

TATAG AT MALASAKIT TUNGO SA PAGBANGON:

Sustaining Our Nation's Gains
Amidst Unprecedented Challenges



The President's
Final Report to the People
2016-2021

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THE PRESIDENT'S FINAL REPORT TO THE PEOPLE 2016-2021

***TATAG AT MALASAKIT TUNGO SA PAGBANGON:
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Unprecedented Challenges***

INTRODUCTION

When I delivered my inaugural address in 2016, I said then that we were in for a long and rough ride given the problems that the country was facing. I promised to lead and to serve. An exemplary leader is one who is himself a good servant of the people. I did not promise greatness. I promised to work and serve. And that is precisely what I have done and shall continue to do up to the last day of my administration.

Milestones Achieved Towards a Comfortable Life for All: 2016 to 2019

When the Filipino people reposed in me a solid electoral mandate and accorded me with the great honor of serving as their President, I had only one clear overall vision: a comfortable life for all Filipinos. As a public servant, I have dedicated every single day of my Presidency towards this goal.

With this developmental goal in mind, we provided free higher education to our youth and ensured the access of every Filipino to quality health care. We took on contentious and painful reforms to ensure food affordability and security while enhancing agricultural productivity.

Our country's sustained growth from the third quarter of 2016 to the fourth quarter of 2019 placed her among the fastest growing economies in Asia. We succeeded in bringing 5.9 million Filipinos out of poverty when as a result of our socio-economic programs, poverty incidence saw a significant decline from 23.3 percent in 2015 to 16.7 percent in 2018.

The radical reforms we instituted in our fiscal system helped fund our bold infrastructure development program resulting in greater connectivity across the archipelago. Much has also been done in our fight against corruption and in making government more responsive to the people's needs. We simplified government processes through the Ease of Doing Business Law and took steps to make these services more accessible to our people through their registration in the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

We welcomed a new era of peace and development in Mindanao with the passage and ratification of the *Bangsamoro* Organic Law (BOL). We scored a decisive victory against malefic elements that threatened our peace, when law and order triumphed in Marawi City. As we prioritized the delivery of basic services to the countryside, we saw members of various leftist-insurgent fronts return *en masse* to the fold of the law.

*Sustaining the Nation's Gains Amidst Unprecedented Challenges:
2020 to Present*

We were well on the way to attaining our goal of reducing poverty incidence to 14 percent by 2022 and steering the nation closer towards a comfortable life for all when the global pandemic struck -- testing our fortitude and resilience like never before in recent history. By God's grace, our economic and governance fundamentals were robust, enabling us to survive the first few months of the health crisis. We moved quickly to safeguard the well-being of every Filipino through preventive and responsive health and safety measures, and broad and inclusive social amelioration programs.

More than a year into this health emergency, we are now more knowledgeable and experienced in slowing down the spread of the virus. Our hope to eliminate the virus once and for all has strengthened with the continuous arrival of vaccine shipments. As more and more of our people get vaccinated in the coming months, they shall be empowered to play active roles in helping pump prime our economy towards sustained national growth. We are gradually making our way towards national recovery, with stronger determination to preserve the far-reaching gains we had achieved prior to the pandemic.

The coronavirus has taken so much from us as a nation but like all adversities that tested us time and again, it can never take away the Filipinos' courage and resilience. The spirit of *bayanihan* and the value of *malasakit* are indelible in us Filipinos.

This report to the nation encapsulates what we had done for the country in the past five years, amidst unprecedented challenges; and what we intend to do in my remaining months in office. Standing on solid ground, our work for a clean, strong, and responsive government, shall continue until my very last day in office.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

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MALASAKIT AT TAPANG:

Uplifting the Living Conditions
of the Filipino People

- I. Providing for the People's Basic Needs
- II. Making Government More Responsive
- III. Securing and Safeguarding the Nation



The Philippine Army deployed troops in Luzon to undertake humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts for residents affected by Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020.

Photo Credit: Philippine Army



Chapter

1

Providing for the People's Basic Needs

A comfortable life for every Filipino was my Administration's overall goal at the outset. We consistently instituted reforms towards the responsive delivery of services and meeting our people's basic needs. In 2018, we attained a significant milestone when poverty incidence declined from 23.3 percent in 2015 to 16.7 percent that year, lifting at least 5.9 million of our countrymen out of poverty.¹

We have been ensuring the availability and access to adequate and affordable food and pursuing social equity through the provision of land to the landless. We exerted all efforts to ensure adequate supply of potable water, decent and affordable housing, and sufficient energy, particularly for remote communities. This Administration is also improving access to quality education and training, sustaining the implementation of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Program, and promoting employment and livelihood for our people, keeping in mind the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). With these, we hope to empower every Filipino family, enabling them to live comfortable lives and provide a better future for their children.



As a worker of government, I promised to do whatever it would take to give all Filipinos a comfortable life, fighting powerful interests and making sacrifices. My obligation is to promote and uphold the greatest good, for the greatest number.”

The President's State of the Nation Address (SONA), July 23, 2018

Photo Credit: Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO)

1 PSA, June 4, 2019.

Ensured Food Security Through Viable Agricultural and Fishery Programs



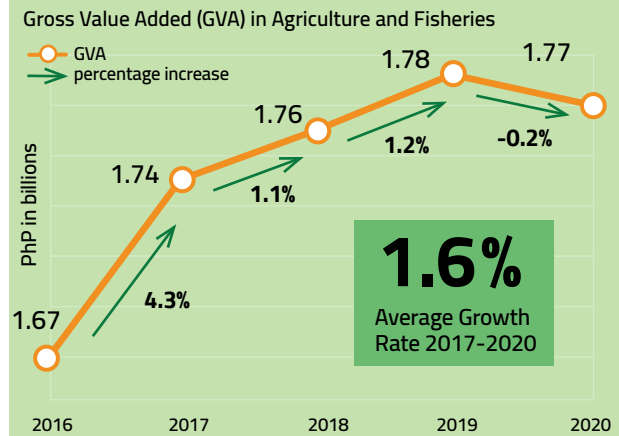
Photo Credit: Department of Agriculture (DA)

Increased Agricultural and Fishery Production from 2016 to 2020

The agriculture and fisheries sector managed to grow by an annual average of 1.6 percent from 2017 to 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the sector's production decreased by 0.2 percent, which is minimal compared to the dip in other sectors (see Figure 1.1).²

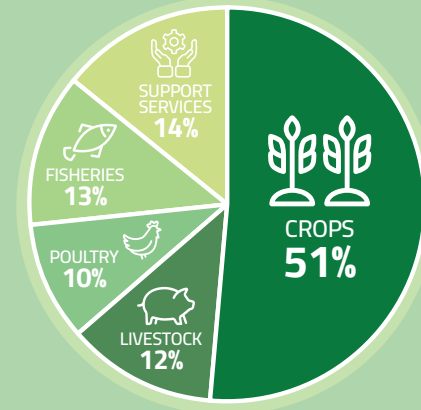
Narrowed down the shortfall on local rice production.³ From 2016 to 2020, our average local rice production was 12.3 million metric tons (MMT) per annum (18.8 MMT of *palay*). Despite increased rice production, there had been an annual average shortfall of 4.03 MMT to meet the country's demand for rice (see Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.1 Increased Agricultural Production (2016-2020)

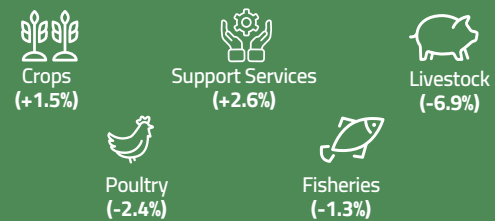


Notes: 1. GVA is the measure of the sector's contribution to the GDP.
2. Figures may not add up due to rounding.

Percentage Share of Agriculture Sub-sectors to GDP (2020)



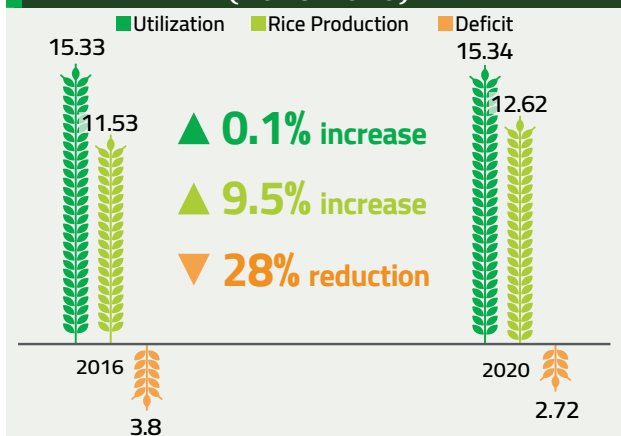
2019 - 2020 Growth Rates



Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and DA

² DA, May 31, 2021.
³ Ibid.

Figure 1.2 Reduced Rice Deficit in MMT (2016-2020)



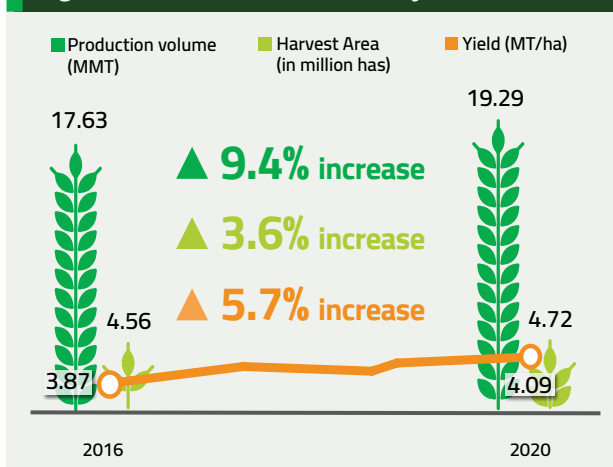
Source: DA

To reduce the rice deficit, we ramped up our assistance to local rice farmers through programs aimed at increasing their yield per hectare from 3.87 metric tons (MT) (2016) to 4.09 MT (2020), and increasing harvestable area from 4.56 million hectares (2016) to 4.72 million hectares (2020) (see Figure 1.3). These resulted in narrowing down the rice supply deficit from 3.8 MMT in 2016 to 2.72 MMT in 2020.

National Rice Program.⁴ From July 2016 to June 2021, we distributed 1.846 million bags (27.69 million kg) of hybrid seeds⁵ to 1.4 million rice farmers and 1.92 million bags (76.61 million kg) of high quality inbred seeds⁶ to 1.29 million farmer-beneficiaries to enhance yield of rice lands.

Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). To lower rice prices and manage the worsening inflation rate towards the end of 2018, we urged Congress to pass the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) or Republic Act (RA) no. 11203.

Figure 1.3 Increased *Palay* Production



Source: PSA



The Philippines recorded its highest *palay* production in 2020.

The country recorded its highest *palay* production level at **19.29 MMT** in 2020.

The biggest contributors to local rice production were **Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, and the Ilocos Region**. In the Visayas, **Iloilo** was the top producer of rice while **Regions X and XII** were the biggest contributors to the country's rice production in Mindanao.

Source: DA

In February 2019, after 30 years of failed attempts, we lifted the quantitative restrictions on rice imports, replacing them with tariffs⁷ (see Figure 1.4).

In the early stages of the RTL's implementation, local farmers complained of low *palay* prices due to the sudden surge of imported rice in the local market. To mitigate the situation, we implemented safety nets as provided by law, particularly funding drawdown from the Php10 billion annual RCEF or Rice Fund. From March 2019 to March 2021, we collected Php31.9 billion in tariffs from the importation of

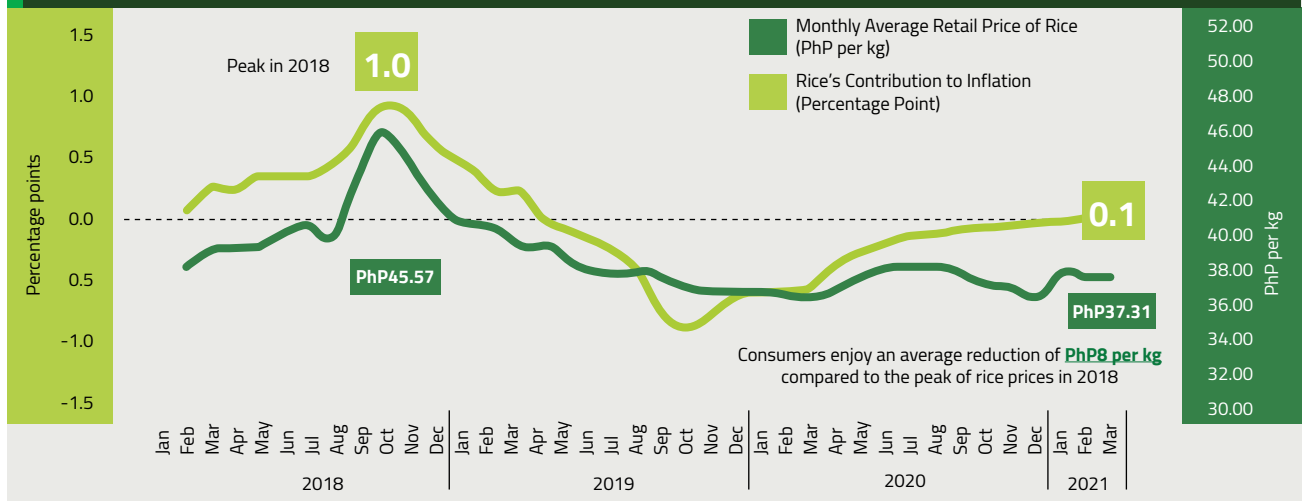
4 DA, May 31, 2021.

5 Hybrid rice seed is produced when the egg is fertilized by pollen from a rice plant of a different variety or line. (Source: IRRI).

6 Inbred rice seed is produced when the egg inside the ovary is fertilized by pollen grains shed from the same rice variety or when farmers plant an entire field to a single variety, they produce inbred seed (Source: IRRI).

7 RTL contributed to the easing of the inflation rate from 6.7 percent in October 2018 to 2.5 percent in December 2019.

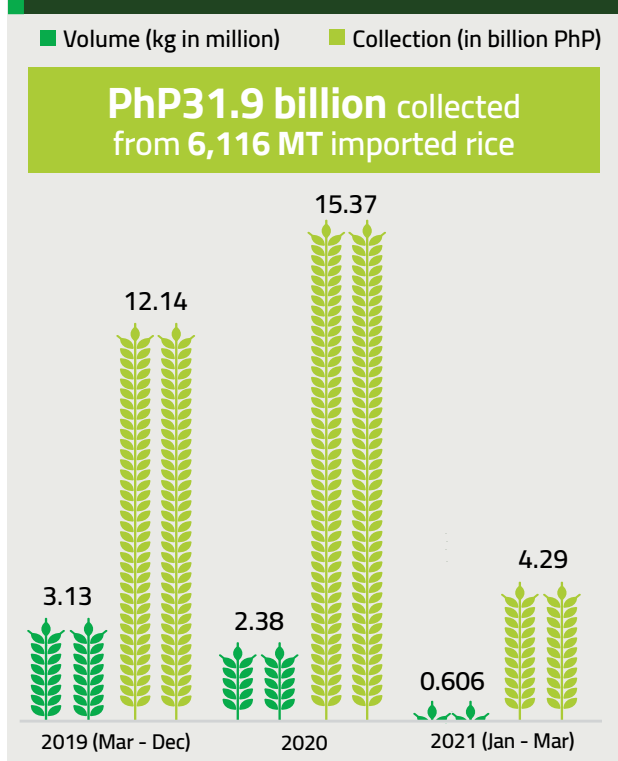
Figure 1.4 Reduced Inflation and Rice Prices



Source: Department of Finance-Strategy, Economics, and Results Group (DOF-SERG)

6,116 MT of rice (see Figure 1.5). Out of the Rice Fund, we helped our local rice farmers by providing various assistance (see Figure 1.6).⁸

Figure 1.5 Rice Import Volume and Tariff Collection Under the RTL



Source: Bureau of Customs (BOC)

Figure 1.6 Assistance Provided to Farmers from the Rice Fund

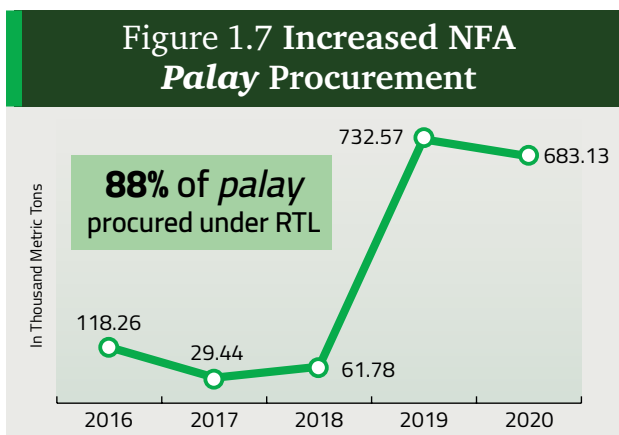
- 11,031 units** of tractors, tillers, transplanters, combine-harvesters, threshers, mobile millers and other farm machineries and equipment, worth **PhP860 million** to **3,555 Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs)** in **57 provinces**;
- 5.93 million** 20-kg bags of in-bred seeds worth **PhP4.5 billion** to **2.32 million farmers** covering **2.78 million hectares** in **57 provinces**, which increased yield by **0.402 ton/hectare**;
- 72,625 farmers, 9,920 trainers, 311 specialists, and 1,202 seed growers** were trained, while **51,941 farmers** graduated under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) scholarship and development courses on agriculture, and equipment operation and maintenance; and
- PhP2.07 billion** worth of zero-interest and collateral-free loans were given to **100 borrower organizations and cooperatives**, and **6,377 individual farmers**, through the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).



The President leads the distribution of agricultural assistance to farmers in Region XII with Senator Christopher Lawrence Go, DA Secretary William Dar, and Mindanao Development Authority Secretary Emmanuel Piñol in Pigcawayan, Cotabato on January 10, 2020.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Boosted the palay market for local rice farmers. From 2016 to May 2021, the National Food Authority (NFA) procured 1.70 MMT of *palay* from local farmers. About 88 percent (1.49 MMT) of these were purchased during the RTL’s implementation from February 2019 to May 2021 for use as buffer stock (see Figure 1.7).



Source: DA

Cushioned Agricultural Productivity from the Shocks of Natural Hazards and Biosecurity Threats

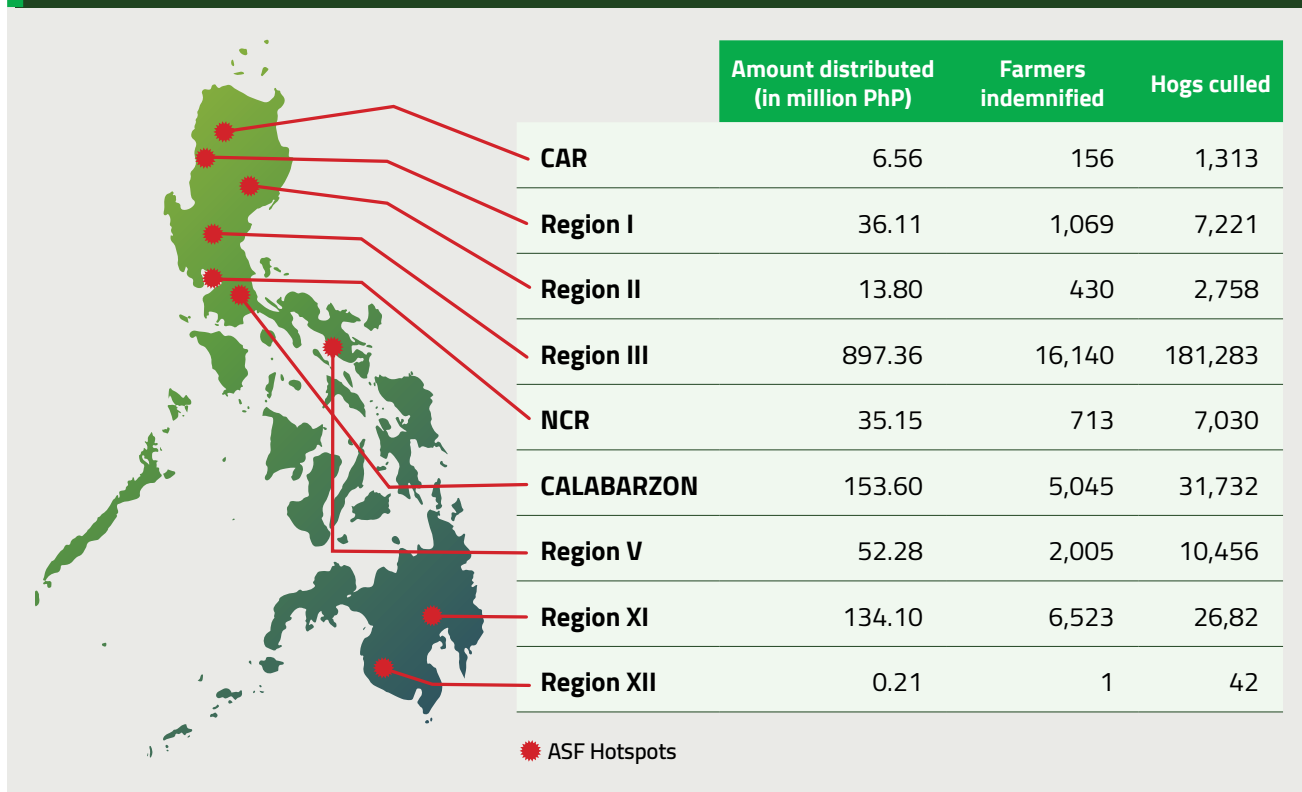
The estimated cost of damages in the agricultural sector in 2020 was PhP28.06 billion. These damages were brought about by typhoons (PhP21.35 billion);

flashfloods; drought; hailstorm and frost (PhP3.09 billion); volcanic eruption; pest infestation; and fish kill (PhP3.62 billion). The cost of damages is on top of the estimated PhP100 billion losses in the local hog industry due to African Swine Fever (ASF). To cover the damages, we implemented the following:

Mitigated the ASF outbreak. Since 2019, ASF outbreaks had been reported in 12 regions, across 46 provinces, 493 cities and municipalities, and 2,571 barangays (see Figure 1.8). The ASF had significantly reduced the country’s swine population by around three million heads, which resulted in PhP100 billion in losses in the local hog sector and allied industries, and led to increased retail prices of pork products. On May 11, 2021, I declared a nationwide state of calamity due to the ASF outbreak, through Proclamation no. 1143. Such declaration provided us the latitude to render full assistance and mobilize resources to contain the spread of the ASF and bring to normalcy all affected areas. This declaration is expected to remain in place until the end of the year.⁹

9 Premises under the Proclamation no. 1143.

Figure 1.8 Indemnification of ASF-Affected Hog Raisers



Source: Bureau of Animal Industry

To cover the shortfall in the supply of pork in the interim, I issued Executive Order (EO) no. 128 on April 7, 2021 to allow higher importation of pork at reduced tariff rates, i.e., from 30-40 percent to 5-20 percent. This is to avert the projected supply deficit of pork in 2021 (see Table 1.1).¹⁰

Supply	Demand	Deficit
1.23 MMT	1.62 MMT	0.39 MMT

Source: DA

Battled the Fall Armyworm (FAW) Infestation. As of December 2020, FAW infestation had adversely affected






corn harvest in 70 out of 81 provinces, covering 635 out of 1,488 towns and cities. Hardest hit areas were Cagayan Valley (10,091 hectares), Zamboanga Peninsula (2,717 hectares), Soccsksargen (2,150 hectares), Northern Mindanao (1,520 hectares), and Bicol (669 hectares). To help 5,191 affected corn farmers, we provided PhP280 million to intensify pest control.¹¹

Provided agricultural insurance coverage and credit programs for disaster-affected farmers and fisherfolk. To enhance the financial risk protection of agricultural producers, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) provided PhP12.37 billion from 2016 to March 31, 2021 to indemnify around 1.7 million insured farmers

10 EO no. 128, s. 2021.

11 DA, May 6, 2021.

Table 1.2 Accomplishments under Various SURE Programs

The SURE programs were only implemented during PRRD's Administration.		Loans granted (in million PhP)	Beneficiaries
 Regular SURE		377.49	26,949 individuals
 Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project (SURE COVID-19)		3,000	85,994 individuals 158 groups
 SURE Hogs (ASF- affected hog raisers)		16.24	677 individuals
 SURE Aid Taal Calamity Program		50.17	2,008 individuals
 Expanded SURE Aid for Rice Farmers		2,490	165,963 individuals

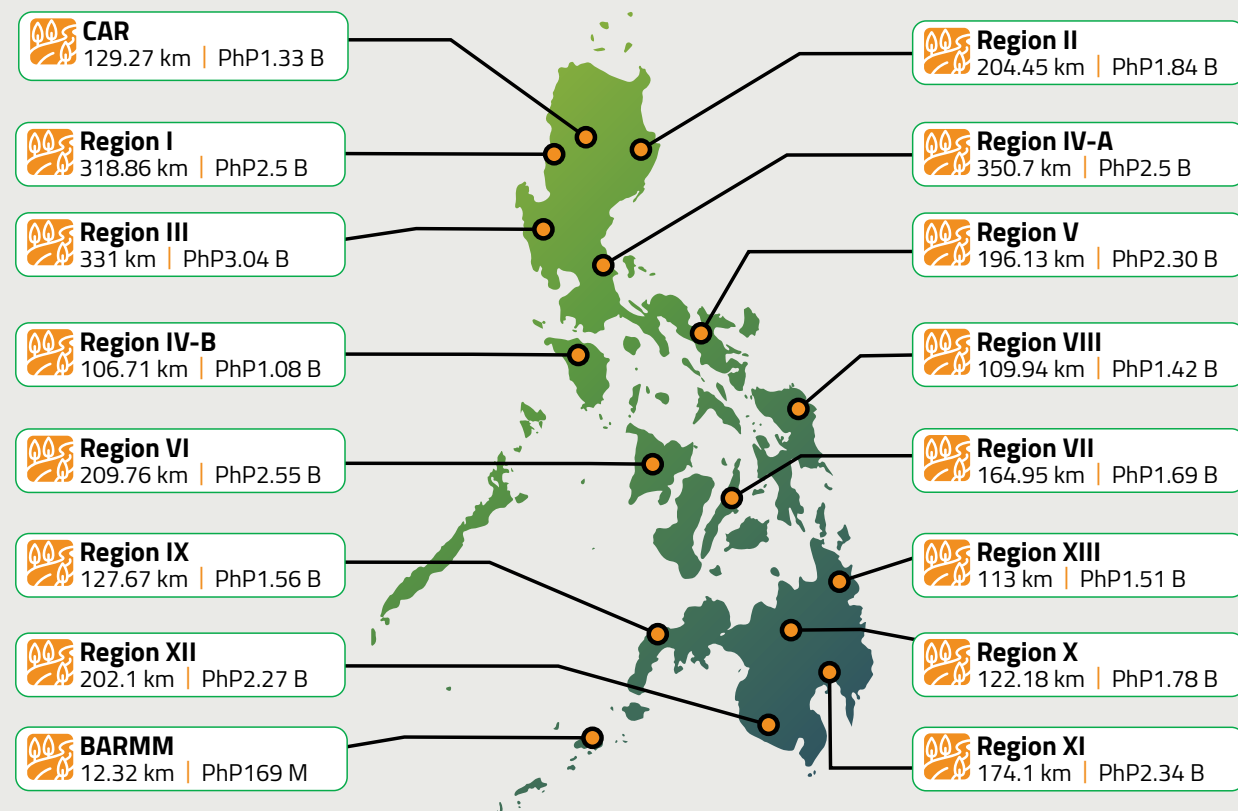
Source: Agriculture Credit Policy Council (ACPC)

and fisherfolk. Of the estimated 41 million farmers and fisherfolk in the country, 28.31 percent were insured as of May 2021, a more than double increase from 10.95 percent in 2015. Further, we provided quick-response post-disaster recovery loan for small farmers and fisherfolk under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Assistance Program (see Table 1.2).

Built Agriculture Support Systems and Infrastructure

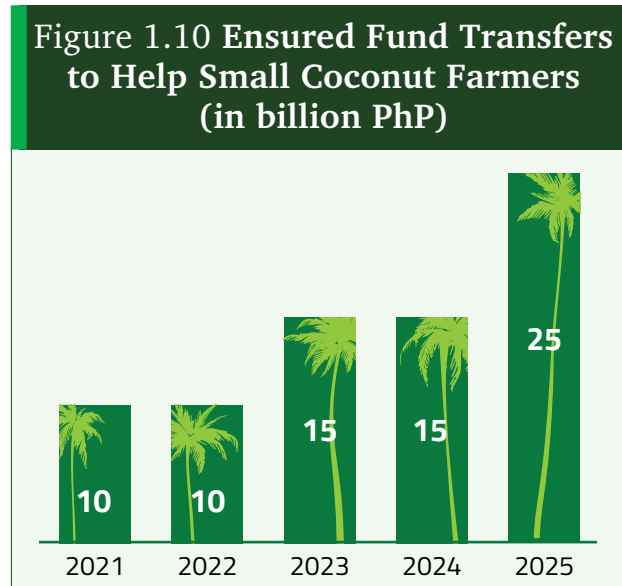
Paved farm-to-market roads (FMRs). From 2016 to May 2021, the DA, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), completed 5,096 FMR projects with an aggregate length of 2,884 km worth PhP29.88 billion (see Figure 1.9).

Figure 1.9 Farm-to-Market Roads



Source: DA

Supported Coconut Farmers. In February 2021, I signed the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act or RA no. 11542, which declared all coconut levy assets as a trust fund to rehabilitate and modernize the country’s coconut industry. The Bureau of Treasury (BTr) was mandated to transfer funds annually to the CFITF to help around 3.5 million coconut farmers, who own less than five hectares of coconut farms, in 68 coconut-producing provinces (see Figure 1.10).



Source: RA no. 115421

Trust fund utilization shall be guided by the development plan, which will be prepared by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) within 2021, in consultation with coconut farmers and other stakeholders. The trust fund will be maintained for 50 years.

Enhanced Irrigation of Farmlands.¹² As of 2020, we irrigated more than two million hectares of farmlands from only 1.86 million hectares in 2016, equivalent to an average annual growth rate of two percent. This is 37 percent more than the past administration’s output (see Figure 1.11).

In summary, these initiatives led to a significant reduction in poverty incidence among our farmers and fisherfolk from 2015 to 2018 (see Table 1.3).¹³

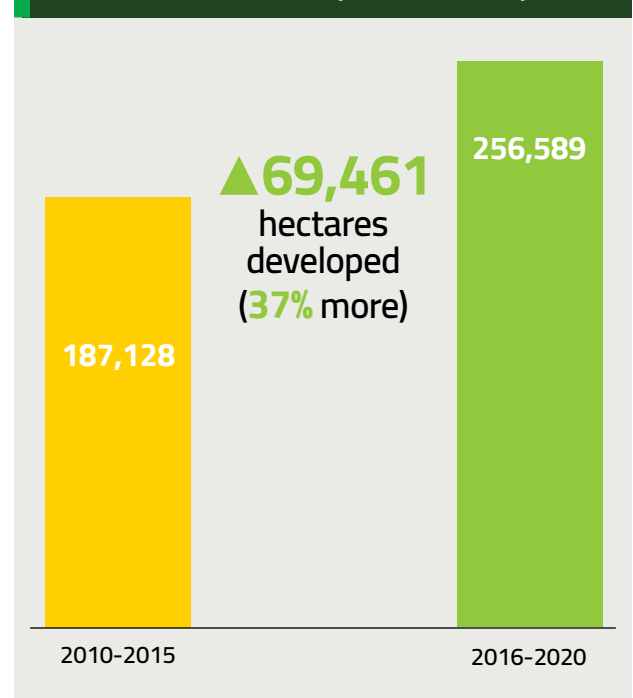
Table 1.3 Reduction in Poverty Incidence among Farmers and Fisherfolk (2015 vs. 2018)

	2015	2018	Decrease (in percentage point)
Farmers	40.8%	31.6%	9.2
Fisherfolk	36.9%	26.2%	10.7

Source: PSA

The tariffication of rice in 2019 and the signing of the CFITF in February 2021 are helping uplift the agricultural sector, as we continue to provide safe, available, and affordable food supply for the Filipino people.

Figure 1.11 Increased Irrigation Service Area (in hectares)



Source: National Irrigation Authority (NIA)

12 NIA, July 8, 2021.

13 PSA, Poverty Incidence among Basic Sectors, June 3, 2020.

Pursued Social Reforms Through the Provision of Lands

When I assumed the Presidency in 2016, I committed to fight oppressive oligarchs who, for a long time, had brought untold sorrows and horrendous social inequities to our landless farmers. Thus, we promptly implemented anti-oligarchy reforms by revoking stock distribution option plans and rescinding agribusiness venture arrangements. These were considered the “legalized refuge” of big landowners as it allowed them to retain control of their vast landholdings while circumventing agrarian reform laws.

In our desire to deliver genuine agrarian reform in the country, we went beyond alienable and disposable lands of the public domain and unused government-owned lands. We intensified efforts to cover private agricultural lands despite the strong resistance of landowners. Because of our resolve, we managed to distribute equitably and further intensify the provision of lands to our landless farmers.

Distributed Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA)

Despite the challenges, we were able to distribute 229,289 hectares of agricultural lands from July 2016 to May 2021, benefitting 166,217 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs). Before my term ends, we intend to distribute another 48,954 hectares of



“Akala ko dati na ang mga lupain ay para lamang sa mayayaman. Ngayon may lupa na rin ako, yayaman din ako balang araw!”

*Leoncio Andres
Agrarian Reform Beneficiary
Tublay, Benguet*

Photo Credit: Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)

agricultural land to 39,303 landless farmers (see Figure 1.12).¹⁴

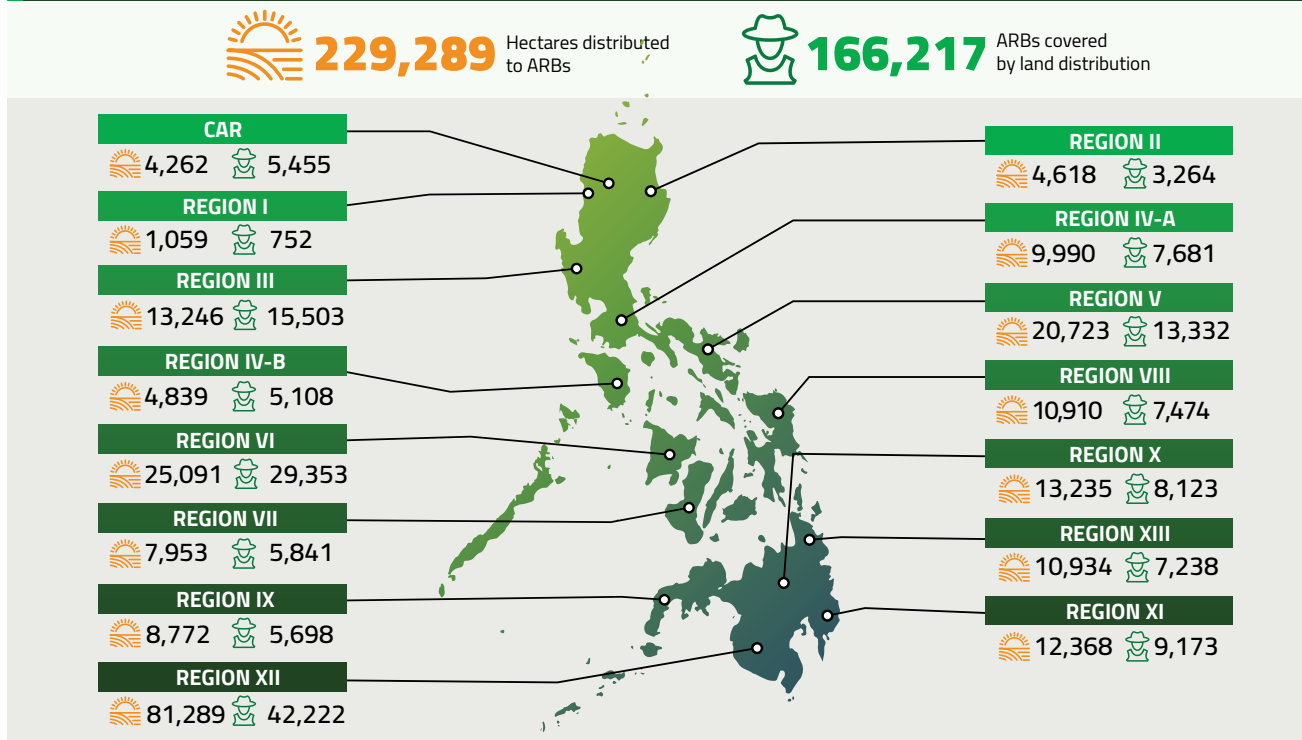
Capacitated ARBs

To empower our farmers, we trained 2,651,211 ARBs on microfinancing, business development, credit management, product enhancement, and basic cooperative management, among others. We also provided access to credit and microfinance to 888,205 ARBs from July 2016 to May 2021.¹⁵

¹⁴ DAR, June 11, 2021.

¹⁵ Ibid.

Figure 1.12 Lands Distributed under the Agrarian Reform Program (July 2016-May 2021)



Source: DAR

Implemented Zero-Backlog Program on Agrarian Reform Cases

To deliver speedy and adequate legal aid to concerned ARBs, I directed the DAR in June 2018 to resolve all agrarian reform-related cases as expeditiously as possible while ensuring that decisions are fully supported by evidence, law, and applicable jurisprudence.¹⁶ From July 2016 to May 2021, the DAR Adjudication Board (DARAB) had resolved 125,645 cases.



For the **year 2020**, we reduced the number of DARAB cases by **99.69 percent** from **1,593** in January to only **five** in December.¹⁷

Source: DAR

Implemented the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project¹⁸

In previous administrations, majority of the agrarian reform titles issued were Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs), which were considered as “short cuts” because it was easier to issue than individual CLOAs. However, the CCLOAs constrained our farmers from fully benefitting from the privileges of tenure security such as access to financial loan programs of the DA and LANDBANK. To correct the past land tenurial flaws and secure property rights of our ARBs, we launched the SPLIT Project in November 2020. This helped finally settle land ownership issues of 1,140,735 ARBs covering

16 Issued during the 26th Cabinet Meeting on June 11, 2018.

17 DAR, June 11, 2021.

18 Ibid.

1.368 million hectares in 78 provinces by splitting CCLOAs into individual CLOAs.

As of May 31, 2021, we had validated 1,629 CCLOAs covering 22,470.18 hectares of land in Ilocos, Eastern Visayas, and Zamboanga Peninsula. We aim to finish the field validation activities on the remaining 10,429 CCLOAs for 37,946 hectares of land in these regions by September 2021. By then, we can commence with the validation activities in the other regions and settle issues until 2024.

Distributed Government-Owned Lands (GOLs)

In our firm resolve to distribute as many lands as possible to the landless, I issued EO no. 75, s. 2019 to facilitate the distribution of unused GOLs to landless occupant-farmers or workers, including former rebels. Towards this end, as of June 2021, we validated 28,530 hectares of GOLs, which have a coverable area of 18,367 hectares for distribution to around 5,274 ARBs. Moreover, an additional 422 hectares have been distributed to eligible beneficiaries.¹⁹



“Wala tayong ibang hinihiling kundi ang tunay na reporma ng lupa. Ngayong naibigay na sa amin ang titulo at suporta na aming inaasam-asam, wala nang dahilan upang makipaglaban pa sa gobyerno.”

Virgilio Quisto, Bohol

Photo Credit: DAR



DAR Secretary John Castriciones hands over the land title to ARB Jose Magangat on July 1, 2020 in Brgy. Dagupan, Quezon, Nueva Vizcaya.

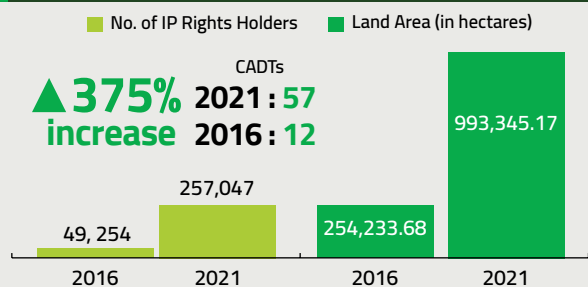
Photo Credit: DAR

Recognized Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) Ancestral Domain Lands

To protect and promote the rights of our IP brothers and sisters, we issued 57 Certificates of Ancestral Domain Titles (CADTs), covering 993,345.17 hectares of ancestral domains, which benefited 257,047 IPs from 2016 to June 2021 (see Figure 1.13).²⁰ This constituted 23 percent of the total issued CADTs since the enactment of The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act or RA no. 8371 in 1997.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) reported that around 7.7 million hectares or about 26 percent of the country's land area are IP ancestral

Figure 1.13 Increased Distribution of Ancestral Domain Lands



Source: NCIP

19 DAR Presentation during the 60th CAS Meeting, June 23, 2021.

20 NCIP, June 3, 2021.

domains. From 2002 to March 2021, the government issued 253 CADTs covering 5.86 million hectares to 1.34 million IPs nationwide, which is 76 percent of the total land area intended for the IPs. We intend to issue 17 more CADTs until my term ends in June 2022.²¹

Issued Forest Management Contracts for Upland Workers

In response to the increasing need to address property rights and effectively protect and manage forests and forest lands, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) developed and issued different types of tenure and allocation instruments and permits to various stakeholders, particularly, the communities and our upland workers. In four of our major forest management contracts,²² we signed 2,258 agreements with upland workers covering 1,716,350 hectares of forest land as of December 2020. These tenurial and allocation instruments give exclusive rights to our upland workers to develop, manage, and utilize forest land and forest resources therein.²³

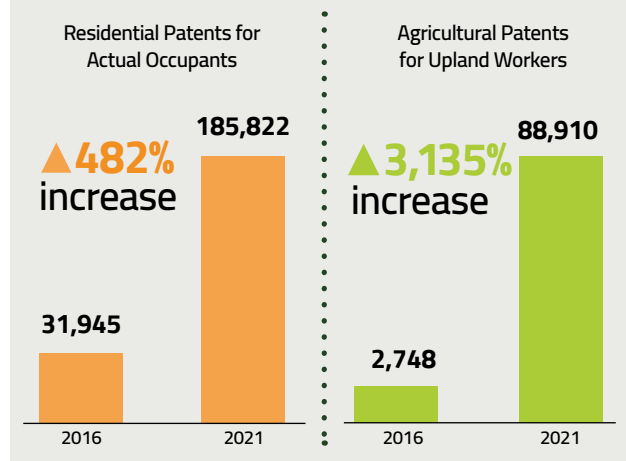
Along with this, we signed in 2019 RA no. 10023 or An Act Authorizing the Issuance of Free Patents to Residential Lands; and RA no. 11231 or the Agricultural Free Patent Reform Act. From July 2016 to March 2021, we issued patents for 9,399.46 hectares of public residential lands benefiting 185,822 actual occupants; and 58,897.53 hectares of public agricultural lands benefiting 88,910 upland workers (see Figure 1.14).²⁴



The President, assisted by DENR Secretary Roy Cimatu, awards land title to Ms. Ana Carlota Ho, a residential patent beneficiary, held during the DENR's 31st Founding Anniversary at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center, Diliman, Quezon City on July 4, 2018.

Photo Credit: DENR

Figure 1.14 Increased the Number of Issued Residential and Agricultural Free Patents



Source: DENR

These social justice reforms are a testament to our undying aspiration to uplift the poor. In my remaining year in office, I will continuously institute progressive and inclusive agrarian reforms for the landless. This is my commitment towards bringing about lasting change.

