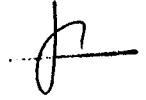


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SENATE
S. B. No. 1564

REC'D



(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1414, 1417, 1426, 1431, 1449, 1474, 1542, 1546, 1558 and 1561, taking into consideration P.S. Resolution No. 409)

Prepared by the Committee on Finance, Ways and Means, Economic Affairs, and Health and Demography with Senators Marcos, Angara, Recto, Sotto, Zubiri and Cayetano as authors thereof.

AN ACT

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO EXERCISE NECESSARY POWERS TO CARRY OUT THE DECLARED NATIONAL POLICY TO RESPOND TO CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE 2019 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) PANDEMIC AND PROVIDING MECHANISM TO ACCELERATE THE RECOVERY AND BOLSTER THE RESILIENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SEC. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as “Bayanihan to
2 Recover As One Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and
5 independence of the nation and free the people from poverty, particularly in the
6 aftermath of natural and man-made disasters, through policies that provide adequate
7 social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved

1 quality of life for all. Towards this end, and in cognizance of the adverse impact of the
2 2019 Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic to the Philippine economy and
3 society, the state shall likewise establish mechanisms to achieve the following
4 objectives:

5 (a) Reduce the adverse impact of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic well-
6 being of Filipinos through the provision of assistance, subsidies and
7 other forms of socioeconomic relief;

8 (b) Sustain efforts to test, trace, isolate and treat COVID-19 cases to
9 mitigate the transmission of the disease and prevent further loss of
10 lives;

11 (c) Enhance the capacity of the Philippine health care system to eliminate,
12 prevent and control disease outbreaks and pandemics and mitigate the
13 effects of other health or life threatening concerns by ensuring
14 budgetary support for healthcare;

15 (d) Mitigate the economic cost and losses stemming from the COVID-19
16 pandemic;

17 (e) Restore public trust and confidence on social and economic institutions;

18 (f) Accelerate the recovery and bolster the resilience of the Philippine
19 economy through measures grounded on economic inclusivity and
20 collective growth;

21 (g) Accommodate alternative modes of transportation, including a network
22 of bicycle lanes in all roads in every city and municipality, for the people
23 who may opt to use the bicycle as an alternative mode of transportation
24 to address health, environment, and traffic concerns; and

25 (h) Promote and protect the collective interests of all Filipinos in these
26 challenging times.

27 By reason thereof, and in order to optimize the efforts of the
28 President to carry out the tasks needed to realize the aforementioned
29 objectives, the President is authorized to exercise the powers granted to
30 him under Section 3, subject to the limitations herein provided.

31
32 SEC. 3. *Authorized Powers.* –The President is hereby authorized to exercise
33 the following powers that are necessary and proper to carry out the declared national
34 policy to respond to crisis brought about by the pandemic:

- 1 (a) Following World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and best practices,
2 adopt and implement measures to prevent or suppress further transmission
3 and spread of COVID-19 through effective education, detection, protection,
4 and treatment: PROVIDED, That massive testing for COVID-19 shall be
5 conducted immediately in areas in the country where higher possibility of
6 transmission of COVID-19 may occur or have occurred. The Department of
7 Health (DOH) shall adopt a COVID-19 disease surveillance protocol that shall
8 define minimum health standards for workplaces and business activities which
9 shall include COVID-19 testing and contact tracing: PROVIDED, FURTHER,
10 That the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall identify
11 and prioritize the areas and business activities critically impacted and severely
12 affected by COVID-19 and with high probability of COVID-19 transmission,
13 and coordinate with the relevant Local Government Units (LGUs) and
14 government agencies for the implementation of the COVID-19 surveillance
15 protocol, testing kits shall be distributed to DOH-accredited government
16 hospitals that can perform testing. The DILG, in coordination with the LGUs
17 and other government agencies, shall distribute the testing kits to DOH-
18 accredited government hospitals that can perform testing;
- 19 (b) Expedite and streamline the accreditation of polymerase chain reaction testing
20 kits and facilitate prompt testing by public and designated private institutions of
21 suspected and probable COVID-19 cases and those with no symptoms but
22 with relevant travel history or contact with a confirmed, suspected or probable
23 case and the compulsory and immediate isolation and treatment of confirmed,
24 suspected and probable COVID-19 patients: PROVIDED, That the cost of
25 treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered under the National Health
26 Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
27 (PhilHealth): PROVIDED, FURTHER, That in addition to testing, isolation and
28 treatment of these patients, the contacts of these patients shall also be
29 immediately and properly traced;
- 30 (c) Adopt a protocol on the conduct of Baseline Polymerase Chain Reaction
31 Testing (Baseline PCR Testing) for COVID-19. For this purpose, the Inter-
32 Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Infectious
33 Diseases, in full cooperation with the DOH, the DILG, the Department of Labor
34 and Employment (DOLE), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and
35 the Bureau of Immigration (BI), shall ensure the following:

