. The processing is necessary in order to respond to national emergency, to comply with the requirements of public order and safety, or to fulfill functions of public authority which necessarily includes the processing of personal data for the fulfillment of its mandate; or
- f. The processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the personal information controller or by a third party or parties to whom the data is disclosed, except where such interests are overridden by fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection under the Philippine Constitution.

Section. 13. Sensitive Personal Information and Privileged Information.

The processing of sensitive personal information and privileged information shall be prohibited, except in the following cases:

- a. The data subject has given his or her consent, specific to the purpose prior to the processing, or in the case of privileged information, all parties to the exchange have given their consent prior to processing

Table 35: Possible legal basis for the linking of CRS and Philsys databases with CBMS (PSA)

Dr. Mapa said that he supported the enactment of an enabling law to support the consolidation of these databases "without uncertainties or reservations." He emphasized that the enabling law must still respect the rights of respondents in consideration of the Data Privacy Act.

### Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS)-DILG baseline study

A PIDS discussion paper<sup>3</sup> on CBMS as a local planning tool noted the need for a clear distinction between data processing and analysis roles as it appears that some LGUs do not know how to proceed with the collected data. "LGUs send the data to the DLSU AKI (De La Salle University Angelo King Institute) CBMS Network for processing without any follow up afterwards," the authors said.

Furthermore, they said that LGUs seemed unaware that some of the data they think are required for developing or updating their Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) are already available. "The respondent municipalities in the LGSF-AM Baseline Survey still identified data items that they think are needed for the development and/or updating of their CDPs. However, some identified data items are already available in existing dataset tools and sources. The responses may therefore reflect not just the unavailability of some data but a lack [of] access or information [on] how to access them. The current form (i.e., disaggregation, level) of the available data may also be different from what the LGUs' need that is why they are not able to use them." The PIDS paper was released in March 2020.

### RA 11350: National Commission of Senior Citizens Act

*This law creates the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) under the Office of the President. The Commission is mandated to ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the government on senior citizens, review and conduct related studies, and recommend policy to Congress and the President. It abolishes the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created under RA 9994 and transfers related functions from DSWD to NCSC. As of July 28, 2020, the IRR of this law was still being reviewed by members of the Commission.*

DSWD Undersecretary Luzmininda C. Ilagan informed the Senate DEAR that two Commissioners have been appointed to the NCSC: Ms. Ida Yap-Patron and Gloria Jumalig-Mercado. They are temporarily holding office at the DSWD central office in Batasan Hills, Quezon City, supported by staff from the Social Pension Program.

Usec. Ilagan, who heads the DSWD Change Management Team overseeing the transfer of functions from DSWD to NCSC, reported that she and DSWD Usec. for Special Concerns Camilo G. Gudmalin held a virtual meeting with the new Commissioners on July 21, 2020 to coordinate their efforts.

Usec. Ilagan also noted that a survey of personnel to be affected by the transfer is currently underway, along with preparations for the transition phase of the turnover of programs, projects, services, and activities. In the coming months, the DSWD Change Management Team and the Social Pension-National Program Management Office will continue to work closely to ensure a smooth transition.

DSWD will retain programs and services for senior citizens in its 2021 budget proposal to ensure the continuous delivery of services during the transition phase. For its part, NCSC will oversee the preparation of the administration budget for 2020 and 2021, as well as the proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern. Commissioners Yap-Patron and Jumalig-Mercado will also monitor the appointment of other NCSC officials, including new Commissioners.

As per the law, the NCSC shall have six Commissioners representing different geographical regions of the country. An Executive Director shall likewise be appointed to implement the policies, rules, regulations, and directives of NCSC.

<sup>3</sup> Diokno-Sicat, C., Adaro, C., & Maddawin, R. (2020). The Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) as a Local Planning Tool: Results from the PIDS-DILG Baseline Study on Policy and Governance Gaps for the Local Government Support Fund Assistance to Municipalities (LGSF-AM) Program. Discussion Paper Series No. 2020-07.