21 NCIP, June 3, 2021.

22 CBFMA, IFMA, FLAg, and FLGMA.

23 DENR, May 27 and June 2, 2021; and Land Management Bureau's 2019 Forestry Statistics.

24 DENR, May 27 and June 2, 2021.

Ensured the Provision of Clean Water, Decent Housing, and Sustainable Energy



Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project - Tunnel No. 4

Photo Credit: MWSS

Improved Water Supply and Access to Potable and Affordable Water

Since the start of my Administration, we had worked tirelessly to provide households with adequate supply of clean water while protecting the welfare of the Filipino people against vested private interests.

To this end, we accomplished the following:

*New Water Concession Agreements.*²⁵

To protect the interest of the Filipino consumer and the national government, I directed the review of water concession agreements, which would have imposed unjust water rate increases. As a result,

Revised Concession Agreements (RCA) were signed by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) separately with the Manila Water Company Inc. and Maynilad Water Services, Inc. on March 31 and May 18, 2021, respectively, both of which shall be enforced until July 31, 2037.

Table 1.4 Comparative Provisions of Water Concession Agreements

1997 Water Concession Agreements	2021 Revised Concession Agreements
Consumers carried the burden of corporate income tax	Corporate income tax cannot be charged to consumers
Consumers were paying Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) rate	FCDA rate was removed to reduce tariff increase and no tariff increase until December 2022
Tariff adjustment for inflation is 100 percent of the Consumer Price Index	Tariff adjustment for inflation shall only be two-thirds of the Consumer Price Index
Prohibition against government interference in rate-setting and the provision on indemnity for possible losses in the event of such government interference	Provisions removed
Sovereign guarantee for future MWSS debts	Provision removed

Sources: MWSS and Department of Justice (DOJ)

25 MWSS, July 15, 2021.

Table 1.5 Increased Water Supply through Water Infrastructure Projects

Project	Description	Status
Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project (AWTIP) – Tunnel No. 4	Construction of a raw water conveyance tunnel with a capacity of 1,700 million liters per day (MLD) to increase water supply along the Ipo to La Mesa transmission system	This was completed in April 2020, five months ahead of the original target of September 2020.
Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project (BBWSP)	Targets to increase water supply in Bulacan ²⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stages 1 and 2 of the project began commercial operation in January and April 2019, respectively. Twelve out of Bulacan’s 23 water districts (WDs) have been enjoying clean and affordable water since 2019. Supply coverage for the remaining 11 WDs under Stage 3 is being worked on
New Centennial Water Source – Kaliwa Dam Project	Construction of a 27.70-km raw water conveyance tunnel that will provide an additional 600 MLD of water supply to Metro Manila, and Rizal and Quezon provinces by 2025	A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 29, 2021 at the Tunnel Outlet Portal area.
Bigte-Novaliches Aqueduct No. 7 Project	Construction of a 15-km new aqueduct with a capacity of 1,700 MLD that will replace old and leaking aqueducts No. 1 & 2 in the Umiray-Angat-Ipo system to increase water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Notice to Proceed for the project will be issued in August 2021. The project will be operational by the fourth quarter of 2024.

Source: MWSS

Infrastructure Programs.²⁷ We also implemented the following infrastructure projects to increase the sources of water supply in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces (see Table 1.5).

To augment the raw water supply to Metro Manila, Cavite, and Rizal provinces, we initiated the following projects (see Table 1.6):

Table 1.6 Augmented Water Supply through New Water Source Projects

Project	Status (as of June 2021)
Modular Mobile Treatment Plant – Marikina and Cavite Dams	The 20-MLD mobile water treatment plant in Marikina River was completed in April 2021. Meanwhile, the 4-MLD mobile water treatment plant in Cavite was completed in June 2021, while the 12-MLD and 6.6-MLD will be completed in November 2021 and February 2022, respectively.
Calawis Water Treatment Plant	The 80-MLD water treatment plant is 64.48 percent accomplished and targeted to be completed before June 2022.
East Bay Laguna Water Source Project	The construction of the project’s Phase 1, which has an 80-MLD water capacity, has an accomplishment rate of 23 percent, while land acquisition for the construction of Phase 2 is ongoing. The two phases are targeted to be completed in April 2023 and July 2024, respectively.
Poblacion Muntinlupa Water Treatment Plant in Laguna Lake	The 150-MLD capacity project is 6.93 percent accomplished and targeted to be completed by 2023.

Source: MWSS

26 This covers the following Bulacan municipalities: Stage 1 – Balagtas, Bocaue, Marilao, Meycauayan, Obando, and San Jose Del Monte; Stage 2 – Bulacan, Calumpit, Guiguinto, Malolos, Paombong, Plaridel, and Sta. Maria; and Stage 3 – Angat, Baliwag, Bustos, Doña Remedios Trinidad, Hagonoy, Norzagaray, Pulilan, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, and San Rafael.

27 MWSS, July 15, 2021.



The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) turns-over a completed water project in Panukulan, Quezon.

Photo Credit: DILG

Our investments in water infrastructure projects increased the number of households with direct access to water through our WDs and concessionaires from 7.92 million households in 2016 to 9.19 million households as of April 2021.

We also expanded the number of households served by improved sewerage and sanitation services (e.g., more and better treatment plants, trucks for pumping out septage, and safe disposal of treated septage) in Metro Manila. In 2020, more than 3.7 million households were provided with better sewerage and sanitation services. This is almost double the 1.9 million households served in 2016.

Community Programs. As part of our efforts to ensure greater access to water supply, we continuously provide water supply systems for waterless municipalities and barangays nationwide under the following programs:²⁸

Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig (SALINTUBIG) Project. From July 2016 to June 2021,



Children beam with smiles as they wash their hands from a completed water project under SALINTUBIG in Tubao, La Union.

Photo Credit: DILG



A mother fetches water from a completed water project in Brgy. Bonbon, Panukulan, Quezon.

Photo Credit: DILG

2,160 water projects (i.e., construction and rehabilitation of water supply and treatment systems) were completed nationwide, benefitting 1.12 million households.

Bottom-up Budgeting (BuB) Water and Assistance to Municipalities (AM) Water Programs. From July 2016 to June 2021, 3,814 water projects under the BuB and AM water programs were completed, benefitting 1.98 million households nationwide.

28 DILG, July 15, 2021.

As a result of these programs, we were able to quadruple the number of households with access to water supply from 773,868 households in June 2016 to 3.1 million households as of June 2021.

These efforts brought us closer to our goal of providing universal access to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030.²⁹

Provided Decent and Affordable Housing³⁰

Having decent and affordable shelter is a basic human right and owning a house is a dream for all Filipino families. Thus, I signed into law RA no. 11201



A completed Socialized Housing Project in Baras, Rizal.

Photo Credit: DHSUD



DHSUD Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario (center) signed MOAs with Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph Evangelista; Magsaysay, Davao Del Sur Mayor Arthur Davin, and M'Lang, North Cotabato Mayor Russel Abonado on April 15, 2021, for the development of socialized housing projects.

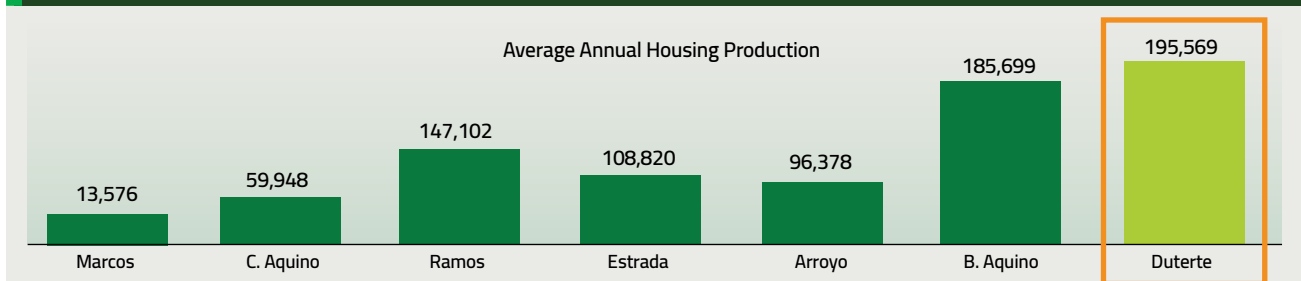
Photo Credit: DHSUD

on February 14, 2019, creating the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) to rationalize the implementation of our housing programs.

In my five years in office, we provided Filipinos, particularly, the homeless and underprivileged, improved access to decent, affordable, and climate-resilient housing through the following:

Provided Housing for the Poor. From July 2016 to March 2021, we provided housing units to 928,953 families, representing 82 percent of the government's target of 1.13 million family-owners

Figure 1.15 Produced the Highest Annual Average Number of Housing Units (1975-March 2021)



Source: DHSUD

29 UNDP SDG 6.

30 DHSUD, June 7, 2021 and June 28, 2021.

of decent housing by the end of 2022. Of the 928,953 units produced, 488,854 or 52.6 percent were socialized housing, and 402,847 or 43.4 percent were low-cost housing, which benefitted the informal settlers and other marginalized sectors.

Despite the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the limited fiscal space, we were able to produce an average of 195,569 housing units per year — the highest annual average compared to previous administrations (see Figure 1.15).

Developed Affordable Home Financing Schemes. We undertook adjustments to our socialized housing programs to make these affordable and suited to the needs of the poor and marginalized.

From July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2021, Pag-IBIG Fund released PhP344.45 billion to help 393,283 members realize their dream of owning a home or improving the homes they currently own. This amount is 106 percent higher than

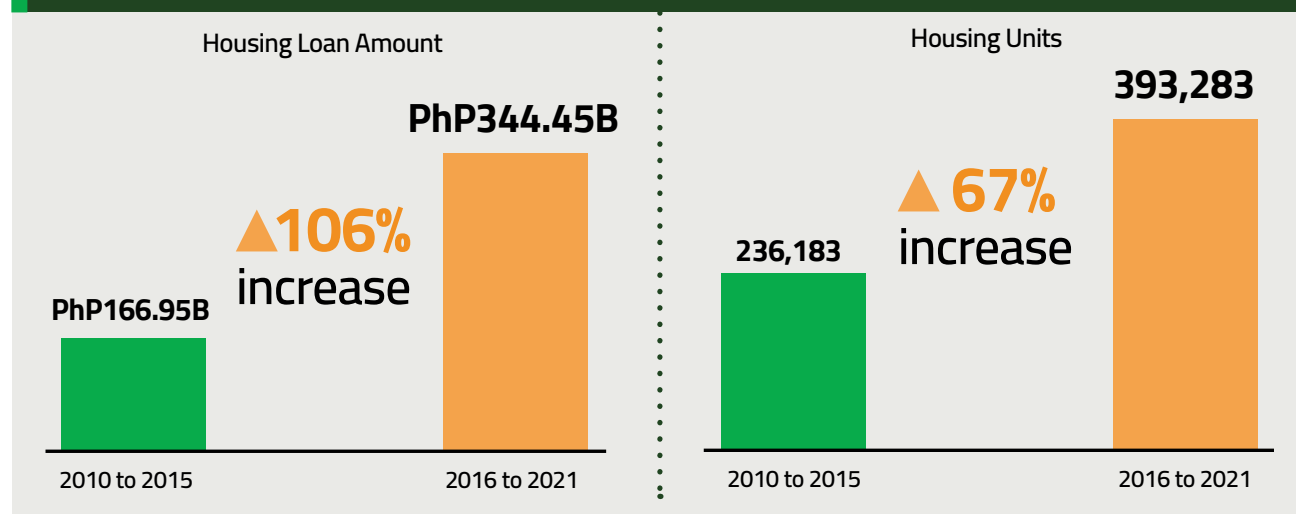
the accomplishment in the same period in the previous administration (see Figure 1.16). The number of Filipinos who achieved their dream of homeownership in the last five years increased by 67 percent from 236,183 to 393,283 in the same period under the previous administration.

Improved housing for uniformed personnel. We responded to the housing needs of low-salaried members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) by providing them with houses that conform to their needs. As of May 2021, we completed 3,370 housing units for the AFP and PNP.

Ensured Adequate and Reliable Energy³¹

Over the past years, my Administration worked tirelessly to make energy sufficient and accessible to all Filipinos to enrich their lives now and in the years to come.

Figure 1.16 Increased Access to Home Financing through Pag-IBIG Loans



Source: DHSUD

31 DOE, July 17, 2021.

Table 1.7 Increased Household Electrification Level (2016 vs. 2020)

	2016 Energized HH	2016 Electrification Level (%)	2020 Energized HH	2020 Electrification Level (%)
Luzon	13,178,895	95.5	14,971,624	98.4
Visayas	3,833,132	94.0	4,545,661	95.7
Mindanao	3,585,293	74.1	4,605,672	83.6
Philippines	20,597,320	90.7	24,122,957	94.5

Source: Department of Energy (DOE)

Improved Energy Access of Filipinos. Despite various calamities, including the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to improve our electrification level. Consistent with the 100 percent household electrification target by 2022,³² we increased our electrification level from 90.7 percent in 2016 to 94.5 percent in 2020 or 3.53 million additional households enjoying electricity service (see Table 1.7). My Administration is exerting all efforts to provide electricity access to the remaining 1.26 million households nationwide.

To further accelerate the government’s electrification efforts, we opened 69 zones in Negros Occidental and Palawan as remote, underserved, and unserved areas that could be serviced by the private sector as a “Qualified Third Party” (QTP). This aims to encourage private sector participation in rural or missionary electrification and speed up the total electrification of the country.

Increased Installed and Dependable Capacities. We also endeavored to increase our installed and dependable

Table 1.8 Increased Philippine Installed and Dependable Capacity for Sufficient Power Supply (in MW, 2016 vs. 2020)

Plant Type	2016		2020		Percentage Increase (2016 vs 2020)	
	Installed	Dependable	Installed	Dependable	Installed	Dependable
Coal	7,419	6,979	10,944	10,245	47.51	46.80
Renewable Energy	6,958	6,005	7,653	6,825	9.99	13.66
Hydropower	3,618	3,181	3,779	3,527	4.45	10.88
Geothermal	1,916	1,689	1,928	1,753	0.63	3.79
Solar	765	594	1,019	817	33.20	37.54
Wind	427	383	443	443	3.75	15.67
Biomass	233	157	483	285	107.30	81.53
Natural Gas	3,431	2,821	3,453	3,054	0.64	8.26
Oil-based	3,616	3,291	4,237	3,286	17.17	-0.15
Total	21,424	19,096	26,287	23,410	22.70	22.59

Source: DOE

capacities to ensure sufficient and secure power supply. In 2020, the installed capacity³³ of the country reached 26,287 megawatts (MW), a growth of 22.70 percent from 21,424 MW in 2016. On the other hand, dependable capacity³⁴ grew by 22.59 percent from 19,096 MW in 2016 to 23,410 MW in 2020 (see Table 1.8).

Increased Power Supply in Mindanao.

Mindanao's total installed capacity in 2020 increased by 67.48 percent from 2,737 MW in 2016 to 4,584 MW while dependable capacity grew by 70.85 percent from 2,360 MW in 2016 to 4,032 MW (see Table 1.9). Increased power supply in Mindanao will pave the way for more economic investments and opportunities.

Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) in Mindanao. The need to improve power supply in Mindanao to address power outages necessitated the adoption of a mechanism for efficient scheduling, dispatch, and settlement of energy transactions. This was addressed through the WESM. As envisioned under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, Mindanao started transitioning to an electricity spot market on June 26, 2021. The full commercial operation of the WESM in Mindanao on July 26, 2021 will attract more power industry investors and provide power supply sustainability in the region. To date, 87 participants are now registered in the WESM in Mindanao.

Table 1.9 Increased Mindanao's Installed and Dependable Capacities (in MW, 2016 vs. 2020)

Plant Type	2016		2020		Percentage Increase (2016 vs 2020)	
	Installed	Dependable	Installed	Dependable	Installed	Dependable
Coal	651	575	2,264	2,041	247.77	254.96
RE	1,284	1,073	1,430	1,201	11.37	11.93
<i>Hydropower</i>	<i>1,081</i>	<i>923</i>	<i>1,165</i>	<i>1,007</i>	<i>7.77</i>	<i>9.10</i>
<i>Geothermal</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>108</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Solar</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>84</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>42.37</i>	<i>42.55</i>
<i>Wind</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Biomass</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>102.78</i>	<i>-</i>
Natural Gas	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00
Oil-based	802	712	889	790	10.85	10.96
Total	2,737	2,360	4,584	4,032	67.48	70.85

Source: DOE

33 The maximum amount of electricity that power plants can produce.

34 The load carrying ability of electric power plants.



The President leads the ceremonial switch-on of the 420-MW Pagbilao Unit 3 Power Project during its inauguration in Pagbilao, Quezon on May 31, 2018. Joining the President are Jera Co. Inc. Chief Power Development Officer Toshiro Kudama, Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, then Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go, Aboitiz Equity Adventures Chief Operating Officer Sabin Aboitiz, and Marubeni Corp. Senior Executive Officer for Power Projects and Plant Group Yasuo Hirotha.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project (MVIP). A single and unified national grid will come to fruition once the MVIP is completed as it connects Mindanao to the Visayas grid. In July 2017, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) granted the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) the provisional authority to implement the project, which is targeted to be completed by December 2022 provided all regulatory requirements are expedited.

The identified potential benefits of the MVIP include reduced investments in power generation as a result of sharing of system reserves, lower number of generation plants to build in either Visayas or Mindanao,³⁵ and less operating cost due to economic dispatch of generators.³⁶ The interconnection will also result in optimized use of available energy resources and additional generation capacities in the country.

Promoted and Protected Consumer Welfare. Protecting the interests of our consumers had been at the core of my Administration. Thus, on May 27, 2021, I signed RA no. 11552, extending the lifeline rate or the subsidized rate in electricity bills for poor households for 30 years or until 2051, among others. With this, around five million households are expected to benefit from the subsidized rate, with majority (2.65 million households) currently located in the National Capital Region (NCR).

This is in addition to the advisories issued in March 2020 during the enhanced community quarantine providing for, among others, the deferment of obligations and dues for the benefit of electricity consumers. They were also provided with a grace period to pay their bills and staggered payment option without interests, penalties, and other charges.

35 This is due to the maintenance of one-day Loss of Load Probability or the expected number of days in a specified period in which the daily peak demand will exceed the available generating capacity.

36 Economic dispatch is the short-term determination of the optimal output of a number of electricity generation facilities, to meet the system load, at the lowest possible cost, subject to transmission and operational constraints.

Advanced Energy Efficiency and Conservation. Central to energy security is the integration of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EE&C) as a national way of life. To build this culture and strengthen the implementation of our EE&C Law, we have been working to implement EE&C principles across all sectors of society.

Among our most recent initiatives and measures towards this end include:

- a. Creation of the Inter-Agency EE&C Committee to evaluate and approve government energy efficiency projects and provide strategic direction in the implementation of the Government Energy Efficiency Program. As a result, energy savings from government energy management program from January 2020 to March 2021 reached 11,613,746 kilowatt hours, equivalent to almost PhP98 million in monetary savings and carbon dioxide avoidance of almost 6,000 tons; and
- b. Adoption of the Guidelines on the Energy-Conserving Design of Buildings to attain efficient energy utilization in buildings in accordance with energy conservation concepts and contribute to energy crisis mitigation. As of June 2021, we had 162 Green Building Projects across the country.

Secured the Future of the Energy Sector.

In the last five years, the following initiatives shaped the Philippine energy sector into one that focuses on energy security, access, reliability, and resiliency.

We faithfully implemented RA no. 9513 or the Renewable Energy (RE) Act of 2008.



Ilocos Norte wind farm

Photo Credit: DOT

Table 1.10 The Highest Renewable Energy Share among ASEAN Countries

Countries	Total Primary Energy Supply (MTOE)*	RE Share (%)
Philippines	60.09	32.8
Vietnam	98.37	15.2
Malaysia	101.77	6.4
Thailand	134.07	6.2
Indonesia	212.80	6.1
Singapore	84.77	0.2

*MTOE (million tons of oil equivalent)

Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy, June 2020

Towards this end, we ordered a periodic review of the law to determine our accomplishments and find better ways to promote our indigenous RE sources. To date, the Philippines still has the highest RE share in the total primary energy supply among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (see Table 1.10).



The President leads the ceremonial valve opening for the oil and gas production of the Alegria Oil Field during its ceremonial commencement in Alegria, Cebu on May 19, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

In addition, the following recent policy shifts are aimed to boost RE:

- Opened our geothermal sector to increased foreign investments by allowing 100 percent foreign participation in large-scale geothermal projects through Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements (FTAAs). Under the third Open and Competitive Selection Process (OCSP 3), foreign companies were allowed to participate in geothermal exploration, development, and utilization activities, so long as these were large-scale, or had a minimum investment cost of about US\$50 million, and were pursued under FTAA, as provided under the Philippine Constitution.
- Declared a moratorium on the endorsement of greenfield coal-fired power plants as the country needs to move towards a more flexible power mix. This is to help build a more sustainable and resilient power system which can accommodate new, cleaner, and indigenous technological innovations.

We launched the Philippine Conventional Energy Contracting Program to facilitate the exploration and development of our indigenous energy resources and revitalize our upstream oil and gas sector. As a result of our strong local and international promotional efforts, we received 14 applications to this program. We are looking forward to the awarding of compliant applications, and the entry of more interested parties this year.

A total of 22 Pre-Determined Areas (PDAs) covering potential geothermal and hydropower resources had been identified and were presented to various stakeholders during the launch of OCSP 3 in January 2021. These PDAs, composed of 17 potential hydro projects and five geothermal projects, have a total potential capacity of about 150 MW and will be offered to RE developers deemed qualified based on the criteria set by the DOE.

Apart from gradually displacing the share of fossil-based fuels in the energy supply mix, the deployment of more RE projects allowed us to generate PhP221.3 billion of investments since the implementation of the RE law in 2008. More than half of which, or around PhP123.5 billion, was secured from awarded RE projects in the last five years alone (2016-2020). This provided new opportunities and created gainful employment for around 550,000 Filipinos.

Ensured Access to Responsive Health Care for All



President Duterte visits children with cancer at the Southern Philippines Medical Center-Children's Cancer Institute (SPMC-CCI).

Photo Credit: SPMC-CCI

Malasakit sa kapwa is a value I hold deeply in my heart, especially for those who have no access to quality health care. We continuously worked hard to ensure that no one would be left behind in the area of healthcare. We passed the UHC Act or RA no. 11223 in 2019 and instituted guidelines to fully implement this law and ascertain that all Filipinos could fully benefit from it. We strengthened accountability measures to ensure that public health funds will benefit the people down to the last centavo.

Strengthened the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP)³⁷

The UHC Act made it possible for every Filipino to become eligible to avail of primary health care services. Each will be registered to a health care provider that

will guide them in receiving the benefits according to their life stage and health risk. They will be assured of quality health services and will be informed and engaged in ensuring their health and well-being.

We expanded the membership coverage of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to provide financial health assistance to as many sectors as possible. From only 90 percent in 2016, we now cover 100 percent of our current population through the UHC Act (see Figure 1.17). The guidelines we issued on the grant of immediate eligibility to all Filipinos has allowed every citizen to avail of PhilHealth benefit packages in all accredited health care providers, whether they contributed or not.

Figure 1.17 Percentage of Population Covered by the NHIP



Source: PhilHealth

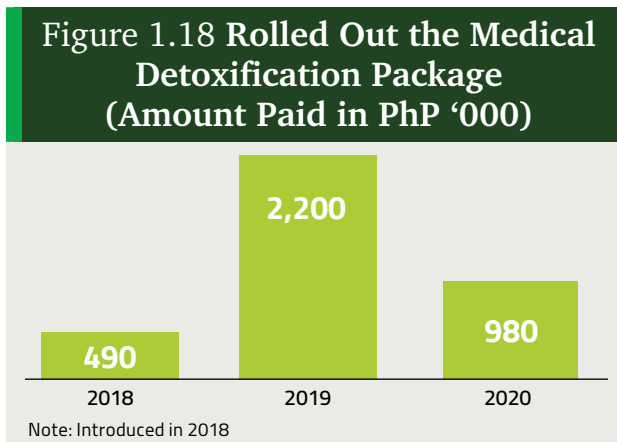
Benefit packages under the PhilHealth were also expanded to ensure that all Filipinos would have equitable access to patient-centered and quality health services (see Table 1.11). We rolled out the medical detoxification package for drug dependents to help them overcome of their addiction (see Figure 1.18).

37 DOH, March 2021; PhilHealth, April 2021.

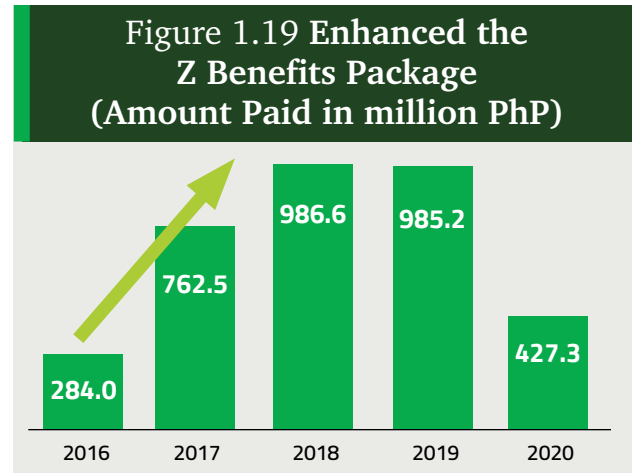
Implementation Year	Program	Member Coverage
2012-2019	Primary Care Benefit	Indigents/sponsored patients, land-based OFWs, Department of Education (DepEd)-organized groups
2018-2019	Expanded Primary Care Benefit	Formal economy, senior citizens, lifetime members
2021	<i>Konsulta</i> Benefit package	All member types (UHC standards)

Source: PhilHealth

Our newborn care package now covers screening for at least 28 disorders. We enhanced our Z Benefit packages to cover treatment, consultation, medication, and laboratory services of catastrophic illnesses, especially among the poor and marginalized families. Additionally, it now covers children with visual impairment and developmental disabilities (see Figure 1.19). We also expanded our Out-Patient Benefit package for the prevention of rheumatic heart disease since it is one of the major public health problems in developing countries like the Philippines.



Source: PhilHealth



Source: PhilHealth

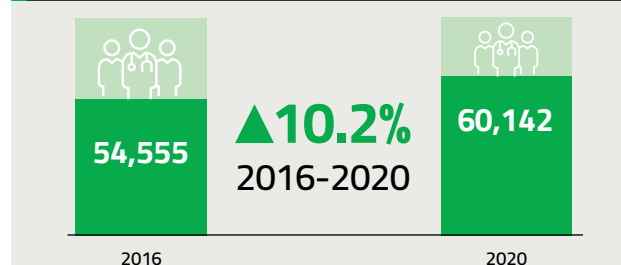
With emphasis on preventive health care, we improved our existing primary care benefits, which we now call the *Konsulta* package, and made it more people-centered. This package covers preventive and screening services, medicines, and consultation fees that all Filipinos can avail of in accredited private and public health care facilities. The guidelines on its implementation and accreditation were crafted in 2020, and the package was rolled out this year for pilot testing. Every Filipino now has a doctor to take care of their family's health.

Increased the Number of Public Health Workers³⁸

Recognizing the need for more government health workers in the country, we provided support for career development and continuing professional development of public health workers, such as post-graduate scholarships, residency training programs, and leadership and management courses. We implemented pre-service scholarships for doctors and midwives with return service agreements under the National Health Workforce System. We augmented health workers

in areas of need. Through this system, we gradually increased the number of public health workers, from 54,555 in 2016 to 60,142 in 2020 (see Figure 1.20), deploying many of them to areas of need. We also formulated the National Human Resources for Health (HRH) Master Plan to improve HRH management and development in the country through a multi-sectoral approach.

Figure 1.20 Increased Public Health Workers in the Philippines



Source: Department of Health (DOH)

Sustained the *Lingap at Gabay para sa May Sakit (LinGap sa MaSa)*³⁹

Since the launch of *LinGap sa MaSa* program in 2017, we have provided free medicines, medical supplies, prosthetics, medical and assistive devices, medical implants, laboratory tests, diagnostic procedures, chemotherapy, and dialysis assistance to indigent families and individuals in dire need.

As of March 30, 2021, 91,054 patients who availed of *LinGap sa MaSa* in 29 accredited government regional hospitals in five identified regions had been assisted. Of the PhP1 billion budget from the Office of the President, PhP910.03 million or 91 percent had been utilized for this purpose. The



Out of 81 provinces, 21 (**26 percent**) have reached the target physician density (1 per 20,000 population), 79 (**98 percent**) have reached the target nurse density (1 per 10,000 population), and 51 (**63 percent**) have reached the target midwife density (1 per 5,000 population).

Source: DOH

beneficiaries included the indigent, poor, vulnerable or disadvantaged, those in crisis situation, government employees up to job order level, and beneficiaries of soldiers and police personnel who were killed or wounded in the line of duty.

Established *Malasakit Centers*⁴⁰

We endeavored to ease the burden of our people from the hefty cost of health care. Through the *Malasakit Centers Act* or RA no. 11463, which I signed in 2019, we established a one-stop shop in designated hospitals where patients can seek medical and financial assistance from the DOH, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), PhilHealth, and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, thereby simplifying the process of availing assistance. As of July 10, 2021, we had established 128 *Malasakit Centers* across the country (see Figure 1.21).

Improved the Overall Health of Filipinos⁴¹

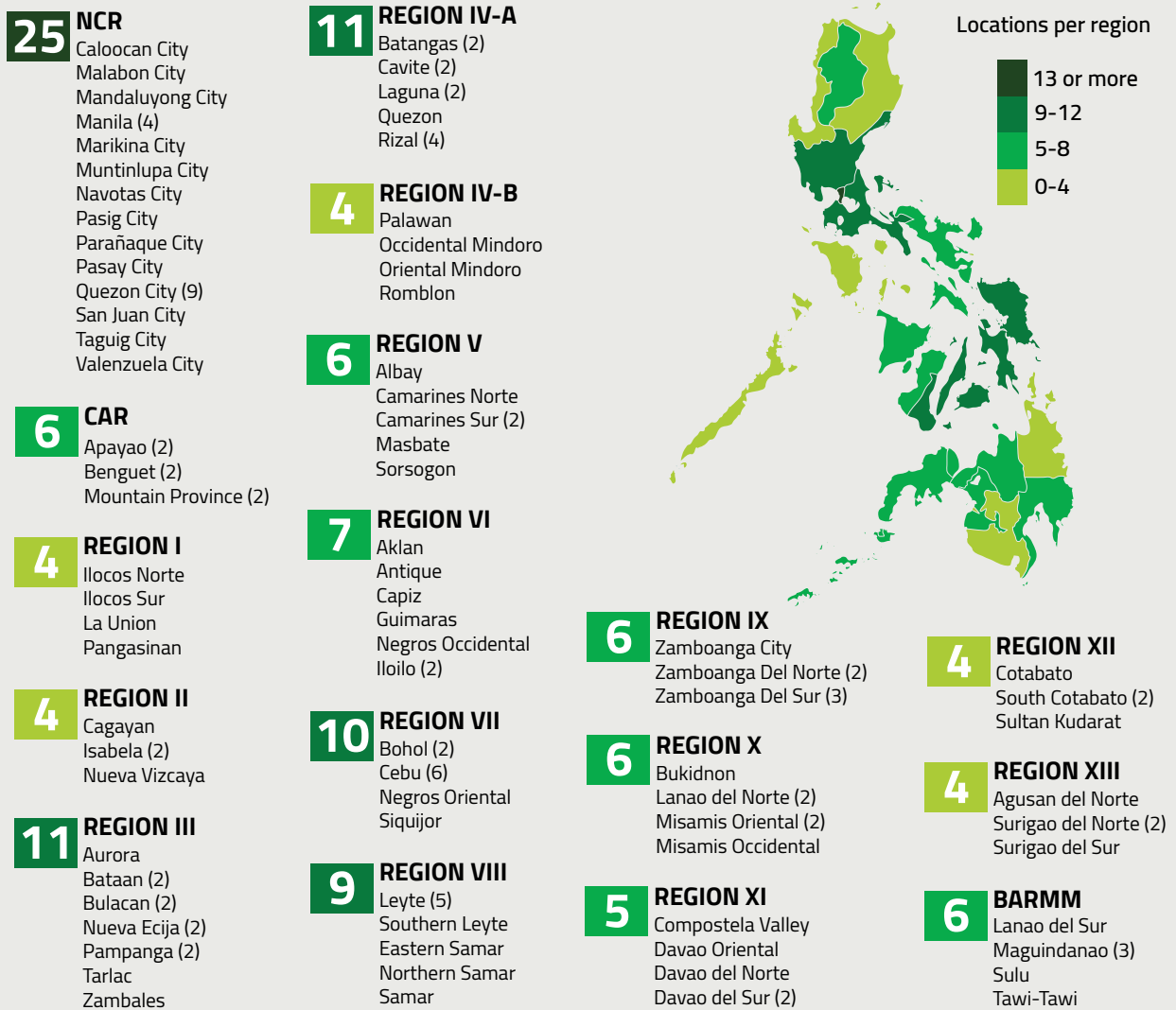
Our efforts to ensure that all Filipinos have access to responsive health care have helped improve the health of our people. Two major indicators— infection or incidence rate of the top causes of morbidity and mortality rate

39 DSWD, March 2021.

40 OPAV, May 2021.

41 DOH, March 2020.

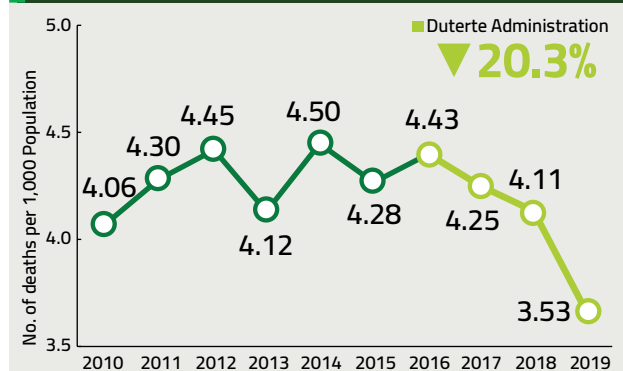
Figure 1.21 Established 128 *Malasakit* Centers Nationwide (2019-2021)



Source: Office of the Presidential Assistant to the Visayas (OPAV)

in the country—have both declined (see Figure 1.22). We have seen a lower rate of infection or incidence of the top five causes of morbidity in the country since 2016. Meanwhile, the country’s mortality rate decreased from 4.43 deaths for every 1,000 population in 2016 to 3.53 deaths in 2019. We recognize that the overall health of our people is still far from ideal. Thus, we commit that until the last day of my Administration, our government will continue to faithfully practice *malasakit* in improving the overall well-being of the Filipino people.

Figure 1.22 Decline in Mortality Rate in the Philippines (per 1,000 Population)



Source: DOH

Ensured Greater Access to Quality Education and Training



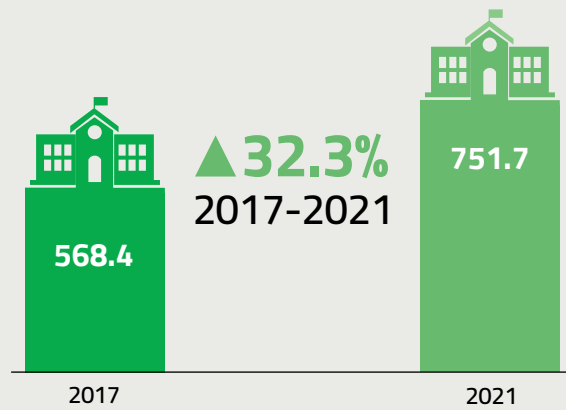
Mr. Windel Alvarez, *Dangal ng Bayan* Awardee and teacher of Alternative Learning System, teaches learners in the farthest and secluded areas in Camarines Sur.

Photo Credit: DepEd

We ensured a legacy of lifelong opportunities for all Filipinos by providing them quality and accessible education and training. Thus, it is my commitment to realize quality education for all through policy reforms and the provision of adequate funding for the education sector (see Figure 1.23).⁴²

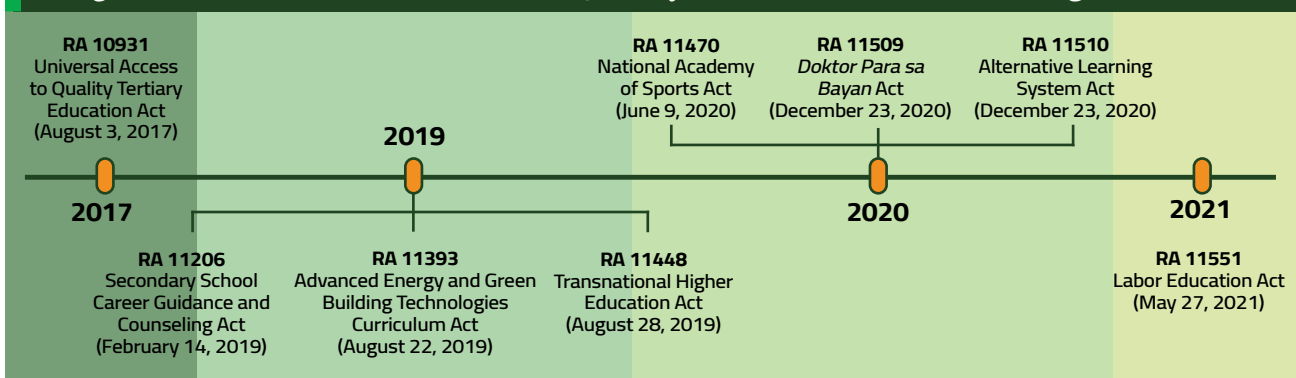
To strengthen the government's efforts in delivering quality and relevant education and training to all, the DepEd and its attached agencies, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and TESDA have collectively and consistently received the largest budget allocation since 2017 (see Figure 1.24).⁴³

Figure 1.24 Growth in DepEd, SUCs, CHED, and TESDA Budget (in billion Php)



Source: Department of Budget and Management (DBM)

Figure 1.23 Increased Access to Quality Education for All through Reforms



42 Official Gazette, 2017-2021.

43 DBM, 2017-2021 National Budget.

Provided Quality and Inclusive Education for All⁴⁴

Committed to providing quality education for our people, the DepEd launched an educational reform program called *Sulong Edukalidad* in 2019 to address challenges to basic education. The program has further prepared the education system and aligned the DepEd's objectives to the changes and demands brought by the pandemic. The program focuses on four key reforms:

- **K to 12 curriculum review and update;**
- **improvement of the learning environment;**
- **teachers' upskilling and reskilling; and**
- **engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration.**

Steadfast on my promise to provide a conducive learning environment, we constructed 118,038 new classrooms and 12,786 technical and vocational laboratories and workshops, repaired and reconstructed 103,548 classrooms, and restored 588 Gabaldon Heritage Schools from 2016 to 2021.⁴⁵ Despite the pandemic, we continued to build new classrooms to accommodate students in time for physical classes. We improved our classroom-learner ratio from 1:35 in 2016 to 1:29 in 2020 for elementary and 1:39 in 2016 to 1:38 in 2020 for Junior High School. Furthermore, we provided 226,416,973 learning resources aligned with the K to 12 Curriculum from 2016 to March 2021. Although the distribution of resources had been affected by the ongoing global health crisis, we are committed to deliver additional 4.28 million learning and instructional materials by the end of 2021 to ensure adequate educational resources for our students.



We recorded an **8.47 percent increase** in enrollment from **24.92 million** in 2016 to **27.03 million** students in 2019.

Source: DepEd

Despite the pandemic, we managed an enrollment of 26.23 million students for formal education for School Year (SY) 2020-2021, representing 97.04 percent of the pre-pandemic enrollment. Unfortunately, enrollment in the Alternative Learning System significantly decreased by 36.99 percent from 759,723 students to 478,672 students in the same period.

On the other hand, despite adjustments in the educational system because of the pandemic, the DepEd recorded 4.56 million learners from Kindergarten, Grades 1, 7, and 11 who registered early for SY 2021-2022 as of June 5, 2021. The pre-registration allows the DepEd to make the necessary preparations for the school year.



The President and DepEd Secretary Leonor Briones lead the simultaneous inauguration of schools in Valenzuela City and Bulacan on March 4, 2021.

Photo Credit: DepEd

⁴⁴ DepEd, December 2020, February 2021, and July 2021.

⁴⁵ School buildings recognized as cultural properties that were designed by American Architect William Parsons. Its conservation was signed into law on January 18, 2019 through RA no. 11194 or the "Gabaldon School Buildings Conservation Act"



Two (2) newly constructed four-storey buildings with 24 total classrooms in Lawang Bato National High School, Valenzuela City.

Photo Credit: DepEd

To ensure that our learners are given closer attention by their teacher, we hired 205,850 teachers or 96.31 percent of the 213,736 teaching positions created from 2016 to 2020. This resulted in the improvement of our teacher-learner ratio from 1:32 in 2016 to 1:28 in 2020 for the elementary level. Fewer students per teacher provided more focus and teaching support to learners, thereby helping ensure the delivery of quality education. Meanwhile, we are continuously creating more teaching positions and hiring more teachers to improve our baseline teacher-learner ratios for Junior and Senior High School (SHS) of 1:25 and 1:29, respectively.

To make quality education accessible to all Filipinos, we provided financial assistance through tuition subsidies to students who wish to pursue secondary education in private schools. For SY 2020-2021, 1,052,926 students benefitted from the Education Service Contracting program, while 1,153,301 students benefitted from the SHS Voucher Program, a financial assistance provided to qualified Grade 10 completers who want to pursue their SHS education in private schools, SUCs, and Local Universities

and Colleges (LUCs). In addition, the number of grantees of the Joint Delivery Voucher Program (JDVP) for technical and vocational specialization increased by 3.49 percent from 88,933 in SY 2019-2020 to 92,033 in SY 2020-2021. The JDVP enables students enrolled in public schools to avail of vouchers so that they can take their technical and vocational training in private schools.

Reshaped Higher Education⁴⁶

We likewise expanded the access of Filipinos to quality and equitable tertiary education through RA no. 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which I signed on August 3, 2017. This law provides various financial assistance and scholarships to student beneficiaries in SUCs and LUCs. This, among others, institutionalized the Free Higher Education (FHE), Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), Student Loan Program, and Free Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).



“The FHE program has greatly helped me in my studies. Had it not been for the education subsidy, I may not be in my 4th year in college and a step closer towards helping my family rise out of poverty.”