- 1 (i) Adequate number of COVID-19 testing centers that provide available,
2 affordable and accessible testing to the public, subject to reimbursement
3 by PhilHealth under existing guidelines: PROVIDED, that people in
4 geographically isolated or highly populated and depressed areas shall be
5 provided the same level of access to COVID-19 testing;
- 6 (ii) Hiring of skilled medical technologists, molecular biologists, and other
7 skilled laboratory technicians to conduct COVID-19 testing to achieve an
8 ideal personnel-to-laboratory ratio taking into consideration DOH targets;
9 and
- 10 (iii) Procurement and distribution of supplies for COVID-19 PCR testing based
11 on, among others, the current levels and projections of the following:
12 (1) number of patients and healthcare workers with severe or critical
13 symptoms and history of travel or exposure; and
14 (2) number of patients and healthcare workers with mild symptoms,
15 relevant history of travel or exposure, and considered vulnerable:
16 PROVIDED, that LGUs may implement their own procurement,
17 distribution and monitoring program consistent with the overall
18 provisions of this Act and the guidelines of the DOH.
- 19 (d) Provide an emergency subsidy to around eighteen (18) million low income
20 households under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ): PROVIDED,
21 That the subsidy shall amount to a minimum of Five Thousand Pesos
22 (P5,000.00) to a maximum of Eight Thousand Pesos (P8,000.00) a month
23 for two (2) months: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the subsidy shall be
24 computed based on the prevailing regional minimum wage rates:
25 PROVIDED, FINALLY, That the subsidy received from the current
26 conditional cash transfer program and rice subsidy shall be taken into
27 consideration in the computation of the emergency subsidy as provided for
28 in this Act;
- 29 (e) Provide wage subsidies to critically-impacted displaced workers including
30 probationary, project, seasonal, contractual and casual employees,
31 freelancers, the self-employed and repatriated Overseas Filipino Workers
32 (OFWs) including OFWs whose deployment were suspended due to a
33 government-imposed deployment ban: PROVIDED, That the amount of
34 wage amelioration shall be equivalent to One Hundred percent (100%) of
35 the applicable minimum wage rate for a maximum of two (2) months:
36 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the workers have been directly impacted by

1 the COVID-19 pandemic, such as those in the tourism, construction,
2 creative industry including but not limited to film and audiovisual workers,
3 public transportation and trade industries, private basic education schools
4 and higher education institutions, and those that support priority programs
5 of the government: PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, That any assistance
6 given to OFWs shall be separate and distinct from the benefits or
7 assistance, if any, they receive as members of the Overseas Workers
8 Welfare Administration (OWWA): PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, that the
9 Social Security System (SSS) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)
10 shall also provide free registration for freelancers to promote their
11 integration into the formal economy: PROVIDED, FINALLY, that any
12 subsidy previously received under Republic Act No. 11469 does not
13 preclude the worker from receiving the wage amelioration provided herein.

- 14 (f) Ensure that repatriated and returning displaced OFWs have access to
15 livelihood assistance, skills and training programs, loan assistance, and
16 employment opportunities to ensure the proper reintegration of these OFWs,
17 and the full utilization of their skills for national development;
- 18 (g) Ensure that all public health workers are protected by providing them with a
19 “COVID-19 special risk allowance”, in addition to the hazard pay granted
20 under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers or Republic Act No. 7305
- 21 (h) Direct the Philhealth to shoulder all medical expenses of public and private
22 health workers in case of exposure to COVID-19 or any work-related injury
23 or disease during the duration of the pandemic;
- 24 (i) Provide compensation of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to
25 public and private health workers who have contracted or who may contract
26 severe COVID-19 infection while in the line of duty: PROVIDED, FURTHER,
27 That a compensation of One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) shall be given to
28 public and private health workers, who have died or may die while fighting
29 the COVID-19 pandemic: PROVIDED, FINALLY, That this shall have
30 retroactive application from February 1, 2020;
- 31 (j) Provide the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries the opportunity to enhanced
32 access to credit facilities after the disruption of the food supply chain by the
33 COVID-19 pandemic. The payment of unpaid principal, interests, penalties,
34 and surcharges of loans used for land acquisition to any and all government
35 agencies and Government-Owned and – Controlled Corporations (GOCCs),
36 including the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) shall be condoned;

1 (k) The pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 10931 or otherwise known as
2 the "Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act," Republic Act No.
3 8545 or otherwise known as the "Expanded Government Assistance to
4 Students and Teachers in Private Education Act" or the "E-GASTPE Act,"
5 and Republic Act No. 10533 or otherwise known as the "Enhanced Basic
6 Education Act of 2013" or the "K to 12 Law," to the contrary notwithstanding,
7 provide tuition subsidy to students who are currently not receiving any
8 assistance from government educational subsidy or voucher programs but
9 are now facing financial difficulties brought about by work stoppage and
10 closure of establishments due to the community quarantine as follows:

11 (i) Qualified students in Private Tertiary Education who are neither part
12 of the Listahanan of the Department of Social Welfare and
13 Development (DSWD) nor covered under the Tertiary Education
14 Subsidy (TES) as provided in Republic Act No. 10931 shall receive a
15 tuition subsidy in the amount of Eight Thousand Pesos (P 8,000.00)
16 per student: PROVIDED, that the geographic prioritization of areas
17 where there are no State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and
18 Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) under Republic Act No.
19 10931 shall be suspended to make qualified students under this
20 subsection eligible; and

21 (ii) Qualified students in private elementary and junior high school, and
22 senior high school who are currently not receiving assistance under
23 the Education Service Contracting (ESC) as provided in Republic Act
24 No. 8545, or Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS VP) as
25 provided in Republic Act No. 10533, as may be applicable, shall
26 receive a tuition subsidy in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P
27 3,000.00) per student.