## Sports

### **RA 11214: An Act Establishing a Sports Complex Known as the “Philippine Sports Training Center,” and Providing Funds for the Acquisition of Property, the Construction of Facilities, and the Administration, Maintenance, and Management of the Center**

*Known as the “Philippine Sports Training Center Act,” this law establishes a “state of the art and highly scientific” Philippine Sports Training Center (PSTC) to serve as the official home and primary venue for the development of athletes in the National Team. It is also envisioned to contribute to sports science and research, to serve as a venue to train coaches and referees, and to host local and international competitions. The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) is tasked with owning the facility and overseeing its operations. PhP 3.5 billion shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the establishment and construction of PSTC.*

The PSC through Dr. Lauro O. Domingo Jr. of the Program, Research and Development Division reported to the Senate DEAR that proposals to host the facility were offered by the local governments of Antipolo, Pampanga and Bataan. However, negotiations and feasibility studies were halted when the pandemic started, and the community quarantine took place on March 17, 2020. Negotiations were scheduled to resume in September 2020. Once a decision is made, the construction feasibility study and master plan should be completed within 9 months. PSC is also exploring a possible collaboration with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

PSC noted that the 2020 General Appropriations Act did not include funding for the implementation of this law. Moreover, the IRR is pending the review of the University of the Philippines Law Center (as of August 2020).



## Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

### **RA 11032: Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018**

*This law seeks to streamline the delivery of government services by (a) prescribing the processing time; (b) streamlining procedures for issuing licenses, clearances, permits or authorizations; (c) automatically approving applications not acted upon within the prescribed processing time; (d) mandating a “zero contact policy” concerning an application or request, except during submission of documents; and (e) establishing a central business portal to receive and capture application data on business-related transactions, and provide links to online registration of national government agencies.*

*It creates a cabinet-level department – the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) – to implement and oversee implementation. ARTA can initiate an investigation motu proprio, or upon receipt of a complaint, or file cases for violations. It is also mandated to review proposed major regulations of government agencies using regulatory impact assessment (RIA).*

In a webinar for the Senate community organized by DEAR on May 28, 2020, ARTA Director-General (DG) Atty. Jeremiah B. Belgica informed the Senate of the following updates on the implementation of this law.

#### **“3-7-20-day rule”**

ARTA established the “3-7-20-day rule” through Memorandum Circular No. 2020-02 dated February 14, 2020. It directs all national government agencies and LGUs to conduct an inventory of all pending transactions that are beyond their prescribed transaction time. NGAs and LGUs are required to act on all such pending applications and to automatically approve them if requirements are complete before March 7, 2020. “3-7-20” refers to the prescribed processing time of simple transactions (3 days), complex transactions (7 days), and highly technical transactions (20 days).

DG Belgica said that even before issuing MC 2020-02, ARTA has enforced the automatic approval provision of the law on several occasions. These include the issuance of Order of Automatic Approval to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board on August 13, 2019, the Food and Drug Administration on September 4, 2019, and the Securities and Exchange Commission on September 4, 2019. The circular is expected to help prevent further instances of delays in the processing of government transactions.

#### **Citizen’s Charter**

The agency issued Memorandum Circular No. 2019-002 setting the guidelines on the implementation of the citizen’s charter. The guidelines were a product of consultative meetings with oversight agencies including the Civil Service Commission, Office of the Ombudsman, DBM, Governance Commission for GOCCs, DILG, DTI, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Office of the Solicitor General. The World Bank also participated in the meetings.

#### **Streamlining and reengineering**

ARTA’s Better Regulations Office, Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation Office, and the Regulatory Management Training Division are working to improve regulatory management and compliance in government agencies. DG Belgica noted that Malacañang’s Administrative Order No. 23 signed on February 21, 2020 complements ARTA’s MC 2020-02. AO 23 seeks to eliminate overregulation and promote efficient government service.

During the webinar, DG Belgica also highlighted the NEHEMIA program, a “sectoral-based streamlining effort to reduce the time, cost, requirements, and procedures in sectors of economic significance by 52% within 52 weeks.” Launched on March 4, 2020, it adopts a “whole of government approach” in streamlining government services. This is a departure from the current practice of government agencies functioning independently from each other, which tends to create redundant processes and requirements. For its first year, ARTA and its partners will focus on five key sectors: (1) connectivity telecommunications, (2) housing and construction, (3) food and pharmacology, (4) logistics, and (5) power and energy. According to the agency’s latest accomplishment report, the reform program shall be headed by the secretaries of the departments exercising jurisdiction over each of these sectors.