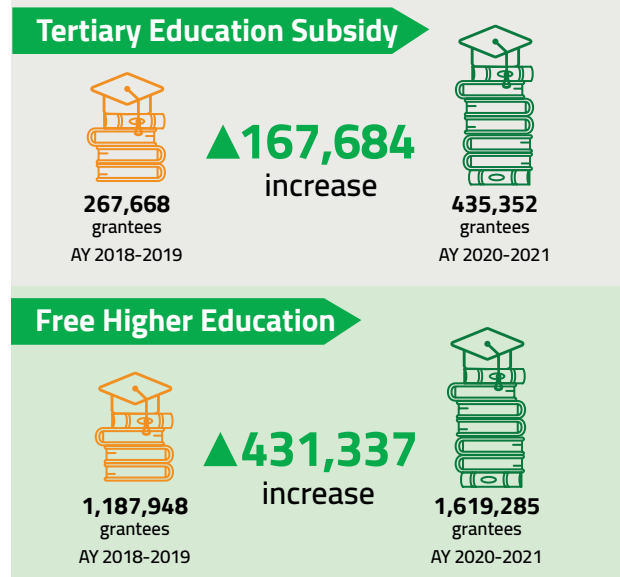
*Mark Denver C. Marquez, 4th year student
BS Electromechanical Technology
Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State
University Mid-La Union Campus*

Source and Photo Credit: CHED

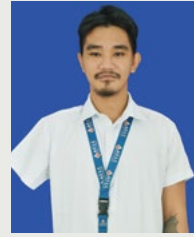
Through the Student Financial Assistance Programs (STUFAPs), we granted scholarships to 1,525,386 students. We further made medical education accessible to deserving students from SUCs and partner private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through the passage of RA no. 11509 or the *Doktor Para sa Bayan* Act, which was signed on December 23, 2020. This provided for the establishment of a Medical Scholarship and Return Service Program to help deserving medical students pursue medical education and training while protecting and promoting the people’s right to health. In addition, we also provided PhP8 billion free tuition to SUCs for Academic Year (AY) 2017 - 2018, which benefitted 900,000 Filipino students.

The educational assistance we provided further expanded the opportunity for every Filipino student to avail of free college education. There was a 36.31 percent increase in the number of FHE beneficiaries and 62.65 percent increase in the number

Figure 1.25 Increased Provision of Scholarship Programs



Source: CHED



“Naipag-patuloy ko ang aking pangarap na maka-pagtapos sa college dahil sa TES. Malaking tulong ito sa akin bilang isang Person With Disability.”

Reynard Z. Pasok, 2nd year student
BS Information Technology
ACLC College of Bukidnon, Inc.

Source and Photo Credit: CHED

of TES grantees in public and private HEIs from 2018 to 2021 (see Figure 1.25). With the increase in public HEIs included in these programs, more students were able to enroll in higher education.

Filipino students were likewise given the opportunity to access international quality education through RA no. 11448 or the Transnational Higher Education Act signed in August 2019. This law develops collaborative arrangements between and among Philippine universities and training institutes, and foreign universities to make higher education in the country globally competitive. As of 2021, Philippine HEIs had formed 1,480 academic linkages with top foreign universities.

The CHED continues its commitment to expand international higher education opportunities for students and faculties by collaborating with foreign governments in providing scholarships, student and faculty exchanges, and joint or twinning programs. A total of 17 Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and MOAs were signed between the CHED and foreign higher education agency counterparts from 2016 to 2020, which paved the way for 19 partnerships



TESDA Director General Isidro Lapeña with beneficiaries of Project Indigenous People Empowered as Agripreneurs towards a Collective End during the project's launching in Sarangani Province.

Photo Credit: TESDA

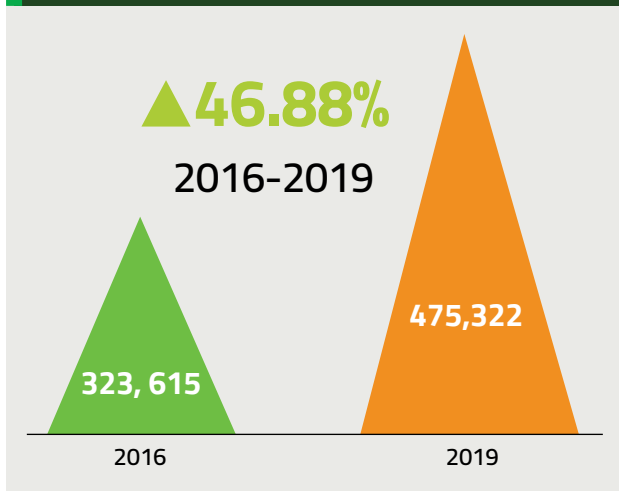
with foreign institutions. As a result, 188 scholars benefitted from these partnerships, providing them opportunities to obtain advance studies to enhance their personal and competency skills.

Sustained Inclusiveness through Technical Vocational Training⁴⁷

While we continue to strengthen support for higher education, we also recognize the importance of providing relevant TVET training. Thus, we provided 16,636 relevant skills training and scholarship programs in the fields of tourism, agriculture and fishery, electrical and electronics, construction, and social community development, among others. This resulted in the 46.88 percent increase of TVET Scholarship Program grantees from 2016 to 2019 (see Figure 1.26).

In 2020, out of 802,218 enrollees recorded by the TESDA, 715,158 or 89.15 percent had graduated. Out of the 493,018 assessed graduates, 462,189 or 93.75 percent were certified to ensure their competitiveness and workforce readiness.

Figure 1.26 Increased TVET Scholarship Program Grantees



Source: DSWD

The TESDA likewise intensified its support to marginalized and vulnerable sectors through its collaboration with the Department of National Defense (DND) and PNP. It provided skills training and Trainers Methodology Course to 753 qualified uniformed personnel to help augment their pool of trainers and assist in conducting skills training programs to former rebels, IPs, and residents in remote areas.

47 TESDA, April 15, 2021.

Sustained the Provision of Social Safety Nets



The President meets with Marawi City's displaced children during their tour at Malacañan Palace on August 29, 2017

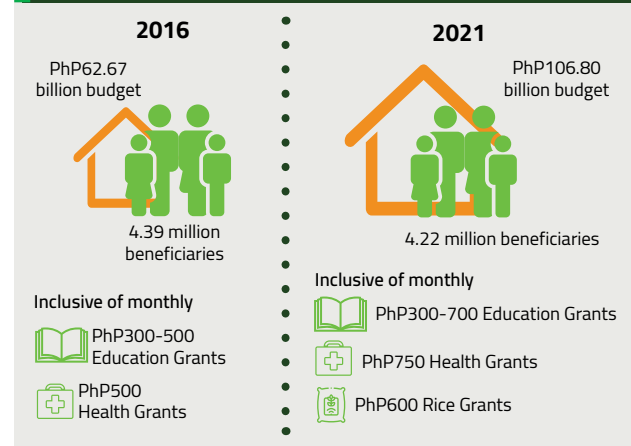
Source and Photo Credit: PCOO

Strengthened the Implementation of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps)

Since its launch in 2008 and institutionalization in 2019 through RA no. 11310 or the 4Ps Act, the 4Ps has been at the forefront of the government's programs to address poverty. The program aims to break intergenerational poverty through the provision of cash grants to poor households, with the condition that children stay healthy and in school, among others. From PhP62.67 billion in 2016, we have consistently increased the program's budget, reaching PhP106.80 billion in 2021 (see Figure 1.27). This included funds to cover the provision of monthly

rice allowance of PhP600 for beneficiaries since 2017; additional monthly education cash grants worth PhP300, PhP500, and PhP700 for Elementary, Junior High School, and SHS beneficiaries; and PhP750 monthly health grants since 2020.

Figure 1.27 Inclusive Grants in 4Ps Budget



Source: DSWD

In 2020, 585,125 household beneficiaries nationwide exited from the 4Ps.⁴⁸ The improvement in their well-being was made possible through consistent monitoring and facilitation of interventions led by the DSWD.

Upheld the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) Program⁴⁹

We started implementing the UCT Program in 2018 under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law or RA no. 10963 to provide cash grants to 10 million estimated beneficiaries of the 4Ps, Social Pension Beneficiaries, and

48 *Pugay Tagumpay 2021*: Graduating 4Ps beneficiaries share how the program helped transform their lives, DSWD.

49 The UCT is implemented under the TRAIN Law as means of tax mitigation for the increase in prices due to increase in the excise on oil products.

Journey to Self-sufficiency



“Marami akong natutunan nung pumasok ako sa Sustainable Livelihood Program ng DSWD. Unang-una na dun yung lumawak lalo yung pangarap ko sa buhay. Alam ko na marami akong magagawa dahil sa programang ito. Dahil sa bookkeeping na kinuha ko, alam ko na hindi ko lang ito magagamit bilang empleyado kasi nagtatrabaho na ako noon hanggang ngayon. Bagkus, alam ko na magagamit ko din sya sa pagnenegosyo ko kasi naniniwala po ako na mas aasenso ako kung may kasabay na negosyo.”

Ritchel Demetrio, former 4Ps beneficiary

Source and Photo Credit: DSWD



“Isang malaking oportunidad ang makatanggap ng tulong mula sa gobyerno kaya huwag po natin sayangin ang tulong na ito at tulungan din natin ang ating mga sarili na mas

magpursige pa at tuluyang maka-alpas sa sikulo ng kahirapan.”

*Mary Ann Quingqing Ampongan,
4Ps student grantee under Expanded Student's
Grants-in-Aid Program for Poverty Alleviation*

Source and Photo Credit: DSWD

other members of the *Listahanan*⁵⁰ who may not benefit from the lower income tax rates but are affected by rising prices. Under the UCT, PhP3,600 was allotted per household beneficiary since 2019, an increase from the initial PhP2,400 grants during the launch of the program.⁵¹

Although the COVID-19 pandemic affected the program's implementation, which resulted in a decrease in claimed grants, the DSWD and LANDBANK were able to

top-up grants to 5.36 million beneficiaries through their Cash Cards in 2020.⁵² From 2018-2020, 9,288,933 beneficiaries received assistance.⁵³

Sustained Assistance to Jeepney Drivers and Operators

In 2017, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) launched the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program (PUVMP). This aims to develop a restructured, modern, well-managed, and environmentally sustainable transport sector where drivers and operators have stable, sufficient, and dignified livelihoods while commuters get to their destinations quickly, safely, and comfortably.

To support drivers and operators affected by the PUVMP, the DOTr and TESDA launched the *Tsuper Iskolar* Program on April 4, 2019. Under this program, each scholar is entitled to free skills and entrepreneurship training. To date, the program benefited 20,866 individuals, 17,691 driver/operator scholars of whom have graduated.⁵⁴

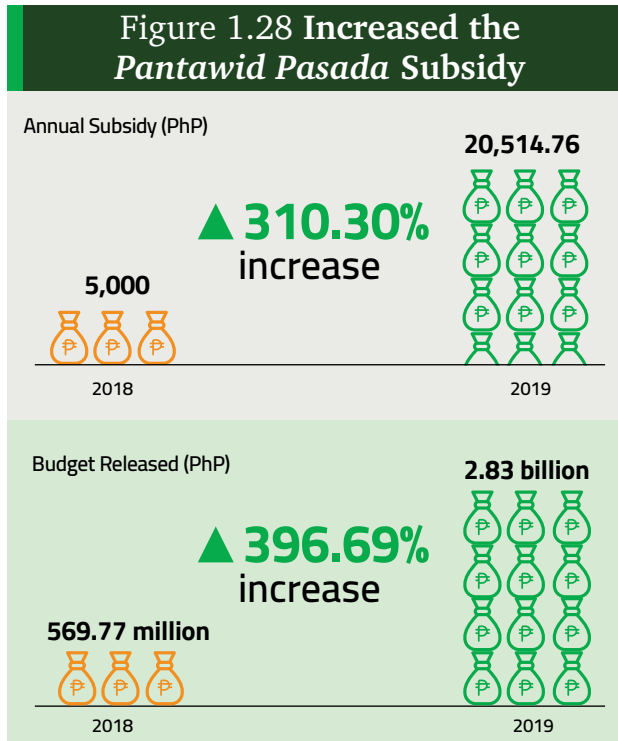
50 The NHTS-PR is an information management system that identifies who and where the poor are in the country. The system makes available to national government agencies and other social protection stakeholders a database of poor families as reference in identifying potential beneficiaries of social protection programs.

51 DSWD, March 30, 2021.

52 DSWD, July 2021.

53 Ibid.

54 DOTr, June 2021.



Source: DSWD

As a result of the collaboration among the DOTr, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and LANDBANK, we continued to provide targeted relief to public transport operators and drivers through our *Pantawid Pasada* Program.⁵⁵

In 2019, we allotted an annual subsidy of PhP20,514.76 per recipient, an increase from the PhP5,000 subsidy in 2018 (see Figure 1.28). The assistance was disbursed through fuel cash cards distributed to Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) operators. These fuel cash cards were also used to safely distribute cash assistance for the *Pantawid Pasada* beneficiaries during the pandemic (see Chapter 4).

Mitigated Hunger in Communities

Another collaborative government initiative is the Expanded Partnership



Task Force Zero Hunger Chairman, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles during the National Nutrition Council's launch of "Tutok Kainan" Supplemental Program on November 23, 2020.

Photo Credit: PIA

Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program, designed to mitigate hunger, ensure food and nutrition security, and reduce poverty in urban and rural communities. This goes hand in hand with the bigger goal of our Administration to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030.

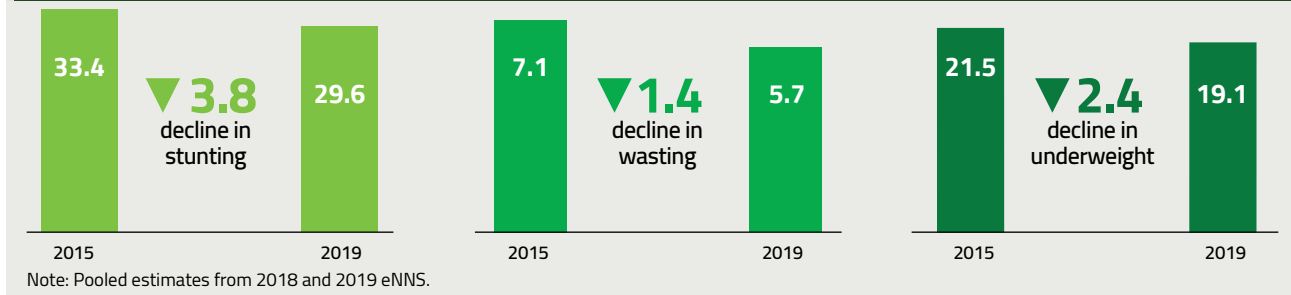
During the 2020 World Food Day Celebration, we launched the National Food Policy, which aims to end hunger in the Philippines through a whole-of-society collaboration among the private sector, academe, Local Government Units (LGUs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and other development partners.

Addressed Hunger and Undernutrition Among Filipino Children

Recognizing the vital role of the youth in nation-building, we invested in their health and development. We still have a long way to go to attain the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of zero malnutrition as there is still prevalence of stunting, wasting, and underweight among children five years old and below.

55 Intended to aid our transportation sector in mitigating the impact of high fuel prices, the PPP covers PUV operators through the provision of annual cash assistance.

Figure 1.29 Decline in Malnutrition among Children Under Five Years Old (in percentage points)



Source: DSWD

I signed RA no. 11037 or the *Masustansyang Pagkain para sa Batang Pilipino Act* on June 20, 2018 to help mitigate nutrition deficiencies among pre-school and public school children. According to the Expanded National Nutrition Survey (eNNS),⁵⁶ the prevalence of stunting among children decreased from 33.4 percent in 2015 to 29.6 percent in 2019, while prevalence of wasting recorded a 1.4-percentage point decline in 2019 (see Figure 1.29).

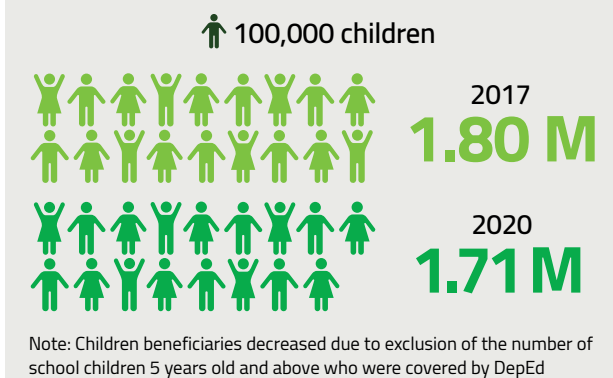


Through the Household Food Security Scale tool, the Department of Science and Technology - Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) recorded a significant increase in food secured households from **33.9 percent** in 2015 to **44 percent** in 2019.

Source: DOST-FNRI

One of the initiatives that aided this improvement is the DSWD's Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) for children aged two to five through the provision of cooked meals during snack time for five days a week for 120 days. As of July 2021, the DSWD served 91.04 percent of the target 1.88 million children for SY 2020-2021 (see Figure 1.30).⁵⁷

Figure 1.30 SFP Beneficiaries Served



Source: DSWD

The DepEd, on the other hand, implemented the School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP)⁵⁸ which aims to address hunger and encourage learners to enroll through the provision of nutritious food products (NFP) and pasteurized milk. As of May 2021, the SBFP served approximately 3.5 million NFP and 3.1 million milk packs for the targeted 3.2 million learners.⁵⁹

Despite the closure of schools and daycare centers due to the pandemic, we expanded the SFP and SBFP through the *Bayanihan* to Heal as One Act and continued the feeding programs. With the shared goal of providing

⁵⁶ The eNNS is a comprehensive survey conducted every three years covering all 117 provinces in the country.

⁵⁷ DSWD, July 2021.

⁵⁸ SBFP intends to address short-term hunger and undernutrition by providing hot meals to severely wasted and wasted Kindergarten to Grade 6 learners.

⁵⁹ DepEd, June 2, 2021.

assistance to children, we strengthened partnerships with government agencies, LGUs, and other enterprises to distribute NFP and fresh milk directly to children beneficiaries despite the implementation of distance learning and community quarantine restrictions.⁶⁰

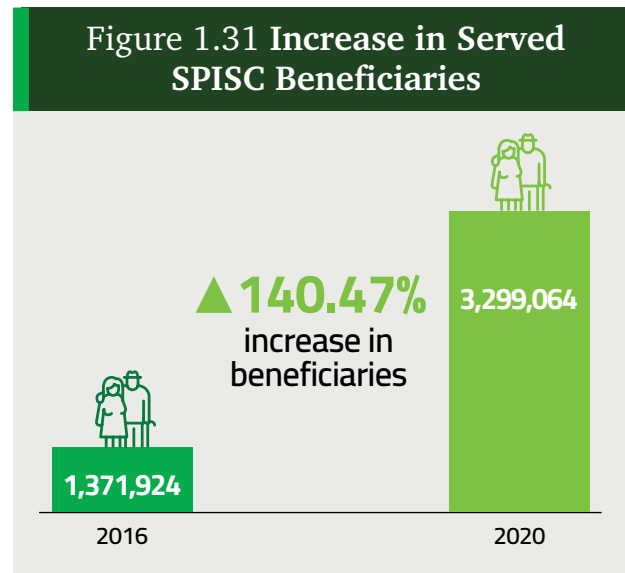
Catered to the Needs of the Elderly

While we address the needs of our youth, we also took care of our elderly. Our indigent senior citizens who are frail, sickly, or with disability and those not receiving any pension or support from their families were assisted through the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) (see Figure 1.31).



Through the Social Pension Program, the DSWD continues to augment the daily subsistence and medical needs of indigent senior citizens across the country.

Source: DSWD



Source: DSWD

From the 2016 target of assisting 1,368,941 elderly, we continuously increased the beneficiaries to 3,835,066 by lowering the age requirement to 60 years old.⁶¹ As of June 2021, the program had assisted 49.44 percent or 1,895,951 elderlies.

We increased our budget for the program from **PhP8.71 billion** in 2016 to **PhP23.46 billion** in 2021 to cater to more elderly recipients.

Source: DSWD

On top of this, we were also able to award 7,918 centenarians with a cash gift of PhP100,000 each since the implementation of the Centenarians Act in 2016.⁶² This is a simple token of gratitude for a lifetime spent contributing to the growth of our country.

The challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic not only delayed but derailed our progress and have made more Filipino families vulnerable to crisis and instability. Thus, my Administration has continued to strengthen and improve existing social safety nets and the delivery thereof to cater to the growing needs of distressed Filipinos, even as the country eases into a better, new normal.

60 Food and milk packs were either delivered to the households or claimed by the parents/guardians weekly together with the learning modules of some students.
 61 From 65 years old in 2015.
 62 RA no. 10868 or the Centenarians Act of 2016 is a legislation that grants additional benefits and privileges to Filipino centenarians who have reached 100 years old and above, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad.

Fostered Secure and Meaningful Livelihood⁶³



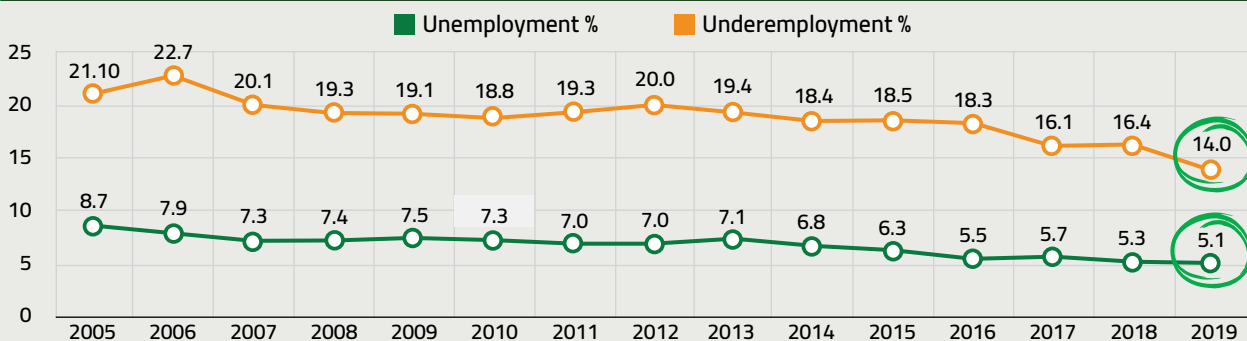
The President interacts with the participants of the National MSME Summit 2018 held at the ASEAN Convention Center in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga on July 10, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

The Filipino workers are the very foundation of our country's prosperity and growth. Their sacrifices and unparalleled hard work contribute to nation-building. Hence, my Administration has continued to uphold the dignity of labor by safeguarding the rights of our workers through laws that protect their

interests and provide equal opportunities for socioeconomic development. We have also worked hard to ensure a secure and stable livelihood for all Filipinos, both through employment and business ventures, not just to provide a source of income but to empower them to make their own choices in life.

Figure 1.32 Decrease in Unemployment and Underemployment Rates



Source: PSA

63 DOLE, July 2021.

Protected and Promoted Workers' Welfare Here and Abroad

As a result of our efforts, both unemployment (5.1 percent) and underemployment (14.0 percent) rates in 2019 declined to their lowest in 14 years (see Figure 1.32). This translates to 42.43 million Filipinos employed, higher than the 41.16 million Filipinos who held jobs in 2018. Meanwhile, underemployed Filipinos, or those who were employed but were looking for more work, decreased from 6.7 million in 2018 to 5.9 million in 2019.

Protected Workers' Rights and Maintained Industrial Peace. Equally important in providing more jobs and increasing the Filipinos' competitiveness is protecting their rights and welfare, especially the vulnerable. Hence, we intensified the implementation of related programs and



The President and DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III lead the awarding of livelihood projects during the 2018 Labor Day Celebration in Cebu City on May 1, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

services to ensure that workers' rights are upheld in the workplace (see Table 1.12). Social protection is integral to

Table 1.12 Enhanced Programs to Protect Workers' Rights and Maintain Industrial Peace

Program	Accomplishments		Increase (%)
	2011-2016	2016-2021	
Labor Inspection Program (establishments inspected)	244,424	371,121	51.83
Occupational Safety and Health, and Construction Occupational Safety and Health Programs (workers trained)	162,616	209,508	28.84
Labor and Employment Education Services (workers/employers and students reached)	2.05 million	2.78 million	35.61
▪ Union members trained	19,236	19,009	-1.18
▪ Union members and their dependents granted with scholarship	609	767	25.94

Source: DOLE

providing equal access to development opportunities for vulnerable workers and reducing their susceptibility to risks. Hence, we implemented new programs and intensified existing ones that will capacitate workers in the informal sector (see Table 1.13).

Initiatives	Accomplishment
Raised Minimum Wage	Issued 41 wage orders raising minimum wage for workers in private establishments and 30 wage orders for domestic workers
<i>Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers (TUPAD)*</i>	732,690 displaced workers, underemployed, and unemployed provided with emergency employment
DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP- <i>Kabuhayan</i>)	427,774 provided with livelihood assistance
Child Labor Prevention and Elimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 291,800 profiled child laborers ▪ 274,541 referred to agencies for necessary services ▪ 66,249 provided with necessary services ▪ 68,629 removed from child labor
Employees' Compensation Program	1.425 million beneficiaries awarded with PhP8.942 billion worth of benefits

* July 2016 to 2019 data (Source: DOLE-Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns 2019 Report)

Source: DOLE

We also issued stronger policy measures to protect workers' rights and promote their welfare (see Table 1.14).

Initiatives	Objectives
RA no. 10968 Philippine Qualifications Framework [PQF]	The implementation of the PQF enhances workers' employability by ensuring that their qualifications are relevant to perceived social and economic needs.
EO no. 51, s. 2018 (Implementing Article 106 Prohibiting Illegal Contracting and Subcontracting)	Declares illegal contracting/ subcontracting that circumvents the workers' rights to security of tenure, self-organization, and collective bargaining, and peaceful concerted activities
DOLE Department Order no. (DO) 174-17 (New Rules on Contracting and Subcontracting to Stop Labor-Only Contracting and Other Forms of Illegal Contracting Arrangements)	Aims to strengthen the implementation of visitatorial and enforcement powers under the Labor Code towards securing a higher level of compliance with labor laws and standards
Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Employment of Foreign Nationals on "Rules and Procedures Governing Foreign Nationals Intending to Work in the Philippines"	Aims to regulate foreign nationals by harmonizing the regulations and policy guidelines governing the issuance of permits and visas to foreign nationals intending to work in the Philippines
DOLE DO 206-19 (Implementing Rules and Regulations [IRR] of RA no. 11360 ⁶⁴)	Declares that rank-and-file employees of restaurants, hotels, and similar establishments are entitled to 100 percent of the service charge collected from customers
DOLE DO 170-17 (IRR of RA no. 10911 or the Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act)	Promotes employment of individuals and rights of all employees and workers regardless of their age

Source: DOLE

64 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".

Ensured Protection of OFWs. As I have said before, the Filipino is not a slave to anyone, anywhere. I have always committed to create an environment that will generate decent and adequately remunerated work for my countrymen so that they will not have to seek better opportunities abroad and leave their families behind. As such, we established measures and mechanisms to protect and promote the welfare and interest of our OFWs (see Figure 1.33).

Figure 1.33 Intensified Programs to Protect and Promote OFWs' Welfare (2016-2021)



Source: DOLE

We also strengthened the protection of OFWs in host countries through the signing of bilateral agreements with

the following: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, China, Cambodia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, and Romania (see Figure 1.34).

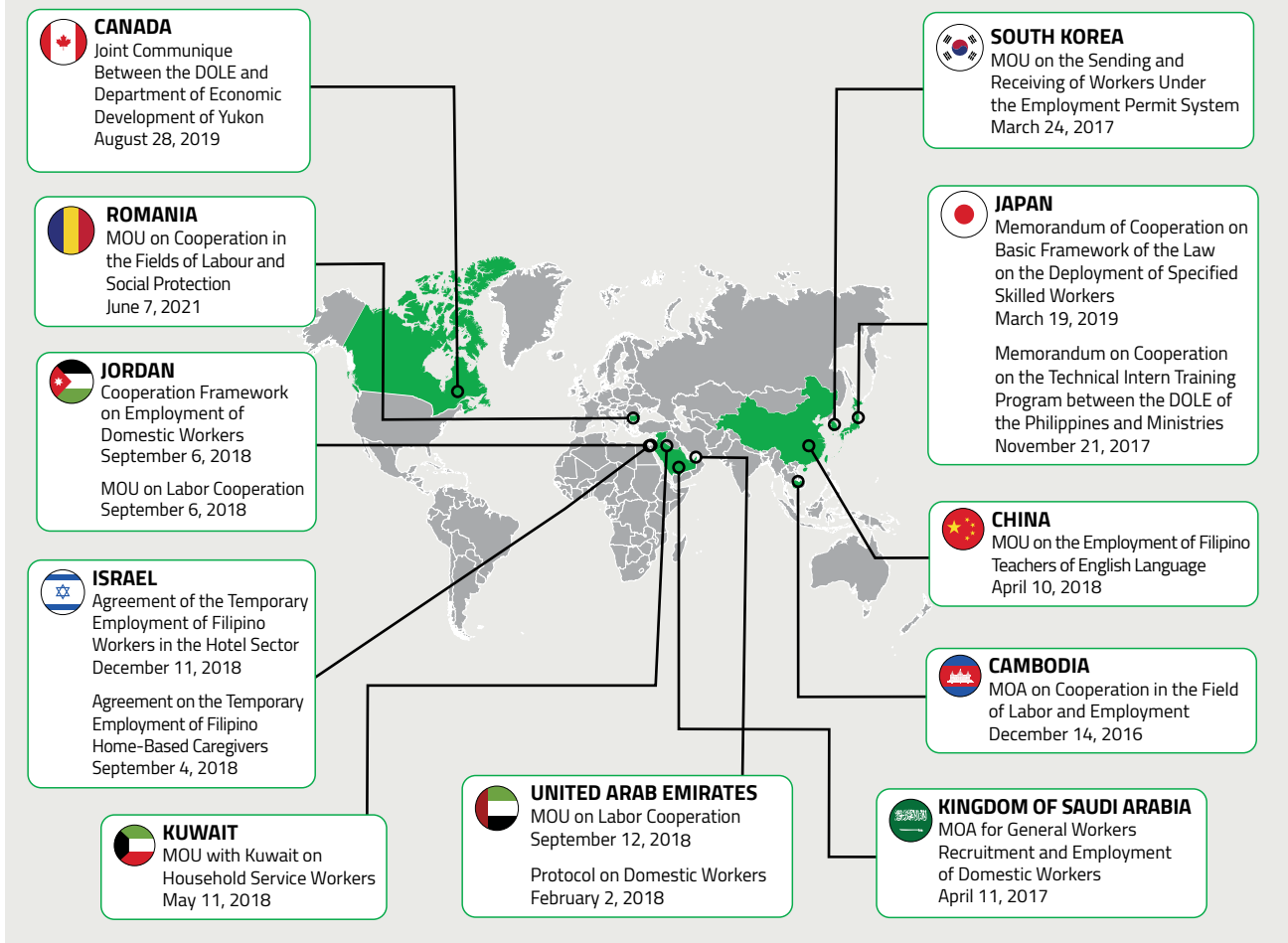
Advocated the Revisiting of the Kafala System.⁶⁵ While we recognize the sovereign right of each state to adopt its own migration policy, countries must also ensure that universal liberties and moral standards must always be observed. Hence, we advocated the revisiting of the Kafala system in the Middle East, which is unjust and exploitative as it placed thousands of migrant workers, particularly household workers, in the most vulnerable situation – unseen, unheard, and unable to defend their dignity as human beings.

As a result, a virtual forum titled “Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Examining Migrant Labor Governance in the Middle East in the Context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” was held on April 20, 2021. Co-organized by the Philippine and Saudi Arabia governments, the forum provided an important opportunity for both governments to talk openly about the Kafala system and what countries, including Saudi Arabia, have been doing to address many systemic issues in the region. Following the forum, I also received a phone call from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud of Saudi Arabia to discuss recent efforts to reform the Kafala system and uphold the rights of Filipino workers in the Kingdom.

Established the OFW Hospital. This medical facility, which had its groundbreaking ceremony on May 1, 2019,

⁶⁵ The Kafala is an employment framework in the Gulf States that requires sponsorship from a national for migrant workers to be employed and reside in the country. Under the system, the sponsor, either an individual or a company, possesses substantial control over the worker. (Source: PCOO, April 20, 2021).

Figure 1.34 Forged Bilateral Agreements with Host Countries to Protect OFWs



Source: DOLE

recognizes the heroism of our OFWs who continue to power the country's economic growth. It will provide free services to OFWs and their dependents when securing medical certificates covering laboratory exams and other requirements for their overseas deployment. The establishment of the hospital and diagnostics center for workers will be financed by donations and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), with support from the DOH and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR), and the Provincial Government of Pampanga, which donated the lot. Construction of the hospital is expected to be completed in December 2021.

Signed RA no. 11227 or The Handbook for OFWs Act of 2018. On February 22, 2019, we signed the Handbook for OFWs Act, which will serve as a reference for OFWs on their rights and responsibilities. It also aims to address issues that they need to know to maintain decent employment conditions while working overseas. It complements the education program of various agencies, provides basic information on the labor and living conditions in the country of their destination, makes the workers aware of the benefits and drawbacks of working overseas, and provides information for their reintegration into society. In line with the celebration of



DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III (second from left) and DOLE Secretary Bello III (third from left), together with then Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (second from right), lead the groundbreaking ceremony of the OFW Hospital in San Fernando City, Pampanga on May 1, 2019.

Photo Credit: DOLE



The President (fourth from left), with DOLE Secretary Bello III (leftmost), then DFA Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano (second from left), Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea (third from left), and DOF Secretary Carlos Dominguez III (rightmost) leads the unveiling of the logo of the OF Bank at the Postbank Center in Manila on January 18, 2018.

Photo Credit: Philippine News Agency (PNA)

Migrant Workers' Day on June 7, 2021, we distributed 2,100 copies of the handbook to OFWs. We also partnered with LGUs to expand to localities the distribution of the handbook.

Established the Overseas Filipino (OF) Bank.⁶⁶ In 2017, I signed EO no. 44



Presidential Adviser on OFW Concerns Secretary Abdullah Mama-o discusses with the Filipino community in Kuwait the government's contingency plan amid tensions in the Middle East on January 18, 2020.

Photo Credit: DFA

approving the acquisition of the Philippine Postal Savings Bank (PPSB) by the LANDBANK. The PPSB was then converted into the OF Bank, which is the first government digital-only and branchless bank in the country. It is envisioned to be a dedicated bank providing financial products and services tailored to the needs of OFs. In January 2018, we officially launched its operation. From July 2020 to June 2021, 39,451 bank accounts had been opened, with an outstanding balance of PhP290.87 million and total e-banking inflows of PhP1.83 billion.

Repatriation Program

➤ *Middle East.*⁶⁷ Due to the rising tensions between Iran and the United States of America in early 2020, which gravely threatened the safety of our people in the region, I immediately ordered the military to evacuate thousands of Filipinos who might get caught in the crossfire. As a result of our strong stance

66 OF Bank, July 2021.
67 PNA, January 1, 2021.

on the primacy of our people's safety, we were able to repatriate at least 700 Filipinos who opted to go home.

➤ *Israel.*⁶⁸ Amidst the ongoing fighting between Israeli and Palestinian forces, I assure you that we are ready should our people need immediate repatriation. In the meantime, Filipinos remain safe in Israel as its government is taking necessary efforts to protect its citizens and residents, including the nearly 30,000 Filipinos residing there.

We also advised our countrymen to strictly follow all safety instructions issued by the Israel Defense Forces Home Front Command and to stay vigilant and postpone or cancel travel plans to places near the border of Gaza to ensure their safety.

Meanwhile, as tensions in the region remain high, we temporarily suspended the deployment of OFWs, particularly caregivers, to Israel to ensure their safety.

Table 1.15 Enhanced the Employability of Workers and Competitiveness of MSMEs

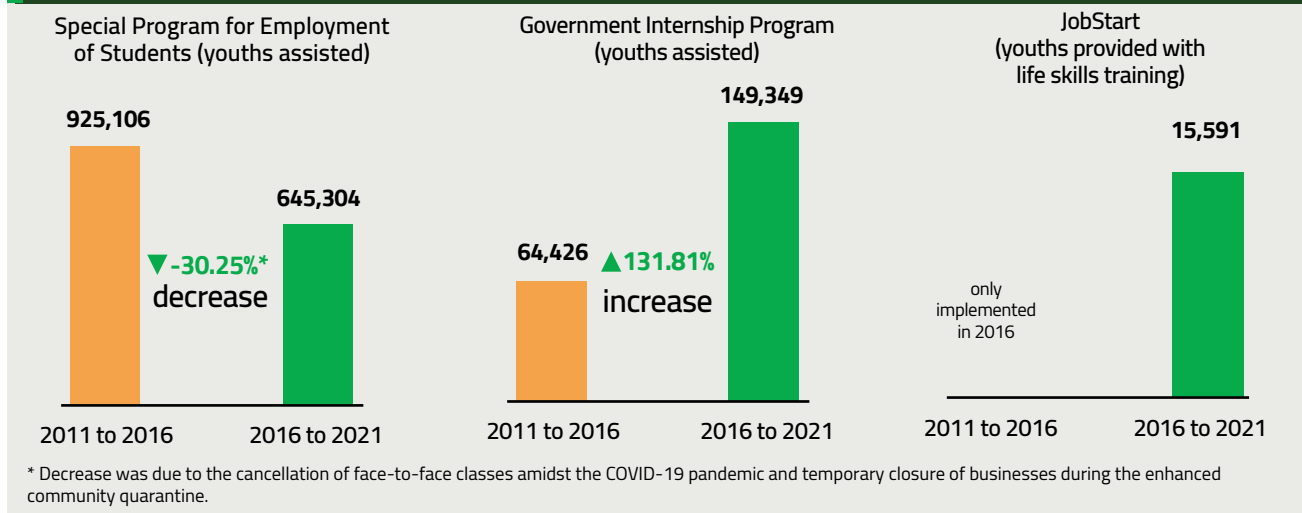
Programs	Accomplishments and Targets		Increase (%)**
	2011-2016	2016-2021	
Enhancing Employability of Workers			
Public Employment Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.34 million jobseekers placed for employment 8.89 million jobseekers referred for placement* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9.60 million jobseekers placed for employment 11.07 million jobseekers referred for placement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30.79 24.52
Job Fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8,301 job fairs conducted 567,307 registered jobseekers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,824 job fairs conducted 421,424 jobseekers hired on the spot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -17.79 -25.72
Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs			
Productivity Training Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48,413 MSMEs (with 97,749 workforce) provided with productivity orientation 21,736 MSMEs with 73,951 workforce provided with productivity trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52,345 MSMEs (with 87,402 workforce) provided with productivity orientation 19,916 MSMEs with 37,294 workforce provided with productivity trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8.12 -8.37
Technical Assistance	986 MSMEs provided with technical assistance in designing productivity incentives schemes	4,687 MSMEs provided with technical assistance in designing productivity incentives schemes	375.36

* From July 2010-June 2016 (six years)

** Decrease in accomplishments of some programs was due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, where face-to-face transactions were limited and several businesses temporarily closed.

Source: DOLE

Figure 1.35 Enhanced the Employment Facilitation Programs for the Youth



Source: DOLE

Implemented Employment Facilitation Programs. A highly skilled labor force is increasingly important for a growing economy, such as the Philippines. Hence, to further increase the employability of our people and enhance the competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to provide employment facilitation and training programs that will link workers to employment opportunities and enhance MSMEs’ skills (see Table 1.15).

A large number of the unemployed belong to the youth sector.⁶⁹ Given this, we continue to implement programs to provide them with relevant training and work experience amid the pandemic, making them ready for employment as soon as they graduate (see Figure 1.35).

Supported Entrepreneurship Towards Inclusive Growth⁷⁰

We pushed for more entrepreneurship opportunities especially in rural areas

where employment is not always an option. Many small businesses have suffered immediate losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But several others have emerged and are able to thrive amid the uncertainties, proving that business is still a viable alternative livelihood. In line with this, we continue to address bureaucratic hurdles in setting up a business, facilitate innovations, and encourage entrepreneurial attitude to further stimulate the growth of local businesses in our country.

Recognizing that fostering innovation enables MSMEs and growing businesses to be part of the domestic and global supply chain, I signed RA no. 11293 or the Philippine Innovation Act on April 17, 2019. This Act shall generate and scale up action in all levels and areas of education, training, and research and development towards promoting innovation and internationalization activities of MSMEs as drivers of sustainable and inclusive growth.

69 Around 4.0 million Filipinos 15 years old and over were unemployed in January 2021 (PSA, March 9, 2021).
70 DTI, July 2021.


Following this, I signed into law RA no. 11337 or the Innovative Startup Act on April 26, 2019. This provides incentives and removes constraints in establishing and operating new businesses to strengthen, promote, and develop an innovative entrepreneurial culture in the Philippines. In 2019, 61 startups were promoted in 10 startup international events, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Workshop on Harnessing Digital Trade for SMEs, IMDEX Asia, and InnoVEX Taiwan.


We also implemented other programs to enhance the entrepreneurial capacity of Filipino business-owners, as follows:


Kapatid Mentor ME (KMME). The pandemic did not hinder the continued implementation of our staple entrepreneurial capacity building programs, including the KMME (see Figure 1.36). The KMME provides coaching and mentoring to micro and small entrepreneurs, wherein mentors are business owners and practitioners on different functional areas of entrepreneurship. As mass gatherings are still prohibited, the KMME was digitalized,


Figure 1.36 Fostered Entrepreneurship through the KMME (2016-2021)

From July 2016 to May 2021, **8,880 mentees** from **16 regions** of the country graduated from the KMME program. Of which, **1,543 mentees** graduated in the online KMME-MME during the pandemic. Further, based on the impact assessment conducted:

 **51 percent** of graduates generated above **10 percent increase** in sales;

 **41 percent** of graduates increased their additional capital above **10 percent**;

 **90 percent** of graduates generated **10 percent** additional jobs; and

 **34 percent** of graduates obtained additional capital from various government and private financial institutions after KMME graduation.

Source: DTI

incorporating the Money Market Encounter (MME) that brings financial institutions and market platforms together to present their services to mentee-graduates.



“Nong hindi pa ako nag webinar sa programang KMME, hindi ko alam kung ano yong tinatawag na Business Model Canvas at parang walang direksyon ang aking pag nenegosyo. Ngunit sa tulong ng KMME Program, natuto ako ng fresh ideas kung paano i-market ang aming produkto lalo na sa panahon ng pandemya at pag pivot sa online selling. Dito lumawak ang aking network tulad na lamang noong mga kasabayan ko nag webinar na naging customer ko na rin. Nagkaroon din ako ng partnership sa online selling apps.”

*Jolbert Galagate,
Nicole and Abby Flowers and Gifts
KMME-MME Beneficiary*

Source and Photo Credit: DTI



DTI-Zamboanga Sibugay distributes livelihood assistance package to LSP-NSB beneficiaries in Siay, Zamboanga Sibugay on July 16, 2020.

Photo Credit: DTI



DTI-Isabela Provincial Office launches the LSP-NSB in Delfin Albano, Isabela on July 1, 2020.

Photo Credit: DTI

Livelihood Seeding Program (LSP).

Meanwhile, as the restrictions on mass gatherings in some areas of the country have been loosened, the LSP, which targets to provide capacity-building program to the marginalized members of our society, was also continued. Through the LSP-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) and LSP-Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa (PPG), business development assistance was brought closer to the people, including those from local communist armed conflict (LCAC)-affected areas and IP communities, and MSMEs affected by disasters (see Tables 1.16 and 1.17).

Negosyo Centers (NCs). NCs champion the ease of doing business as these bring business development services closer to MSMEs in the countryside. In this regard, we established 755 more NCs across the country, thereby increasing the number of NCs nationwide to 1,202 (see Figure 1.37). Meanwhile, of those assisted by NCs from 2017 to 2021:

- 78.62 percent reported an increase in their gross sales;
- 72.85 percent reported an increase in their asset size; and
- 68.21 percent reported hiring of additional workers.

Table 1.16 Expanded Business-Development Assistance Programs through the LSP-PPG (2020-2021)

Clients assisted	26,094
Trainings conducted	3,578
Livelihood kits provided	23,107

Note: The LSP-PPG only began in 2020.