28 Education subsidies granted under this subsection shall be released
29 directly to the Private Tertiary Education Institutions or Private Basic
30 Education Schools, respectively, for the purpose of applying the subsidy
31 for unpaid tuition in School Year 2019-2020 or for payment of tuition fee
32 for school year 2020-2021: PROVIDED, that the subsidy shall be released
33 prior to the opening of School Year 2020-2021 or within a reasonable
34 period after school opening but in no case later than September 2020, in a
35 manner similar to the TES, ESC, and SHS VP.

- 1 (l) Provide a one-time cash assistance to affected and displaced teaching and
2 non-teaching personnel, including part-time faculty, in Private Basic
3 Education Schools and Tertiary Education Institutions and part-time faculty
4 in SUCs due to the deferred opening or reduced offering of classes during
5 the community quarantine: PROVIDED, that the subsidy shall amount to a
6 minimum of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000) up to a maximum of Eight
7 Thousand Pesos (P8,000) computed based on the prevailing regional
8 minimum wage rates;
- 9 (m) Ensure that all LGUs are acting within the letter and spirit of all the rules,
10 regulations and directives issued by the National Government pursuant to
11 this Act; are implementing standards of Community Quarantine (CQ)
12 consistent with what the National Government has laid down for the subject
13 area, while allowing LGUs to continue exercising their autonomy in matters
14 undefined by the National Government or are within the parameters it has
15 set; and are fully cooperating towards a unified, cohesive and orderly
16 implementation of the national policy to address COVID-19: PROVIDED,
17 That all LGUs shall be authorized to utilize more than five percent (5%) of
18 the amount allocated for their calamity fund subject to additional funding
19 and support from the National Government;
- 20 (n) Continue to enforce measures to protect the people from hoarding,
21 profiteering, injurious speculations, manipulation of prices, product
22 deceptions, and cartels, monopolies or other combinations in restraint of
23 trade, or other pernicious practices affecting the supply, distribution and
24 movement of food, clothing, hygiene and sanitation products, medicine and
25 medical supplies, fuel, fertilizers, chemicals, building materials, implements,
26 machinery equipment and spare parts required in agriculture, industry and
27 other essential services, and other articles of prime necessity, whether
28 imported or locally produced or manufactured;
- 29 (o) Ensure that donation, acceptance and distribution of health products
30 intended to address the COVID-19 pandemic are not unnecessarily delayed
31 and that health products for donation duly certified by the regulatory agency
32 or their accredited third party from countries with established regulation shall
33 automatically be cleared: PROVIDED, That this shall not apply to health
34 products which do not require a certification or clearance from the Food and
35 Drug Administration (FDA);

1 (p) Undertake the procurement of the following as the need arises, in the most
2 expeditious manner, as exemptions from the provisions of Republic Act No.
3 9184 or the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and other relevant laws:

4 (1) Goods, which may include personal protective equipment such as
5 gloves, gowns, masks, goggles, face shields; surgical equipment and
6 supplies; laboratory equipment and its reagents; medical equipment
7 and devices; support and maintenance for laboratory and medical
8 equipment, surgical equipment and supplies; medical supplies, tools,
9 and consumables such as alcohol, sanitizers, tissue, thermometers,
10 hand soap, detergent, sodium hydrochloride, cleaning materials,
11 povidone iodine, common medicines (e.g., paracetamol tablet and
12 suspension, mefenamic acid, vitamins tablet and suspension, hyoscine
13 tablet and suspension, oral rehydration solution, and cetirizine tablet
14 and suspension); testing kits, and such other supplies or equipment as
15 may be determined by the DOH and other relevant government
16 agencies: PROVIDED, That the DOH shall prioritize the allocation and
17 distribution of the aforesaid goods, supplies and other resources to the
18 following:

- 19 i. Public health facilities in the regions, provinces, or cities, that are
20 designated as COVID-19 referral hospitals, such as, but not
21 limited to, Philippine General Hospital (PGH), Lung Center of the
22 Philippines (LCP), and Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital;
23 ii. Private hospitals which have existing capacities to provide
24 support care and treatment to COVID-19 patients; and
25 iii. Public and private laboratories that have existing capacities to
26 test suspected COVID-19 patients;

27 (2) Goods and services for social amelioration measures in favor of
28 affected communities;

29 (3) Lease of real property or venue for use to house health workers or
30 serve as quarantine centers, medical relief and aid distribution
31 locations, or temporary medical facilities;

32 (4) Establishment, construction, and operation of temporary medical
33 facilities;

34 (5) Utilities, telecommunications, and other critical services in relation to
35 operation of quarantine centers, medical relief and aid distribution
36 centers and temporary medical facilities; and