Report card survey, citizen charter submissions, regulatory impact assessment trainings, and establishing a regulatory management system are some of the agency’s other initiatives to facilitate streamlining and reengineering in government.

### **Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS)**

ARTA encourages the creation of BOSS in LGUs across the country. This year, agency representatives visited all 17 Metro Manila LGU BOSS during the business renewal season. In terms of automation of the business permitting and licensing system, ARTA cites as example Valenzuela’s Paspas Permit and Parañaque’s Project ELO. ARTA also took the initiative to launch a National Business One-Stop Shop where NGAs and LGUs “co-locate, unify, automate the services of social agencies in accepting business applications.” It was launched on February 28, 2020 at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City. “Kung kayo po ay gustong mag register ng inyong one-person corporation, pwede na po kayong magpunta na lamang sa SEC, and fill out their unified form, at sila na po ang magtutulak ng inyong information sa BIR, SSS, Philhealth, PAG-IBIG [If you would like to register your one-person corporation, you can proceed to SEC and fill out their unified form, and they will be the one to provide your information to BIR, SSS, Philhealth, PAG-IBIG]” explained DG Belgica.

### **Pandemic response**

DG Belgica cited the President’s directive during his message to the nation on March 24, 2020 as basis for the agency’s response to the pandemic. “I call on relevant agencies to ensure speedy delivery of basic medical supplies and equipment. From the approval, importation, and delivery, everything must go smoothly to make sure we do not waste time. Cut red tape,” said the President.

The agency issued ARTA Advisory 1 on March 25, 2020 (Adoption of Fast-track measures During the Covid-19 State of Calamity), ARTA Advisory 2 on April 15, 2020 (Red Tape Reduction Measures on the Creation of One-Stop Shops), and BOC-ARTA-FDA JMC No. 1 Series of 2020 on April 2, 2020 (Creation of Bayanihan One-Stop Shop for Securing License to Operate to Import Covid-19 Critical Commodities for Commercial Distribution).

### **Webinar series**

In a press statement, ARTA reported that it has partnered with the World Bank on a webinar series featuring countries excelling on e-governance. The first two webinars were held on September 15, 2020 featuring the E-Governance Agency of Moldova, and September 18, 2020 featuring the Embassy of New Zealand. The events were streamed live on the agency’s Facebook page. “Because of the national crisis, there has been an accelerated united effort of the administration towards e-governance. This series of webinars will help us learn from the efficient and automated processes of

other countries,” said DG Belgica. (source: [https://arta.gov.ph/pages/documents/ARTA\\_launches\\_series\\_of\\_webinars\\_with\\_countries\\_excelling\\_on\\_e-governance.php](https://arta.gov.ph/pages/documents/ARTA_launches_series_of_webinars_with_countries_excelling_on_e-governance.php))

### **Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS)**

For its part, DICT has launched the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS) to help achieve the objectives of this law. iBPLS is a cloud-based platform that enables business owners and investors to apply for permits and licenses online.

“Whereas it used to take two days to process applications, it now takes an hour. This has the potential to be a major transformation of a key government service. The eBPLS makes the process convenient and easy, as well as transparent for its users. It also minimizes human intervention, errors, and opportunities for fraud or corruption,” explained Ms. Teresita Roberto, Chief of the Government Digital Transformation Bureau at DICT. She also noted that the system allows LGUs to leverage data for better public policies. (source: <https://customers.microsoft.com/EN-GB/story/811249-dict-government-azure-philippines>)

ARTA has called on LGUs to adopt the system to streamline the process of applying for business, building, and occupancy permits. “As part of our strong push towards e-governance, we want to remind all LGUs that RA 11032 requires them to automate their Business Permitting Systems until 2021. Those who are not yet automated may already use the IBPLS software and system of DICT that incorporates the Business Permits and the Building Permits Registration Systems. However, for LGUs who have already automated their permits systems, they should now work towards linking their systems with the Central Business Portal that ARTA and DICT will be rolling out by November this year. Rest assured that ARTA will help you in this transition – from streamlining to automation – to ensure a red tape-free and more convenient service to the public,” said DG Jeremiah Belgica in a press statement. (source: [https://arta.gov.ph/pages/documents/ARTA\\_to\\_LGUs\\_-\\_Automate\\_business\\_and\\_building\\_permits\\_now\\_using\\_DICTs\\_iBPLS.php](https://arta.gov.ph/pages/documents/ARTA_to_LGUs_-_Automate_business_and_building_permits_now_using_DICTs_iBPLS.php))

### **Other information**

Information on other activities, as well as data on reforms, complaints handled, and cases filed are available in ARTA’s implementation report, which is posted on the agency’s website: [www.arta.gov.ph](http://www.arta.gov.ph).