Table 1.17 Expanded Business-Development Assistance Programs through the LSP-NSB (2019-2021)*

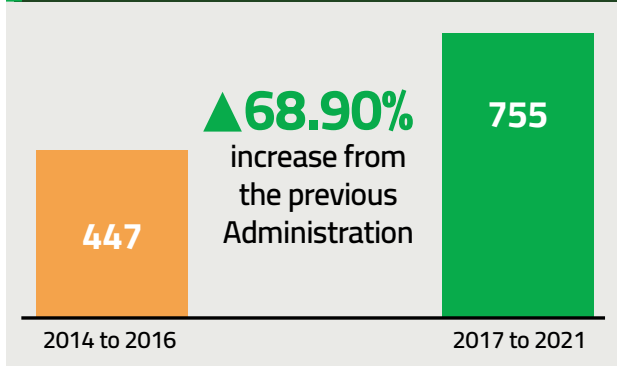
Barangays covered	13,148
Individuals provided with information/training on various livelihood opportunities	842,576
MSMEs assisted	145,839
Livelihood kits provided	28,241

*Data as of July 6, 2021

Note: The LSP-NSB only began in 2019.

Source: DTI

Figure 1.37 Increased the Number of NCs Established Nationwide



Source: DTI

Despite the pandemic's impact, 94 percent of the NCs remained open and continued providing business advisories, online fora, and training and mentoring, among others. Through the DTI, we also launched the Negosyo Center Online Portal to bring NC services in a digital platform that clients could access anytime, including online processing of business permits. Through the passion and dedication of the persons in the NCs to serve our people, around 2.05 million MSMEs had been assisted from July 2016 to March 2021.

Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso (P3).⁷¹ The P3 program revolutionized the microfinancing scheme in the country. It is accessible, cheap, and with minimal documentary requirements. It also provided underprivileged microentrepreneurs an alternative to the 5-6 lending scheme, charging a minimal 2 to 2.5 percent monthly interest rate compared with the 5 to 6 scheme's 20 percent.

Since its launch in 2017 to June 2021, P3 had released PhP8.65 billion worth of loans through 438 credited delivery partners nationwide, reaching 219,568 MSMEs.



DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez visits the Negosyo Center in Rizal on August 11, 2020.

Photo Credit: DTI



P3 launching in Occidental Mindoro on January 27, 2017.

Photo Credit: DTI

Shared Service Facilities (SSF). SSFs provide MSMEs with machinery, equipment, tools, and other auxiliary items under a shared system to help them yield better quality products. From July 2016 to May 2021, we established 859 SSFs and 28 fabrication laboratories, which assisted 205,621 MSMEs and 166,951 other users, resulting in the creation of 195,402 jobs.

71 DTI, July, 2021.

Made Financial Services More Accessible to All⁷²



Participants of the LANDBANK Financial Inclusion Caravan Year 3 in Orani, Bataan on October 20, 2018 receive their ATM cards.

Photo Credit: LANDBANK

The COVID-19 outbreak in 2020 gave rise to unprecedented challenges in terms of managing tremendous social and economic impact across countries worldwide.

For one, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted financial inclusion's crucial role in facilitating social welfare and protection. During the implementation of stringent community quarantines, for instance, financial assistance from the government was provided to vulnerable sectors of our society through online transaction accounts. Similarly, consumers and businesses shifted to digital payment platforms to reduce face-to-face transactions. These mechanisms demonstrated the importance of ensuring an inclusive digital finance ecosystem in our country.

While the number of Filipino adults who own a transaction account⁷³ has increased from 22.6 percent (15.8 million adults⁷⁴) in 2017 to 28.6 percent (20.9 million adults) in 2019,⁷⁵ there remained a large percentage of Filipinos who still did not have a formal transaction account. Owning a transaction account could have facilitated their access to services to improve their financial capabilities.

Hence, we put in place policies and regulations conducive to expanding the scale and reach of financial services (see Figure 1.38). In fact, the number of LGUs with banking presence increased from 64.4 percent (1,043) in 2016 to 69.15 percent (1,135) in 2020.

Achieved Greater Access to Financial Services

Supported the Role of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). MFIs are vital in promoting financial inclusion due to their active presence in the countryside. In fact, microfinance non-governmental organizations had seen an increase in account penetration in rural areas from eight percent in 2017 to 12 percent in 2019. While the COVID-19 disrupted the operations of MFIs, it also provided an impetus for MFIs to explore digital innovations to better adapt to the new normal. As an initial step in supporting their digital transformation, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) conducted a

72 BSP, July 2021.

73 Account in a financial institution (i.e., bank, cooperative, microfinance) or e-money provider.

74 Refers to individuals ages 15 years and above.

75 BSP, 2019 Financial Inclusion Survey.

Figure 1.38 Increased Financial Inclusion through Initiatives and Regulations



Made Transaction Accounts More Accessible.

BSP Circular no. 992 issued on February 1, 2018, allowed banks to offer basic deposit accounts (BDA) – the cornerstone of financial inclusion. In addition to savings, payment, and remittance, the BDA can unlock access to a wider range of financial services such as credit, insurance, and investments. The BDA also only requires an opening deposit of PhP100 or less and does not need a maintaining balance. As a result, the number of BDA users increased from four million in Q4 2019 to 6.6 million in Q4 2020.



Expanded the Network of Low-Cost Touchpoint.

BSP Circular no. 940 issued on January 20, 2017, allowed banks to serve clients through cash agents that can accept and disburse cash on behalf of the bank. Cash agents can also perform Know-Your-Customer procedures and collect and forward application documents for loan and account opening. These cash agents are typically cash rich third-party entities with many outlets that conduct regular business in fixed locations anywhere in the country, such as convenience stores, pharmacies and other highly accessible retail outlets.



Provided Efficient Retail Payment System.

BSP Circular no. 980 issued on November 6, 2017, promoted the establishment of a safe, efficient, reliable and interoperable retail payment system through the adoption of the National Retail Payment System (NRPS) Framework. The electronic retail transfer schemes PESONet and Instapay were launched under the NRPS framework.

Source: BSP

rapid assessment to identify the challenges encountered by MFIs in implementing digitalization strategies and provide insights on possible assistance and interventions that development partners, government, and other stakeholders may provide.

Promoted E-Payments. As this pandemic necessitated Filipinos to transition from cash to digital transactions, we further encouraged the usage of electronic payment fund transfers (EFTs) through the National Retail Payment System as an easy and safe

way for our people to receive funds and financial assistance from the government. In fact, EFTs (combined Philippine Electronic Fund Transfer System and Operations Network [PESONet] and Instapay) grew by 87 percent in volume from 17.7 million to 33.2 million and 42 percent in value from PhP432.6 billion to PhP614.1 billion before and during the enhanced community quarantine in March 2020. Also, around four million new accounts were opened digitally from March to April 2020.

The PESONet⁷⁶ and Instapay⁷⁷ were the primary electronic transfer schemes under the NRPS used by BSP-supervised financial institutions. As of March 2020, there were 56 BSFI participants in the PESONet and 45 participants in the Instapay. Likewise, the combined value and volume of Instapay and PESONet transactions exponentially increased in 2021 (see Figure 1.39). To sustain the momentum and opportunities for wider digital payment adoption, the BSP launched a three-year Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap (DPTR). It aims to develop a digital payments ecosystem that facilitates inclusivity, innovation, and efficiency, benefitting individuals and businesses. For the first half of 2020, volume of financial transactions done digitally was at 17 to 18 percent, while 28.6 percent (20.0 million) of Filipino adults had financial accounts as of 2019. Through the DPTR, we aim to digitalize 50 percent of the country's retail transaction volume and financially include 70 percent of Filipino adults by 2023. These targets are achievable in view of wider adoption of digital finance policies, game-changing reforms such as

76 PESONet is a batch EFT credit payment scheme that supports bulk payment transactions of users.

77 Instapay is a real-time low-value EFT credit push payment scheme designed to facilitate small value payments that are especially useful for the purchase of retail goods and e-commerce.

Figure 1.39 Increased Volume and Value of PESONet and Instapay Transactions (as of June 2021)



Volume of transfers rose from **32,906** in Nov. 2017 to **4.3 million** in June 2021

Value of transactions grew from **PhP52.8 billion** in Nov. 2017 to **PhP362.5 billion** in June 2021



Volume of transfers rose from **1,740** in Apr. 2018 to **37.1 million** in June 2021

Value of transactions grew from **PhP19.1 million** in Apr. 2018 to **PhP213.2 billion** in June 2021

Source: BSP

the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), and pandemic-driven momentum to use digital payments for various financial transactions.

Expanded Credit Opportunities. We expanded credit opportunities for MSMEs and farmers and fisherfolk (see Figure 1.40).

Figure 1.40 Implemented Credit Opportunities



Credit Surety Fund (CSF). From 2018-2019:

- Established **55 CSFs** in 34 provinces and 21 cities
- Approved **PhP5.7 billion** worth of loans for **17,424** MSME-beneficiaries



Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA).

From 2017-June 2021:

- Granted **PhP2.36 billion** worth of loans to **66,695** Marginal and Small Farmers and Fisherfolk (MSFF) borrowers
- Realigned **PhP116.08 million** undisbursed funds to SURE COVID-19 program



Working Capital Loan Easy Access (CLEA).

As of June 2021:

- Released **PhP47.90 million** worth of loans to **11** MSFF cooperatives/associations (2,652 individual) beneficiaries

Sources: BSP and ACPC



Philippines Among Global Leaders in Promoting Financial Inclusion

As a result of our tireless efforts to expand financial inclusion across regions, the Philippines remained one of the world's leaders, i.e., **second in Asia and eighth worldwide**, in financial inclusion according to the Global Microscope 2020 of the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU),⁷⁸ the research arm of The Economist Group.

Together with Thailand in Asia and Russia in Eastern Europe, the Philippines posted the highest improvement in terms of our push to promote digital channels as part of our COVID-19 pandemic response. We also obtained a perfect score (100 points) in the Products and Outlets dimension, which covered BSP regulations on e-money, simplified accounts such as the Basic Deposit Account (BDA), and financial outlets such as cash agents.

In addition, the report highlighted the measures we employed to promote MSME financing, such as allowing banks to include loans granted to MSMEs as alternative compliance with reserve requirements, thereby reducing the weight of loans extended to MSMEs from 75 percent to 50 percent.⁷⁹

Overall, the results of the Global Microscope 2020 reinforced the critical role of financial inclusion particularly during economic shocks resulting from crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Indeed, in every crisis lies an opportunity. The year 2020 offered the opportunity to strengthen collective commitment to shape a more inclusive and resilient new economy through financial inclusion. Our work is not yet finished but the momentum to bring financial services closer to our people is stronger than ever.

78 The Global Microscope is an annual cross-country assessment of the enabling environment for financial inclusion. The EIU report for 2020 rated 55 countries across five dimensions: 1) Government and Policy; 2) Stability and Integrity; 3) Products and Outlets; 4) Consumer Protection; and 5) Infrastructure.

79 A lower weight would allow banks to lend more to MSMEs than setting aside the amount to comply with capital requirements.



Chapter

2

Making Government More Responsive

Heading into the final stretch of my Presidency, my resolve to decisively address the long-standing inequities in public service delivery has only deepened. A responsive government able and willing to put the Filipino people's interest front and center has been at the heart of my Administration's aspirations from day one. As I bear the responsibility of fulfilling my inaugural promise of restoring faith and trust in government, your constant confidence and support has guided me forward. On the strength of that trust, I have steadily pursued our governance agenda.

Accountable civil servants and timely and transparent public transactions are the bedrock of your government characterized by *tapang at malasakit*. We have simplified and shortened bureaucratic processes, reinforced our institutions, and tallied record-high revenues. Since the beginning of my Administration, we have instituted major reforms so you may hold your government to the highest standards of public service, even in times of crisis.

My vow remains - we shall continue to build upon our reforms to realize a truly people-centric, credible, efficient, effective, and responsive government.



Simplify and make your service responsive and client-friendly. Your client is the Filipino, our employer.”

The President's SONA, July 22, 2019

Institutionalized Reforms to Streamline Government Processes

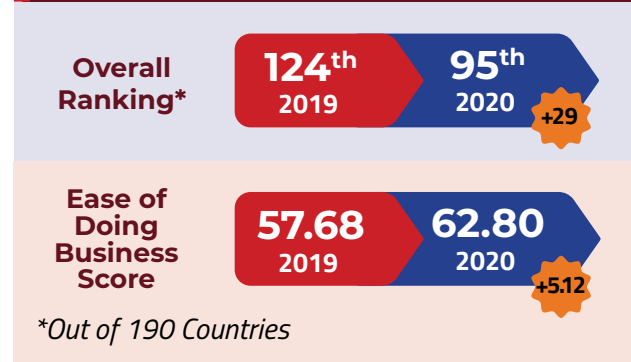
When I assumed the Presidency, my cardinal directive was to spare our countrymen from needless commute and inefficient government processes. Our people deserve topnotch frontline services.

I immediately directed all agencies and instrumentalities to respond to public requests and concerns within 15 days. The enactment of RA no. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act (EODB Act) and the recent passage of RA no. 11517, which allows us to suspend the requirements for national and local permits for speedy response to national emergencies, enabled my Administration to serve our countrymen with world-class quality services, while making the Philippines the country of choice for investments.

Ease of Doing Business

We improved our rank in the World Bank’s Doing Business Report, which annually compares business regulations in 190 economies and recognizes the important work that countries have put in to improve their regulatory environments. From ranking 124th in 2019, the Philippines climbed to the 95th spot in 2020 (see Figure 2.1). The World Bank commended our regulatory improvements such as the abolition of minimum capital requirement for domestic companies, easier processing of construction permits, and strengthened support for minority investors by mandating

Figure 2.1 Ease of Doing Business Global Standing of the Philippines



Source: World Bank

greater disclosure of transactions among stakeholders.⁸⁰

My Administration also facilitated the speedy issuance of government-sanctioned permits and licenses. Since taking effect in August 2016, the Revised Business Permit and Licensing System (BPLS) standards, a joint undertaking of the DILG, DTI, and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), has seen the LGUs’ increasing compliance through the years (see Figure 2.2).⁸¹ As a result, more than 7.50 million business establishments were registered from 2017 to June 2021.⁸²

To further make physical queuing a thing of the past, we launched the Central Business Portal (CBP) (www.business.gov.ph) on January 28, 2021. This initiative adopted a whole-of-government approach as it linked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Bureau of Internal

80 World Bank, Doing Business Report, October 24, 2019.

81 DILG, May 2021.

82 DILG, July 2021.

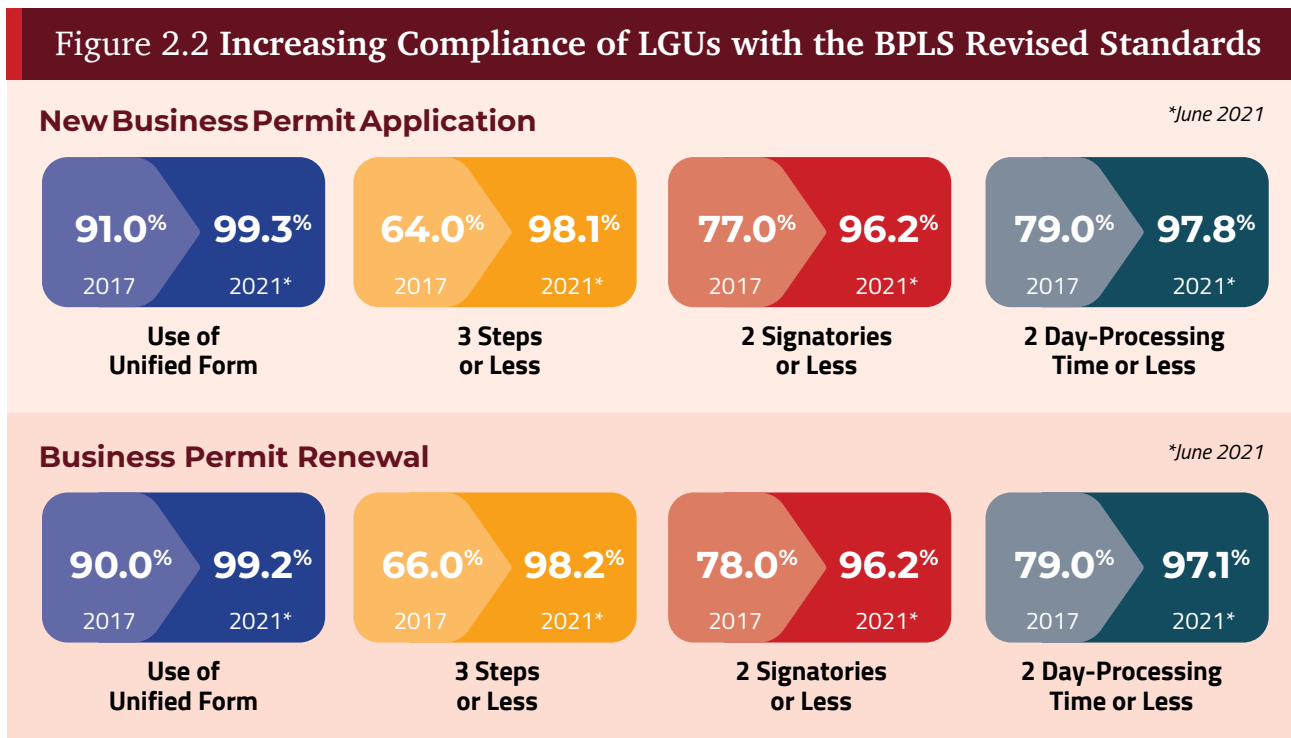
BPLS Standards (2010)	Revised BPLS Standards (2016)
NEW	
5 to 10 Days	1 to 2 Days
RENEWAL	
5 Days	1 Day
NO. OF STEPS	
5 Steps	3 Steps
NO. OF FORMS	
Unified Forms	Unified Forms <i>(Print and Electronic)</i>

Revenue (BIR), social service agencies, and LGUs to allow applicants to transact their business registrations in one website. Since it became operational, the average processing time of registering corporations has been reduced from 33 days to 7

days. Meanwhile, the LGUs launched their respective Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS), which is a single window system for processing business permit applications. As of June 14, 2021, there were 1,474 existing BOSS nationwide.

While the foregoing reforms significantly cut processing time, a new joint initiative of the DILG, DTI, DICT, and the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) in April 2021 sought the further improvement of the business permitting process by enjoining LGUs to transition to electronic BOSS (eBOSS). The eBOSS, a requirement under the EODB Act, has functionalities such as the online submission of business permit applications, digital payment options, and issuance of electronic versions of permits, licenses, or clearances. As of the end of June 2021, at least 611 LGUs had set up their eBOSS using the Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System (iBPLS), a software developed by the DICT.

Figure 2.2 Increasing Compliance of LGUs with the BPLS Revised Standards



Source: DILG



The IDeROBOT produces up to 700 license plates per hour or 11,200 plates in two eight-hour shifts per day.

Source and Photo Credit: DOTr

Still in furtherance of its mandate under the EODB Act, the ARTA issued Memorandum Circular (MC) no. 2020-02 in February 2020, directing all NGAs and LGUs to conduct an inventory of all pending transactions that are beyond their prescribed processing time, and automatically approve the same. This enabled the government to rapidly work and approve 8,510 pending transactions for the years 2019 to 2021. Most of these were applications with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).⁸³

The honking of our Filipino drivers against the eight million backlog in the issuance of license plates, which dates back to 2014, did not fall on deaf ears. My Administration pioneered a plate-making facility called “IDeROBOT.” It can produce 700 pieces per hour, up to 5,600 pairs of motor vehicle plates, in two shifts, or 11,200 pieces per day. There are also two Manual Embossing Machines that can produce 3,000 pairs, in two shifts, per day.

From April 2018 to June 2021, the Land Transportation Office (LTO) produced 3.8 million pairs of vehicle license plates, thus,



The President with then Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco Jr., now Presidential Adviser on Streamlining of Government Processes

Photo Credit: PCOO

covering all the backlog for the period September 2016 to April 2021.

Aside from the license plates backlog, the LTO also had a longstanding backlog of over three million driver’s license cards since 2013. We fully addressed this backlog during my Administration and instead of issuing paper receipts, the LTO now issues driver’s license on plastic cards featuring a five-year validity along with 32 security features. From July 2016 to May 2021, 27,942,201 driver's license cards and permits were issued.⁸⁴

Guided by the principles of the EODB Act, we launched the National Effort for the Harmonization of Efficiency Measures

83 ARTA, June 2021.

84 DOTr, July 2021.



DBM Secretary Wendel Avisado and ARTA Director General Jeremiah Belgica discuss the NEHEMIA Program on January 15, 2020.

Photo Credit: ARTA

of Inter-related Agencies (NEHEMIA) Program. This is a sector-based inter-agency streamlining effort that breaks down the silos and lack of convergence among government agencies. Through this program, government processes involved in the regulation of the telecommunications, logistics, and food and pharmaceutical sectors were streamlined in 2020 (see Figure 2.3).

Other Streamlined Services

Medical Assistance

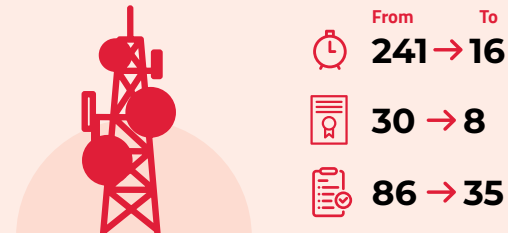
When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, I directed the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) to act with deliberate dispatch in processing the requests for financial assistance under its medical assistance program and utilize available technological advancements for the convenience of *Juana* and *Juan dela Cruz*.


Hence, the PCSO established the Medical Access Program Online Application System on April 22, 2020 to work on requests for medical and financial assistance without requiring our people to travel to PCSO offices just to submit hard copies of the required documents.

Figure 2.3 Streamlined Services under the NEHEMIA Program*

 Days	 Permits
 Requirements	 Output


Telecommunications



 Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on faster building of towers (to issue supplemental guidelines to expand coverage of telcos)


Logistics




 JMC on automation of processes and use of Unified Rapid Pass

Food and Pharmaceuticals



 Integration of e-License to Operate to the Central Business Portal (CBP)

 Integration of FDA Center for Drug Regulation and Research in CBP

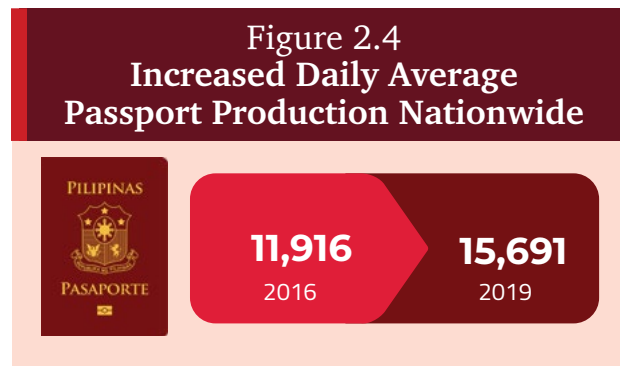
*New program under the Duterte Administration

Source: ARTA

From April 22, 2020 to June 15, 2021, the PCSO was able to act on 41,322 requests amounting to Php449.03 million worth of assistance for confinement, chemotherapy, dialysis, and medicines within 24 hours from receipt of complete documentary requirements.⁸⁵

Consular Services

When I assumed the Presidency in 2016, complaints on our consular services, including the lack of passport application appointment slots and short validity of issued passports, were brought to my attention. The boom in overseas travel, given offers of affordable flights, caused an increase in the number of passport applicants. We promptly responded by extending the validity of passports from five to 10 years, inaugurating 10 more consular offices nationwide, opening other mall-based consular offices during weekends, and increasing the daily average passport production nationwide (see Figure 2.4).

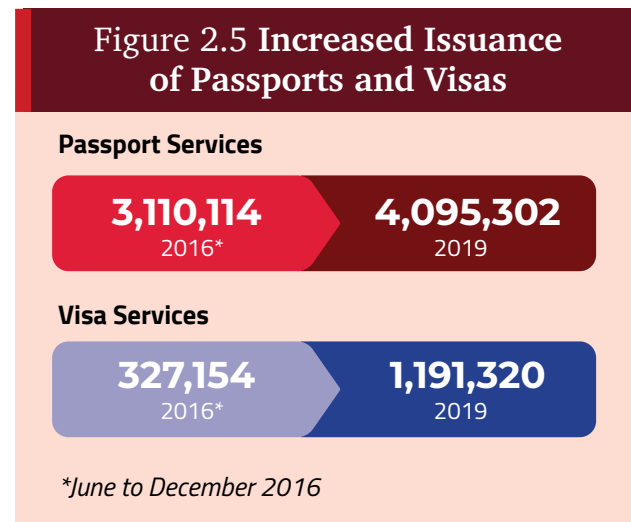


Source: DFA

In January 2018, the DFA stepped up its efforts to bring passport services closer to the public through the Passport-on-Wheels (POW) program. Since its launching, 284 POW services were established, leading

to the approval of 216,058 ePassport applications. In 2019, 206 POW sites were able to release 127,510 ePassports. Despite the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the DFA continued the POW services in 20 sites, which resulted in the release of 6,906 ePassports in 2020.

The number of passports and visas issued had been steadily rising since 2016 (see Figure 2.5) until passport and visa-related operations were gravely affected in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Passport production decreased by 57.70 percent last year, from 4,095,302 in 2019 to only 1,732,459 passports issued in 2020.⁸⁶ Even as outbound travels were temporarily halted by the pandemic, the government continuously improved the provision of consular services nationwide especially for our returning overseas workers who may need to readily update their passport and visa records in the country.



Source: DFA

Virtual systems, like the DFA's Online Appointment System (OAS) and the Passport ePayment Portal, allowed our

85 PCSO, June 2021.

86 DFA, June 2021.

people to apply for passports and pay fees therefor at the touch of a button and subsequently receive their passports in the convenience of their homes. Since its establishment in 2018 up to June 2021, the OAS accommodated 5,903,630 online passport applications.⁸⁷

The DFA likewise opened temporary offsite centers located in various malls in NCR to resolve the current backlog brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. More offsite centers will also open outside Metro Manila, particularly in Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal to accommodate more passport applicants amidst the pandemic.

To further address the continuous demand for passport services, the DFA will open 2,500 additional passport appointment slots per day in five satellite offices in July 2021, and 2,500 additional passport appointment slots per day in other regions where there is strong demand.⁸⁸

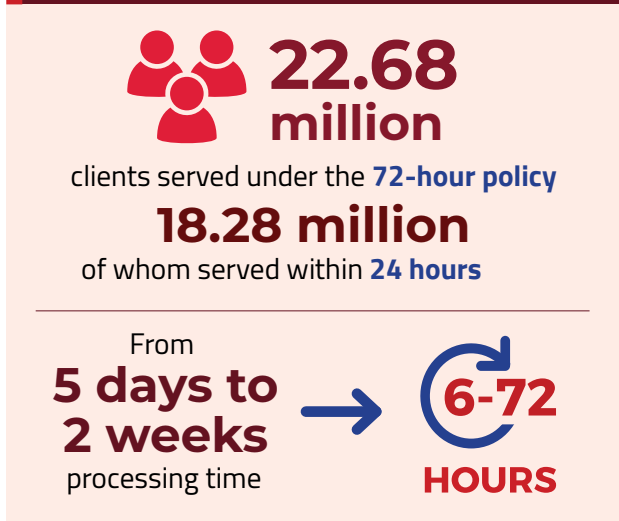
Labor Force Services

Both our local labor force and OFWs play a vital role in the country's socioeconomic development. It is our commitment to provide them with utmost convenience as they process their employment requirements.

For instance, the DOLE streamlined its key frontline services including, among others, the registration of workers' associations; issuance of no pending case certificate; issuance of private employment agency license; membership registration process; and membership verification process. Currently, these only undergo a 72-hour cycle time so our workers would not need

to wait and consequently lose precious compensable time. From August 2016 to May 2021, the DOLE had served 22.17 million Filipinos under the 72-hour policy (see Figure 2.6).⁸⁹

Figure 2.6
Streamlined DOLE Services
(August 2016-June 2021)



Source: DOLE

To quickly address areas for improvement in the delivery of frontline services for our workers, the DOLE maintained its Hotline 1349 to satisfactorily address client feedback and respond to labor and employment-related issues and queries. From September 2016 to June 2021, 424,863 queries had been resolved through the customer service hotline.⁹⁰

It was with the same dispatch that we established the One-Stop Service Center for OFWs (OSSCO) in 2016 to make it easy for our OFWs to process their requirements. The OSSCO offers in one site the processing of all permits and clearances sought from 16 different government agencies such as the TESDA, CHED,

87 DFA, June 2021.
88 DFA, July 5, 2021.
89 DOLE, June 2021.
90 DOLE, June 2021.



Returning OFWs or Filipinos, who are planning to work overseas, avail of services at the OSSCO in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). The 18 OSSCOs nationwide are intended to reduce the transportation expenses of clients and shorten the processing time of documents.

Accessible at the OSSCOs are passport and consular services, processing of OWWA membership, documentation of OFWs, and other services provided by 16 different government agencies.

Source: DOLE
Photo Credit: Philippine Coast Guard

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). From December 2016 to July 2021, around 6.33 million clients were served by the 18 OSSCOs nationwide.⁹¹

Further, the OWWA App was launched to give our OFWs easy access to the latest news and regulations at work; and to immediately contact the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices in their respective countries of deployment should the need arise. We also launched the OFW Command Center in February 2018, a 24/7 command hub for all OFW concerns needing immediate action and assistance. The OFW Command Center is open for walk-in requests, e-mail, text, and telephone requests and is accessible through social media messaging platforms. As of December 2020, the OFW Command Center had resolved 16,415 requests for assistance from our overseas workers.



"Hi. Ako po si Renalyn Allen, isa pong nakasubok ng inyong serbisyo at malugod po akong nagpapasalamat sa mabilis at magandang serbisyo na nanggaling sa inyo at nakatulong po ito ng malaki at iwas pila ng pagkahaba-haba. 'Di na po kailangan ng schedule at lahat ng empleyado mababait. Thanks and God bless po sa inyo."

Renalyn R. Allen, OFW, Nueva Ecija

Source and Photo Credit: DOLE

91 DOLE, June 2021.

Addressed Public Concerns and Bureaucratic Complaints

I said then in 2016 as I say it now, we must listen to the murmurings of our people and feel their pulse. For the past five years, we took major strides toward making government more accessible to the people and responsive to their needs.

Pursuant to the EODB Act, the ARTA enjoined the NGAs and LGUs to comply with the '3-7-20 rule.' This meant that simple transactions must be processed in three days; complex transactions in seven days; and highly technical transactions in 20 days. From 2019 to June 30, 2021, the ARTA acted on 1,178 ARTA-related requests for assistance in reaching government agencies for various complaints and concerns (see Table 2.1).

Contact Center ng Bayan (CCB)

The ARTA and Civil Service Commission (CSC) also worked hand-in-hand to resolve issues raised by *Juana* and *Juan dela Cruz* regarding the lousy accommodation of public requests and delays in government transactions through the CCB. This allowed both agencies to break bottlenecks in bureaucratic processes and go after incompetent public officers who make our people undergo needless waiting and its resultant stress.

From 2016 to December 2020, the CCB successfully acted upon 642,465 complaints and queries from the public, 29,763 of which were ARTA-related complaints.⁹² Because we value public feedback, the CCB enhanced its online matrix of referrals

Table 2.1 Agencies with the Highest Number of Complaints Received by the ARTA (2019-June 2021)

Rank	Agency	2019	2020	2021*	TOTAL
1	BIR	62	22	10	94
2	LTFRB	76	10	3	89
3	LRA	45	26	12	83
4	SSS	44	19	9	72
5	DENR	31	13	5	49
6	FDA	19	17	7	43
7	BOC	28	10	5	43
8	PAG-IBIG	21	7	2	30
9	DAR	14	7	4	25
10	DPWH	15	5	4	24
-	Other Government Agencies				416
-	Local Government Agencies				210
TOTAL		355	136	61	1,178
*January to June 2021					

Source: ARTA

(www.contactcenterngbayan.gov.ph/transparency/matrix-of-referrals) to ensure that public concerns are addressed at the soonest time possible.

Hotline 8888: Sumbungan ng Bayan

As of June 30, 2021, Hotline 8888 acted upon 463,921 public complaints,

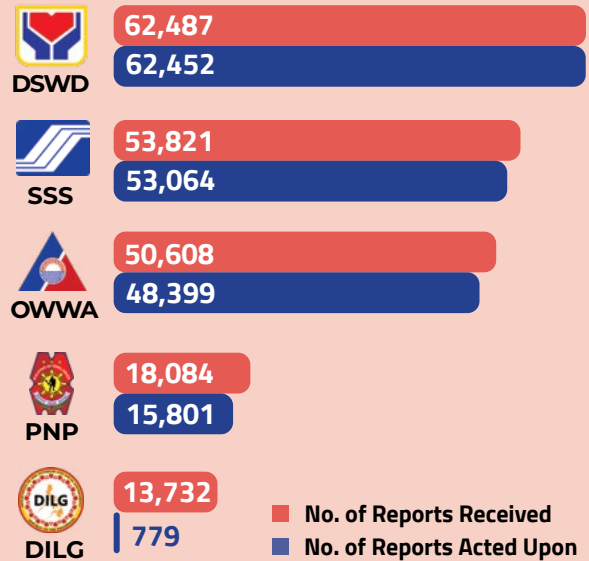
92 ARTA, May 2021.



"Taus-puso po talaga akong nagpapasalamat at walang hanggang pasasalamat yung naitulong sa amin ng ARTA. Dahil kailangang-kailangan na namin yung death claim na 'yon lalo na because of pandemic, wala talaga kami maibayad sa bills."

Maricar Salazar
Source and Photo Credit: ARTA

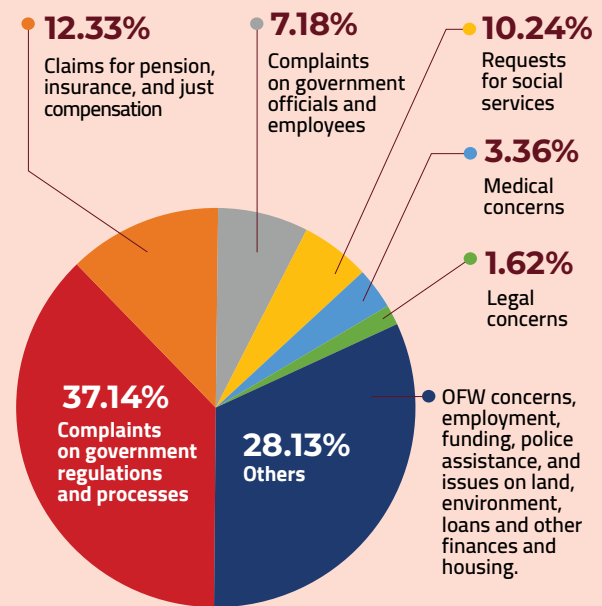
Figure 2.7 Agencies with the Highest Number of Complaints Received through the Hotline 8888 (November 2017-June 2021)



Source: OES

371,377 or 80.05 percent of which were acted upon by agencies; 44,585 or 9.61 percent are under processing; and 47,959 or 10.34 percent are awaiting feedback from agencies concerned.⁹³ Hotline 8888 currently utilizes 60 lines and the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) targets to increase this to 65 lines by June 2022 (see Figures 2.7 and 2.8).

Figure 2.8 Complaints Received through the Hotline 8888 (November 2017-June 2021)



Source: OES

On November 3, 2020, we launched the Text 8888 as an additional communication channel of the Hotline 8888 *Sumbungan ng Bayan*. Globe and Smart subscribers may now send their complaints to the channel free of charge. As of June 30, 2021, 18,684 requests for assistance, complaints, and comments and suggestions were referred to appropriate agencies through this platform.⁹⁴

93 OES, June 2021.

94 Ibid.

Intensified the Fight Against Corruption



“I’m warning the bureaucracy, I do not want papers to be acted by days. I want it by hours. Do not hang on it. Huwag mong upuan ‘yan kasi pabalik-balikin mo ang tao hanggang bumigay ng pera.”

Closing Ceremony of the National ROTC Summit and First Presidential Silent Drill Competition, December 20, 2019

Source and Photo Credit: PCOO

As promised at the start of my Administration, this will be a clean government. The fulfillment of such promise is embodied in the continuous removal of unscrupulous individuals and anomalous processes in the bureaucracy. While we have several agencies to help in probing, exposing, and penalizing corrupt officials and employees, the voice and initiative of the Filipino people are all the more crucial in the realization of our victory in this relentless fight.

In my weekly Talk to the People from November 2020 to June 2021, I announced the dismissal of 261 and suspension of 187 government officials and employees, as part of our campaign to cleanse the bureaucracy.

We also institutionalized programs that allowed us to identify and address citizen complaints on corruption and ultimately rid public institutions of bad apples. In October 2017, we created the Presidential

Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) to assist the Office of the President in the investigation and hearing of administrative complaints, and in the conduct of lifestyle checks on presidential appointees and other public officers allegedly involved in graft and corrupt practices. As of June 15, 2021, the PACC acted upon 9,585 complaints related to the Social Amelioration Program (SAP); and endorsed 163 corruption-related concerns to the Office of the Ombudsman, 93 to the DOJ, and 3,554 to other government agencies. It completed 114 investigations, with 266 cases ongoing investigation. As of May 31, 2021, the Commission had acted on all 4,201 concerns received via its text hotline.

Despite its infancy as an anti-corruption body, I am pleased with how the PACC has been fulfilling its mandate.⁹⁵ In March 2021, the PACC launched *Project Kasangga: Aksyon Laban sa Korapsyon*,⁹⁶ a whole-of-government campaign against graft and corruption

⁹⁵ PNA, Duterte ‘pleased’ PACC has delivered on its promise, March 24, 2021.

⁹⁶ PACC, Anti-Corruption Report, June 24, 2021.

Project *Kasangga*: Aksyon Laban sa Korapsyon



Project *Kasangga* intends to create anti-corruption committees that will serve as hubs of corruption data collection and validation. At present, six agencies have created their respective anti-corruption committees, namely the BOC, DOTr, BIR, DPWH, DOH, and DENR.

It also aims to create and institutionalize the said committees at the local government level, to capacitate the LGUs as dynamic partners in promoting good governance, transparency, accountability, and active community participation in the fight against corruption.

Some of its expected outputs and outcomes are as follows:

1. Self-cleansing of government agencies starting from critical high risk or corruption-prone agencies down to the less corruption-plagued units of government;
2. Monitoring the delivery of government services and detection of corruption incidents through an integrated Command Center;
3. Investigation and prosecution of grafters by the PACC, the Office of the Ombudsman, Task Force Against Corruption (TFAC), ARTA, and the participating agencies which shall all be working together through an inter-agency memoranda of agreement and other issuances;
4. Innovation of work delivery through the application of technology to reduce person-to-person government transactions on corruption-prone processes;
5. Developing legislative initiative to craft laws that will further deter corrupt practices and prosecute dishonest public servants; and
6. Regaining the trust and confidence of the public as well as the international community on the Administration's initiatives on good governance.

involving all agencies under the executive department. Since its launching, 22 government agencies have signed the Manifesto of Pledge of Cooperation and Oath of Honesty (see Figure 2.9).⁹⁷ These include the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which was named as the “least sincere” government agency in fighting corruption according to the 2017 Social Weather Stations (SWS) Survey Review.⁹⁸ The DPWH and BIR, which obtained poor ratings in the same review, also signed the manifesto and oath.

Pursuant to their express anti-corruption commitments, some signatory agencies created their respective Anti-Corruption Committees, designated PACC-Integrated Records Management Office Liaison

Officers, vowed to re-echo the call to end corruption down to their regional, provincial, and district agency levels, and committed to link their respective command centers to that of the PACC for fast and reliable information-sharing.

Consistent with this Administration's resolve to spare no bureaucrat, not even my appointed officials, from corruption probes, the PACC acted on high-profile corruption cases. One such case involves a DENR official for alleged nepotism and hiring of ghost employees. As of June 24, 2021, the PACC conducted a *motu proprio* investigation against the said official and other DENR officials, and shall send Notice of Accusations to those involved.

97 PACC Website, The PACC and DOH hold the signing of the Manifesto of Pledge of Cooperation and Oath of Honesty for 'Project KASANGGA: Tokhang Laban sa Korapsyon,' on April 30, 2021.

98 SWS, February 1, 2017.

Figure 2.9 Agencies that Signed the Manifesto of Pledge of Cooperation and Oath of Honesty



Source: PACC

Another high-profile case handled by the PACC involved officials of the National Housing Authority (NHA) and a contractor that won contracts for the construction of 2,559 housing units in four municipalities under the Yolanda Permanent Housing Program. PACC noted that after more than two years since the corresponding Notices to Proceed were issued, only 36 housing units or merely 1.41 percent of the awarded units were completed upon termination of all the contracts on November 27, 2017. The company failed to perform its obligations despite receiving at least 15 percent or about PhP111.23 million for the mobilization activities. On October 9, 2019, the PACC recommended to the Office of the President the filing of criminal charges against 12 officials of the NHA before the Office of the Ombudsman.⁹⁹

Fully aware of how the crimes of a single agency can seriously affect millions of Filipinos, I expanded the role of the DOJ-led TFAC to include the entire government in the investigation of allegations of corruption until the end of my term. The TFAC will take over the PACC's investigation on corruption in public works projects where some lawmakers were allegedly involved. As of April 2021, the Task Force had received 274 complaints,¹⁰⁰ 69 of which were referred to the TFAC members and other agencies, while two were referred to the Office of the Ombudsman. One of the two cases concerns an LGU involved in alleged irregularities in land purchase, while the other involves a member of the House of Representatives and a DPWH official allegedly favoring certain contractors.¹⁰¹

99 PACC Anti-Corruption Report, June 24, 2021; PIA, PACC chief presents updates on Yolanda Permanent Housing Program issue, October 13, 2019.

100 DOJ, July 2021.

101 Ibid.

Safeguarding the Country's Public Health Funds



One agency that made headlines in the past two years due to alleged fraudulent activities was PhilHealth, which faced allegations of PhP154 billion in missing funds, among others.

In 2019, a reporter wrote that PhilHealth allegedly lost up to PhP154 billion due to overpayment and fraud since 2013. His sources made mathematical computations using a 2014 audit observation memorandum of the COA for Northern Mindanao, which found that PhilHealth had overpaid by 20 percent all the cases it processed. I asked the COA, the Insurance Commission (IC), the NBI, and the PACC, to look into this allegation. In response, the COA provided a report

based on the audited financial statements of PhilHealth for five years, indicating that "nowhere can be found nor can be derived the purported losses in an aggregate amount of PhP154 billion."

These exasperating issues prompted me in August 2020 to direct the DOJ to look into the corruption issues hurled against PhilHealth. In September 2020, pursuant to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force PhilHealth, I approved the filing of criminal and administrative cases against the agency's key officials.

In response to the issue on the pocketing of large amounts by its officials, the PhilHealth has accounted for 99.37 percent or PhP14.877 billion of the allegedly lost PhP15 billion worth of funds under the Interim Reimbursement Mechanism (IRM), which provides substantial aid to health care institutions to ensure continuous provision of services in times of fortuitous events. PhilHealth posts its weekly IRM report on its website and social media accounts for transparency and public accountability.

However, the probe does not end with PhilHealth. To guard against the mismanagement of public health funds, we established mechanisms to monitor the performance of accredited health care providers. Such a move has resulted in 2,852 cases filed against erring hospitals and professionals, 35 cases filed in the PRC, and 25 criminal cases filed nationwide due to various violations. Likewise, PhilHealth is actively collaborating with the PSA, Anti-Money Laundering Council, National Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, PACC, COA, IC, and the NBI to facilitate the investigation process and protect the National Health Insurance Funds.