- 1 (6) Ancillary services related to the foregoing.
- 2 (q) Partner with the Philippine Red Cross, as the primary humanitarian agency
3 that is auxiliary to the government in giving aid to the people, subject to
4 reimbursement, in the distribution of goods and services incidental in the
5 fight against COVID-19;
- 6 (r) Engage temporary Human Resources for Health (HRH) such as medical and
7 allied medical staff to complement or supplement the current health
8 workforce or to man the temporary medical facilities to be established in
9 accordance with Section 3 p(4) of this Act: PROVIDED, That HRH to be
10 hired on temporary basis shall receive the appropriate compensation and
11 allowances: PROVIDED, FURTHER, That all HRH serving in the front line
12 during the state of calamity due to COVID-19, shall receive an actual hazard
13 duty pay from the government: PROVIDED, FINALLY, That DOH, the DOLE
14 and its attached agencies shall closely coordinate to ensure that returning
15 OFW-health care workers, or those whose deployments were suspended
16 due to COVID-19, shall be properly referred to the ongoing hiring of
17 temporary HRH by DOH;
- 18 (s) Ensure the availability of credit to the productive sectors of the economy
19 especially in the countryside through measures such as, but not limited to,
20 lowering the effective lending rates of interest and reserve requirements of
21 lending institutions: PROVIDED, That credit accommodation to the Micro,
22 small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), as well as those who are self-
23 employed, shall be imposed a low interest, payable within three (3) years
24 and shall not require any collateral if the loan does not exceed Three Million
25 Pesos (P 3,000,000.00): PROVIDED, FURTHER, That loans extended to
26 corporations or enterprises in the transportation, tourism, manufacturing,
27 export-oriented and agricultural sectors, which are not MSMEs, shall be
28 concessional and payable within three (3) to six (6) years;
- 29 (t) Direct the appropriate government financial institutions to develop a loan
30 program for institutions of learning that have been affected by the decrease
31 in enrollment due to the community quarantine or to enable these institutions
32 to adequately prepare to implement blended learning: PROVIDED, That the
33 terms of the loan shall be more reasonable than the prevailing market terms:
34 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the availment of such loan shall be
35 conditioned on the non-implementation of an increase in tuition and other
36 fees for the next school or academic year;

- 1 (u) Direct the Small Business Corporation (SBC) to expand its existing loan
2 programs for MSMEs through a combination of increasing available loanable
3 funds, reducing eligibility requirements, increasing maximum loan amounts
4 per borrower, reducing interest rates, extending loan terms, utilization of
5 financial technologies to expand reach and increase access and set fast
6 turn-around loan processing time; and allow the use of the loan proceeds for
7 payroll costs, materials and suppliers, mortgage payments, rent, utilities,
8 including fuel and storage, creation of new supportive businesses, re-
9 purposing of existing business capital, any other business debt obligations
10 that were incurred before the covered period or acquisition of new
11 technologies and systems to adjust business processes for resiliency;
- 12 (v) Direct the LBP and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to
13 introduce a low interest loan program available to non-essential businesses
14 to assist and encourage them to continue investing in their businesses:
15 PROVIDED, That priority shall be given to agri-fishery businesses and non-
16 essential businesses that are small and medium enterprises, including start-
17 ups;
- 18 (w) Direct the Philippine Guarantee Corporation (PhilGuarantee) to issue an
19 expanded government guarantee program for non-essential businesses, to
20 ease current rules and regulations and give preference to critically-impacted
21 businesses, MSMEs, and activities that support DOH initiatives towards
22 ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of health care services, and to
23 guarantee the loan portfolio of partner financial institutions of eligible MSME
24 loans.
- 25 (x) Liberalize the grant of incentives for the manufacture or importation of critical
26 or needed equipment or supplies for the carrying-out of the policy declared
27 herein, including healthcare equipment and supplies: PROVIDED, That
28 importation of these equipment and supplies shall be exempt from import
29 duties, taxes and other fees;
- 30 (y) Ensure the availability of essential goods, in particular food and medicine, by
31 adopting measures as may reasonably be necessary to facilitate and/or
32 minimize disruption to the supply chain, especially for basic commodities and
33 services to the maximum extent possible;
- 34 (z) Require businesses to prioritize and accept contracts, subject to fair and
35 reasonable terms, for materials and services necessary to promote the
36 herein declared national policy;

1 (aa) Direct the Department of Agriculture (DA) to provide extension support,
2 financial subsidies or other forms of assistance to qualified agri-fishery
3 enterprises, farmers, fisherfolk, and other agricultural workers;

4 (bb) Direct the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and such other
5 agencies or instrumentalities that may be authorized under this act and its
6 implementing rules and regulations (IRR), to extend the following assistance
7 to critically impacted businesses in the transportation industry:

- 8 a. Grant emergency credit lines for purposes of funding operations;
- 9 b. Grant low interest loans or long-term credit facility to allow the
10 restructuring of existing debts and assist in rehabilitation;
- 11 c. Provide credit guarantee schemes to guarantee bank loans and credit
12 lines;
- 13 d. Provide grants for applicable regulatory fees;
- 14 e. Allow substitution of refund option to travel vouchers;
- 15 f. Provide grants for fuel subsidy, as may be necessary; and
- 16 g. Provide grants for training, equipment, facilities, test kits and necessary
17 personnel, on coping with increased health risks arising from infectious
18 diseases.

19 Within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this act, the DOTr
20 or any of its instrumentalities shall prescribe the eligibility requirements and
21 other terms and conditions for any of the above-mentioned assistance,
22 subject to the guidelines issued under this section.

23 For purposes of item (d) herein, the grants may include
24 reductions in (i) rates through the removal of value-added tax (vat) and
25 local taxes as may be applicable, and (ii) fees and charges imposed by any
26 regulatory agency and LGU. Such grants shall be payable, respectively, to
27 the BIR, the relevant regulatory agencies and LGUs: provided, that, the
28 grant shall be chargeable against the fund created for the purpose of
29 implementing this section. Provided, further, that any critically impacted
30 business may avail of the grant for a period of not more than six (6)
31 months.

32 For purposes of item (b) and (c) herein, the DOTr or any of its
33 instrumentalities shall utilize the loan and/or loan guarantee programs and
34 other loan related measures provided under this act, subject to the rules,
35 regulations and guidelines issued under the corresponding intervention:

1 provided, that, loan interventions implemented under this section shall be
2 exclusively for critically impacted business in the transportation industry
3 only.