## Ways and Means

### **RA 11256: An Act to Strengthen the Country's Gross International Reserves (GIR), Amending for the Purpose Sections 32 and 151 of the National Internal Revenue Code, as Amended, and for Other Purposes**

*Under this law, income derived from the sale of gold to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) by registered small-scale miners and accredited traders shall be exempt from taxation.*

The Bureau of Internal Revenue issued Revenue Regulation No. 4-2020 dated February 18, 2020 to serve as the IRR of this law. It took effect on March 6, 2020.

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno reported to the Senate DEAR that there has been an increase in BSP's gold purchases for the year, from AU9,306 in 2019 to AU19,903 from January to May 2020. The amount of gold purchases for the first 5 months of the year 2020 is already above the 9-year annual average of BSP's domestic gold purchases amounting to around AU16,188 FTO. BSP noted that BIR imposed the taxes during the 2012 to 2019 period. Prior to this period, BSP's annual average gold purchases for 2009 to 2010 amounted to AU898,207 FTO. As of August 2020, there were 74 registered gold sellers/traders.

## Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

### **RA 11222: An Act Allowing the Rectification of Simulated Birth Records and Prescribing Administrative Adoption Proceedings for the Purpose**

*Known as the Simulated Birth Rectification Act, this removes criminal, civil or administrative penalties for the act of simulating the birth of a child, provided that the simulation of birth was made for the best interest of the child, and that the child has been consistently considered and treated by such person or persons as her, his, or their own daughter or son. Those who simulated the birth of a child under the conditions provided above may avail of administrative proceedings for the adoption and rectification of the simulated birth record of such child.*

*The IRR of this law was signed on October 7, 2019 and published on the Official Gazette on November 25, 2019.*

DSWD Undersecretary Luzviminda C. Ilagan reported to the Senate DEAR that the agency is “popularizing” the program through orientations and media interviews. She said that bulk of inquiries from interested applicants have been received and responded to appropriately. However, the DSWD official noted that not all cases with simulated birth certificates are covered by the law. In this case, petitioners or prospective adopters will have to go through the courts to rectify the birth certificates.

The Department said that the 2020 General Appropriations Act provided PhP 665,244 under CMF to implement this act.

### **RA 11313: An Act Defining Gender-Based Sexual Harassment in Streets, Public Spaces, Online, Workplaces, and Educational or Training Institutions, Providing Protective Measures and Prescribing Penalties Therefor**

*This law penalizes gender-based sexual harassment committed in streets and public places (including online). These include catcalling, wolf-whistling, unwanted invitations, slurs (misogynistic, transphobic, homophobic and sexist in nature), persistent and uninvited comments or gestures on a person's appearance, relentless requests for personal details, statement of sexual comments and suggestions, public masturbation or flashing of private parts, groping, or any other verbal or physical advances that threaten one's sense of personal space and physical safety. Local government units (LGUs) are primarily responsible for enforcing this law. It requires LGUs to pass an ordinance to localize this law, disseminate or display copies of the law, impose fines, and create an anti-sexual harassment hotline, among others. Meanwhile, the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Information and Communications Technology are mandated to oversee the implementation of this act. The IRR of this law was signed on October 28, 2019.*

Atty. Kristine Rosary E. Yuzon-Chavez, PCW Executive Director, informed the Senate DEAR of the following milestones in the implementation of this law:

#### **Crafting the IRR**

The IRR was crafted by a technical drafting committee composed of PCW, Commission on Higher Education, Commission on Human Rights, DOH, DICT, DOLE, DILG, DSWD, Land Transportation Office, Metro Manila Development Authority, Philippine National Police, TESDA, Democratic Socialist Women

of the Philippines, Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal, and Women's Legal and Human Rights Bureau. The IRR was approved after 14 meetings and regional consultations in Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Pampanga, Masbate and Metro Manila organized in partnership with Plan International Philippines.