Source: PhilHealth

I would prefer to see these investigations come to fruition before my term ends. However, due to the complex nature of corruption cases, I hope our dedicated public servants will continue working on these until justice is served to every aggrieved party. I am fortunate to witness during my time the conviction of two former officials of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) on June 25, 2021, nearly five years after they figured in a PhP50 million extortion scandal with a gambling tycoon in November 2016. These former Deputy Immigration

Commissioners were sentenced to 40 years in prison for plunder and six to 10 years in prison for graft.¹⁰² I celebrate this victory with the Filipino people.

I said it before and will say it again - I will not tolerate even a whiff of corruption in my Administration. I have sacked high-ranking officials on the spot, did not renew the appointments of some, and publicly reprimanded a great number, all because they were implicated in corruption scandals or allegations of official malfeasance.

¹⁰² DOJ, July 2021.

Sustained Reforms in Revenue-Generating Agencies

Your government has relentlessly pursued reforms to also continuously sustain our revenues while cleansing different government agencies. Among the complaints received by the TFAC, 14 involved the BOC and BIR. While much remains to be done to totally rid these agencies of reprehensible practices, the BOC and the BIR management are continuously working with us to curb corruption among their ranks, improve tax administration, and raise their collection efficiency.

From July 2016 to March 2021, the BOC's strengthened intelligence and enforcement efforts led to the seizure of smuggled goods valued at PhP61.42 billion. As a result of its intensified operations against smugglers even during the pandemic, the BOC managed to seize an estimated PhP10.62 billion worth of smuggled

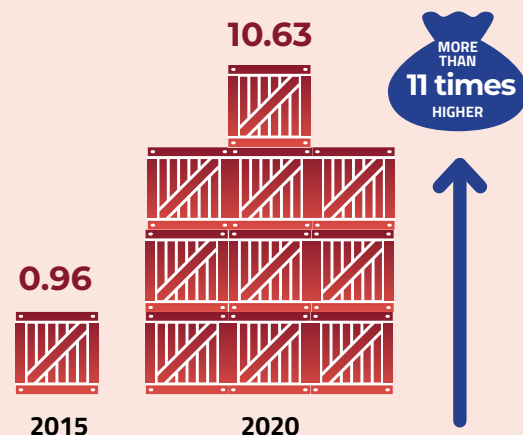


Undersecretary Jesus Melchor Quitain of the Office of the Special Assistant to the President joins BOC Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero in the inspection of a smuggled vehicle for destruction at the BOC Compound, Port Area, Manila on July 23, 2019.

Photo Credit: BOC

goods in 2020, PhP5.77 billion of which was from seizures of cigarettes and tobacco, PhP1.85 billion came from seizures of illegal drugs, and PhP1.05 billion from counterfeit items. The confiscated tobacco products made up 54.33 percent of the total amount of goods seized in 2020. The value of smuggled goods seized last year is more than eleven times higher than what was confiscated six years ago (see Figure 2.10).

Figure 2.10 Increased Revenue from Smuggled Goods Seized by the BOC (in billion PhP)



Source: DOF

From January to December 28, 2020, the BOC filed 74 criminal complaints before the DOJ against 268 respondents suspected of smuggling, and another 52 administrative cases before the PRC. As of December 2020, the BOC likewise ordered the closure of 20 customs bonded warehouses and another 40 members of customs bonded warehouses for various violations.¹⁰³



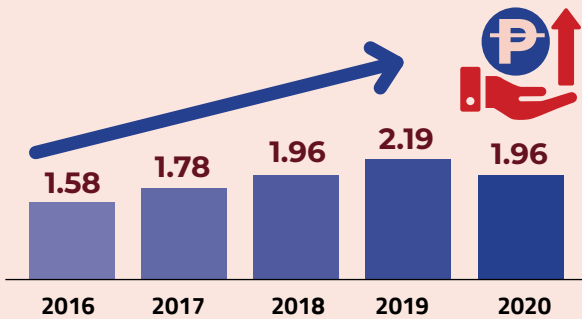
The BOC destroys seized luxury vehicles in their compound in Port Area, Manila on February 9, 2021.

Photo Credit: BOC

Through strict monitoring of tax compliance, coupled with its Taxpayer’s Account Management Program, the BIR has collected increasingly high revenues since 2016 (see Figure 2.11). Amidst the pandemic, the BIR managed to collect a revenue of PhP1.96 trillion in 2020, surpassing the goal of PhP1.69 trillion set by the Development Budget Coordination Committee by 16.05 percent. This is due, in large part, to continued reforms pursued by the Bureau to simplify tax compliance processes, strengthened enforcement mechanisms, and an aggressive digital transformation program.

collected from availers of tax amnesty on delinquencies and unpaid estate taxes, or 108 percent more than the PhP2.87 billion collected from said amnesty program in 2019. In line with the thrust to move to electronic filing and payment, the BIR had recorded that 94 percent or 21.48 million of the 22.86 million tax returns were filed electronically. In term of collection, PhP1.66 trillion or 85 percent of the total BIR collection was collected through electronic payment channels in 2020.

Figure 2.11 Increased BIR Revenue Collection (in trillion PhP)



Source: DOF

Since July 2016, the BIR’s Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) Program has led to the filing of over 800 cases with aggregate tax liabilities of PhP84.61 billion. On the other hand, under its *Oplan Kandado* Program, 1,382 establishments were padlocked for tax law violations, resulting in the collection of PhP3,732.18 billion (see Figure 2.12).¹⁰⁴

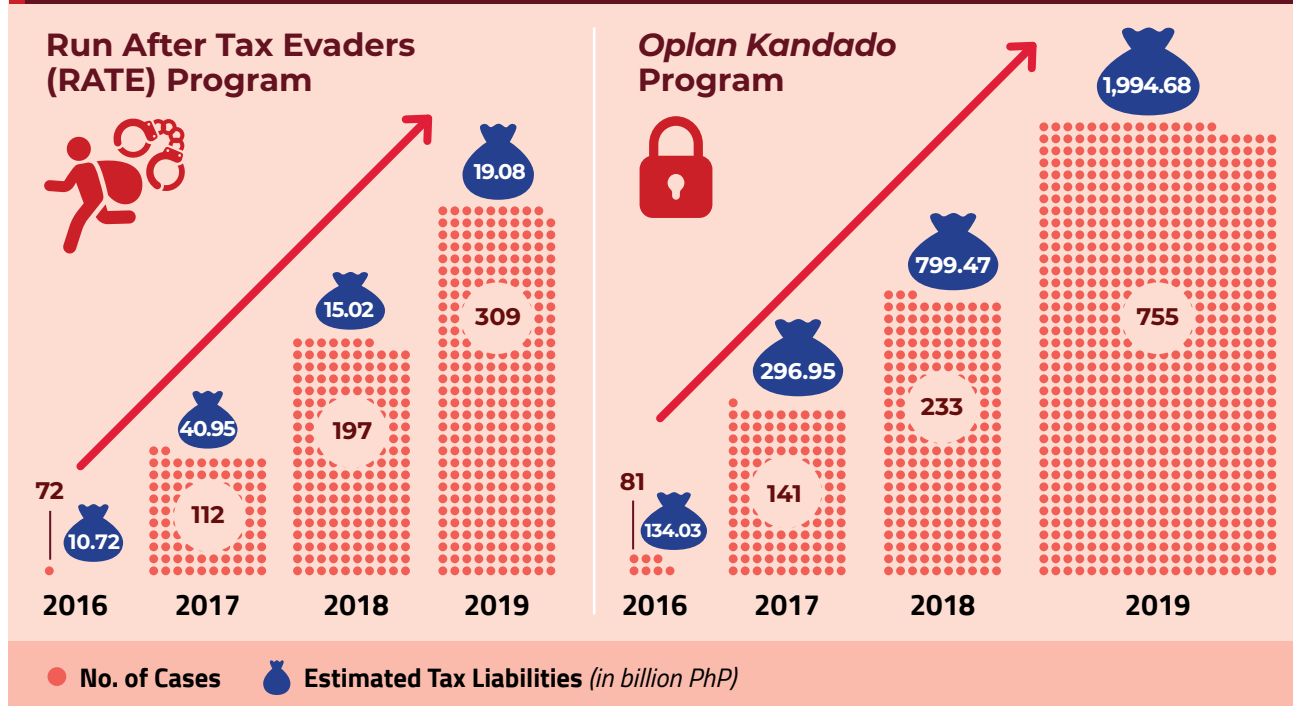
Likewise, the BIR’s intensified collection from delinquent accounts in 2020, with 2,732 warrants for garnishment and distraint and levy issued, led to the collection of PhP2.96 billion in taxes. In addition, PhP5.96 billion was

Still part of the BIR’s tax enforcement measures, the BIR Strike Team seized 50 units of cigarette-making machines, 4.89 million packs of assorted cigarette products worth PhP 112.24 million, and 30.66 million counterfeit tax stamps valued at PhP1.38 billion in 2020 alone.

Last year, the BIR secured ISO certifications for six BIR regional offices and 35 revenue district offices. It also issued five

104 DOF, April 2021.

Figure 2.12 Increased Cases and Collection from BIR Programs



Source: BIR

revenue memorandum circulars related to improving the ease of doing business.

Pursued Tax Reforms





Since 2017, we pursued bold tax reform measures. In fact, my Administration was the first in Philippine history to have embarked on tax reform without being forced to do so by an external party or a looming economic crisis (see Figure 2.13 for key tax reform measures passed). One significant achievement of my Administration was the enactment into law of package one of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), also known as the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law or RA no. 10963, which I signed on December 19, 2017. This law enabled our government to raise Php305 billion in incremental revenues during the first three years of its implementation, beginning January 1, 2018. Further, these bold tax reforms and improved fiscal

administration resulted in our revenues reaching 16.1 percent of the GDP in 2019, which has been our best performance since 2007 (see Figure 2.14).

The success of the tax reform measures is a logical continuation of decades of reforms arduously passed across different administrations, which I, along with my team of able economic managers, committed to improve upon even further amidst various opposition and challenges. For instance, even with the ongoing pandemic, we managed to pursue reforms consistent with our socioeconomic agenda.

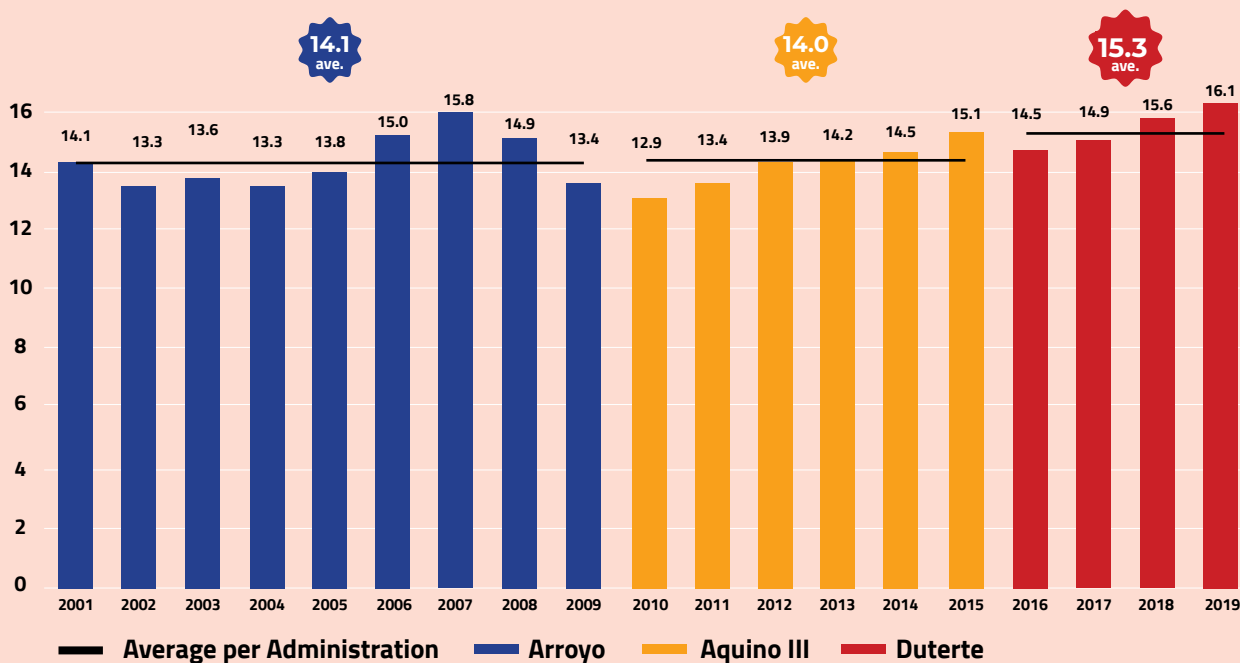
On March 26, 2021, I signed into law RA no. 11534 or the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE), the second package under our CTRP. CREATE is the largest fiscal stimulus for businesses in recent history, projected to provide private enterprises more than

Figure 2.13 Key Tax Reform Measures Passed

Title and Date Signed	Purpose
 Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law <i>December 19, 2017</i>	Provide hefty income tax cuts for majority of Filipino taxpayers while raising additional funds to help support the government's accelerated spending on its "Build, Build, Build" and social services program
 Tax Amnesty Act <i>February 14, 2019</i>	Provide a one-time opportunity to taxpayers to settle estate tax amnesty program that gives reasonable tax relief to estates with outstanding estate tax liabilities
 Tobacco Tax Law <i>July 25, 2019</i>	Increase excise taxes on tobacco products (e.g., cigars, cigarettes) and made subject to excise taxation and regulation heated tobacco products, and vapor products, popularly known as electronic cigarettes
 Sin Tax Law <i>January 22, 2020</i>	Increase taxes on alcohol beverages and electronic cigarettes

Sources: DOF and NEDA

Figure 2.14 Highest Tax Revenue as a Percentage of GDP since 2007



Source: DOF

PhP1 trillion worth of tax relief over the next 10 years.

In addition, CREATE will be greatly beneficial to MSMEs with the reduction of corporate income tax rate from 30 percent to 20 percent, the largest ever reduction in the country. This law rationalizes fiscal incentives, creating an enhanced incentives package that is performance-based, time-bound, targeted, and transparent.

Rest assured that while in office, I shall continue the intensified implementation of anti-corruption initiatives, investigation of fraudulent practices in our revenue-generating agencies, and advancement of tax reforms to help fuel the country's economic growth.



Through the implementation of RA no. 10351 or the first Sin Tax Law and the signing of the TRAIN Law, the Philippines obtained the highest score among ASEAN countries in a global study on cigarette tax policy performance, rated over a six-period period from 2012-2018. According to the Tobacconomics Cigarette Tax Scorecard, a study on the cigarette taxation in more than 170 countries, the Philippines was among the countries with the greatest improvement in cigarette tax policy resulting from the simplification of previously complicated tiered cigarette excise tax structures, accompanied by large tax increases.¹⁰⁵

Promoted Budget Transparency and Participation

In the last five years, the Philippines has emerged to become one of the most fiscally transparent countries in the world.¹⁰⁶ We have consistently made budget information more open and accessible to strengthen the public's trust and ensure accountability in handling public funds. In our bid to improve the budget formulation and implementation process, we strengthened the implementation of the two-tier budgeting approach and shifted from a two-year to one-year obligational time frame of the budget in 2017. This is to ensure that the taxes paid by every *Juana* and *Juan Dela Cruz* are spent appropriately. We also streamlined and harmonized our fiscal information system

to improve public financial management operations and provide real time reports for fiscal planning, procurement, and budget utilization.

Budget Implementation Reforms

Adoption of the Cash Budgeting System (CBS)

In 2017, the DBM began the tedious work of transitioning from a two-year obligation-based budget system to the CBS. The following year, the DBM prepared the first cash-based national budget for FY 2019, which was enacted in April 2019. While I directed the adoption of the CBS beginning FY 2019 through EO no. 91, the DBM provided

¹⁰⁵ DOF, PHL gets highest rating among ASEAN countries in global study on cigarette tax policy performance, May 20, 2021.

¹⁰⁶ Based on the Open Budget Index scores and global ranking in 2017 and 2019.

enough time for agencies to adjust to the cash-based budget for FYs 2020 and 2021. In the transition to the full implementation of the CBS, I hope to eliminate the gap on annual appropriations and actual expenditures that translates to delayed and foregone services for the Filipino people.¹⁰⁷

As the most widely used budgeting system in the world,¹⁰⁸ the CBS shall ensure that NGAs only propose projects and programs that are implementation-ready, execute their budget according to plan, and reach their targets within the year, thereby instilling fiscal discipline in the management of public resources and completion of programs and projects on time (see Figure 2.15). Ultimately, our goal in reforming our budget system is to ensure that every peso budgeted and spent lead to the actual delivery of public goods and services.

Paradigm Shift to Joint Budget Planning on Government Programs

To achieve common goals more efficiently, all NGAs were enjoined to adopt the Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) approach in their fiscal planning by institutionalizing the PCB in the budget process. The DBM specifically emphasized this in the National Budget Call for FY 2020 to link, harmonize, and synchronize the timing of critical program interventions.¹⁰⁹ A model program exemplifying the convergence of multiple stakeholders through this budgeting approach is the Tourism Development Program of the Department of Tourism (DOT) (see Figure 2.16).

Figure 2.15
Things to Know About
Cash Budgeting System



Project implementation and completion should be done within the fiscal year.



Payments for completed contracts are settled in the same fiscal year.



Obligation of payments is still allowed but the Extended Payment Period is only until three months after the fiscal year.



In case of unexpected delays, Spillover Projects may be implemented in the succeeding year.



Agencies must secure a Multi-Year Contractual Authority from the DBM for projects spanning more than a year.

Source: DBM

Beginning next year, as a result of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia petitions, LGUs will have a significantly greater share from national taxes.¹¹⁰ Through EO no. 138, I directed the NGAs to collaborate with and supervise the LGUs in preparation for the full devolution of the provision of basic services and facilities. In this regard, NGAs can assume more strategic and steering functions to address persistent development issues. I also ordered the creation of the Committee on Devolution to oversee and monitor the implementation

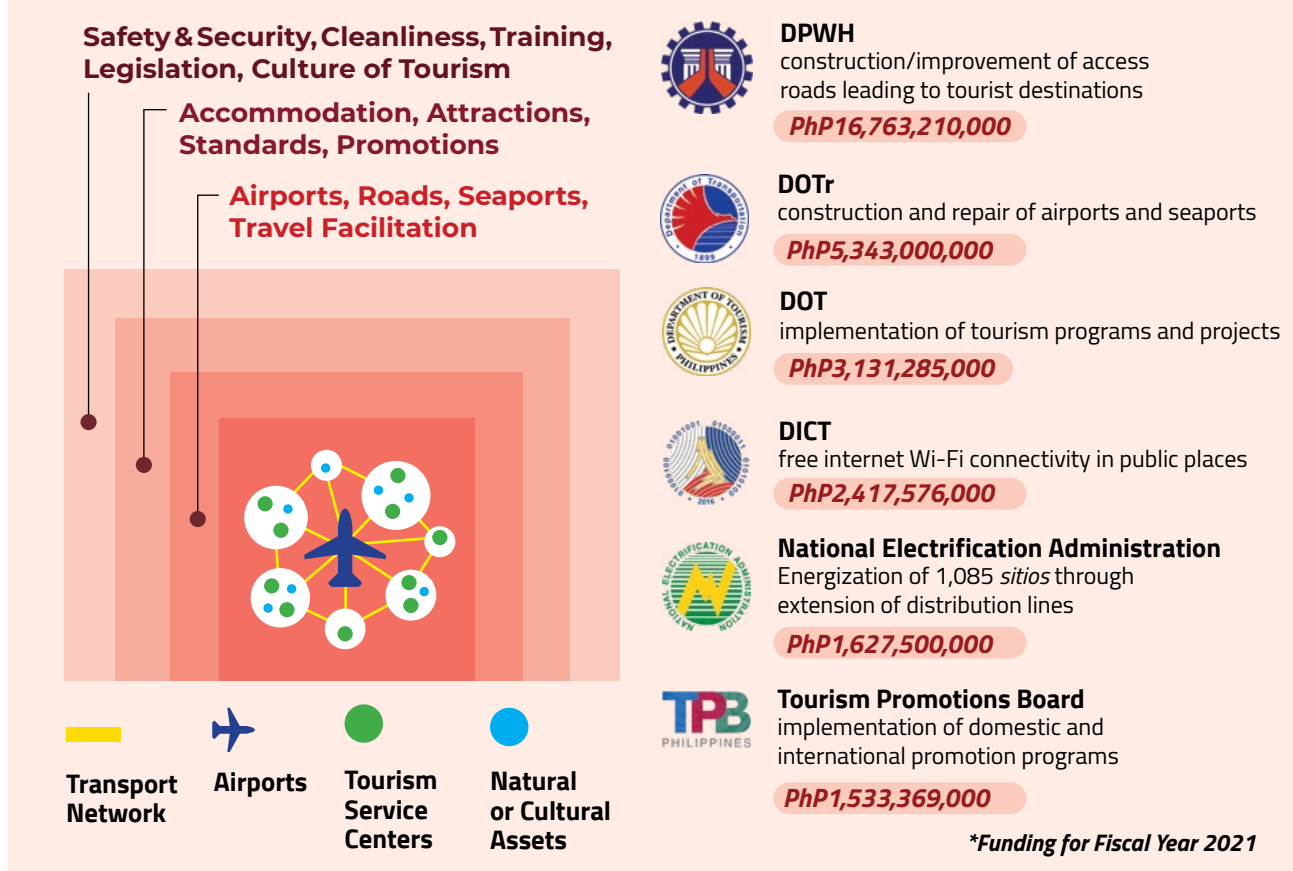
107 DBM, April 13, 2021; and DBM Website, January 28, 2021 and February 20, 2019.

108 DBM, Cash budgeting to bring Philippines to global standard, February 20, 2019.

109 DBM, National Budget Memorandum no. 131, February 26, 2019.

110 DBM, Implementation of the Supreme Court Decision in the Mandanas Case.

Figure 2.16
Tourism Development Program as Model of Convergence Budgeting



Sources: DOT and DBM

of administrative and fiscal decentralization from NGAs to LGUs, adopt mechanisms to ensure continuous delivery of public services by the NGAs and LGUs during the transition period, and resolve issues that may arise.¹¹¹

Implementation of the Budget and Treasury Management System (BTMS)

In our aim to eliminate manual, stand-alone fiscal systems in NGAs and integrate fiscal reports in a central database system, we pushed for the use of the BTMS among NGAs. This reliable and secure information system for public financial

management operations presents reports on actual obligations and disbursements on a timely and accurate manner to guide fiscal decision-making. From 2017 to December 31, 2020, the DBM rolled out the BTMS to 124 agencies.¹¹²

Implementation of the Modernized Government Electronic Procurement System (mPhilGEPS)

In 2017, we initiated the mPhilGEPS project to improve transparency in all stages of the government procurement process. The mPhilGEPS has allowed us to conduct the online procurement of common-

111 Official Gazette, June 01, 2021.

112 BTMS, 2018; and DBM, April 13, 2021.

use supplies and equipment on a 24/7 basis. The first phase of the mPhilGEPS, which is the Virtual Store, facilitated 2,604 transactions worth PhP312.91 million for the period February 2019 to July 10, 2020.¹¹³

On October 23, 2020, I signed Administrative Order (AO) no. 34 to ensure transparency and accountability in all government transactions, including procurement. As the primary source and repository of information on government procurement, I directed the PhilGEPS to become a user- and mobile-friendly platform with up-to-date features. I also ordered all procuring agencies to maintain a social media platform for faster dissemination of public announcements, aside from maintaining critical procurement information in their official websites.

To allay public concerns, I also mandated all government offices under the executive department to publish details of government contracts awarded to bidders. For contracts worth PhP50 million and above, concerned offices were required to



DBM Secretary Avisado highlights the importance of participatory budgeting during the Philippine Open Government Partnership Workshop held on October 2, 2019.

Source and Photo Credit: DBM

publish post-award information in their official website, social media platform, and in a newspaper.

Lastly, I instructed the Government Procurement Policy Board to consolidate and submit every quarter the list of all blacklisted business enterprises, contractors, and consultants to procuring entities and to the COA. Those who will not abide by this order will be sanctioned with an administrative case.

Advancing Budget Transparency

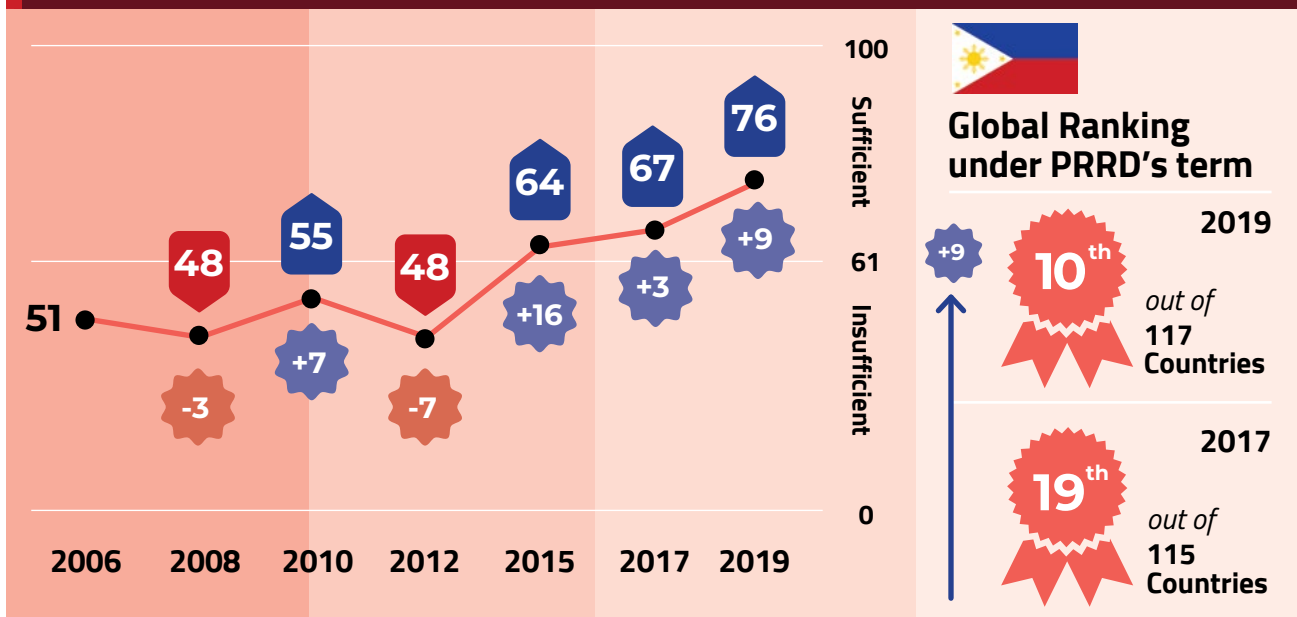
The DBM continues its efforts to foster fiscal openness in the government by making budget information more accessible. I hope that by being more transparent, the public will continue to support the government and participate in our budget process.¹¹⁴

The International Budget Partnership (IBP), which is an independent, nonprofit corporation that conducts bi-annual Open Budget Surveys (OBS) of governments, recognized such efforts. The OBS is recognized as the world's only independent and comparative measure of fiscal transparency, public participation, and oversight at the central government level. During my term, our country's Open Budget Index (OBI) score increased from 51 in 2006 to 76 in 2019 (see Figure 2.17), making us 1st in Southeast Asia and 10th worldwide. Our high transparency scores affirm our government's continued commitment to provide substantial and quality budget information to the public; adequate oversight of the legislature and audit institutions in the country; and increasing opportunities for public engagement.

113 DBM, July 17, 2020; DBM, April 13, 2021; PhilGEPS Website; and Official Gazette, October 27, 2020.

114 OBS, 2006-2019.

Figure 2.17 Improved Open Budget Transparency Index Score (2006-2019)



Source: Open Budget Survey

Fiscal Accountability During the COVID-19 Pandemic

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our government remained open and responsive to the needs of the public to mitigate the effects of the health crisis and the ensuing economic decline.¹¹⁵ The IBP also lauded our government's efforts in maintaining financial transparency during the onset of the pandemic in 2020. The Philippines, along with Australia, Norway, and Peru, were the only countries that demonstrated adequate level of fiscal accountability out of the 120 participating countries, based on the IBP's rapid assessment survey on COVID-related fiscal measures.¹¹⁶

Likewise, the IBP recognized our government's initiative to provide direct fiscal support, tax relief measures, and credit and liquidity support through RA

no. 11469 or the *Bayanihan* to Heal as One Act, which was further strengthened by RA no. 11494 or the *Bayanihan* to Recover as One Act.

We were also acknowledged for promoting fiscal transparency by regularly publishing and submitting weekly reports to the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department, as mandated by RA no. 11469. Despite the implementation of community quarantine measures, we intensified public engagement on fiscal policies and programs through the "Dagaw 2020: Open Government Virtual Town Hall Meetings," which was held from October 8 to December 17, 2020. This event was a 10-part online forum to educate the public on government programs and projects, and solicit the participation of various stakeholders from the national to the local level.

115 DBM, May 26, 2021.

116 The survey used 26 indicators to examine transparency, public participation, and oversight of emergency fiscal policy packages.

Maintained Good Governance in the Public Corporate Sector

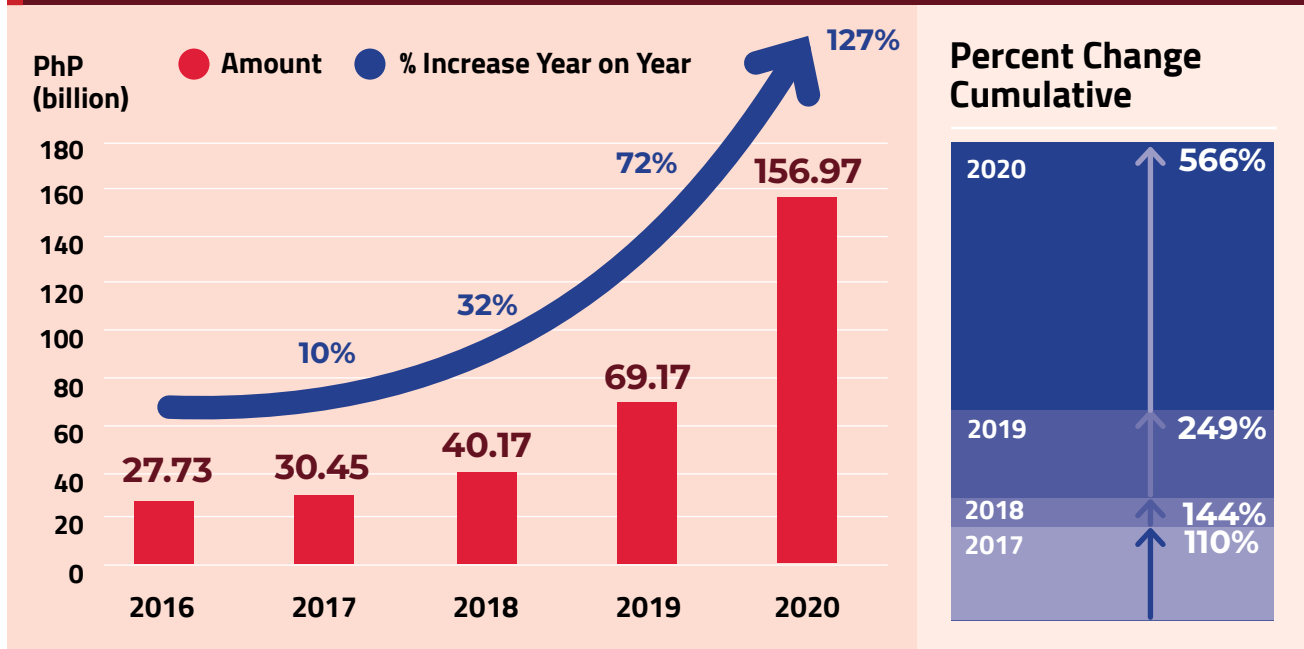
Since 2016, Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) have improved and overtaken their previous dividend remittances to the government, remarkably outperforming themselves year on year (see Figure 2.18).¹¹⁷ Enhanced fiscal discipline coupled with the passage and implementation of various reforms, streamlining, transparency, and accountability measures have resulted in their increased contribution to national revenue.

Governance reforms instituted in GOCCs include the suspension of the implementation of the Compensation and

Position Classification System (CPCS) of civilian personnel in GOCCs, which aimed to eliminate any excessive, unauthorized, illegal, and/or unconscionable allowances, incentives, and benefits.¹¹⁸ Another measure we implemented was the issuance of guidelines providing for an interim Performance-Based Incentives (PBI) System for appointive members of the governing boards of GOCCs. The guidelines required the GOCC and the appointive director to comply with various requirements prior to being eligible to receive the PBI.¹¹⁹

While valuable governance reforms have been introduced in the public corporate

Figure 2.18 Record-High Remittances of GOCCs to the National Government



Source: Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG)

117 DOF Website, GOCCs remit P160.62 billion to BTr, December 30, 2020; Bulk of GOCC remittances spent on cash aid for pandemic-hit vulnerable sectors in 2020, February 01, 2021; GOCC dividends reach all-time high of P48-B in 2018, January 06, 2019; and GOCC collections hit P30.45-B in 2017, January 15, 2018.

118 Official Gazette, July 28, 2017.

119 GCG, January 28, 2021.



GCG Chairperson Samuel Dagpin speaks at a forum hosted by the agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Source and Photo Credit: GCG

sector, the GCG may still improve its system for evaluating the GOCCs' performance. I am confident that the GCG shall continue steering the GOCCs towards becoming performance-driven corporations anchored on good corporate governance.¹²⁰

Around three-fourths or PhP119.1 billion of PhP156.97 billion remittances from GOCCs to the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) in 2020 contributed to government funds used in easing the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The remittances funded various government programs for poverty alleviation, provision of financial assistance, and business recovery and survival, among others, benefitting the poorest households and other vulnerable sectors.¹²¹

The top contributors to our coffers last year were the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which remitted PhP40.53 billion, and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation with PhP17.98 billion. Dividends of these two GOCCs accounted for 87 percent of the total collected last year.¹²² The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

was the third top contributor with PhP17 billion in dividends (see Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2 Top GOCC Contributors
(in billion PhP)**

Rank	Agency	Amount
1	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	40.53
2	Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation	17.98
3	Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation	17.00
4	Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority	12.00
5	Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines	6.00
6	Manila International Airport Authority	6.00
7	Philippine Ports Authority	5.05
8	Philippine National Oil Company	5.00
9	Philippine Reclamation Authority	4.40
10	National Power Corporation	4.00

Source: GCG

Aside from the significant increase in GOCC remittances due to their improvements in efficiency and performance, we also recognize their other notable achievements. Among these was the signing of the RCAs between the government through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and the private water concessionaires (see page 14). The RCAs are advantageous to the government, beneficial to the public consumers, and

120 DOF Website, Dominguez to GCG: Improve system in evaluating GOCCs, June 13, 2021.

121 DOF Website, Bulk of GOCC remittances spent on cash aid for pandemic-hit vulnerable sectors in 2020, February 01, 2021.

122 DOF, July 2021.

commercially and economically viable to the investors and the water concessionaires.¹²³ Furthermore, we laud the efforts of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority in greatly contributing to the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).¹²⁴

Moving forward, my economic team is looking into the possibility of increasing the dividend rates remitted to the government by GOCCs by proposing amendments to several provisions of RA no. 7656 or the Dividend Law. This is to ensure that the boost needed by the economy through the implementation of various fiscal stimulus measures is adequately backed by funds.¹²⁵



The President discusses with Solicitor General Jose Calida the review of the water concession agreements at the sidelines of a Cabinet meeting.

Source and Photo Credit: PCOO

Regained Trust Through Access to Public Information

It is the civic duty of every Filipino to participate in governmental decision-making and in checking abuses in the bureaucracy. Hence, in my years as a public servant, I have always taken it upon myself to bring the government closer to the people through transparent governance and provision of public information. In fact, barely a month into the Presidency, I issued EO no. 2 to operationalize in the Executive branch the people's constitutional right to information and ensure full disclosure and transparency in public service.

Five years thereafter, the Filipino people have reaped the fruits of this issuance. This led to the onboarding of 520 NGAs in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Portal as of

May 31, 2021; and the urging of 52 LGUs to localize access to public information in their respective jurisdictions, as of the same date.






While the public can formally write letters of requests to government agencies concerned to get pertinent information, my Administration embraced technological advancement to further bring the process closer to the people by launching the eFOI portal (www.foi.gov.ph) on November 25, 2016. This allowed our people to access public information with just a few clicks. These mechanisms, altogether, allowed the government to respond to all FOI requests from the public, with a clear intent to regain the people's full trust and confidence

123 MWSS Website, New Concession Agreement Beneficial to All, April 6, 2021.

124 BCDA, BCDA under Duterte admin surpasses previous admin AFP contributions, April 14, 2021.

125 DOF Website, DOF eyes hike in GOCC remittances to 75% of net earnings to raise funds for another fiscal stimulus plan, April 26, 2021.

Figure 2.19 Agencies with the Highest Number of eFOI Requests
(2017-July 2021)

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (July)	2016-2021	Response Rate
1	PSA (337)	PSA (649)	PSA (1,227)	SSS (2,296)	OWWA (2,620)	 PSA	94.55% 4,270 / 4,516 <i>accommodated requests</i>
2	DOH (181)	DOH (353)	DOH (799)	DWSD (1,875)	DOLE (2,285)	 DOLE	90.09% 3,618 / 4,016 <i>accommodated requests</i>
3	DOTr (147)	DOTr (292)	DepEd (517)	DOLE (1,318)	DOH (1,288)	 DOH	90.45% 3,316 / 3,666 <i>accommodated requests</i>
4	DBM (138)	DPWH (165)	DOTr (341)	PSA (1,223)	BIR (1,223)	 SSS	21.05% 680 / 3,230 <i>accommodated requests</i>
5	PCOO (94)	DepEd (157)	PAGASA (309)	DOH (1,045)	PSA (1,080)	 OWWA	80.84% 2,603 / 3,220 <i>accommodated requests</i>

Source: PCOO

in the government (see Figure 2.19). At present, the PCOO continuously reaches out to other branches of the government to join us in upholding our people's right to information.

Mirroring our initiative in the Executive Branch, on January 23, 2018, the Supreme Court of the Philippines published the Rule on Access to Information and ordered the

creation of FOI Manuals in the entire judicial branch (i.e., trial and appellate courts). At present, the entire judiciary has its own FOI Manual posted in their respective websites. Likewise, all Constitutional Commissions (i.e., COA, Commission on Elections, and CSC) have published their own FOI Manuals in their websites. As for the Office of the Ombudsman, it has also issued its own FOI mechanism.



PCOO Secretary Martin Andanar pushes for collaborative effort in fighting misinformation and disinformation on February 16, 2021.

Source and Photo Credit: PCOO



"I'm a frequent user of the eFOI portal for various requests for information from government agencies such as PSA, DSWD, and DOLE. The quick response sent through the online portal really helped me as then law student and now a full-fledged lawyer."

Atty. Jan Meryll M. Deiparine
Parañaque City

Source and Photo Credit: PMS

Facilitated the Transition to E-Governance

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines was one of the fastest growing economies in the region driven by fiscal reforms, and its increasing public spending and investor confidence. This was made possible by fostering an environment that safeguarded efficiency in the delivery of government services, provided opportunity for greater competition, and was open to changes. The shift to e-governance was instrumental in achieving such an environment.

Our transition to e-governance had been underway years before the pandemic happened but the role of information and communications technology (ICT) in improving governance is even more critical as we usher government to a better normal. Our national e-governance measures, especially the increased adoption of digital technologies and the establishment of a central identification platform, when fully completed, shall improve the quality and speed of our service delivery and the government's linkage with citizens, the business sector, and other stakeholders.

The Philippine ID System

Central to our e-governance initiatives is the implementation of a national ID

Figure 2.20 Philippine ID System's Components and Features

FRONT

BACK

PhilSys Number or PSN

The registrant's unique and permanent identification number. The PSN contains highly sensitive data and should remain confidential.

PhilID

A non-transferable card, which contains demographic and biometric information.

One ID for All

Accepted in a wide range of transactions in the public and private sector.

Source: PSA

system. My long years in government service made me no stranger to the difficulty experienced by every Filipino in securing multiple identification cards just to avail of different government services. For this reason, I directed the NEDA and the PSA to lead the creation of a national



The President, with NEDA Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua, examines the National ID prototype.

Photo Credit: NEDA

identification system, which shall benefit every Filipino. Consequently, on August 6, 2018, I signed into law the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act of 2018 or RA no. 11055, which aims to establish a single national identification system for all citizens and resident aliens of the country. This will promote seamless delivery of services and ease of doing business in both

public and private transactions. Further, it will empower our government to move away from inefficient and costly physical documents, processes, and credentials.

As of July 9, 2021, 397,564 PhilID cards have been successfully delivered to registrants (see Figure 2.21). Meantime, the cumulative online and manual registrants for Step 1 have reached 37.70 million, while 17.31 million Filipinos have completed the Step 2 registration process. As part of Step 2, more than 4.54 million registrants have applied for an account with LANDBANK.

Government Online Transactions

To further improve the country's connectivity and provide better options for our consumers, I facilitated an enabling

Figure 2.21 Timeline, Status, and Process of Registration in the PhilSys

October 2020
Commencement of Step 1 Registration
(House to house collection of demographics)

37.70 M
registrants

as of July 9, 2021



January 2021
Start of Step 2 Registration
(Capturing the registrant's biometrics)

17.31 M
Filipinos' biometric information captured

as of July 9, 2021



February 2021
Start of Step 3 Registration
(Issuance of ID number and physical ID)

397,564
PhilID cards received

as of July 9, 2021



Step 1

Log on to register.philsys.gov.ph and accomplish the online application form. Book an appointment schedule and save the Application Reference Number (ARN) and QR code.



Step 2

Proceed to the registration center on the day of appointment and present the ARN or QR code. Bring the original copy of supporting documents.



Step 3

Wait for the delivery of your PhilSys Number (PSN) and PhilID. Present your transaction slip or any valid ID to the courier.



Source: PSA

"Naisip ko na nakapaimportante pala [ng national ID]. Sabi ko nga sa sarili ko, para saan ba 'tong [ID]?"

Siguro pangkalahatan, ito na yung pwede nating gamitin o i-present natin kung saan man tayo pupunta [bilang valid proof of identity], sa government agencies o non-government man. Kasi usually, kapag pupunta sa isang lugar at makikipag-transact tayo, hinahanap 'yan. Kaya pinilit ko talaga na maka-avail nito."

Lolit Perry

PhilSys Registrant, Zambales

Source and Photo Credit: PSA



environment for the entry of a third telecommunications provider. The digital readiness of the country for the new normal rests on improved internet performance, with speed for fixed broadband increasing from 7.91 megabits per second (Mbps) in 2016 to 46.25 Mbps in 2021. In addition, through the construction of the International Cable Landing Stations and the 240-km fiber conduit under the National Broadband Program, more than 850 government agencies will be connected through the Philippine Government Network and help us promote the ease of doing business. I also instructed the DICT to continually improve connectivity in far-flung areas and establish a broadband infrastructure that would improve the interconnection of government offices in unserved and underserved areas in the country (*see Chapter 6*).¹²⁶

With better internet connection throughout the country, we can ensure unhampered delivery of services to our people. Furthermore, government online platforms that were set up to deliver better services and information may be maximized by our people for various transactions (*see Figure 2.22*).