4 Availment of any economic relief such as wage subsidy, loan, and
5 loan guarantees and other relief under the other provisions of this act, does
6 not disqualify such critically impacted businesses belonging to the
7 transportation industry from availing the economic relief provided under this
8 section.

9 The DOTr shall give preference to business entities that shall
10 require assistance for any activity that supports the Balik Probinsya,
11 Bagong Pag-asa Program under Executive Order (E.O.) No. 114 series of
12 2020.

- 13 (cc) Direct the Department of Tourism (DOT) to assist critically impacted
14 businesses that are tourism enterprises, in any of the following programs:
- 15 a. Low interest loans or issuance of loan guarantees with terms of up to
16 five (5) years for maintenance and operating expenses;
 - 17 b. Credit facilities for upgrading, rehabilitation, or modernization of current
18 establishments or facilities to be compliant with new health and safety
19 standards;
 - 20 c. Marketing and product development promotions and programs;
 - 21 d. Grants for education, training, and advising of tourism stakeholder for
22 the new normal alternative livelihood programs;
 - 23 e. Utilization of information technology for the improvement of tourism
24 services, development of a tourist tracking system for emergency
25 response, and establishment of spatial database to improve planning
26 capacity; and
 - 27 f. Any other relevant programs, including infrastructure, necessary to
28 mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 on the tourism industry.

29 For purposes of items (a) and (b) herein, government financial
30 institutions such as the LBP and DBP shall administer the loans for DOT
31 but subject to guidelines from the DOT that shall be prepared for these
32 purposes: PROVIDED, That the loan interventions implemented under this
33 Section shall be exclusively for accredited tourism enterprises only.

1 Availment of grants, loans or loan guarantees through other
2 provisions of this Act is not a disqualification for any tourism enterprise to
3 avail of any economic relief measures in this Section.

4 The DOT shall prefer establishments that support the (1) Balik
5 Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program under E.O. No. 114, series of 2020,
6 and (2) initiatives of the DOH towards ensuring an adequate and
7 responsive supply of health care services.

8 (dd) Direct the Department of Information and Communications Technology
9 (DICT) to accelerate the deployment of critical Information and
10 Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure, equipment, software, and
11 wireless technologies throughout the country to address the need for digital
12 connectivity, internet speed and stability, and Cybersecurity in E-Commerce,
13 E-Government, online learning, and telecommuting during the COVID-19
14 pandemic;

15 (ee) Regulate and limit the operation of all sectors of transportation through
16 land, sea or air, whether private or public and provide the necessary
17 infrastructure and support, including emergency pathways and pop-up bike
18 lanes, for commuters, particularly health workers and other frontliners;

19 (ff) Regulate traffic on all roads, streets, and bridges, and access thereto;
20 prohibit putting up of encroachments or obstacles; authorize the removal of
21 encroachments and illegal constructions in public places; and perform all
22 other related acts;

23 (gg) Continue to authorize alternative working arrangements for employees
24 and workers in the Executive Branch, and whenever it becomes necessary,
25 in other independent branches of government and constitutional bodies, and
26 the private sector;

27 (hh) Conserve and regulate the distribution and use of power, fuel, energy
28 and water, and ensure adequate supply of the same;

29 (ii) Ensure the proper management and segregation of waste, especially of
30 hazardous materials coming from health facilities, in the communities and
31 households in order to contain the COVID-19 virus and other diseases;

32 (jj) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, direct the discontinuance of
33 appropriated programs, projects or activities (P/A/P) of any agency of the
34 Executive Department, including GOCCs, in the FYs 2019 and 2020 General
35 Appropriations Act (GAA), whether released or unreleased, the allotments
36 for which remain unobligated, and utilize the savings generated therefrom to

1 augment the allocation for any item directly related to support operations and
2 response measures, which are necessary or beneficial in order to address
3 the COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with the herein declared national policy:
4 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That the following items in the budget shall be
5 prioritized for augmentation:

- 6 (1) Under the DOH – operational budgets of government hospitals,
7 primarily those identified for treatment of COVID-19; prevention and
8 control of other infectious diseases; emergency preparedness and
9 response; quick response fund;
- 10 (2) Under the University of the Philippines – the operational budget of the
11 PGH;
- 12 (3) The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund or
13 calamity fund;
- 14 (4) Programs of the DOLE, such as, but not limited to, Tulong
15 Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers
16 (TUPAD), COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) and the
17 DOLE Abot-kamay ng Pagtulong (AKAP) for OFWs: PROVIDED, That
18 in giving assistance under these programs, priority shall be given to
19 those workers who have not been granted assistance under any of the
20 programs of the government for workers;
- 21 (5) Under the DTI – Livelihood Seeding Program and Negosyo Serbisyo sa
22 Barangay;
- 23 (6) Under the DA – Rice Farmers Financial Assistance Program;
- 24 (7) Under the Department of Education (DepEd) – School-Based Feeding
25 Program;
- 26 (8) Under various DSWD programs, such as but not limited to Assistance
27 to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS), distribution of food and non-
28 food items, livelihood assistance grants, and supplemental feeding
29 program for daycare children;
- 30 (9) Under Allocations to Local Government Units;
- 31 (10) Quick Response Funds (QRF) lodged in the various relevant
32 departments, such as, but not limited to the DOH and DSWD.