In a press release on the signing of the IRR, PCW noted that the Safe Spaces Act "is an attempt to eradicate gender-based harassment, enclosed under the umbrella of Violence Against Women (VAW), because figures show that, despite the existing laws protecting Juanas, VAW still persists, a manifestation of gender inequality." (source: <https://pcw.gov.ph/safe-spaces-act-irr-signed/>)

### **Awareness campaign**

Atty. Yuzon-Chavez reported that in January 2020, PCW collaborated with civil society and non-government organizations on the production and dissemination of information, communication, and educational material to create awareness of the law. While PCW and its partners agreed to produce the material, the pandemic forced them to revisit their action plans and timelines.

### **Coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)**

PCW coordinated with CHED to facilitate the amendment of existing sexual harassment policies in line with RA 11313. CHED has created a technical working group to study the matter.

### **Implementation at the local level**

The agency is working with DILG to develop a joint policy to facilitate the localization of the law's provisions at the provincial, city, municipal and barangay level. They will also produce a handbook containing templates for developing ordinances and implementation standards to guide the LGUs. PCW hopes to issue the joint circular with DILG by yearend.

## Uncategorized

### RA 11394: An Act Mandating Public and Private Educational Institutions to Provide Neutral Desks to Students

*This law mandates public and private educational institutions to provide armchair desks suitable for both right-handed and left-handed students. They are required to provide neutral desks equivalent to 10 percent of the student population within 1 year from the effectivity of this law.*

TESDA Secretary Isidro S. Lapeña informed the Senate DEAR of the issuance of Memorandum No. 374-2019 dated September 3, 2020 informing all TESDA Officials, Regional/Provincial Directors, and TTI Administrators of the enactment of this law. Within 1 year from the effectivity of the act, various TESDA institutions have provided neutral desks to TESDA learners, as outlined in the table below:

Region	No. of neutral desks	Remarks
NCR	14	This corresponds to the number of long tables and chairs which accommodate more than one learner per working/preparation table
CAR	1,118	-
I	104	-
II	975	-
III	582	-
IV-A	584	Institutions use tables and chairs as neutral desks in the lecture rooms
IV-B	43	Institutions use tables and chairs as neutral desks in the lecture rooms
V	248	-
VI	-	-
VII	-	Institutions in the region are using learning tables in the lecture rooms while the procurement for the specified arm-chairs is ongoing
VIII	115	
IX	184	Institutions are using long/fornica tables and chairs in their learning facilities
X	-	-
XI	5	Most of the institutions throughout the region have been using tables in the workstations, lecture rooms and contextual areas. However, they did not provide the number of tables in their report
XII	1,633	Tables and chairs are provided to accommodate left-handed students
CARAGA	2,033	Number of armchairs, monobloc chairs, long/short tables
BARMM	-	-
Total	7,635	-

Table 36: Status of installation of neutral desks in TESDA institutions per region, 2020 (TESDA)

## **RA 11439: An Act Providing for the Regulation and Organization of Islamic Banks**

*Under this law, the Monetary Board is authorized to establish Islamic banks or Islamic banking units in conventional banks whose objectives and operations do not involve interest (riba), and which conducts business transactions in accordance with Shari'ah principles. BSP shall exercise regulatory powers and supervision over Islamic banking operations.*

BSP Governor Benjamin E. Diokno informed the Senate DEAR that before the declaration of a Public Health Emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the central bank has received numerous inquiries and has held exploratory discussions with foreign and domestic investors on establishing Islamic banks or Islamic banking units. However, it has not yet received a formal application from these potential investors.

In the meantime, BSP oversees the implementation of this law by issuing relevant Circulars, performing policy studies, and conducting training/education programs.

### **Implementing rules and regulations**

Governor Diokno reported that BSP has so far issued two Circulars to implement this law. Circular No. 1069 on the Guidelines on the Establishment of Islamic Banks and Islamic Banking Units specifies licensing requirements, while Circular No. 1070 on the Shari'ah Governance Framework outlines the rules and regulations to implement Section 5 (Shari'ah Advisory Councils) of the law. Both Circulars were issued on December 27, 2019. BSP is expected to issue other Memoranda or Circulars in the future, particularly on Reporting, Capital Adequacy, and Liquidity Framework for Islamic banks and Islamic banking units.