Ensuring Service Continuity Through Digitalization

On August 27, 2020, the ARTA issued MC no. 2020-06 requiring government agencies to set up an online processing system for accepting applications for permits, licenses, and clearances, in line with the provisions of the EODB Act. As intended by the same law, the use of electronic versions is meant to eliminate red tape and provide uninterrupted delivery of government services.

Through the same law, government agencies were also required to avail of and recognize the use of the DICT's Philippine National Public Key Infrastructure, which utilizes digital signatures. Further, the ARTA enjoined government agencies to accept digital payment schemes (i.e., credit cards, debit cards, prepaid/e-money, and bank transfer) for transaction fees.

We also devised online platforms for disaster and resiliency information to be accessible to every Filipino. The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), in partnership with the Action Against Hunger, made

126 DICT, April 2021.

Figure 2.22 Government Online Platforms



BIR Online Payment Facility

- Resulted in an increase in the number of payments through electronic channels from 83 percent in 2016 to 85 percent in 2020
- **PhP1.67 trillion** was collected in 2020 through electronic payment channels, of which PhP4.98 billion was collected from additional ePayment channels introduced in the last two years, such as GCash, DBP Debit and Credit Card, LBP Online, PESONet, Unionbank, and PayMaya



e-Kadiwa

- An online marketing platform that directly links producers and agri-preneurs to consumers
- **27** merchants using the e-Kadiwa platform as of May 2021



Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System (eBPLS)

- A cloud-based software that allows taxpayers to file an application for new and renewal of business permits online
- **593** LGUs with operational eBPLS, out of the 1,516 LGUs in the country



Business Name Registration System

- A web-based portal that allows end-to-end registration of business name for sole proprietors
- **2,849,561** business names registered from July 2016 to December 2020



Central Business Portal

- A single site for all business-related information that aims to promote effective service delivery and transparency in the government
- **1,937** users of the CBP as of January to June 2021; 481 business registrations with 158 approved applications



Driver's Licensing System

- An LTO web-based system that features driver's license online application, online appointment, online/electronic payment, and fully automated driver's written examination
- **5,869** transactions received through 124 district offices of the LTO

Source: DICT

available the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Knowledge Center, a web platform containing all manuals, plans, policies and guidelines, researches, publications, and other relevant documents pertaining to DRRM and Climate Change Adaptation/Mitigation.

Through nurtured partnerships with the private sector, such as with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, an online platform called iADAPT was created. The iADAPT aims to equip Filipinos with the right set of tools, skills, and resources they need to be confidently ready to face any type of disaster. It also makes available online resources like the Public Service Continuity Planning Guidebook, which focuses on the development of a service continuity plan, towards ensuring that any agency can withstand disruptive events and continue to operate and sustain public service.

In our effort to leverage ICT to increase efficiency and improve service quality, we are continually exploring the further adoption of the smart city technology. The term smart city was first used to emphasize the integration of ICT and modern infrastructure in response to the growth of urban centers and the demands and concerns associated with it. An example of a smart city design is the

New Clark City, which is being positioned as an alternative economic center with smart, efficient, and climate-resilient features. In 2017, Makati City, home of the country's financial district, launched the *Makatizen* app for citizens to use in requesting assistance in times of need. We look forward to a time when, just like any other smart city across the globe, our cities will also be more resilient to challenges, like the current public health crisis or any natural calamity.

As my Presidency winds down, to the best of our ability, your government shall continue pursuing measures to make government services available to you from the comfort of your homes or workplaces. The passage of an E-Governance Act is envisioned to considerably assist in this endeavor.

My Administration relentlessly pursued measures to make much-needed government services not only available but also more accessible. The sustained drive to cleanse government and make it more in step with the needs of its clients shall remain a key focus of our efforts until the last days of my Presidency. Inspired by your abiding faith, you may trust that your government shall not waver in reinforcing the bureaucracy's responsiveness to the needs of every Filipino.



The President attends the National Science and Technology Week in Lanang, Davao City on July 6, 2018. The event, with the theme, "Science for the People of Mindanao: Innovation for Collective Prosperity," highlights the contribution of science and technology to the lives of the Filipino people.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Chapter

3

Securing and Safeguarding the Nation



Sadly, more than a century since our heroes liberated us from foreign subjugation, our nation still has to face enemies that attack from within.

This time, we face the modern challenges of poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, terrorism, criminality and illegal drugs.

I have made it my personal mission to rid our nation of these ills, but I cannot do it alone. At this crucial juncture in our history, we need to draw strength from the lessons of our past to ensure that these ills do not cause any more damage to our future.”

The President’s speech during the 120th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence at the Museo ni Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite on June 12, 2018

It is our dream as Filipinos to see our nation safe, and progressive, driven by a collective sense of security, optimism, and unity among our people.

It has been five years, yet my firm commitment to address the well-entrenched problems of illegal drugs, criminality, and terrorism has not wavered. No matter how daunting, especially amidst the pandemic, my desire to rid society of these ills and provide our people with a comfortable, secure, and peaceful life remains to this day.

We have come a long way in our fight to secure our nation, yet I know that the journey continues. I challenge those who will govern after me to continue this fight and protect our future generations from these ills.

Sustained Gains Against Insurgency and Terrorism



Philippine troops raise the Philippine Flag in Marawi as the President declared the city liberated from the terrorists on October 17, 2017.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Insurgency and terrorism have threatened social cohesiveness and disrupted peace and security in the country for decades.

The Communist Terrorist Group (CTG) was established in the 1960s and waged



“May maganda silang buhay, nakakakain nang masarap, at nakakapagpadala sila ng pera sa kanilang pamilya. Samantalang kami, walang makain at maayos na gamit sa bundok. Nakita ko na ginagamit lang kami sa kilusan.”

*Ka Rosa,
a former rebel from Compostella Valley*

Source and Photo Credit: Task Force Balik-Loob (TFBL)

rebellion since then, pitting Filipinos against each other by weaponizing social injustices and preying on the marginalized.

Military interventions alone will not solve the world’s longest communist insurgency. With this in mind, I put into force a whole-of-nation approach to confront the insurgency head-on, as we move towards lasting and sustainable peace and development.

Ending the Insurgency through a Whole-Of-Nation Approach

I issued EO no. 70¹²⁷ in 2018, creating the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). In support, I reactivated the Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security (CORDS), which mandated my Cabinet Members the task of overseeing development and security concerns all over our 17 regions.

127 EO no. 70, "Institutionalizing the Whole-of-Nation Approach in Attaining Inclusive and Sustainable Peace, Creating a National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, and Directing the Adoption of a National Peace Framework," December 4, 2018.



The President attends the Joint NTF-Regional Task Force-ELCAC Region VIII meeting at the Summit Hotel in Tacloban City, Leyte on March 18, 2021. Also in photo are National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., DHSUD Secretary del Rosario, and Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Secretary Michael Lloyd Diño (left to right).

Photo Credit: PCOO

With the mobilization of the NTF-ELCAC, our neutralization of lawless elements went on full throttle starting with our identification of 12 lines of efforts, to create synergy among the interlinked government efforts (see Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 12 Lines of NTF-ELCAC Efforts



Source: National Security Council (NSC)

Empowering our Communities

Support to the Barangay Development Program (SBDP). As part of our efforts to empower our communities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), the SBDP provides a package of socio-economic development programs earmarked for areas cleared of insurgents and terrorists. It provides funds for the construction of FMRs, school buildings, water and sanitation systems, health stations, and provision of skills and livelihood training, among others. The SBDP is envisioned to bring concrete developments in insurgency-cleared areas to further prevent the resurgence of lawless elements (see Figure 3.2).

Community Support Program (CSP). The AFP and LGUs teamed up to address developmental gaps in our communities.



The community immersions of military personnel under the CSP contributed to the clearing of 4,379 CTG-affected and vulnerable barangays nationwide as of June

2021. Meanwhile, in the same period, 223 Local Terrorist Group (LTG)-affected barangays were cleared from local terrorists (see Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.2 Support to the Barangay Development Programs (SBDPs)* in 2021



* New program under the Duterte Administration.

Source: DILG

Figure 3.3 Rerooled Community Support Program* and SBDP Accomplishments



* New program under the Duterte Administration.

Source: DILG


To limit the movement of the CTG, 27,523 LGUs declared the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) *Persona Non-Grata*. This prevents members of the group from entering the localities in which the declaration is in effect, and may lead to their immediate arrest.

Promoting Inclusivity and Reintegration of Rebels into Society

We also witnessed the renewed interest of rebels to return to the fold of society and live peaceful lives. To support them, we strengthened government programs that will provide them with opportunities and hope for a better future.

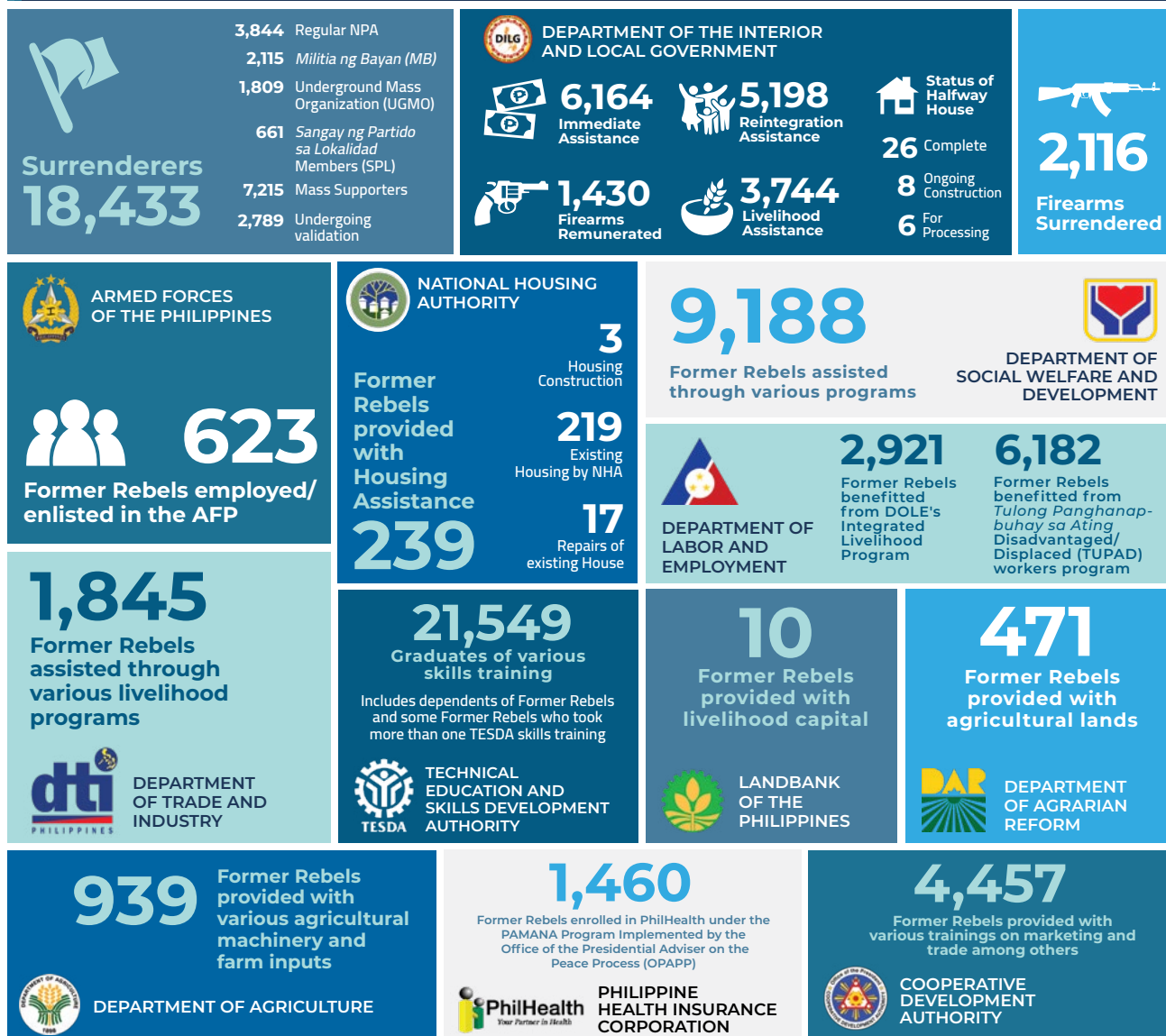
Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) and Amnesty Program. To harmonize the government's whole-of-nation approach in promoting peace, I signed AO no. 10 in 2018, as amended by AO no. 25 in 2020, to implement the E-CLIP. This supports former rebels (FRs) as they embrace renewed lives with their families.

As a result, we have welcomed 18,433 surrenderers and enrolled qualified FRs under the E-CLIP since 2018.



As of June 30, 2021, **6,418 former rebels** received financial assistance amounting to **Php485.48 million**.

Figure 3.4 E-CLIP* Accomplishments as of First Semester 2021



*New program under the Duterte Administration.

Sources: TFBL, NSC, and DILG

Other reintegration assistance packages include livelihood, training, housing, and employment programs. Figure 3.4 shows the accomplishments of the E-CLIP and Amnesty Program as of the first semester of 2021.

From 2018 to first semester of 2021, former CTG members surrendered 1,430 firearms, for which they were remunerated under the E-CLIP.



Two former rebels living in a halfway house with their newborn child and receiving livelihood and training assistance from the E-CLIP to start anew.

Photo Credit: TFBL



The poultry at the Peace and Prosperity Village in Leyte is one of the livelihood projects established by the Provincial Government for their former rebels.

Photo Credit: TFBL

To further empower the FRs and enable them to live with dignity, I signed Proclamation nos. 1090, 1091, 1092, and 1093 on the grant of amnesty to the members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Moro National Liberation Front, *Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas*/Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade, and CTG, respectively. This is a testament to our sincere efforts to nurture a conducive environment for the reintegration of rebels into mainstream society.



DND Secretary Delfin Lorenzana receives a surrendered firearm from a former rebel in Tanauan, Batangas in August 2018.

Photo Credit: DND

I also signed EO no. 125 on February 5, 2021, establishing the National Amnesty Commission to ensure a fair and just process in granting amnesty to eligible FRs, enabling them to complete their transition as peaceful, law-abiding, and productive citizens.

Alongside our government's peaceful interventions, we remained steadfast in our fight against terrorism.



DILG Secretary Eduardo Año leads the demilitarization of firearms at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna on January 24, 2020.

Photo Credit: DILG

The AFP conducted focused military operations, which significantly reduced attacks from lawless elements by **52 percent** or from **702 in 2016 to 337 in 2020**.

Despite the daunting challenges we faced in our counter-insurgency and counterterrorism efforts, we, as one nation, will continue to sustain and build on the gains we have achieved towards attaining lasting and meaningful peace in all parts of the country.

Heralded Meaningful Peace in Mindanao



The President salutes as he reviews the troops of the 602nd Infantry Brigade at Camp Robert Edward Lucero in Carmen, North Cotabato on June 6, 2017.

Photo Credit: PCOO

In our quest for lasting peace in our country's promised land, I have vowed to free the Mindanaoans from the long cycle of violence and truly make them feel that they are an integral part of the future of our nation.



The President presents RA no. 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) to MILF Chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim during a ceremony at Malacañan Palace on August 6, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Advancing the Gains of the Bangsamoro Peace Process

After almost two decades of negotiations with the MILF and several attempts at legislation, we have finally reached a critical milestone in our quest for peace in Mindanao with the passage and ratification of the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) or RA no. 11054 in 2018.

Complementary to the provisions of RA no. 11054, I signed EO no. 79¹²⁸ in April 2019, which paved the way for the full implementation of the Normalization Track under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. These measures shall solidify the initial gains of the Bangsamoro peace process and eventually empower the Bangsamoro people to attain significant self-governance within the bounds of the Philippine Constitution (*see Figure 3.5*).

128 EO no. 79, "Implementing the Annex on Normalization under the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro," April 24, 2019.

Figure 3.5 Accomplishments Under Normalization Track



Source: OPAPP

Rising up better: The Recovery and Rehabilitation of Marawi City

On May 23, 2017, we launched a military operation to neutralize Isnilon Hapilon, the appointed Emir of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia, who was then planning atrocities with the ISIS-inspired Maute Group to establish an ISIS *wilayat* (province) in Mindanao. These terrorists heavily resisted our government troops leading to a five-month battle that reduced many parts of the city to rubble.

On October 17, 2017, I declared Marawi City liberated from the terrorist influence of the Maute-ISIS Group. This marked

the beginning of our efforts of building back better the beautiful city of Marawi (see Figure 3.6).

We created the Task Force *Bangon Marawi* (TFBM)¹²⁹ to spearhead the city's rehabilitation, as well as that of the other areas affected by conflict. Despite the pandemic, the TFBM continued the implementation of projects, going full blast in the second half of 2020 for the construction of public infrastructure and other key facilities. We also worked with partners on the delivery of social services to displaced residents. We aim to complete the Marawi rehabilitation by year end 2021.

129 AO no. 3, "Creating an Inter-Agency Task Force for the Recovery, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation of the City of Marawi and Other Affected Localities," June 28, 2017.

Figure 3.6 Support Interventions and Cash Assistance to Marawi City Residents as of First Semester 2021



50,011
BENEFICIARIES

Livelihood
starter kits



2.28M
IN REVENUE (PhP)

Total sales
generated from
11 Selling Platforms
established



17,868
BENEFICIARIES

Transitory Family
Support Package
(TFSP) for the
Most Affected
Area (MAA) at
PhP53,000 each

17,787
BENEFICIARIES

Additional TFSP
for MAA at
PhP14,400 each



3,703
BENEFICIARIES

TFSP for MAA
renters at
PhP35,000 each



43,841
BENEFICIARIES

Livelihood
settlement grants
of additional
PhP20,000 for MAA
families
PhP10,000 cash
assistance for
families in Less
Affected Area (LAA)

Sources: DTI and TFBM



TFBM Chairperson Secretary del Rosario inspects the progress of the rehabilitation of a mosque in Marawi City in March 2021.

Photo Credit: TFBM



National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF) Secretary Saidamen Pangarungan delivers a speech explaining the impetus of peace and development during a Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism event in Marawi City on November 20, 2020.

Photo Credit: NCMF



The President congratulates one of the internally displaced persons who was a recipient of a zero-interest loan in Marawi City on January 30, 2018. With him is DTI Secretary Lopez.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Ongoing construction of the Peace Memorial Park in Marawi City

Source: TFBM

Enforced Law and Order



The President leads the destruction of PhP7.51 billion worth of illegal drugs in Trece Martires City, Cavite on December 3, 2020. Also in photo are Senator Go, PDEA Director General Wilkins Villanueva, DDB Chairman Catalino Cuy, and then PNP Chief Debold Sinas.

Photo Credit: PCOO

I have always yearned for the time when our children can go out into the streets without fear of crime and violence. Thus, I placed the fight against criminality and illegal drugs at the center of my governance agenda.

Rebuilding Trust in Our Police Force

What makes preserving peace and order a more daunting feat is the public's long-standing cynicism and distrust of the police, fueled by alleged incidents of police brutality.

Despite our efforts, there remain erring cops who succumb to corruption, crime, and illegal drugs. Thus, I directed the PNP to remove and punish scalawags in uniform. As a result, 5,178 PNP personnel were dismissed, of which 653 were found involved in illegal drug activities.

Fighting Criminality

Even amidst the pandemic, we sustained

and intensified the momentum of our anti-criminality campaign resulting in significant gains in law and order.

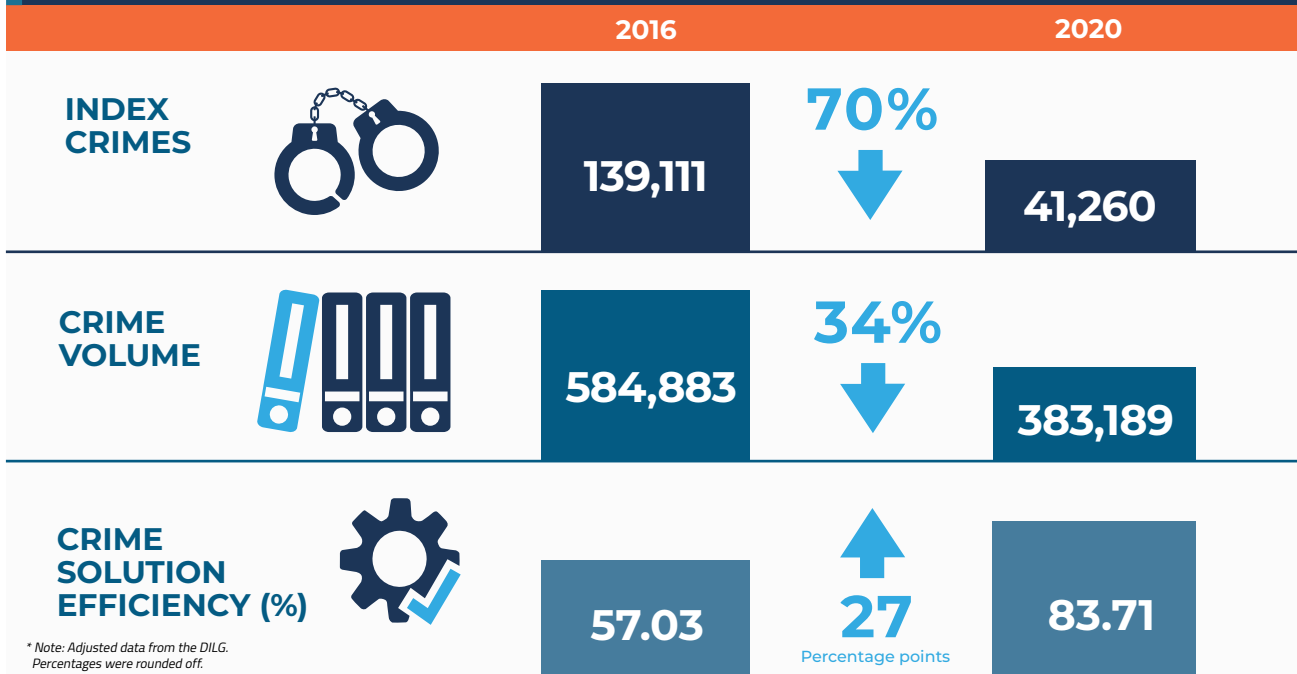
Incidence of index crimes¹³⁰ dropped by 70.34 percent, from 139,111 in 2016 to 41,260 in 2020. In addition, the PNP's efficiency in solving crimes also improved from 57.03 percent in 2016 to 83.71 percent in 2020 (*see Figure 3.7*).

Further, our sustained efforts in combatting trafficking in persons (TIP) had enabled us to maintain our Tier 1 status, the highest classification for the elimination of trafficking based on the 2021 US Department of State TIP Report.

To continuously strengthen awareness and instill social consciousness on TIP, I signed Proclamation no. 1180 on July 6, 2021 declaring the month of July as the "National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Month."

¹³⁰ Index crimes include the eight focus crimes i.e., theft, robbery, carnapping of motorcycles, carnapping of motor vehicles, murder, homicide, rape, and physical injury.

Figure 3.7 Improved Crime Situation under the Duterte Administration



Source: DILG



The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) inaugurates the **Tahanan ng Inyong Pag-Asa Center**, the first IACAT shelter and one-stop-shop that caters to TIP victims located at the Sanctuary Center, Welfareville, Mandaluyong City. Leading the formal turn-over of the Center (from left to right) are DPWH Secretary Mark Villar, DSWD Secretary Rolando Bautista, DOJ Secretary Menardo Guevarra and Mandaluyong Representative Neptali Gonzales II.

The IACAT, which is led by the DOJ, is the body mandated by law to coordinate and monitor the implementation of **RA no. 9208 or the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003**.








Source and Photo Credit: DOJ

Sustaining the Fight Against Illegal Drugs

As the country's illegal drug problem remains pervasive and deeply rooted in our structural and social systems, we remain relentless in our campaign against it. In 2017, I created the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) to harmonize anti-illegal drug efforts. Since then, our policies, laws, and issuances in line with the anti-illegal drug campaign were implemented in an integrated and synchronized manner. This convergence of efforts led to the conduct of 203,715 anti-illegal drug operations and arrest of 293,841 drug personalities, among others (see Figure 3.8).

To affirm that our anti-illegal drug operations are legitimate and adhere to human rights laws, our law enforcement agents have collaborated with the inter-agency panel, led by the DOJ, for the judicious review of anti-illegal drug operations where alleged deaths occur.

Figure 3.8 Accomplishments of Harmonized Anti-Illegal Drug Efforts

	2018	2021	PERCENTAGE CHANGE (%)
 Anti-illegal drugs operations conducted	117,385	203,715	▲ 74
 Drug personalities arrested	167,135	293,841	▲ 76
 Minors rescued	1,954	3,736	▲ 91
 Drug dens dismantled	271	789	▲ 191
 Shabu laboratories dismantled	14	18	▲ 29
 Worth of illegal drugs seized	PHP 25.62B	PHP 59.93B	▲ 134
 Government workers arrested	621	979	▲ 58

* Cumulative figures since July 2016, 2021 figures as of May 2021
 ** Arrested government workers include government employees, elected officials, and uniformed personnel.

Source: PDEA



During the 44th United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the Philippines in Geneva, Switzerland on June 30, 2020, DOJ Secretary Guevarra assures the Council of the country’s review of anti-illegal drug operations to ensure non-condonation of human rights violations and impunity in our anti-illegal drugs campaign.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Conducted High-Impact Operations. The collaboration among our law enforcement agencies had also led to the recent successful conduct of the following high-impact operations:

- On October 30, 2020, 239.16 kg of shabu worth PhP1.63 billion were seized during the conduct of a controlled delivery operation in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. Two Chinese nationals were arrested.



Arrest of two Chinese nationals after the confiscation of shabu worth PhP1.63 billion in Nueva Ecija on October 30, 2020

Photo Credit: PDEA

- On January 15, 2021, a clandestine laboratory was dismantled during a buy-bust operation in Subic Bay, Freeport Zone, Zambales. Five high-value targets, including four police officers, were arrested.



Dismantling of a shabu clandestine laboratory in Zambales on January 15, 2021

Photo Credit: PDEA

- On December 21, 2020, 40 kg of shabu worth PhP272 million and assorted firearms were seized from a major drug distribution network operating from Metro Manila to Central Visayas.
- On April 14, 2021, 18.08 kg of shabu worth PhP122 million were seized by authorities in Las Piñas City. One minor was rescued.



Seizure of 18.08 kg of shabu in Las Piñas City on April 14, 2021

Photo Credit: PDEA

We destroyed on December 3, 2020, PhP7.51 billion worth of illegal drugs at the Integrated Waste Management Inc. in Cavite. These include 1,075 kg of shabu, 247 kg of marijuana, 18.18 kg of cocaine, and 763.61 grams of ecstasy, which were seized during various anti-illegal drug operations.

Established Drug-resistant Communities.

To ensure that our anti-illegal drug efforts are cascaded down to the local level, we have continuously enlisted the participation of LGUs through various grassroots programs. Part of my Administration's anti-illegal drug strategy is the Barangay Drug Clearing Program (BDCP) that aims to clear all our barangays of illegal drugs.

Sustained Demand and Harm Reduction Efforts. The country's illegal drug problem cannot be resolved by suppressing drug supply and demand alone. Hence, in 2018, I signed EO no. 66, institutionalizing the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy, which prescribes a comprehensive and balanced approach to counter the sale and use of illegal drugs. Since then, we have adopted a harm-reduction strategy through interventions that soften and reduce the social and economic impact of illegal drug use.

- *Balay Silangan.* Launched in 2018, the *Balay Silangan* Reformation Program is a community-based initiative for surrendering drug offenders. As of May 31, 2021, 253 *Balay Silangan* Reformation Centers catered to 3,574 drug offenders. Of these, 2,534 had graduated, including 651 who had been subsequently employed.



The **BDCP** encompasses a holistic approach in addressing the drug problem by enjoining the participation of LGUs, government agencies, and various stakeholders of the national anti-illegal drug campaign. The BDCP Oversight Committee is composed of the PDEA (chair), DILG, PNP, DOH, and LGUs.

A barangay is declared drug-free after the BDCP Oversight Committee confirms the non-availability of drug supply in the area and the absence of drug transit activity, clandestine drug laboratory and chemical warehouse, marijuana cultivation site, drug den, drug pusher, and user.

As of May 31, 2021, **22,093 barangays** or **63%** of the total 35,303 drug-affected barangays have been declared cleared from illegal drugs.

- *Project Sagip Batang Solvent (PSBS).* From June 2019 to December 2020, 108 children, aged nine to 17 years old, identified as solvent users were rescued and housed at the PSBS Center in Novaliches, Quezon City.
- *Community-based Drug Rehabilitation (CBDR) Program.* As of March 2021, 719 cities and municipalities had institutionalized CBDR services such as detoxification, psychosocial interventions, and educational, employment, and moral recovery programs. A total of 738,362 Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUD) had been catered to by these LGUs.
- *Recovery and Wellness Program.* As of June 30, 2021, a total of 1.22 million PWUDs had enrolled in the RWP, a PNP-led rehabilitation program that aims to facilitate the recovery of surrenderers. Of the 1.22 million, 599,657 persons had graduated and are now ready to be integrated into their communities.
- *Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers.* We also established Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRC) nationwide to ensure that relevant services are available and accessible to PWUD in various locations.



DOH TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS

Currently, there are **20 operational DATRCs** nationwide which helped in the rehabilitation of **18,083 PWUDs**.

Services provided to PWUDs:

- **Inpatient** (e.g., medical, psychological, social, and spiritual services)
- **Outpatient** (e.g., medical and mental health assessment services)
- **Aftercare** (e.g., individual coaching, skills and vocational training, and family support program)



Mega DATRC in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija

Source: DOH

- *Yakap Bayan Program.* Launched in 2017, the program aims to assist recovering PWUD and their families by providing financial and livelihood assistance, Cash-for-Work, and skills training, among others.



“Hinding-hindi na ako babalik sa dati. Pinakamalaking bagay na din po para sa akin ‘yung pinagkatiwalaan akong magsilbi sa barangay namin, ‘yung maging barangay tanod ako. Hindi ko po iniisip ‘yung sweldo ko dito, ang mahalaga sa akin ay maipakita ko sa mga kabarangay ko na ako ay nagbago na.”

Frederick Catibog, recovered PWUD who now aids government in the fight against illegal drugs

Source: DSWD

Strengthened the Military and Police



BRP Jose Rizal, the country's first missile-guided frigate, warmly welcomes its sister ship, BRP Antonio Luna, in the vicinity of Capones Island, Zambales on February 9, 2021.

Photo Credit: Philippine Navy

It has always been my dream to upgrade the capabilities of our military and police, modernize their institutions, and ensure that they are well taken care of to enable them to focus on fulfilling their mandate of protecting the Filipino people.

Promoting the Welfare of Our Troops

I acknowledge the gallantry of the military and police; hence, my Administration is committed to constantly look after their welfare and provide them with all the necessary support and assistance.

Increased Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP) Salaries. In 2018, I signed Congress Joint Resolution no. 1, which almost doubled the compensation package of MUP across all ranks. In 2019, the overall average salary hike reached 72.18 percent for all MUP ranks, making their compensation more commensurate with their critical role in ensuring national security, and peace and order.

Implemented the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP). Launched in 2017, the CSBP aims to provide speedy, sustainable, and rationalized social benefits and assistance to our AFP and PNP battle casualties and their beneficiaries. As of June 2021, we had provided financial assistance, among others, to the families of 5,602 AFP and 1,179 PNP personnel (see Figure 3.9).

Provided Hazard Pay to AFP Personnel. Fighting COVID-19 alongside our medical and health frontliners are the brave men and women of our armed forces. While we cannot quantify the risks they face in the line of duty, we aimed to reciprocate their dedicated service by providing them with hazard duty pay. As of April 28, 2021, we had released PhP5.16 billion for the hazard pay of 46,821 AFP personnel.

Further, we have granted our troops deployed to Sulu hazard duty pay on top of their salaries beginning May 2019.



Under previous administrations, a **special financial assistance (SFA)** was granted to battle casualties of the AFP and PNP. Other forms of support such as medical and livelihood assistance were also provided per the President's instruction.

To enhance the previous SFA, the President launched and institutionalized the **CSBP in 2017 and 2020** respectively, which adopted a whole-of-nation approach in providing swift and rationalized social benefits and assistance to MUPs. It provides for the uniform and equal grant of benefits in each type and application and ensures the most reasonable amount for each type of assistance.

Under the CSBP, qualified beneficiaries are entitled to the following:

- SFA of a maximum of PhP500,000;
- Shelter assistance;
- Health care assistance;
- Educational assistance, including tuition and stipend; and
- Employment assistance for the killed-in-action and killed-in-police-operations personnel's spouse, parent or sibling.



The President salutes a wounded soldier who survived during the C-130 mishap in Sulu following the conferment of the Order of Lapu-Lapu with the Rank of Kampilan at the Camp Navarro General Hospital, Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City on July 5, 2021.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Figure 3.9 Institutionalized Assistance to Killed and Wounded Military and Police under the CSBP*

	AFP	PNP
Financial Assistance	5,602	1,179
Employment and Livelihood	420	167
Education	477	84
Housing	425	163
Healthcare	604	210
Modified Conditional Cash Transfer	168	42

* New program under the Duterte Administration.

Source: PMS

Provided Pension Benefits and Differential Pay to Retired MUPs.

We strived to deliver a host of benefits that our retirees deserve for their dedicated service to our country. In 2020, we fully delivered the old age and disability pensions of all 150,866 MUP pensioners nationwide.

We released PhP2.85 billion in February 2021 to cover the one-month equivalent of the 2018 pension differential of retired MUP in the AFP, PNP, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), PCG, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) personnel. In May 2021, the AFP paid PhP1.32 billion to cover another month of the 2018 pension differential.

Upgraded Military and Police Hospitals. We are continuously undertaking repair and improvement works in our military and police hospitals to provide quality medical services to our troops, especially our battle casualties (see Figure 3.10).

Upgrading the Capability of Our Forces

Over the past five years, we ensured that our uniformed personnel would be armed with top-grade defense material and equipment to enable them to effectively uphold national security and public order and safety.

Sustained the Implementation of the PNP Capability Enhancement Program (CEP).

I want the next administration to inherit a highly capable, effective, and credible police force. Thus, I have continuously enhanced the capabilities of the police through the CEP. This will further enable them to adapt to the needs of the present time, add value to delivered services, and achieve increased citizen satisfaction.

Various equipment have been procured to develop the police's operational capability and visibility. Among which is the delivery of 3,978 units of ballistic helmets to PNP personnel in June 2021. In addition, 114 units of 7.62-mm sniper rifles are set for delivery before end of July 2021.

Pursued a Credible Defense Posture through the AFP Modernization Program. The Revised AFP Modernization Program (RAFPMP) paved the way for our acquisition of top-notch military equipment.

Figure 3.10 Upgraded Military and Police Hospitals (as of June 2021)

PROCUREMENT OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



Hyperbaric Chambers

Delivered to
Victoriano Luna Medical Center
(September 2020)

Camp Navarro General Hospital
(February 2020)



Delivered other medical equipment to
Presidential Security Group Station Hospital (PSGSH)

99%
accomplished

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITALS AND BUILDINGS



New hospital building in
WESMINCOM
62%
accomplished



First phase of the construction of the
PNP Medical Plaza
98%
accomplished

UPGRADE OF HOSPITALS AND BUILDINGS



Upgrading of the
PSGSH
completed

Source: PMS

Notable among these is the delivery of 11 brand-new S-70i Blackhawk Utility Helicopters. The first six units of the Blackhawks were delivered in November 2020 while the additional five units were delivered in June 2021. With these newly delivered assets, our uniformed personnel will be more capable to perform various military missions, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response operations.

Through the RAFPMP, our first missile-capable warship, the BRP Jose Rizal (FF 150) was delivered on July 19, 2020. In less than a year, BRP Antonio Luna, our second guided-missile frigate,

sailed alongside BRP Jose Rizal on March 19, 2021, which completed the Philippine Navy's (PN) frigate acquisition project.

With a stronger and more capable Navy, we can better respond to the increasing and emerging threats in our archipelago. By modernizing the capability of our nation's defenders, they would be able to effectively perform their constitutional mandate of protecting the Filipino people and upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic against all forms of intrusion and encroachment.



The President delivers his speech during the Inspection of Newly Delivered Air Assets and Talk to Troops on February 12, 2021 at the Haribon Hangar, Clark Air Base, Pampanga. With him are DND Secretary Lorenzana and Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Commissioning of the BRP Antonio Luna (FF 151), the second missile frigate of the PN, on March 19, 2021

Photo Credit: PN

Protected the Philippines' Sovereign Rights



The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea flies over the Philippine Rise to commemorate the fifth year of its renaming and the 123rd Independence Day on June 12, 2021.

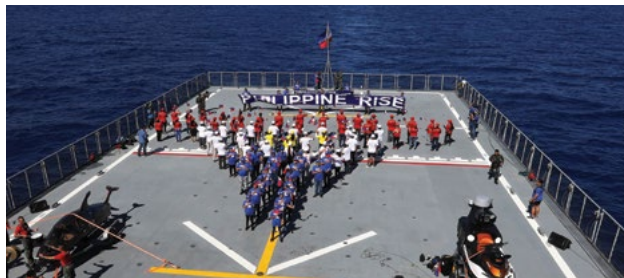
Photo Credit: NSC

One of the many challenges faced by my Administration is protecting our country's territorial integrity and sovereignty while pursuing peaceful, friendly, and cooperative relations with our neighbors amidst the disputes in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Safeguarding Territorial Integrity and Sovereign Rights

We continue to uphold our sovereign rights over the WPS, as guided by the Arbitral Award under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 2016. On March 17, 2016, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) was created by virtue of Memorandum Circular no. 94 to orchestrate and synchronize the employment of national government agencies' capabilities to protect the WPS.

Further, we reaffirmed our sovereignty over the Benham Rise when I issued EO no. 25 on May 16, 2017, renaming the Benham Rise to Philippine Rise. In addition, we cast ocean buoys, and in May 2018, declared the Philippine Rise as a Marine Protected Area.



The crew and government officials in formation for the flag-raising ceremony at the Philippine Rise on board the BRP Davao Del Sur off the coast of Casiguran in Aurora province on May 16, 2018

Photo Credit: PNA

Protecting the WPS Stakeholders

Territorial concerns surrounding disputes over the WPS do not only threaten our sovereignty but also compromise the livelihood of our fishermen and endanger our marine ecosystem.

For millions of Filipinos living in coastal communities along the WPS, food security is at the heart of the WPS dispute. The WPS serves as a fishing ground for some 318,000 fisherfolk from Regions I, III, IV-A, IV-B, and the NCR. From 2016 to 2020, fish production from the WPS averaged 318,040 metric tons. In 2020 alone, WPS fish production

contributed an average of 7.8 percent to the year's total fish production. From 2016 to 2021, we protected our fisherfolk and commercial fishing vessels that operate in the WPS (*see Figure 3.11*).

Figure 3.11 Initiatives for Filipino Fisherfolk in the WPS



National Payao Program
Some 700 fish aggregating devices or payaos were deployed throughout the WPS to help fishermen increase their fish catch.



Stepped-up patrols by the **PCG, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and PN** in the WPS. One such patrol by the PCG and BFAR resulted in Chinese maritime militia vessels leaving Sabina Shoal on April 27, 2021.



Constructed **essential facilities such as the runaway, community fish landing center, cold storage facility, and fishermen's shelter at the Pag-asa Island**



Construction of **large fishing vessels by the BFAR** for fishermen's cooperatives



Set up of a telecommunications tower in Pag-asa Island for **internet and Wi-Fi**



Repair, rehabilitation, and construction on all the features occupied by the Philippines in Pag-asa Island to improve the living conditions of civilians and soldiers who reside in the area

Source: NSC

Managing Territorial Disputes

Establishing a safe space between the Philippines and China is essential in building trust to reach a consensus over the WPS. Bilateral visits and cooperative mechanisms helped create an improved environment for managing the issues in the WPS.

The Bilateral Consultation Mechanism with China enabled continuous discussions aimed at fostering mutual trust and confidence. Under this, our country and China committed to exercise restraint in conducting activities in the WPS that may ignite further dispute and affect peace and stability in the region.

However, we have always ensured that our interests as a nation are protected. Our 107 diplomatic protests on China's activities in the WPS that are not in accordance with international law will attest to my Administration's commitment to sustain peaceful offensive action when our country's interests are being threatened.



The PCG and BFAR, during a joint maritime exercise, inform unidentified China maritime militia vessels at the Sabina Shoal that they are within the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone.

Photo Credit: PCG

Fostered International Partnerships for Humanitarian Assistance, Peace, Security, and Development



The President poses with other ASEAN leaders during the opening ceremony of the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits at the IMPACT Exhibition and Convention Center in Nonthaburi, Thailand on November 3, 2019.

Photo Credit: PCOO

As I have consistently pronounced since the beginning of my Administration, the Philippines is a friend to all and enemy to none. We have fostered cooperation and partnerships in the international community, keeping in mind the welfare of Filipinos and the development of the country as our utmost priorities. We have ventured into the global arena and secured partnerships in the areas of defense, trade and investments, and COVID-19 recovery, among others.

Fostered Closer Ties with Neighbors and Allies



ASEAN. In 2017, the ASEAN's 50th anniversary coincided with our turn in the ASEAN Chairmanship. We ensured that this

momentous occasion was complemented with a milestone.

During the 31st ASEAN Summit held in Manila with the theme, “Partnering for Change, Engaging the World,” we led the ASEAN leaders in signing the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers. This landmark document is the embodiment of our promise of better social protection, easier access to justice and health services, and more humane and fair treatment for our region's migrant workers. The signing of this ASEAN Consensus shows the political will and strong commitment of ASEAN leaders to safeguard the rights of migrant workers who contributed to the growth and development in the region.



The President gives a thumbs up during the Grand Celebration of the 50th ASEAN Founding Anniversary at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on August 8, 2017.

Photo Credit: PCOO

In August 2018, the Philippines took over as country coordinator for the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations. A major task for the Philippines was to steer the negotiations for the ASEAN-China Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. Working on the Single Draft Negotiating Text for the COC (SDNT) that was agreed on by ASEAN and China earlier, the Philippines helped move the first reading of the SDNT to completion in 2019. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we led the resumption of the second reading of the SDNT and textual negotiations of the COC through virtual platforms. As we end our term as country coordinator in August 2021, we will continue to work with ASEAN Member States and China towards the conclusion and adoption of a meaningful COC that is in accordance with international law, including the UNCLOS.

Up to this day, we continue to fight the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. Our ASEAN neighbors and the ASEAN's dialogue partners have shown that we are not alone in this fight. To strengthen solidarity in the region, member states established the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund to support the ASEAN

Member States in detection and transmission prevention efforts and to aid research cooperation relevant to COVID-19 and other potential sources of outbreaks. This includes development of medicines and vaccines, sharing of best practices, and training and capacity-building for health professionals and other frontliners. As a show of support, the Philippines donated US\$100,000 in January 2021 for this cause.

We also continue to fortify our ties with bilateral partners. These strengthened partnerships enabled us to achieve concrete milestones and mutually beneficial exchanges.



The President and then Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reaffirm friendship and commitment to a more intensified development partnership in their joint press statement following the summit meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in Tokyo, Japan on May 31, 2019.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Japan. Japan has always been a steadfast partner of the Philippines. When I assumed the Presidency, I made it a point to further solidify our relationship with Japan. During my term, I undertook four official visits to Japan and advanced cooperation in various areas such as defense, infrastructure, and trade.