33 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Act, the discontinued
34 program, activity or project may be revived at any time after the COVID-
35 19 pandemic has ceased, and notwithstanding Section 67 of Republic

1 Act No. 11465 or the "General Appropriations Act of 2020", may be
2 revived and proposed for funding within the next two (2) fiscal years;

3 (kk) Any unutilized or unreleased balance in a special purpose fund, as of
4 March 2020 declaring a public health crisis of national concern, shall be
5 considered to have their purpose abandoned for the duration of the health
6 crisis. All such unspent, unutilized or unreleased money or funds sourced
7 from collections or receipts, including future collections and receipts, shall be
8 utilized and are hereby appropriated for such measures to address the
9 COVID-19 situation and accomplish the declared national policy herein;

10 (ll) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, reprogram, reallocate, and realign
11 from savings on other items of appropriations in the FY 2020 GAA in the
12 Executive Department, as may be necessary and beneficial to fund
13 measures that address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including
14 social amelioration for affected communities and the recovery of areas,
15 sectors and industries severely affected. All amounts so reprogrammed,
16 reallocated or realigned shall be deemed automatically appropriated for such
17 measures to address the COVID-19 situation within the period specified
18 under Section 9 hereof;

19 (mm) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the President is hereby
20 authorized to allocate cash, funds, investments, including unutilized or
21 unreleased subsidies and transfers, held by any GOCC or any national
22 government agency in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic, as
23 declared in Section 2 hereof.

24 (nn) Move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of
25 any document, the payment of taxes, fees, and other charges required by
26 law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease the burden on individuals
27 under CQ;

28 (oo) Direct all banks, quasi-banks, financing companies, lending companies,
29 utility companies, real estate developers, insurance companies providing life
30 insurance policies, pre-need companies, and other financial institutions,
31 public and private, including the GSIS, the SSS and Pag-ibig Fund, to
32 implement a minimum of a thirty (30)-day grace period for the payment of all
33 loans, including but not limited to salary, personal, housing, and motor
34 vehicle loans, amortizations and premium payments, as well as credit card
35 and utility payments, falling due within the period of the ECQ or Modified
36 Enhanced Community (MECQ) in cities, provinces, or regions declared by

1 the proper authorities without incurring interests, interest on interest,
2 penalties, fees, or other charges: Provided, That persons with multiple loans
3 shall be given the minimum thirty (30)-day grace period for every loan:
4 Provided, further that after the grace period, payment of unpaid consumer
5 loans shall be deferred to the end of the loan term, without incurring interest
6 on interests, penalties, fees or other charges, thereby extending the maturity
7 of the said loans to a period equal to the period of community quarantine:
8 Provided, finally that unpaid credit card and utility bills shall be settled on
9 staggered basis without interests, penalties and other charges until
10 September 30, 2020.

11 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That in addition to the provided grace
12 period, banks, other Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NBFIs) under the
13 supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and lending and
14 financing companies under the supervision of the Securities and Exchange
15 Commission (SEC), are encouraged to extend the terms of or agree to the
16 restructuring of existing (i) consumer loans of employees of non-essential
17 businesses during the CQ, (ii) commercial loans of non-essential
18 businesses, or to fund activities or investments therein, during the CQ, and
19 (iii) local government loans, under any or all of the following conditions:

20 (1) The payment dates of the consumer loans, commercial, and local
21 government loans referred herein, or any part thereof, are due
22 anytime between March 16, 2020 and December 31, 2020;

23 (2) The loan term may be extended for a period up to one (1) year, which
24 may be further extended for a maximum of another one (1) year; and

25 (3) Only the principal payments may be suspended in case of
26 moratorium;

27 PROVIDED, FINALLY, that the banks and other NBFIs that agree
28 to further loan term extensions or restructuring pursuant to this section shall
29 be entitled to regulatory relief, as may be determined by the BSP, which may
30 include, but not limited to, (i) Staggered booking of allowances credit losses,
31 (ii) Exemption from loan-loss provisioning, (iii) Exemption, when applicable,
32 from the limits on real estate loans, and (iv) Exemption from related party
33 transaction restrictions.

34 (pp) Direct all institutions providing electric, water, telecommunications, and
35 other similar utilities to implement a minimum of thirty (30)-day grace period
36 for the payment of utilities falling due within the period of ECQ or MECQ

1 without incurring interests, penalties, and other charges: PROVIDED, That
2 after the grace period, unpaid utility bills shall be settled on a staggered
3 basis without interests, penalties, and other charges: PROVIDED,
4 FURTHER, That covered institutions under this sub-section may offer less
5 onerous payment terms, with the consent of their clients;

6 (qq) Provide for a minimum of thirty (30)-day grace period on residential
7 rents falling due within the period of the community quarantine, without
8 incurring interests, penalties, fees, and other charges: PROVIDED, That all
9 amounts due within the period of community quarantine shall be amortized in
10 equal monthly installments until December 31, 2020 without any interest,
11 penalties and other charges: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no increase in
12 rent shall be imposed during the same period;

13 (rr) Implement an expanded and enhanced Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino
14 Program (4Ps), responsive to the needs posed by the crisis, and provision of
15 an assistance program, whether in cash or non-cash, whichever is more
16 practicable, where the Secretary of DSWD, or the Secretary of DOLE, when
17 relevant, shall transfer cash, cash vouchers, or goods through the LGUs or
18 directly to households who have no incomes or savings to draw from,
19 including households working in the informal economy and those who are
20 not currently recipients of the current 4Ps, of an amount adequate to restore
21 capacity to purchase basic food and other essential items after the duration
22 of the quarantine. To carry out this subsection, the Secretary of the DSWD
23 and the Secretary of the DOLE may approve the temporary emergency
24 standards of eligibility and level of benefits.