### **Tax neutrality**

Section 14 of this law calls on the government to "achieve tax neutral treatment between Islamic banking transactions and equivalent conventional banking transactions within the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (RA 8424), as amended." However, the government has yet to issue the required rules and regulations to implement this provision. Governor Diokno believes that the lack of tax neutrality hinders the growth of Islamic banking in the Philippines. "For Islamic banking and finance to be sustainable, it is important that the tax neutrality provision of the law be implemented accordingly. This important component should be addressed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue in its revenue regulations (RR) so that Islamic finance transactions are taxed no more heavily (and no more lightly) than conventional finance transactions," he said.

Governor Diokno reported that a draft RR on tax neutrality has been endorsed to the DOF by the BSP-led Inter-Agency Technical Working Group on Islamic Banking. The other members of the group are: Securities and Exchange Commission, BIR, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, Insurance Commission, Philippines Financial Reporting Standards Council, DOF, BTr, and National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

"The approval of the BIR's RR on Tax Neutrality will create a level-playing field for Islamic banking products and services. Lack of tax neutrality is considered a primary hurdle that must be addressed to ensure a sustainable Islamic banking industry. The said RR, once approved, will convey to the market that the Philippines fosters an open and competitive financial system and an industry that will not only promote financial stability, but also one which will meet the needs of the financially underserved population, create better opportunities, and promote a high quality of life for all Filipinos," he noted.



### **Policy studies, training, and education**

BSP has formed a Task Force on Islamic Banking to support the implementation of this law. According to the Governor, the task force is currently conducting a series of policy studies “to implement the provisions covering prudential reporting, liquidity and capital adequacy framework for Islamic banks and/or Islamic banking units.” He noted that BSP may establish a dedicated Islamic banking unit in the future “if and when more Islamic banking players operate in the Philippines.” In the meantime, the task force serves as the BSP’s main instrument in drafting rules and regulations, and in coordinating efforts on Islamic banking matters.

BSP has sent four personnel to a capacity building seminar organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Islamic banking and finance. The said personnel are currently leading efforts to conduct research and benchmarking with other jurisdictions to ensure that financial facilities to be offered to Islamic banks in the Philippines are at par with international standards. The end goal of their activities is to generate a framework/structure of financial facilities for Islamic banks. Such framework/structure will form part of the IRR to be issued by BSP to implement this law, which will be in the form of either Memorandum to All Authorized Banks or Circular.

The Governor acknowledged that “the lack of awareness on Islamic banking and finance among regulators and stakeholders is a significant challenge in the implementation of RA 11439.” In response, BSP conducted a series of capacity building activities on Islamic banking for representatives of regulatory agencies, the banking industry, and other stakeholders through an ADB-funded technical assistance (TA) project. Launched in September 2019 and completed in July 2020, the TA benefited 1,320 participants from different regulatory agencies and banking institutions.

Another challenge that can be addressed by training and education is the shortage of Shari’ah Scholars who are qualified in banking and finance. The Governor observed that this problem is not necessarily unique to the Philippines. To help address this, BSP hosted a workshop on Islamic finance in Arabic from February 3 to 7, 2020. Moreover, the ADB TA mentioned above also included a module specifically intended for potential Shari’ah scholars. “We note that under existing rules, Islamic banks or Islamic banking units are given the flexibility to engage international Shari’ah consultants. BSP will continue to maintain flexibility in its approach to allow industry players to thrive in this new environment,” added Governor Diokno.

Moreover, BSP has issued a set of Frequently Asked Questions on Islamic Banking through Memorandum No. 2020-052 on June 18, 2020.

### **Attracting investors**

The Covid-19 pandemic has made attracting potential foreign and domestic investors more challenging. The BSP Governor called for support initiatives of government agencies such as DTI and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority to promote Islamic banking and engage potential investors.

“It bears emphasis that around 92.4% (109 out of 118) of cities and municipalities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao remains unbanked. Moreover, at present, the Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank is the only Islamic bank in the country. Clearly, there is a great need for government cooperation/coordination in developing the Islamic banking and finance industry in the Philippines. The development of the said industry will create opportunities for greater financial inclusion especially for the underserved areas in southern Philippines, including BARMM,” he said.

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