Since 2016, the Philippines and Japan have strengthened cooperation in defense through equipment transfers as well as maritime security capacity building through Official Development Assistance and other modalities. The latest among these is the contract for the delivery of four air surveillance radar systems worth US\$103 million under the Cooperation to Enhance the Philippines' Capacity in Vigilance and Surveillance signed in August 2020.

Our deepened friendship with Japan helped us soldier on in our fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Japan had extended the following assistance to the Philippines: (i) Programme for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Grant worth JPY687 million (approximately US\$6.87 million); (ii) COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan worth JPY50 billion loan (approximately US\$500 million); and (iii) Post-Disaster Standby Loan Phase II worth JPY50 billion (approximately US\$500 million). Japan had also donated, on top of its COVAX facility assistance, more than 1.1 million vaccines to the Philippines in July 2021.



People's Republic of China.

We have consistently exerted efforts in strengthening our bilateral ties with China. I have visited China five times as President. These visits resulted in agreements in various spheres of cooperation including infrastructure, education, and science and technology, among others.

Our levelled-up cooperation with China enabled us to receive various forms of assistance during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chinese government, local authorities, and private entities extended support to our



The President and People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping pose for posterity prior to the start of the bilateral meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on August 29, 2019.

Photo Credit: PCOO



DOH Secretary Duque III and DFA Secretary Locsin, Jr. thank the Chinese government and the team of medical experts who helped in the Philippines' COVID-19 response as they sent off the experts at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on April 19, 2020.

Photo Credit: DFA

country, ranging from in-kind assistance (ventilators, face masks, personal protective equipment [PPE], other medical equipment, and supplies) to donation of vaccines, and sharing of best practices and advice from Chinese medical experts who undertook a two-week mission to the Philippines in April 2020.

In terms of defense and security, China extended its support to the Philippines by helping capacitate our armed forces. In January 2019, our countries signed the Agreement on China's Provision of Military

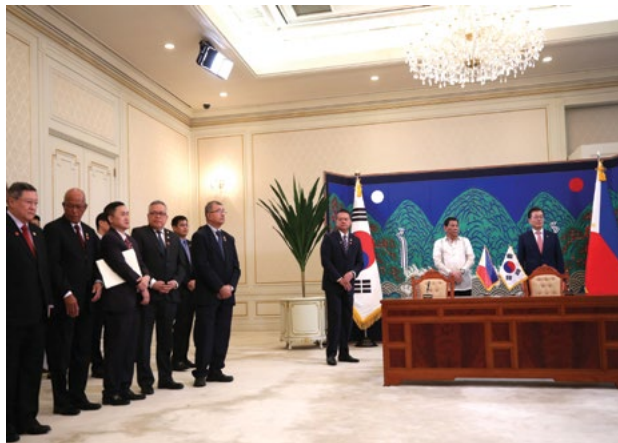
Aid Gratis to the Philippines, which entailed the donation of military equipment worth RMB130 million (approximately US\$20 million).



Republic of Korea. The Republic of Korea (ROK) has been our consistently reliable partner.

During my visit to the country in 2018, we signed agreements that would further enhance cooperation in various areas such as trade, transportation, and science and technology, among others. ROK has also been pivotal to our efforts to upgrade our military capabilities and defense posture, being one of the country's major sources of equipment such as fighter aircraft, patrol ships, cargo and troop carrier trucks, assault rifles, and ammunition.

As of June 2021, ROK had given the Philippines over US\$5 million worth of COVID-19 assistance such as test kits, masks, and PPE.



The President and ROK President Moon Jae-in prepare to witness the signing of agreements between both countries following the successful bilateral meeting at the Blue House in Seoul on June 4, 2018. Also in the photo are DOF Secretary Dominguez III, DND Secretary Lorenzana, then Special Assistant to the President Go, DTI Secretary Lopez, and DOST Secretary Fortunato de la Peña.

Photo Credit: PCOO



United States of America. The USA has been a long-time friend and treaty ally of the Philippines.

During my term, we achieved a historical milestone with the return of the Balangiga Bells to the Philippines. These bells are reminders of the gallantry and heroism of our forebearers who resisted the American colonizers and sacrificed their lives in the process. Apart from this landmark event, the bells' homecoming also heralded another vibrant chapter in the bilateral ties between the Philippines and the USA.



The President rings one of the Balangiga Bells after witnessing the official handover of its Transfer Certificate at the Balangiga Auditorium in Eastern Samar on December 15, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

When the COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected the country, our invigorated partnership with the USA resulted in their support to our COVID-19 response efforts. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided around PhP1.1 billion (US\$22.6 million) cumulative assistance to support LGU delivery of healthcare services, creation of health promotion and risk communication campaigns, and development of information system for effective dissemination of DOH guidelines and tracking of COVID-19 commodities and logistics. In addition, in-kind donations such as ventilators, cots and mattresses, medical supplies, and PPE were also provided.

On vaccines, the USA is the largest contributor to the COVAX facility, from which the Philippines has received around five million vaccines.



Turnover of 100 units of brand new Vyaire mechanical ventilators donated by the United States Government through the USAID on August 28, 2020. From left to right: DOH Secretary Duque III, Executive Secretary Medialdea, then US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim, and USAID Mission Director Lawrence Hardy II.

Photo Credit: PCOO

The USA, our sole defense treaty ally, remains as one of our major partners in upgrading our defense capabilities. The USA donated precision-guided munitions worth US\$18 million to the Philippine government on November 23, 2020; sniping and anti-improvised explosive device equipment worth PhP1.38 billion on December 8, 2020; and machine guns and ammunition worth PhP48.5 million on July 4, 2021.



DFA Secretary Locsin, Jr. and then USA National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien during the ceremonial turnover of precision-guided munitions at the DFA Central Office on November 23, 2020.

Photo Credit: DFA

Expanded Relations with Non-Traditional Partners

During my time as President, I sought to venture out and expand alliances with non-traditional partners.



Russian Federation. In line with our independent foreign policy, we steadily engaged Russia in recent years. Our relations have achieved a milestone in defense cooperation, which includes regular exchanges between both countries' defense, intelligence, and military agencies, as well as transfer of defense materials. In pursuit of our shared commitment to fight COVID-19, our cooperation with Russia also resulted in the assured supply of Gamaleya's Sputnik V vaccine to the Philippines.



The President and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation during the 16th Annual Meeting of the Valdai Discussion Club at the Polyana 1389 Hotel in Sochi on October 3, 2019.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a delegation from the DND and the AFP visited Russia from March 3 to 7, 2020 to meet with Sovtechnoexport officials and visit the Ulan Ude Aviation Plant for the planned acquisition by the Philippines of Mi171 Heavy Lift Helicopters.

The **Mi171 Heavy Lift helicopter** is a multipurpose transport aircraft that can perform combat, search and rescue, as well as medical evacuation and disaster response missions.

The first batch of Mi171 helicopters is expected to be delivered in 2022.



The President raises his fist during the meeting with the Filipino Community in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on April 12, 2017. Also in photo (left to right) are DND Secretary Lorenzana, then DFA Acting Secretary Enrique Manalo, Presidential Adviser on OFWs Abdullah Mama-o, and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Salvador Panelo.

Photo Credit: PCOO

We strived to achieve breakthroughs in protecting the rights of Filipino workers in countries in the Middle East, being one of the most preferred destinations of our OFWs. In April 2017, I visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, then Israel and Jordan in September 2018.



Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

During my visit to Saudi Arabia in April 2017, we were able to sign the Agreement on Labor Cooperation for General Workers Recruitment and Employment between the DOLE and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labor and Social Development. This aims to protect the rights of both employers and general workers, and regulate the contractual relation between them by seeking to control recruitment costs in both countries, ensuring a streamlined recruitment system, and providing legal measures against recruitment agencies found violating laws of either country.



Israel. My visit was a historic one as I was the first Philippine President to undertake an official visit to Israel, which happened in September 2018. Placing our OFWs at the

utmost priority, we signed the Memorandum of Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Home-Based Filipino Caregivers, which would completely cancel all fees paid by Filipino caregivers to agents.

In the area of defense and security, Israel is a major source of defense equipment being procured under the AFP Modernization Program, such as multi-purpose attack craft, unmanned aerial systems, howitzers, armored vehicles, radars, tanks, and missiles.



The President and then Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu witness the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement on the Temporary Employment of Home-Based Filipino Caregivers between DOLE Secretary Bello III and then Israel Interior Minister Aryeh Deri at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on September 3, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Jordan has become another partner in defense and security.

A memorandum of understanding on defense cooperation between the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army and the DND was signed during my visit

to Jordan in September 2018. With this, Jordan provided the Philippines with Cobra helicopters, 60-mm mortars, modified M14 rifles, AK-47 with four magazines per firearm, and RPG 27 launchers, including 100 ammunition per launcher.



The President engages in a discussion with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan while visiting a military facility at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Center in Amman, Jordan on September 6, 2018.

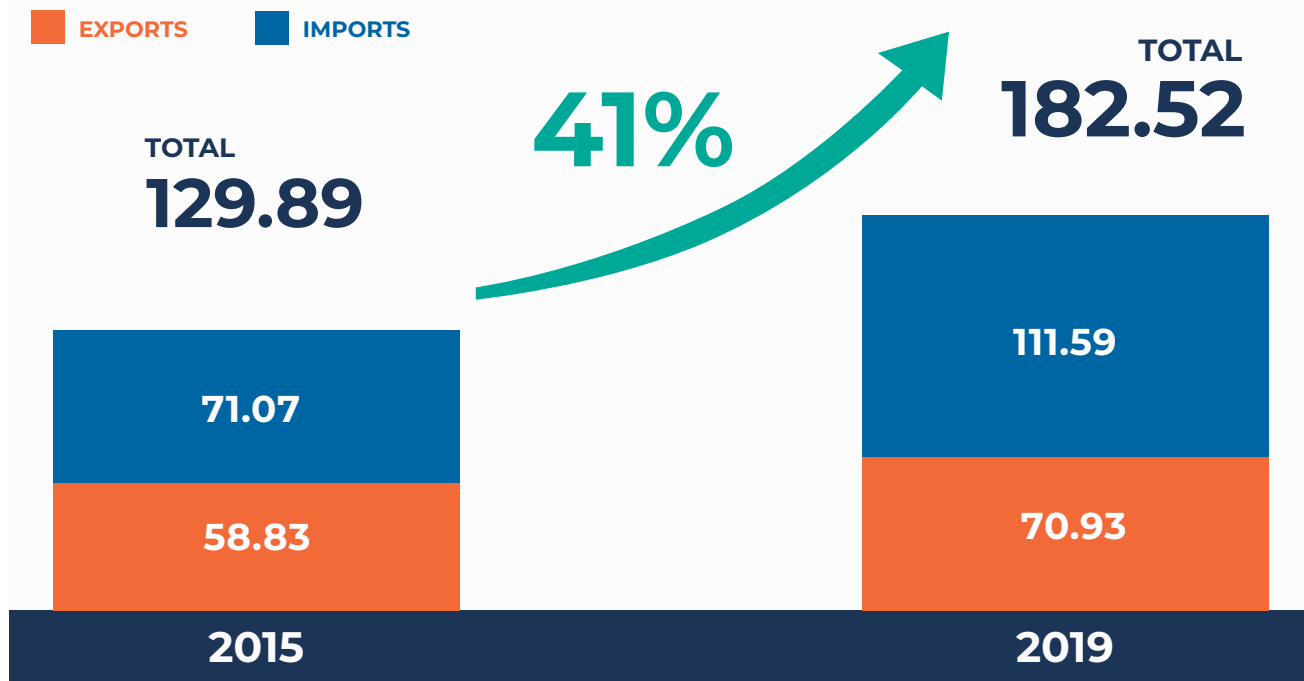
Photo Credit: PCOO

Sustained International Cooperation towards Economic Development

Increased Trade. Our strengthened cooperation with existing partners and

newly-formed partnerships with non-traditional partners helped drive the increase in our country's total trade throughout the years (see Figure 3.12) with the following top trading partners (see Figure 3.13).




Figure 3.12 Increased Trade from 2015-2019 (in billion US\$)



*Numbers may not add up due to rounding

Source: PSA

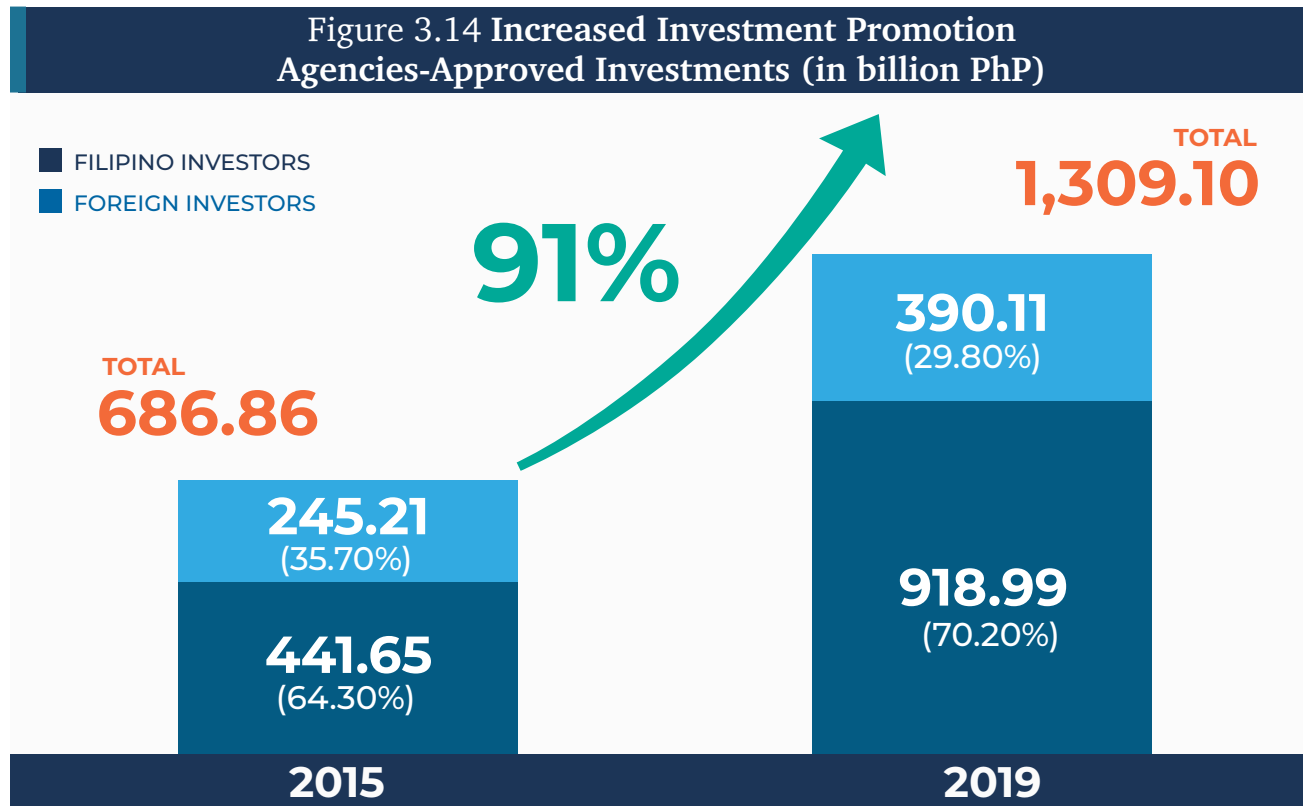
Figure 3.13 Top Trading Partners (2015 and 2019)

COUNTRY	2015 Rank and Total Trade (in billion US\$)	2019 Rank and Total Trade (in billion US\$)
 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	2nd 17.65	1st 35.31
 JAPAN	1st 18.67	2nd 21.25
 USA	3rd 16.49	3rd 19.64

Source: PSA

Increased Investments. Improved relations with our international partners also significantly boosted investor confidence. For 2015 and 2019, the following were







the Investment Promotion Agencies - Approved Investments (see Figure 3.14) and top 3 investors for 2015 and 2019 were as follows (see Figure 3.15):



**Numbers may not add up due to rounding*

Source: PSA

Figure 3.15 Philippines' Top Investors (2015 and 2019)

COUNTRY	2015 Total Investment (in billion PhP)	COUNTRY	2019 Total Investment (in billion PhP)
 NETHERLANDS	82.7	 SINGAPORE	176.4
 JAPAN	54.7	 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	88.7
 REPUBLIC OF KOREA	23.2	 REPUBLIC OF KOREA	41.5

Source: PSA

Way Forward: Sustaining the Gains in Peace and Security and Ensuring a Responsive Government for All



The President visits ground zero during the Marawi siege in 2017. Also in photo are then Special Assistant to the President Christopher Lawrence Go and then AFP Chief of Staff Año.

Source: AFP

To assume the Presidency in 2016, I flew from Davao to Malacañang with nothing but *tapang at malasakit* in my heart. I carried with me the pinch, prickle, and pain of my countrymen caused by a government that turned a blind eye on their real plight. Since then, the virtues of *tapang at malasakit* have guided me to see things from a different perspective and act with firm resolve in transforming the government into one that takes care of its people.

Through the years, we made substantial headway in breaking barriers and bottlenecks to help ensure a comfortable life for all. The government had systems and mechanisms in place that were readily enhanced at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In our efforts to provide for the basic needs of our countrymen, my Administration made sure that efforts on

good governance and national security would not take a back seat in our overall response.

Aside from our fight against crime, terrorism, and illegal drugs, we also waged a war against unscrupulous and corrupt government workers, and slow and unresponsive services to the people. For this reason, we anticipate the immediate passage of the **e-Governance Act** to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information and resource-sharing network for the speedy delivery of government services. While far more improvements must be undertaken to cement our gains in reforming the bureaucracy and to safeguard our hard-fought peace and security, we have gone a long way in building a transparent, responsive, and people-centric bureaucracy for the Filipino people.

To protect the integrity of our sovereign nation, we continue to capacitate our defense and law enforcement agencies in securing permanent and lasting peace by providing them with modern equipment and facilities. The defense procurements made under Horizon 2 of the RAFPMP helped our troops secure our borders from those who attempt to undermine our claim over our waters. Benchmarking on this, I fervently hope that the next Commander-in-Chief will be able to successfully implement the **RAFPMP Horizon 3** as the additional military assets will play an indispensable role in safeguarding our nation.

To increase farm productivity and farmer's income, we hope to fully utilize the funds provided under the **Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act**, which aims to rehabilitate and modernize the country's

coconut industry. We shall also ensure the strict enforcement of our RCAs with Manila Water and Maynilad to ensure potable and affordable water for the next generation of Filipinos.

More things will unfold in the last days of my Presidency. For the love of our country, I will do everything in my power to forge stronger partnerships with our fellow workers in government to institutionalize policies and execute all ongoing programs with deliberate dispatch.

On my last day in office, I am confident that I will entrust to the next president a nation that is more secure, resilient, and safe to live in. In the fullness of time, I will be with you again on the ground looking at how *tapang at malasakit* made through it all. Then and only then shall I call it a day.



The President attends the celebration of the 123rd Philippine Independence Day in Malolos City, Bulacan, June 12, 2021. Also in photo are Senator Go and Chief of Presidential Protocol Robert Borje.

Photo Credit: PCOO

KATATAGAN:

Promoting Public Health and Enhancing the Nation's Resiliency

- IV. Managing the Pandemic and Prioritizing the People's Health and Safety
- V. Ensuring the Filipinos' Well-being, Safety, and Resiliency



A healthcare frontliner prepares a dose of life-saving COVID-19 vaccine, a critical means towards a more resilient and healthy Philippines.

Photo Credit: NTF Against COVID-19



Chapter

4

Managing the Pandemic and Prioritizing the People's Health and Safety

“

We can now see the light at the end of the tunnel as the vaccine shipments arrive. To my dear *kababayan*, let us keep in mind that vaccination is the only way forward for us to overcome this pandemic. But we must also remember that getting vaccinated is not the only solution. We must continue to observe minimum public health standards by wearing a mask, washing our hands, and observing social distancing.”

*The President's statement,
Ceremonial Vaccination of Economic
Frontliners, June 7, 2021*

When I assumed office in 2016, I vowed to rid our country of ills that had long-stunted the country's development. We made steady headways in eradicating poverty, developing our economy, and transforming our barangays into peaceful communities in the first three years of my Administration. However, in 2020, we were confronted with a health emergency that upended the lives and livelihood of the Filipino people. This threatened to destroy the foundation on which our country was built. In a war with an unknown enemy, swift preventive measures had to be undertaken. Undeniably, these measures were borne out of difficult conversations in the Cabinet, but I was resolute that the Filipino people's lives—their health and safety—remained our paramount concern.

Although our strong economic fundamentals and governance reforms have allowed us to prioritize lives over livelihood, the first few months were not easy. Despite this, we remained committed to easing the people's burden. We provided billions worth of assistance to our most affected sectors and continue to intensify our COVID-19 management and response measures to allow parts of our economy to breathe.

A year in this pandemic, we know better. We balance saving lives with economic recovery. We now see a glimmer of hope with the intensified vaccination program. As we continue to see favorable results, we must never be complacent. To my kababayan, this Administration will not rest until we have prevailed over this extraordinary challenge. We owe this to our healthcare workers (HCWs) and other frontliners who prioritized the life of others before their own.

Managed and Responded to COVID-19

At the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020, the world knew very little about the virus. To safeguard the people's safety, we mitigated risk for local occurrence and transmission by strengthening border control and public health capacities. In February 2020, we declared a travel ban to and from China, followed by a wider ban on international and local travel. On March 8, 2020, I issued Proclamation no. 922, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the country due to COVID-19.

On March 16, 2020, I declared a State of National Calamity for the next six months. The next day, I made the tough decision to place the entire Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). We temporarily closed our borders, shut down public transport, instructed people to stay home, closed schools and businesses, and implemented alternative work arrangements.

In the meantime, our experts worked doubly hard with their global counterparts to understand the virus and how it spreads. What was clear was the need to implement

measures to prevent transmission and identify where the virus spread.

Responded to COVID-19

As we learned more about the virus, we implemented measures that allowed us to restart economic and social activities without compromising the people's health and safety. We anchored our National Action Plan on COVID-19 on the Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate (PDITR) Strategy to help us strike a fine balance between protecting people's health and slowing the virus transmission and gradually reopening our economy.

Implemented Preventive Measures

Implementation of Community Quarantine. To slow down the spread of the virus, we have been implementing different levels of community quarantine across the country. The levels vary from the most to the least restrictive, depending on the risk and level of transmission prevailing in specific areas and status of healthcare capacity.

Upon the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID), I approved the issuance of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines on April 29, 2020.¹³¹

Implementation of Stricter Health and Safety Protocols. We prioritized protecting our people against the virus and we immediately required the implementation of stricter health protocols.

As you all know, we made the use of face masks and shields mandatory. Under the Community Face Mask Project, we distributed 37.7 million cloth face masks to typhoon victims and SAP beneficiaries from August 2020 to June 2021.¹³²

Establishments started checking the temperature of their guests and requested them to sanitize their hands before entry. These establishments were also urged to disinfect their premises regularly. The DTI and DOLE further approved guidelines¹³³ to assist private establishments in developing health protocols. As of June 2021, 120,997 establishments with 4.71 million workers had been assessed on their compliance with workplace safety and health standards.¹³⁴

Meanwhile, the DTI issued over 1,400 Safety Seals to compliant establishments starting May 2021. The DILG had issued 821 certifications to government agencies and LGUs had issued 6,007 certifications to establishments in their respective areas as of July 2, 2021.¹³⁵



DTI Secretary Lopez puts a Safety Seal signifying compliance with health protocols.

Photo Credit: DTI

I also issued MC no. 86 on May 11, 2021, directing all heads of government agencies and instrumentalities to strictly enforce and monitor compliance with all health protocols in their workplaces and ensure that government services remain fully operational.

To my fellow Filipinos, we are in the fight of our lives. The only way to turn the tide is for every Filipino to do his and her part in keeping everyone safe. Strictly adhering to minimum health protocols and getting vaccinated go a long way to prevent further virus transmission.

Strengthened Detection of Cases

*Increased Testing and Biosurveillance Capacity.*¹³⁶ In dealing with pandemics, the immediate detection of the presence of the disease is imperative. An early positive test allows individuals to isolate themselves, thereby reducing the risk of infecting more people and consequently disease severity or death.

131 The Omnibus Guidelines is continuously being updated by the IATF-MEID depending on the current COVID-19 situation across the country.

132 DTI, July 12, 2021.

133 Interim and Supplemental Guidelines on Workplace Prevention and Control of COVID-19 on April 30 and August 15, 2020, respectively.

134 DOLE, July 14, 2021.

135 DTI, July 12, 2021 and DILG, July 13, 2021.

136 DOH, July 15, 2021.

Back when we were just starting to ramp up our testing capacity, we immediately set up sub-national laboratories to operate alongside the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine. These were the San Lazaro Hospital and Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center for Luzon, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center for the Visayas, and Southern Philippines Medical Center for Mindanao. We also mobilized extension laboratories in private tertiary hospitals.



AFP frontliners huddle before starting their duty at Enderun Mega Swabbing Center.

Photo Credit: BCDA

We partnered with private companies to put up mega swabbing centers in Palacio de Maynila, the Enderun Tent in Taguig City, Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City, and the Philippine Sports Stadium in the Philippine Arena in Bulacan. These centers helped us conduct thousands of tests per day.

Since then, we have continuously fast-tracked the accreditation of more testing laboratories. As of July 12, 2021, we had accredited 273 COVID-19 testing laboratories nationwide and conducted 15.61 million COVID-19 Reverse

Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) tests (*see Figure 4.1*).¹³⁷

I issued EO no. 118, s. 2020 on November 4, 2020 directing the DOH and DTI to implement a price range for COVID-19 testing to ensure accessibility and affordability of tests. In compliance with my directive, the DOH and DTI set the maximum price of standard RT-PCR test at PhP5,000 for private laboratories and PhP3,800 for public laboratories.¹³⁸ Prior to this, an RT-PCR test could go as high as PhP10,000 depending on the turnaround time for results.¹³⁹

In February 2021, the DOH approved the conduct of saliva-based RT-PCR testing in Philippine Red Cross laboratories to help further increase our testing capacity.

I cannot overemphasize the significant role that testing plays in our fight against COVID-19. By ensuring adequate testing capacity, we were able to detect more positive cases, ensure their prompt isolation and treatment, and cut the chain of transmission.

The emergence of more infectious variants may possibly undermine our existing interventions and vaccination program. Thus, the Technical Working Group on COVID-19 Variants closely monitors the presence of COVID-19 variants in the country and recommends appropriate responses to contain these variants. The DOH also partnered with the University of the Philippines (UP)-Philippine Genome Center and UP-National Institutes of Health to conduct whole genome sequencing of samples.

137 DOH, July 14, 2021.

138 DTI, July 12, 2021.

139 Based on Chinese General Hospital Prices of RT-PCR Test.

Figure 4.1 Intensified Detection of COVID-19 Cases (as of July 12, 2021)

	As of May 5, 2020	As of July 12, 2021	Percent change (%)
Accredited Testing Laboratories	23	273	1,086.96
Highest Daily Testing Output	6,902	67,563	878.89
Total Tests Conducted	138,624	15,606,275	11,157.99
Unique Individuals Tested	124,836	14,655,117	11,639.50
Remaining Test Supplies	233,390	2,716,881	1,064.09
Turnaround Time	2-3 days	30 hours	-58.33



Source: DOH

Photo Credit: BCDA

Since our first confirmed case of the Alpha variant in January 2021, we had been conducting full case investigation, contact tracing, retesting, and quarantine of up to third generation close contacts of every case positive with the new variants. We required all travelers from abroad, including our repatriates, to fully comply with the country's quarantine and testing protocols for inbound travel.¹⁴⁰

*Intensified Contact Tracing.*¹⁴¹ To improve our chances to effectively contain COVID-19, our efforts to ramp up testing should be complemented by aggressive contact tracing. It is crucial for us to immediately identify exposure and trace the close contacts of every confirmed case to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission. Admittedly, our efforts in this regard still need improvement. We have yet to set up a strong, uniform, and well-coordinated contact tracing system. Nevertheless, we continue to step up our contact tracing efforts. Towards this end, the DILG helped organize LGU

contact tracing teams, with 119,246 contact tracers nationwide as of June 30, 2021. The DILG had also hired 50,880 contact tracers as of end-December 2020 to augment the LGU contact tracing teams. To date, 14,490 contact tracers have been rehired.



DOH personnel conduct full case investigation of close contacts of confirmed case.

Photo Credit: DOH

140 DOH, July 15, 2021.

141 DILG, July 13, 2021.

We also launched the StaySafe.Ph mobile application in September 2020 for digital contact tracing. The app allows authorities to easily notify users if a person they had close contact with tests positive. In the same manner, users could easily report their health condition and possible exposures. Top companies in the country are also supporting the use of the app. To date, 65,970 establishments and organizations utilize the app and 5.36 million individuals are accessing it.

The DILG is working closely with partners to ensure interoperability of the StaySafe.Ph with other applications currently available in the country and in compliance with our existing laws, rules, and regulations.



Contact tracers interview close contacts of confirmed cases in Candelaria, Zambales.

Photo Credit: DILG

Established Isolation Facilities for Non-Critical Cases. To ensure sufficient hospital resources are reserved for critical COVID-19 cases, we established temporary treatment and monitoring facilities (TTMFs) across the country to accommodate non-critical COVID-19 cases and allow them to recover without

spreading the virus. As of July 9, 2021, we had established 9,507 TTMFs nationwide, with total bed capacity of 140,435.

Also, in the spirit of *bayanihan*, the private sector readily helped us establish mega-quarantine facilities that could quickly accommodate more patients. Of these mega-quarantine facilities, 12 remained operational as of July 9, 2021. We also converted the BRP *Ang Pangulo*, the Presidential yacht, into an isolation facility.¹⁴²



National Task Force (NTF) Against COVID-19 Deputy Chief Implementer Vivencio Dizon leads the send off of returning OFWs after their quarantine at the We Heal As One Center-Philippine Arena.

Photo Credit: BCDA

Meanwhile, we commissioned a 124-bed quarantine facility for our seafarers at the Port of Capinpin in Orion, Bataan and converted the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal in Pier 15 into a 211-bed treatment facility for seafarers and returning OFWs. As of June 2021, we had served 435 seafarers in Port Capinpin and 36,452 individuals in the treatment facility.¹⁴³

142 DOH, July 15, 2021.

143 DOTr, July 15, 2021.



Our returning OFWs are accommodated at the We Heal As One Center in New Clark City, Tarlac one of the country's first quarantine facilities.

Photo Credit: BCDA

We also implemented the *Oplan Kalinga* initiative to actively find COVID-19 cases, especially those who have no separate room and toilet at home where they can isolate or are living with the elderly and persons with comorbidities.

Health workers and local government personnel conduct house-to-house operations and help those infected get transferred to proper isolation facilities to help reduce the spread of infections in households and communities. As of June 30, 2021, 697 accommodation establishments nationwide had been turned into quarantine facilities while another 72 had been converted as isolation facilities.¹⁴⁴

I would like to sincerely thank all the hotels and guesthouses across the country for partnering with us and agreeing to repurpose their establishments into quarantine and isolation facilities for the *Oplan Kalinga* Program.

To my fellow Filipinos who are afflicted with this virus, I fully understand your desire to recover in the comforts of your home and be surrounded by your loved ones. Unfortunately, this virus proved to be potentially fatal. In our mission to protect others from the virus, let me humbly appeal that you utilize these facilities made available to you. Rest assured that our frontliners assigned in these facilities would provide you with the best care.

Strengthened Healthcare Capacity.¹⁴⁵ Critical to the success of the country's COVID-19 response is the ability of our healthcare resources to respond adequately to this global health crisis. We trust that boosting our healthcare capacity would translate to high recoveries and prevent deaths.

COVID-19 Health Facilities Nationwide. As of March 30, 2021, we had 32 COVID-19 referral hospitals for severe and critical patients and 1,263 COVID-19 accepting hospitals nationwide.¹⁴⁶

144 DOT, July 16, 2021.

145 DOH, July 14, 2021 and NTF Against COVID-19, July 13, 2021.

146 COVID-19 referral hospitals designated by the DOH focus on severe and critical cases. Accepting hospitals are those not designated as referral hospitals but still accept COVID-19 patients.

We established the One Hospital Command Center (OHCC) in August 2020 to help quickly direct patients to appropriate health facilities. On July 12, 2021, we inaugurated the National Patient Navigation and Referral System to strengthen and broaden the scope of the OHCC. Located at the Philippine International Convention Center, it will provide COVID-19 patients with immediate and quality health services by facilitating communication between health facilities and telehealth service providers. It will also link indigent and financially constrained patients with *Malasakit* Centers.

COVID-19 Dedicated Beds and Equipment.

As of July 14, 2021, we had 3,482 COVID-19 dedicated ICU beds, 19,564 isolation beds, 12,107 ward beds, and 2,871 mechanical ventilators nationwide.

Following the spikes in cases starting March 2021 in the NCR and its neighboring provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal (also known as the NCR Plus), which resulted in very high occupancy rates of our beds and equipment, the DOH and its partners fast-tracked the delivery and set up of modular tents in hospitals across the NCR.

The DOH and DPWH also established extensions for Level 3 hospitals.¹⁴⁷ This included the 44-bed modular hospital at the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium (DJNRMHS) in Caloocan City, 44-bed modular hospital at the Lung Center of the Philippines, and 110-bed off-site modular extension of the Jose R. Reyes Medical Center.



The DPWH set up the We Heal as One Isolation Facility in Pasay (upper photo) and Modular Hospital at the Lung Center of the Philippines (bottom photo) for COVID-19 patients.

Photo Credit: DPWH

Deployment of HRH. As of June 30, 2021, we had redeployed 9,443 nurses from primary care facilities to participate in hospital- and community-based COVID-19 response. These HCWs were deployed in COVID-19 Referral Hospitals, DOH hospitals, Mega-Ligtas COVID-19 Centers, TTMFs, COVID-19 diagnostic and swabbing facilities, LGUs, and other healthcare facilities. As of July 14, 2021, the DOH had given 49 medical graduates special authority to serve as Deputized Physicians.

147 Hospitals with high level specialty intervention and training programs for doctors, rehabilitation, and dialysis units, among others.



HCWs at the Philippine Heart Center happily pose for photos during their break from duty.

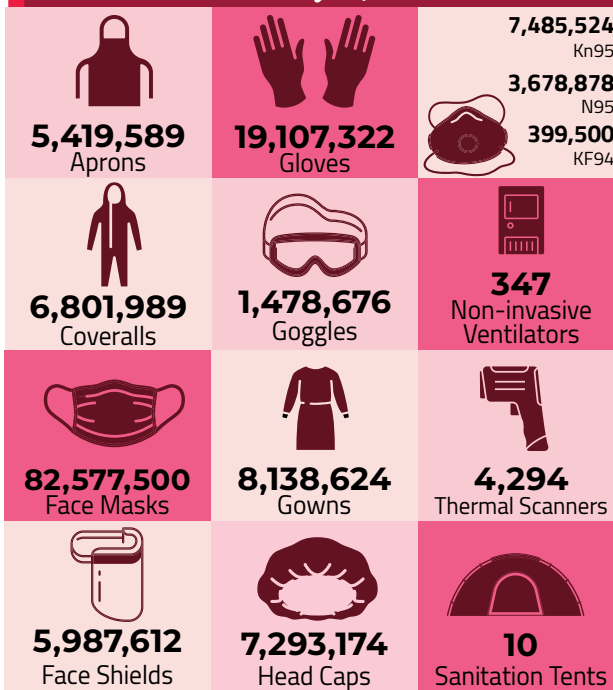
Photo Credit: DOH

We prioritized the procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPEs) for our HCWs and distributed millions of different types of PPEs for their use (see Figure 4.2). As of June 30, 2021, we had also processed foreign and local donations, including 3.71 million coveralls, 1.91 million N95 masks, 7.75 million surgical masks, and 1,025 ventilators.¹⁴⁸

Meanwhile, the DTI spurred local production of PPEs by repurposing manufacturing facilities and tapping fabrication laboratories under the SSFs. We are now capable of producing 9.5 million coveralls, 7.6 million N95 face masks, 56.9 million N88 face masks, and 5,000 ventilators monthly.¹⁴⁹

We are aware of the risk that our HCWs face daily in their line of work. Hence, we provided Actual Hazard Duty Pay and Special Risk Allowance to HCWs in public and private hospitals amounting

Figure 4.2 Provided Sufficient Protection to Healthcare Workers (as of July 6, 2021)



Source: DOH

to PhP6.56 billion in 2020 and PhP7.35 billion in 2021. We had also released sickness and death benefits amounting to PhP508.6 million to HCWs or their families as of July 15, 2021. In addition, the DOH allotted PhP1.27 billion to the Center for Health Development and DOH hospitals to cover life insurance, accommodation, transportation, and meals of all public and private HCWs.¹⁵⁰

Ensured Quality Treatment for Critical Cases. Apart from boosting our healthcare capacity, the DOH ensures that hospitals and health facilities nationwide continue to improve treatment protocols based on latest developments and global best practices related to the clinical management of COVID-19 patients.¹⁵¹

148 DOH BEAT COVID-19 Today Issue 440, July 11, 2021.

149 DTI, July 13, 2021.

150 DOH, July 14, 2021.

151 As embodied in the Philippine Living Clinical Practice Guidelines for COVID-19.

We continue to actively participate in the World Health Organization (WHO) Solidarity Trials to search for effective COVID-19 therapeutics.

The DOH and FDA are working closely with medical societies to continuously update and expand the list of safe and effective COVID-19 medicines. Further, the DOST funded studies by our local scientists on local supplementary treatment for COVID-19 such as Virgin Coconut Oil, *Tawa-tawa*, *Lagundi*, and high-dose melatonin. The DOST is also funding other research and development projects such as evaluating plasma therapy as supportive treatment for COVID-19 and studying the safety of administering a combination of different types of COVID-19 vaccines.¹⁵²



“Treating and caring for patients with severe symptoms of COVID-19 is one of the most challenging roles of working in the frontline. But seeing them recovered and discharged from COVID unit is one of the most fulfilling parts of being a Nurse.”

*Marcus L. Belza, RN
ICU Nurse
Margosatubig
Regional Hospital,
Zamboanga del Sur*

Source: DOH

Access to Medical Consultations for Non-Critical Cases. To improve access to medical consultations by cases with mild

symptoms, the DOH partnered with nine third-party telemedicine service providers and five LGUs. As of July 13, 2021, these service providers had attended to 169,972 telemedicine consultations, referrals to emergency room and/or medical specialists, and issuance of electronic prescriptions. Several private hospitals are also offering teleconsultations with patients. The DOH and other private institutions launched information campaigns on how to properly care for non-critical cases at home.¹⁵³

The PhilHealth has been implementing several benefit packages for HCWs and COVID-19 patients (*see Table 4.1*). As of July 12, 2021, the PhilHealth had paid Php11.69 billion worth of claims. Its Regional Offices were also directed to process COVID-19 claims in 30 days or less to enable facilities to continue providing healthcare services.¹⁵⁴

Table 4.1 PhilHealth Benefit Packages Related to COVID-19

	Package Rate (Php)
Community Isolation	22,449
RT-PCR Testing	Plate-based 3,409 (max) Cartridge-based 2,287 (max)
COVID-19 inpatient benefits	Mild 43,997 Moderate 143,267 Severe 335,519 Critical 786,384
Health workers who contracted COVID-19	Full financial protection

Source: PhilHealth

152 DOST, July 13, 2021.

153 DOH, July 15, 2021.

154 PhilHealth COVID-19 Expenditures as of July 12, 2021.

I know that our HCWs are exhausted to the hilt physically, mentally, and emotionally. Since the beginning of this pandemic, you have been selflessly risking your lives every day to help save the lives of others. I mourn the lives we lost to this terrible disease. The Filipino nation is grateful for your sacrifices, which we will honor and engrave in our collective memory. While no amount of gratitude and material compensation can ever repay you, I shall endeavor to provide you with the tools you need to fight this pandemic. Please know that my line remains open to you. Let us continue to work hand in hand in protecting our people and prevailing over this health crisis.

Pursued the Vaccination Program Rollout¹⁵⁵

More than a year into the pandemic, we know that there is no easy way out of this health emergency. This virus has affected more than 188 million people worldwide and claimed more than 4.1 million lives. Our own COVID-19 response had faced successes and setbacks. The global rollout of new, safe, and effective COVID-19 vaccines is giving us hope that we are one step closer to defeating this pandemic. We, therefore, readily allocated PhP82.5 billion for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines to cover each Filipino who is eligible to get vaccinated.

As early as July 2020, we actively expressed interest to participate in the WHO Solidarity Trials for Vaccines to accelerate the development of these life-saving shots and ensure access for our country and other developing nations. We are also one of the recipients of COVID-19 vaccines from the COVID-19

Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, which committed to share COVID-19 vaccines to inoculate 20 percent of our population. To the WHO, Global Alliance for Vaccines, and governments around the world that contributed billions of dollars to this initiative, *maraming salamat po!* In turn, to repay the COVAX's generosity and help ensure that vaccines will continue to be shared to other developing countries, we donated US\$1 million to the COVAX Facility.

Vaccine Procurement, Delivery, and Distribution. For 2021, we targeted the delivery of 202 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines in the country. As of July 15, 2021, we received 22.03 million doses and distributed 18.60 million of these across the country.

As an essential requirement for our vaccine rollout, the FDA granted emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to Pfizer–BioNTech (January 14, 2021), Oxford–AstraZeneca (January 28, 2021), Sinovac (February 22, 2021), Sputnik V (March 19, 2021), Janssen (April 19, 2021), Covaxin (conditional approval on April 19, 2021 and full approval on June 21, 2021), and Moderna (May 5, 2021). On June 7, 2021, the FDA granted the DOH the EUA for 1,000 Sinopharm vaccines donated to the Philippines.

As of July 13, 2021, the FDA had also approved four vaccine developers to conduct their third phase clinical trials in the country. We continue to negotiate with 35 biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies from 13 countries where we have science and technology partnerships for the development and/or procurement of COVID-19 vaccines.

155 NTF Against COVID-19, July 15, 2021 and WHO COVID-19 Dashboard.



The President inspects shipment of COVID-19 vaccines from the COVAX Facility.

Photo Credit: PCOO

While we committed to vaccinate every eligible Filipino, we approved a priority list, in consultation with the WHO and other independent bodies of experts, to ensure that those most exposed to the virus, our frontline HCWs and OFWs, and most vulnerable, our *lolos* and *lolas*, will be vaccinated first. Our list has three main groups, with utmost priority provided to those under Priority Group A (see Table 4.2).