25 (ss) Lift the Thirty percent (30%) cap on the amount appropriated for the
26 QRF, as provided for in Republic Act No. 10121 or the "Philippine Disaster
27 Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010", during the existence of the
28 COVID-19 pandemic;

29 (tt) Provide assistance to the agriculture industry by creating the "Plant, Plant,
30 Plant" Program which shall be composed of the following: (1) Alpas Kontra
31 sa COVID-19; (2) food markets – food logistics and other interventions; and
32 (3) cash for work program in agriculture;

33 (uu) Direct the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
34 (DHSUD) and its key shelter agencies to: (1) fast track the approval of all
35 pending and new applications for housing loans, permits and licenses by
36 simplifying the requirements and procedure; (2) accommodate and prioritize

1 critically impacted home buyers who may want to shift from private bank
2 financing to PAG-IBIG home financing with simplified requirements; (3)
3 extend the compliance to the balanced housing requirement to be co-
4 terminus with period for the completion of the main project; (4) waive and
5 desist from imposing fines and penalties to avoid unnecessary pecuniary
6 burdens and avoid delay in the delivery of housing units to home buyers.

7 (vv) Direct the BSP to allow private banks and financial institutions to: (1)
8 reallocate any unutilized loanable funds to housing loans; and (2) to grant
9 subsidy to the home loan borrowers at the rate equivalent to the gross
10 receipt tax imposed on banks and financial institutions on their interest
11 income. In turn, the banks and financial institutions shall likewise be
12 exempted from the payment of the gross receipts tax on the discounted
13 interests paid by the home loan borrowers.

14 (ww) Encourage BSP and the SEC to adopt measures, including the
15 relaxation of regulatory and statutory restrictions and requirements for a
16 period of not more than ten (10) years from their date of effectivity to
17 encourage the banking industry and other financial institutions to extend
18 loans and other forms of financial accommodation to help business recover
19 from the economic effects of COVID-19 crisis and to enable the banking
20 industry to manage appropriately its risks and potential losses.

21 The BSP and the SEC are likewise hereby authorized to grant
22 reporting relief to its supervised entities by allowing staggered booking of
23 allowance for credit losses for all types of credit accommodations extended
24 to individuals and business entities affected by COVID-19.

25 (xx) Direct all government agencies and LGUs to approve, within an
26 inextendible period of five (5) working days, all pending and new applications
27 for permit, license, certificate, clearance, authorization and resolutions, in
28 order to support business continuity and encourage resumption of all
29 economic activities. PROVIDED, That the applicant shall be allowed to
30 undertake its compliance to any additional requirement that may be imposed
31 by the government agency or LGU, and such will not delay the approval of
32 the application;

33 (yy) The DOTr is directed to produce a masterlist of all displaced and
34 critically-impacted transport workers under the road, rail, air and maritime
35 sectors to effectively implement the distribution of wage subsidies and cash-

1 for-work program, as provided for in Section 3 (e) and Section 4 (b),
2 respectively:

3 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that the DOTr is directed to coordinate the
4 accelerated distribution of remaining subsidy under the Social Amelioration
5 Program of Bayanihan I to driver beneficiaries so as not to coincide and
6 confuse with the subsidy provided in this Act:

7 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the DOTr is likewise tasked to work
8 with financial institutions in looking at the possible restructuring of existing
9 loans without penalty and the provision of credit lines and low interest loans
10 to help critically-impacted transport service providers:

11 PROVIDED, FURTHER, the DOTr is also directed to coordinate with
12 transport service providers and LGUs to negotiate service contracting of
13 public utility vehicles as a form of temporary livelihood to workers displaced
14 by restrictions and reduced capacity of public transportation, and other forms
15 of arrangement to ensure that livelihood in the transport sector is preserved:

16 PROVIDED, FINALLY, that there shall be no phaseout, at the
17 national and local level, of any modality of public utility vehicle as the
18 industry transitions to a new normal.

19 (zz) The DepEd is directed to continue providing access to free, healthy
20 meals to undernourished children as mandated by Republic Act No. 11037
21 regardless of modality of learning to be adopted by the Department.

22 (aaa) Provide regulatory relief to the critically-impacted creative sector by
23 tasking the DTI and the DILG to review the imposition of the amusement tax.
24 The President of the Philippines shall have the power to suspend, reduce or
25 waive the imposition of the fees and charges as recommended by the DTI
26 and DILG for a period of six (6) months.

27 (bbb) Direct the DepEd, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and
28 the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in
29 partnership with government financial institutions, to provide loan assistance,
30 subsidies, discounts or grants to schools, universities, colleges, technical
31 vocational institutions, teachers, faculties, and students for the purchase of
32 distance learning tools, such as computers, laptops, tablets and other ICT
33 devices and equipment necessary to conduct and access classes and
34 learning materials under alternative delivery modes of teaching and learning
35 in the new normal: PROVIDED, That the loan shall be payable within five (5)

- 1 years and in all cases has terms that are more reasonable than that of the
2 prevailing in the market;
- 3 (ccc) Direct government financial institutions to extend the term of standby
4 loans entered into by LGUs;
- 5 (ddd) Utilize the funding as provided in Section 4 of this Act;
- 6 (eee) Undertake such other measures as may be reasonable and necessary
7 to enable the President to carry out the declared national policy subject to
8 the Bill of Rights and other constitutional guarantees.

9 SEC. 4. Funding. In addition to the funds that will be raised under Section 3
10 (jj), (kk), (ll) and (mm) of this Act, a Two Hundred Thirty-Six Billion
11 (P236,000,000,000) standby fund shall be appropriated and shall be used to support
12 operation and response measure to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the
13 following:

- 14 a. Twenty Five Billion Pesos (P25,000,000,000) for the implementation of
15 cash-for-work program and the TUPAD, such as, but not limited to
16 temporary hiring of contract tracers, data encoders, and other personnel
17 as may be necessary in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and
18 for emergency subsidy to worker in critically-impacted sectors and
19 industries;
- 20 b. Fifty Billion Pesos (P50,000,000,000) for the infusion of capital to
21 government financial institutions to be allocated as follows:
- 22 i. Five Billion Pesos (P5,000,000,000) for the Credit Guarantee
23 Program of the PhilGuarantee;
- 24 ii. Thirty Billion Pesos (P30,000,000,000) to support wholesale
25 banking and equity infusion of the LBP for low interest loans to be
26 extended to persons and entities engaged in industries affected
27 by the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, air, land
28 and sea transportation, retail trade, accommodation and tourism
29 services and micro, small and medium enterprises; and
- 30 iii. Fifteen Billion Pesos (P15,000,000,000) to support wholesale
31 banking and equity infusion of the DBP for low interest loans to be
32 extended to persons and entities engaged in industries affected
33 by the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, air, land
34 and sea transportation, retail trade, accommodation and tourism
35 services and MSMEs;

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- c. Thirty Billion Pesos (P30,000,000,000) for the procurement of PCR testing and extraction kits, supplies, materials, and reagents to be used for the conduct of COVID-19 testing and for the enhancement of capacities of the DOH in the provision of healthcare services and the implementation of programs and projects to eliminate, prevent and control diseases other than COVID-19;
- d. Fifty Billion Pesos (P50,000,000,000) to support various programs and projects for public and private health workers, displaced OFWs, displaced employees and workers in the formal and informal economy; displaced teaching and non-teaching personnel in public and private educational institutions; employees and workers in the public transport sector; displaced workers in the tourism industry; and other critically-impacted sectors as may be identified by the IATF for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases;
- e. Forty Six Billion Pesos (P46,000,000,000) to the Department of Agriculture to provide direct cash assistance, interest-free loans, and other forms of assistance to qualified agri-fishery enterprises and farmers and fisherfolk registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) and to finance the Plant, Plant, Plant Program to ensure food security and continuous productivity in the agricultural sector;
- f. Twenty Five Billion Pesos (P25,000,000,000) to finance the programs of the DOTr to assist the critically impacted businesses in the transportation industry; and
- g. Ten Billion Pesos (P10,000,000,000) to finance the programs of the DOT to assist the critically impacted businesses in the tourism industry.

28 PROVIDED, That the amounts authorized herein may only be used
29 when any of the following exists:

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- (a) Excess revenue collection in any one of the identified tax or non-tax revenue sources from its corresponding revenue collection target, as provided in the FY 2020 Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF);
- (b) New revenue collections or those arising from new tax or non-tax sources which are not part of nor included in the original sources included in the FY 2020 BESF; and

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1 (c) Proceeds from approved loans for programs and projects in this
2 Act:

3 PROVIDED, FURTHER, that the DBM shall submit reports on the
4 releases made pursuant to this Section as part of the weekly report as
5 mandated in this Act.

6 SEC. 5. *Reports to Congress and Creation of an Oversight Committee.* –

7 The President, during Monday of every week, shall submit a weekly report to
8 Congress of all acts performed pursuant to this Act during the immediately preceding
9 week including a status report on government programs, strategies, plans, and efforts
10 relative to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report shall likewise include the amount and
11 corresponding utilization of the funds used, augmented, reprogrammed, reallocated
12 and realigned pursuant to this Act, as well as relevant and more granulated health-
13 related data, and such other information which Congress may require.

14 For this purpose, the Congress shall establish a Joint Congressional
15 Oversight Committee composed of four (4) members of each house to be appointed
16 by the Senate President and the House Speaker, respectively. This Committee shall
17 determine whether such acts, orders, rules and regulations are within the restrictions
18 provided herein.

19 SEC. 6. *Construction or Interpretation.* – Nothing herein shall be construed as
20 an impairment, restriction or modification of the provisions of the Constitution. In case
21 the exercise of the powers herein granted conflicts with other statutes, orders, rules
22 or regulations, the provisions of this Act shall prevail.

23 SEC. 7. *Separability.* – If any provision of this Act or the application of such
24 provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act
25 or the application of such provision to any other person or circumstance shall not be
26 affected by such declaration.

27 SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately after the end of
28 the effectivity of R.A. 11469, or otherwise known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One
29 Act” provided that it has been published in a newspaper of general circulation or in
30 the *Official Gazette* and shall be in full force and effect until September 30, 2020,
31 unless extended by Congress: PROVIDED, That the powers granted under this Act
32 may be withdrawn sooner by means of a concurrent resolution of Congress or ended
33 by Presidential Proclamation.

34 Approved,