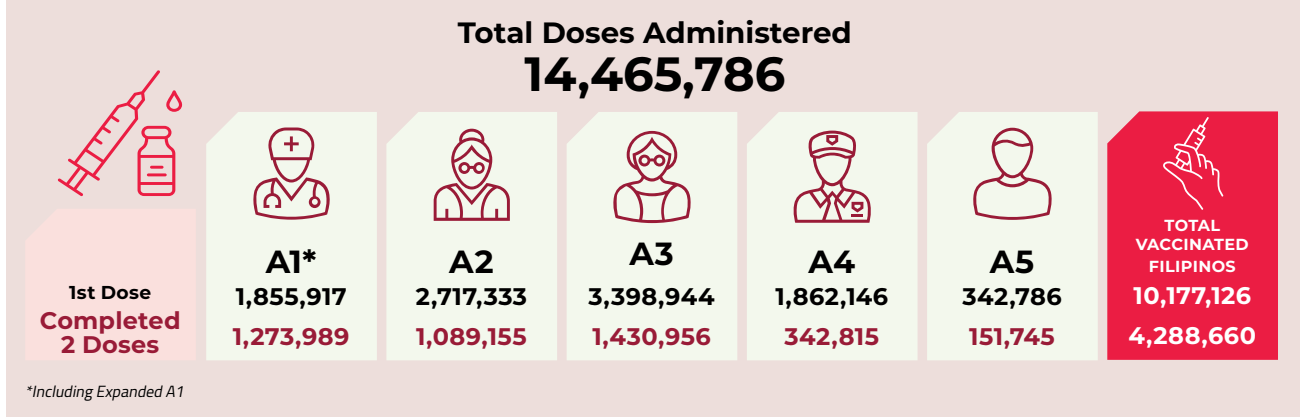
Vaccine Rollout. We officially started our COVID-19 vaccine rollout program on March 1, 2021. We aim to vaccinate about 77 million of our eligible population. As of July 15, 2021, we administered 14.47 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Of these, 10.18 million Filipinos have been vaccinated with the first dose and 4.29 million have been fully vaccinated (see Figure 4.3).

Table 4.2 Priority Groups of the Government's Vaccination Program

Category	Priority Group
A1	Workers in Frontline Health Services
Expanded A1	OFWs leaving within four months, family members of HCWs, and additional Priority Group A1
A2	Senior Citizens
A3	Persons with Comorbidities
A4	Workers in the private (including self-employed and working in households), public, and informal sectors who are physically reporting to work or are currently performing field work
A5	Poor population based on the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) or other verification mechanisms of the local government not otherwise included in the preceding categories
B	Other economic workers and special populations (socio-demographic groups at significantly higher risk)
C	Rest of the Filipino population

Source: NTF Against COVID-19

Figure 4.3 Status of COVID-19 Vaccination (as of July 15, 2021)



Source: National COVID-19 Vaccination Operations Center



PGH Director Dr. Gerardo Legaspi kicks off the country's COVID-19 immunization drive on March 1, 2021.

Photo Credit: NTF Against COVID-19



“Kami po ay mga health workers at direkta po kaming nakakasalamuha ng mga COVID-19 positive pati rin mga relatives nila... Kami po ay napakapalad na mabigyan ng bakuna... Tandaan po natin na ito po ay proteksyon hindi lamang ng sarili, kundi sa mga taong nakapaligid sa atin.”

Mr. Samuel Sumilang
Head Nurse, DJNRMHS

Source: DOH



DOH Secretary Duque administers COVID-19 vaccine to a senior citizen.

Photo Credit: NTF Against COVID-19



Nurses at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center proudly pose after getting their COVID-19 vaccine shots.

Photo Credit: DOH

Global experts believe that COVID-19 will likely circulate and that we might need to get vaccinated every year to keep us protected from the virus. Hence, I emphasized the need for the establishment of a vaccine development facility in the country. I am pleased that the ARTA, together with the DOH, FDA, DOST, DTI-Board of Investments, and NTF Against COVID-19 signed a JMC that will streamline and expedite the review, processing, and issuance of necessary permits for the establishment of COVID-19 vaccine manufacturing facilities in the country.¹⁵⁶

We need your cooperation now more than ever. Let us continue to protect one another by strictly following the health protocols and guidelines. Rest assured that your government is doing its best to respond, manage, and beat this pandemic. Alongside these, we will continue to ensure the welfare of those who bore the brunt of the pandemic, particularly the poor and marginalized.

Cushioned the Impact of the Pandemic

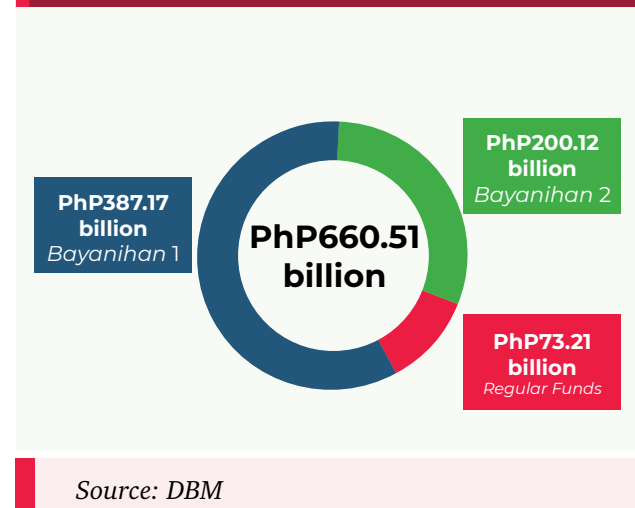
We in government understood completely the enormous economic and social development impact when we imposed restrictions and ordered *Juana* and *Juan* to stay at home to prioritize life, health, and safety. Our GDP's contraction by 9.5 percent in 2020 was the economy's worst performance in the post-war era.¹⁵⁷ About 7.2 million of our people were out of jobs in April 2020, which was a record high.¹⁵⁸ We are committed to help them survive this pandemic. This is why we acted

swiftly to ensure that we have resources at our disposal to cushion the impact of the pandemic, particularly on our most vulnerable sectors.

With the full support of Congress, I signed into law RA no. 11469 or the *Bayanihan* to Heal as One Act (*Bayanihan 1*) on March 24, 2020 and RA no. 11494 or the *Bayanihan* to Recover as One Act (*Bayanihan 2*) on September 11, 2020. These laws enabled us to sustain our pandemic response and recovery efforts and launch the most extensive social protection program in our country's history.

As of May 31, 2021, the DBM had released PhP660.51 billion to fund our COVID-19 management and response. Of this amount, PhP387.17 billion was released under *Bayanihan 1* while PhP200.12 billion was released under *Bayanihan 2*. Meanwhile, PhP73.21 billion was sourced from regular funds (*see Figure 4.4*).¹⁵⁹

Figure 4.4 Breakdown of COVID-19 Budget Releases (as of May 31, 2021)



156 ARTA Press Release, May 19, 2021.
157 PSA, January 28, 2021.
158 DOLE, July 14, 2021.
159 DBM, July 12, 2021.

Emergency Support for Affected Individuals.¹⁶⁰ We committed to ease the burden of our poor and marginalized sectors and provide much-needed social protection – an imperative underscored in our *Bayanihan* laws. Toward this end, we ensured the provision of various support interventions through the SAP.

Emergency Subsidy Program (ESP)

As of July 11, 2021

- Provided **PhP5,000 to PhP8,000** each to:
 - **17.62 million beneficiaries** (*Bayanihan* 1 – 1st tranche)
 - **14.23 million beneficiaries** (*Bayanihan* 1 – 2nd tranche)
 - **623,650 beneficiaries** (*Bayanihan* 2)
- Provided **PhP1,000 to 22.89 million** affected individuals in the NCR Plus as of May 31, 2021



Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation

- Provided **PhP8.53 billion worth of assistance** to **1.73 million individuals** in crisis as of July 11, 2021



Livelihood Assistance Grants

- Provided **PhP1.77 billion grant** to **177,262 beneficiaries** under *Bayanihan* 1 and 2 as of July 11, 2021



COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) for the Formal Sector

- Provided **PhP5,000 each** to **658,886 displaced workers** under *Bayanihan* 1 and **1.23 million displaced workers** under *Bayanihan* 2 as of May 2021



Photo Credit: DSWD and DOLE

160 DSWD, July 12, 2021; DILG, May 31, 2021; DOLE, July 14, 2021; and DA, July 12, 2021.

Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers

- Provided short-term emergency employment to **422,804 displaced workers in the informal sector** under *Bayanihan 1* and **923,650 displaced workers** under *Bayanihan 2* as of June 30, 2021
- Hired **4,625** informal workers as contact tracers as of June 30, 2021



Employees' Compensation Program Benefits

- Provided **PhP10,000** each to **9,766 frontline workers**, e.g., HCWs, AFP and PNP personnel, workers in groceries and stores, and truck drivers of essential goods as of June 2021



Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers Program

- Provided **PhP5,000** to **536,119** rice farmers as of June 30, 2021



Expanded Survival and Recovery Aid and Recovery Project

- Granted **PhP3.57 billion** in loans to **103,393** small farmers and fisherfolk and **184** micro and small enterprises

Cash and Food Subsidy for Marginalized Farmers and Fishers

- Provided **PhP3,000** cash assistance and **PhP2,000** food subsidy to **832,386** marginalized farmers and fisherfolk



Photo Credit: DOLE and DA

Assistance to OFs and Repatriated OFWs.¹⁶¹ Filipino seafarers, domestic helpers, hotel and flight attendants and other OFWs around the world have been grounded for more than a year due to travel restrictions and massive closures of businesses abroad. Hence, we supported our OFWs.

Repatriation of OFWs

- Repatriated **404,527 OFs**
- Assisted more than **1.20 million repatriated OFWs** through One Stop Shops at the NAIA, Clark and Cebu Airports
- Provided food, transportation, financial, and accommodation assistance to **612,000 repatriated OFWs** as of July 12, 2021



Hatid Tulong Program

- Brought home **637,398 repatriated OFWs** to their respective provinces



193,490
by land



335,122
by air



108,786
by sea



CAMP Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong sa OFWs (CAMP-AKAP)

- Assisted **343,743 displaced OFWs** under Bayanihan 1 and **193,021 displaced OFWs** under Bayanihan 2 as of July 8, 2021



Educational Assistance Scholarship in Emergencies (Project EASE)

- Provided **4,639 OFW dependents** with **PhP10,000 each per year** for a maximum of four years as of July 12, 2021

Tabang OFW Project

- Provided **PhP30,000 one-time cash aid** to **17,079 OFW dependents** as of July 12, 2021

TESDA Abot Lahat ang OFWs

- Provided **11,703 OFWs** with free training and assessment, one-year accident insurance, PhP160 per day training support fund, PhP500 load allowance, PhP500 worth of PPE, and post-training fund assistance since 2020

Photo Credit: DOLE and DFA

161 DFA, July 10, 2021; DOTr, July 15, 2021; DOLE, July 14, 2021; and TESDA, July 12, 2021.

Assistance to MSMEs and Other Enterprises.¹⁶² With the imposition of community quarantines across the country, many entrepreneurs were forced to close or suspend their business operations, losing their means to earn money to feed their families. Hence, we pursued various interventions to help them.

COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program

- Released **PhP988.30 million** worth of loans to **14,820 entrepreneurs** (*Bayanihan 1*)
- Released **PhP3.03 billion** worth of loans to **13,183 entrepreneurs** (*Bayanihan 2*)

CARES - Helping the Economy Recover through OFW Enterprise Start-ups (CARES-HEROES)

- Released **PhP28.17 million** worth of loans to **519 repatriated OFWs**

CARES for Tourism Rehabilitation and Vitalization of Enterprise and Livelihood (CARES for TRAVEL)

- Of the **PhP3.03 billion** under *Bayanihan 2*, released **PhP145.93 million** worth of loans to **361 borrowers**

MSME Credit Guarantee Program

- Granted **PhP2.09 billion** worth of loans to **15,629 MSMEs** as of June 30, 2021
- Extended **PhP37.7 billion** worth of guarantee lines to **34 banks** as of June 30, 2021



Photo Credit: DTI

Loan Assistance



- LANDBANK released **PhP4.71 billion** to **4,803 borrowers** and restructured at least **PhP3.90 billion** in loans to **510 distressed MSMEs**



- DBP extended **PhP10.29 billion** to **92 private and public institutions** and restructured at least **PhP962.8 million** in loans to **192 distressed MSMEs**



- United Coconut Planters Bank granted loan assistance to **41 MSMEs**, **64 essential businesses** in the trade sector, and **80 commercial businesses**.

162 DTI, July 12, 2021 and DOF, July 14, 2021.

Assistance to the Transportation Sector.¹⁶³ We recognize the sacrifices of our workers in the transportation sector who remain affected by restrictions on people's mobility. To help them and their families, we extended the following assistance:

Distribution of cash subsidy to drivers and operators of PUVs

- Provided **PhP1.73 billion** to **172,834** (1st tranche) and **72,415** (2nd tranche) **PUV drivers** under *Bayanihan 1*
- Transmitted payment for **93,379 PUV operators** of 171,372 units amounting to **PhP6,500** per fixed-route unit and **PhP4,500** per tourist transport service unit to the LANDBANK under *Bayanihan 2*

PUV Service Contracting Program

- Provided **PhP4,000** each to **22,158 PUV drivers**, **PhP20,000** to **PhP25,000 onboarding incentive**¹⁶⁴ to **14,441 drivers**, and weekly payouts to **18,864 drivers**

Assistance to the Maritime Sector

- Provided **PhP353.01 million** worth of financial assistance to **48,164 ships** and **74,912 seafarers**



Photo Credit: DOTr

Assistance to the Education Sector.¹⁶⁵ The sudden change brought about by the pandemic on our education system has taken a toll on schools and families. Still, we remain steadfast in providing quality and accessible education to our learners. Thus, we provided assistance to the education sector.

Bayanihan 2 for Basic Education

- Approved **PhP3,000** worth of allowance to **15,433 public school learners**
- Approved **PhP5,000** worth of subsidy to **10,219 private school learners**



Photo Credit: DepEd

163 DOTr, July 15, 2021.

164 The onboarding incentive is a sign-up bonus for drivers who joined the program.

165 DepEd, July 15, 2021; CHED, July 15, 2021; and DOF, July 13, 2021.

Bayanihan 2 for Higher Education Tulong Program

- Provided **PhP5,000** each to **60,872** students from private and public higher education institutions with outstanding school fees
- Awarded a maximum of **PhP25 million grant to 89 state universities** to develop smart campuses

Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Financial Assistance Loan-Educational Loan Program

(as of June 30, 2021)

- Granted **PhP26 million in loans** to **764 active GSIS members** for the payment of tuition fees and/or other school expenses
- Granted **PhP6.03 billion worth of loans** to **201,082 GSIS members** for the purchase of computers for virtual classes of their children or online work

LANDBANK Access to Academic Development to Empower the Masses towards Endless Opportunities Lending Program

- Approved **PhP889 million worth of loans** to **20 educational institutions** as of June 30, 2021

Capital Infusion for Government Financial Institutions¹⁶⁶

PhilGuarantee
PhP5.0 billion

LANDBANK
PhP27.5 billion

DBP
PhP12.5 billion

Small Business Corporation
PhP8.1 billion



“Ito namang pera ng Bayanihan Act, I assure you that it was spent wisely, it was spent according to rules at sigurado ko ‘yan at the start. Wala hong ano dyan, walang sindikato. Wala hong sabihin mo na may nakawan. And we will be careful with the next round of a Bayanihan.”

The President’s statement during the Talk to the People on COVID-19 Concerns on October 5, 2020

As we recover as one nation from the devastating impact of the pandemic and build forward better, my Administration remains resolute in ensuring that no one will be left behind. The health, safety, and well-being of our people, especially the poor and most vulnerable sectors, continue to be our top priority. We are working with Congress and other partners to come up with measures that will enable us to continue providing relief packages to our *kababayan* and help them rise above this unprecedented crisis.

166 DBM, June 25, 2021.

Ensured Food, Water, and Energy Availability

Even as we implemented stay at home orders, strict border control, and alternative work arrangements to prevent the spread of the virus, we ensured that these measures would not compromise our supply of food, water, and energy.

Ensured Food Accessibility and Availability

Maintaining the Unhampered Flow of Goods and Essential Supplies. We ensured the unhampered movement of all agriculture and fishery inputs, food products, and agribusiness personnel nationwide, and the continuation of farming and fishing activities amidst the pandemic.

The DA issued 478,435 Food Passes and Local Transport Permits to delivery trucks and other vehicles transporting agri-fishery products nationwide from March 2020 to June 2021. They also maintained the DA Hotline 1381 (AGRI) to help with concerns related to movement of agri-fishery products and inputs.¹⁶⁷

Moreover, to ensure the unhampered passage of workers belonging to essential industries at the height of the ECQ in 2020, the DTI issued 634,324 IATF IDs to 10,166 critical establishments in Luzon that were allowed to operate, such as manufacturing establishments, retailers, logistics and delivery service providers, and other enterprises providing essential services.¹⁶⁸

In addition, all ports under the DOTr's jurisdiction remained open and operational to ensure the continuous and unhampered movement of cargoes. Necessary flights such as cargo, medical evacuation, limited commercial, and repatriation flights also remained unhampered.¹⁶⁹

Suggested Retail Price (SRP) Scheme and Price Freeze.¹⁷⁰ We enforced the SRP scheme and price freeze in Metro Manila for agriculture and fishery and other basic commodities to protect consumers from hoarding, profiteering, and price manipulation. Moreover, we continued to enforce the Price Act (R.A. no. 7581) throughout the country to monitor compliance with price ceiling of basic food commodities such as rice, fish, chicken, and pork in major markets nationwide.



DA Secretary Dar and DTI Secretary Lopez conduct price monitoring of basic commodities.

Photo Credit: DTI

¹⁶⁷ DA, July 14, 2021.

¹⁶⁸ DTI, July 12, 2021.

¹⁶⁹ DOTr, July 15, 2021.

¹⁷⁰ DA, July 14, 2021.



As of July 10, 2021

KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Retail Selling

513 days of retail selling at different areas, with PhP140.19 million worth of sold agri-fishery products

KADIWA ni Ani at Kita on Wheels

Sold PhP104.97 million worth of goods to 1,068 Barangays, 1,113 communities within Metro Manila, and 2,217 Petron/Unioil partnerships.

KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Online

Sold PhP19.94 million wholesale fruits and vegetables to various Agribusiness Development Centers and LGUs

KADIWA IsDA on the Go

Sold 117.18 MTs of fish amounting to PhP20.97 million

eKADIWA ni Ani at Kita

PhP369,518.38 total accumulated sales by KADIWA Partners

KADIWA ni ANI at KITA with RestoPH (Farmers Produce Program)

PhP31.83 million sold at SM Malls, Megaworld, Ayala Malls, and Robinson's

KADIWA DisKwento Caravan

Ran 1,311 DisKwento Caravans, benefitting 631,275 households

KADIWA Express

Delivered agricultural products worth PhP7.84 billion to major demand centers

Sources: DA and DTI

KADIWA ni Ani at Kita Program.¹⁷¹ The Program ensures the availability of food products through various market systems. It sells major agricultural goods at reasonably low prices to help poor Filipino households, while at the same time marketing the products of local farmers. As of July 10, 2021, the overall sales under the Program amounted to PhP8.96 billion.

Family Food Packs (FFPs). As of July 14, 2021, we distributed 3.38 million FFPs nationwide, benefitting 951,602 families. Its current stockpile is 323,518 FFPs, with standby funds amounting to PhP192.35 million.¹⁷²

Fisheries Livelihood Intervention. To immediately rehabilitate and uplift the livelihood of fisherfolk adversely affected by the pandemic, we provided fishery inputs such as fingerlings, seed stock, fishing gears, post-harvest equipment, and training services to 65,172 fishers and 6,111 fish farmer groups nationwide.¹⁷³

Ensured Availability of Water and Energy

Given the nature of the virus, continuous water supply is vital to sanitation and good hygiene. About 197 water districts are providing water supply services to hospitals, quarantine facilities, and handwashing stations in the country to help boost our fight against COVID-19. The MWSS, through its concessionaires, also refill daily 52 static tanks deployed in various places in Metro Manila for hand washing and other purposes. About 42 mobile water tankers also rove daily

171 DA, July 16, 2021.

172 DSWD, DROMIC Report no. 739 on COVID-19 as of July 14, 2021.

173 DA, July 14, 2021.

to check and refill static water tanks and water stations of hospitals and quarantine facilities, and areas with low to no water supply.

Meanwhile, we monitored and managed the Angat Dam and Reservoir to ensure adequate water supply. Thus far, water levels in Bustos, Ipo, La Mesa, and Angat Dams were either normal or a little below minimum operating level.

As of June 18, 2021, 530 water districts nationwide are operational, supplying the water requirements of around 4.76 million households.

We ensured reliable and stable power supply during our COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout Program. We enjoined all distribution utilities (DUs) to provide back-up generating sets for COVID-19 vaccine cold storage and healthcare facilities.

Further, we instructed DUs to update their emergency response protocols and Business Continuity Plans to prioritize COVID-19 vaccine cold storage facilities in cases of power outages. In case of a possible increase in power demand, we directed DUs to have enough contracted capacities for energy.¹⁷⁴



NTF Against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar Secretary Carlito Galvez (third person from left) inspects a vaccine cold storage warehouse.

Photo Credit: NTF Against COVID-19

Provided Essential Services to the People

Along with measures to manage the pandemic and cushion its impact on our people, we continue to provide essential services to guarantee the safety, security, and comfort of *Juana* and *Juan dela Cruz* amidst this crisis.

Ensured Quality Education Amidst the Pandemic¹⁷⁵

To respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in basic education, the DepEd created the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP) as a

guide to enable learning while ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all learners, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Based on the BE-LCP, the following were introduced in SY 2020-2021:

Streamlining of K to 12 into the Most Essential Learning Competencies. The DepEd simplified the K to 12 Curriculum from 14,171 Learning Competencies to 5,689 Most Essential Learning Competencies to help our teachers focus on the most important lessons.

174 DOE, Advisory to All DUs, February 16, 2021 and NWRB, July 16, 2021.

175 DOH, July 15, 2021.

Distributed Self-learning Modules. The DepEd distributed self-learning modules for students who are in remote areas and teachers who are unable to provide constant instructional supervision as in the classroom setting. As of June 24, 2021, 1.7 billion self-learning modules had been distributed nationwide, along with 179 million learning activity sheets, and 279,975 USB flash drives, tablets, and other gadgets.

Introduced Learning Management System (LMS). The DepEd introduced the LMS online classes, a software that allows teachers to conduct virtual classes, assign activities to learners, and monitor their progress. To date, 88,097 active users are in the system.

Television and Radio-Based Instruction. The DepEd launched the DepEd TV, an alternative learning tool that allows students to learn through television and radio to address the lack of access by students to gadgets and internet needed for online learning. It has been airing on 15 TV and radio stations, and via cable operator channels throughout the country. It is also available via the DepEd Philippines Facebook page, and DepEd TV Official channel on YouTube, reaching a greater number of students.

Open Educational Resources (OER). The DepEd launched the DepEd Commons to serve as a repository of OERs that support the learners' needs for instructional resources. It has generated more than 10.5 million unique users and uploaded 5,514 learning materials since March 15, 2020.

The Learning Resources Management and Development System was created to provide

access to quality learning, teaching, and professional development resources at the Region, Division and School/Cluster levels. It contains 6,199 learning resources for students, 1,587 resources for teachers, and 56 materials for professional development.

The DepEd and DICT partnered to create the Public Education Network to further facilitate the digitalization of the education sector and connect schools, particularly last mile schools and DepEd offices nationwide, and allow learners to have wider access to DepEd TV, DepEd Commons, and other learning platforms.

Equipped Teaching Professionals. With the limitations brought by the pandemic on the conduct of traditional classroom education, the DepEd recognized the immediate need to capacitate teachers in using the online mode of teaching. For 2020, three million teachers and school leaders were trained.

The DepEd likewise provided capacity building opportunities in creating e-books and OERs, utilizing Moodle or the open-source software for the DepEd LMS, and crafting of learning materials to be uploaded to the DepEd Commons. As of June 28, 2021, 111 courses were available to 414,343 active users enrolled in the LMS for online training.

Recognizing the need for immediate intervention to mitigate the adverse psychological effects of community quarantines, the DepEd also launched a series of mental health and psychosocial support programs (*see Figure 4.5*). These were made available via DepEd TV and DepEd Philippines Official Facebook page and Youtube channel.

Figure 4.5 Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Programs



T.A.L.A.: Tuklasin, Alamin, Likhain at Alalahanin

- An educational, child-friendly program that offers informative segments, storytelling, and art activities
- Ran from March 2021 to June 2021 with 11 episodes

OKKK! Tambayan: Online Kahusayan at Katatagan ng Kabataan



- An online series that discusses mental health concerns with secondary learners as student-panelists and field experts
- Shown from February to May 2021, every Saturday

KAKAIBA-YANIHAN

- A psychological support program that focuses values in building a supportive and caring environment with parents and caregivers
- Its 10th and final episode aired on June 28, 2021

TAYO Naman!: Tulong, Alaga, Yakap, at Oras para sa mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Edukasyon



- An online webinar with in-depth *kamustahan* sessions that aims to develop a resilient work-force
- 60 viewers have been given a one-year all-paid subscription to telehealth services through partnerships with private companies

Source: DepED

Resumed Limited Face-to-Face Classes in Higher Education.¹⁷⁶ The CHED has allowed HEIs, which offer medical courses and allied health programs to conduct limited face-to-face classes, subject to compliance with health protocols and approved retrofitted facilities. As of July 12, 2021, 101 HEIs with programs in Medicine, Nursing, Medical Technology/

Medical Laboratory Science, Physical Therapy, Midwifery, and Public Health were allowed to conduct hands-on training, laboratory classes, internships, and medical clerkships to their 3rd and 4th year students.

We prioritized these programs for two major reasons: (1) enable students to achieve key learning outcomes on specialized laboratory courses and hospital-based clinical clerkship/internship/practicum; and (2) provide additional competent manpower to the country's health system.



CHED Chairman J. Prospero De Vera III inspects dental equipment at Centro Escolar University-Manila prior to its resumption of face-to-face classes.

Photo Credit: CHED

Increased Health-Related Training Programs.¹⁷⁷ To contribute to health security in the communities, TESDA expanded and increased its training programs to produce more equipped and competitive health practitioners.

As of June 2021, 94 TESDA Technology Institutions had registered health-related programs such as Barangay Health Services NC II, Emergency Medical Services NC II, Emergency Medical Technician, Health Care Services NC II, and Biomedical Equipment Services NC II.

176 CHED, July 15, 2021.

177 TESDA, July 19, 2021.

The TESDA, in coordination with the DOH, and in consultation with health practitioners and technical experts, also developed the Competency Standards on Contact Tracing Level II. The program runs for 15 days or 120 hours of full online mode of training delivery with eight hours of training per day. In 2020, 1,689 individuals completed the program.

Provided Safe Transportation¹⁷⁸

As many of our workers, especially in the NCR, take public transportation to go to work, we ensured that our public transport remain available and adequate while enforcing minimum health protocols. To prevent the spread of the virus, the DOTr is strictly implementing minimum health protocols inside public transport.

We continue to implement reduced seating capacities and placed plastic dividers in all PUVs to ensure safety of commuters every day. We also encourage our commuters to explore alternative modes of transport such as bicycles and e-scooters.

To provide more options for the riding public, the LTFRB allowed 488 traditional jeepney routes with 40,205 authorized units currently operating in the NCR. Moreover, the LTFRB allowed the resumption of 241 provincial bus routes, with more than 5,350 provincial bus units traversing Metro Manila, subject to the requirements of the LGUs.

We also took advantage of the continuous technological developments to minimize physical contact and face-to-face interaction in road-based transport. Commuters used the Beep card for cashless payment

transactions in PUVs through the automatic fare collection system.

In addition, the Easytrip RFID and Autosweep were implemented for electronic toll collection. In December 2020, the DOTr signed the Toll Collection Interoperability Agreement with concessionaires to provide more seamless travel experience for motorists using the toll roads.

In March 2020, the DOTr initiated the free ride program to help bring our HCWs and other frontliners safely to hospitals and health facilities and make their commute easier. Total ridership nationwide reached 4.48 million while total ridership in the Greater Metro Manila Area (GMMA) reached 625,601 as of July 14, 2021. Despite the resumption of public transportation, the DOTr maintained the program to ensure that HCWs and other essential workers have a reliable transportation option.



A health worker boards the PCG bus under the DOTr free ride program.

Photo Credit: DOTr

The regional offices of the LTFRB and LTO also replicated the free ride program in the regions, with ridership reaching 1.72 million as of July 14, 2021. The PCG also continues to provide ferry services to frontliners and HCWs and utilizes its assets to transport and distribute medical supplies needed by frontliners and hospitals.

Supported Local COVID-19 Initiatives

We fully recognize the critical role that the LGUs play in helping fight this pandemic. Hence, we supported them in their implementation of local COVID-19 initiatives. We released billions of pesos to help fund various local COVID-19 programs and projects. We also provided subsidies and different loan facilities that could be readily availed of by LGUs (see Figure 4.6).¹⁷⁹

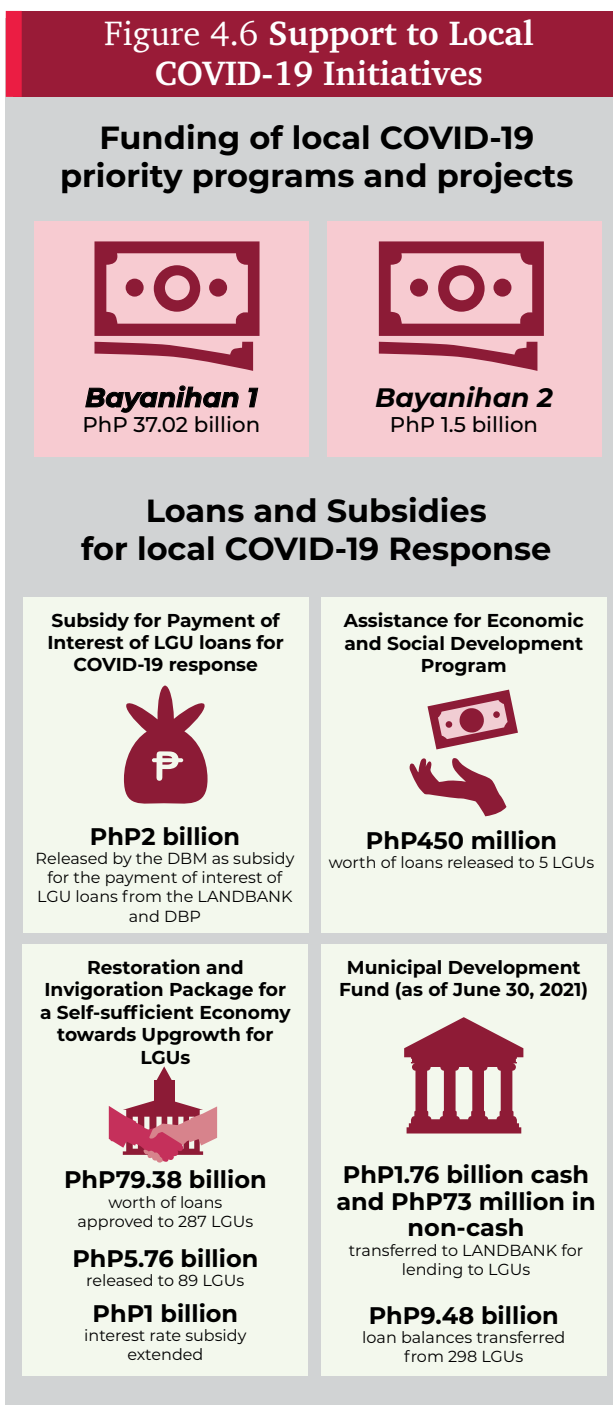
Granted Moratorium on Payment of Utilities, Loans, and Rents

To lessen the financial burden of our fellow countrymen, we ordered all water and power concessionaires and service providers to suspend supply disconnection activities during the ECQ and modified ECQ and urged them to implement staggered payments of water and electricity bills.

Moreover, under the *Bayanihan* laws, all lenders such as banks, loan associations, credit card issuers, and pawnshops were directed to grant loan relief to individuals, household, MSMEs, and corporate borrowers whose loan/s with principal and/or interest fell within the ECQ period.

Borrowers were entitled to avail of the 30-day grace period without incurring interest, fees, and penalties. Grace period in the payment of residential rents was also provided through the DTI.¹⁸⁰

Figure 4.6 Support to Local COVID-19 Initiatives



Sources: DBM and DOF

179 DOF, July 13, 2021 and DBM, July 12, 2021.

180 *Bayanihan* 1 and 2.

Enforced Law and Order



PNP Personnel conduct inspection at checkpoint.

Photo Credit: PNP

The PNP and BFP, as members of the Joint Task Force COVID-19 Shield or JTF CV Shield, continue to perform its mandated function of ensuring public safety and order amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

To strictly implement health and quarantine protocols, particularly on mass gatherings in public places, the PNP deployed 6,758 personnel to malls, supermarkets, other food manufacturing establishments, and rice warehouses nationwide in June 2021.

Meanwhile, the DILG responded to 581 complaints against barangay and *Sangguniang Kabataan* officials on alleged corruption and violations related to the implementation of community quarantine protocols and relief and SAP distribution

from March 16, 2020 to July 1, 2021. A total of 171 officials were issued with Show Cause Orders; 30 cases were endorsed to the Office of the Ombudsman or *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*; and 12 cases were filed before the Prosecutor's Office. The DILG also filed cases against 96 *Punong Barangays* to the Office of the Ombudsman for alleged SAP anomalies, 89 of whom have been placed under preventive suspension.

On the other hand, the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) ensured accountability from 204 PNP personnel, with 89 PNP personnel charged with either Administrative or Criminal Case before the different Disciplinary Authorities.¹⁸¹

To my *kababayan*, the last one and a half years have been especially challenging. I salute your courage and resiliency as we overcome this pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic had radically changed our lives and altered our plans for our country. Many of the changes may remain with us for a long time but by the grace of God, united, we shall overcome. I remain confident that our spirit of *bayanihan* and *malasakit* will help us prevail. Let us continue to take care of one another by strictly following minimum health protocols and getting vaccinated.

Humbly, allow me to appeal that you continue to support and believe in your government. In return, I promise that in the remaining months of my Administration, we will work doubly hard to steer our country past this health emergency.

181 DILG, July 13, 2021.



Chapter

5

Ensuring the Filipinos' Well-being, Safety, and Resiliency

Dubbed as the crown jewel of Philippine biodiversity, the critically endangered Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) exemplifies the Filipinos' tenacity and resilience, as it persists amidst the perils to its existence.

As part of the efforts to raise awareness on the conservation of the Philippine Eagle, June 4 to 10 of each year is observed as the Philippine Eagle Week by virtue of Presidential Proclamation no. 79, s. 1999.

Antecedently in 1992, then Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared January 15 as the Philippine Eagle Day in Davao City to mark the hatch day of Pag-asa, the first of its kind to be bred and hatched in captivity at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao City.

Pag-asa died at the age of 28 on January 6, 2021, but the hope that it evokes continues to shine through Sinag (in photo), the 26th and currently one of the youngest Philippine Eagle bred and hatched in captivity.

Photo Credit: Stanley Dumanig

The pandemic has momentarily hampered our progress but we are committed to rise above this challenge and recoup the gains we had achieved in the last five years.

While bouncing back is a daunting task, our strong resolve to rise again and soar higher will serve as the very foundation of a more resilient and healthier nation that we have committed to build.

This pandemic is a grim, yet much needed reminder that unabated human activity has disrupted our natural environment, causing climate change, environmental degradation, and the emergence of pathogens. Our continuing fight against COVID-19 has been made more challenging with the existence of other natural and man-made threats that our country likewise confronts.

As this global phenomenon continues, we can only be certain of one thing: the world, as we knew it, will never be the same. On a positive note, we now have a chance to work for a world that would be a better version of how it was before.

Towards this end, we recalibrated and refocused our development strategies on continuously building a more resilient, healthier, and progressive nation for the remainder of my Presidency.

Our *better normal* will be founded on the lessons of the past and present crises,

particularly on the nexus between technology and innovation on the one hand, and the environment and economy on the other.

As I enter the final stretch of my Administration, we will continuously take the clear path towards a comprehensive and inclusive recovery.

Bolstered Health Security and Innovation



“If we do not innovate in our lives, in all forms, we would have a hard time in the next generation. You innovate now or you perish.”

The President’s speech during the Opening Ceremony of the National Science and Technology Week Celebration at the SMX Convention Center, Davao City on July 6, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

We are now going through a complex and enormous recovery process from the ravages of the pandemic, and for us to be ready for the *new and better normal*, it cannot be business as usual.

Now is an opportune time to further strengthen and pour in more resources on science, technology, and innovation. The health sector, in particular, will be among the major gainers in the advancement of the sciences in the country.

Investing in the Health Sector¹⁸²

Since I assumed office, we had consistently increased the health sector budget from PhP125.23 billion in 2016 to PhP185.50 billion in 2020. This is a clear demonstration of our strong determination to improve the country’s health sector even way before the onset of the pandemic.

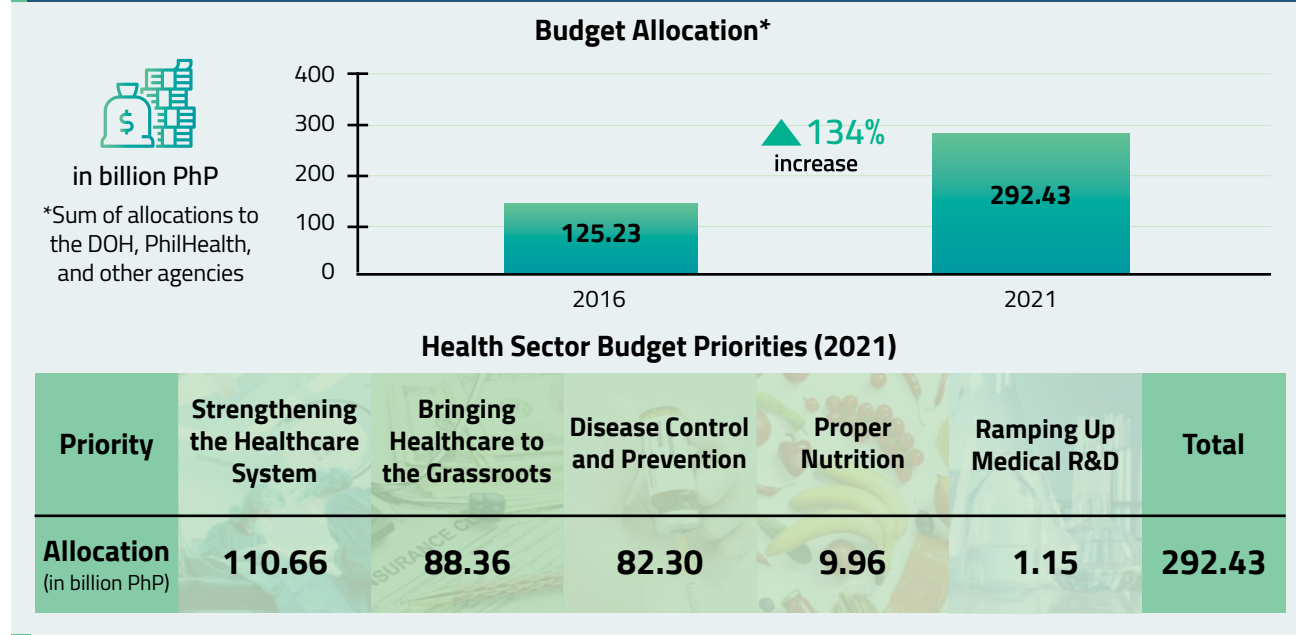
In line with our commitment to reset and bolster the foundations of our

182 DBM, July 12, 2021.

healthcare system and make it more responsive and resilient to crises, we further increased the health sector budget to PhP292.43 billion in 2021.

This includes funding for programs on COVID-19 management and response and health research and development (R&D) (see Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1 Increased Health Sector Budget (2016 vs. 2021)



Source: DBM

WHO and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) laud end of polio outbreak in the Philippines

The government’s continuous investments in the health sector have led to victories (see Chapters 1 and 4 for detailed accomplishments in the health sector and on COVID-19 management and response, respectively).

Since polio’s re-emergence in the country in 2019, the government implemented a robust immunization campaign to stop the virus’ spread. Due to the challenges brought about by the ensuing impact of COVID-19, the DOH mobilized and trained health workers in infection prevention and control and supplied them with personal protective equipment to be able to vaccinate children in their homes or in designated health centers—initiatives that the WHO and UNICEF extolled as “a global first in a country experiencing community transmission of COVID-19.”

But the feat did not end there. After no new polio cases were detected in the country in the past 16 months, as a result of comprehensive outbreak response actions, the polio outbreak in the country had officially ended in June 2021.

WHO Representative to the Philippines, Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe, recognized this achievement as a “major win for public health and an excellent example of what collective efforts can attain, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.” He said the end of polio outbreak in the country is a direct result of strong political will and leadership, the mobilization of resources, the engagement of communities, the courage and commitment of frontline workers, and the combined and coordinated efforts of the local governments and partners.

Source: WHO

Advancing Science, Technology, and Innovation

This pandemic has emphasized the need to strengthen the country’s capacity to avert future infectious disease outbreaks, particularly through further advancements in science, technology, and innovation. Towards this end, we invested in developing our science and technology human resource and in ramping up our R&D programs.

Invested in Science and Technology Human Resource.¹⁸³ We recognize that science and technology is a vital component in national development. However, the continuous outward migration of our science and technology workers has resulted in brain drain. To reverse this, we institutionalized the *Balik Scientist* Program through the passage in June 2018 of RA no. 11035 or the *Balik Scientist Act*, which gives more benefits, incentives, and

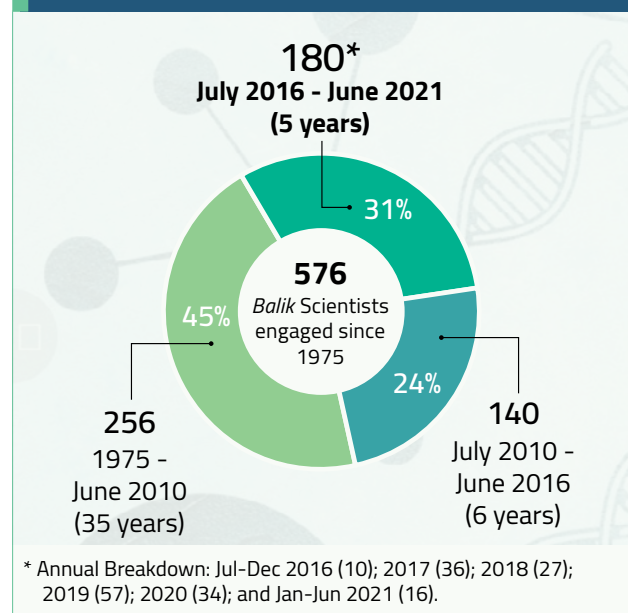
privileges to returning Filipino experts, scientists, inventors, and engineers who would share their expertise in the country.

Since July 2016, 180 *Balik Scientists* have participated in the program. It is worthy to note that following our institutionalization of the program in 2018, we saw an immediate increase in the number of returning Filipino scientists in 2019. While there was a decrease in numbers at the start of the pandemic in 2020, we are hoping to regain and sustain the return of more Filipino experts once the situation starts to normalize (see Figure 5.2).

The *Balik Scientist* Program

The Program was established in 1975 but received little to no applications. With the passage of RA no. 11035, all *Balik Scientists* under the short-, medium-, or long-term engagements shall be eligible for the general benefits, incentives, and privileges given to participants, e.g., round-trip airfare from foreign country of origin, tax-free daily allowance, and participation in grants-in-aid research and development projects of the DOST. Under the long-term program, *Balik Scientists* and their spouses can enjoy multiple entry immigration clearance; duty-free importation of personal effects, equipment, and vehicles; and exemption from securing alien employment permits.

Figure 5.2 Increased Engagement of *Balik Scientists*



Source: DOST

To produce more science and technology professionals who can help meet the challenges of the present and future generations, we sustained the implementation of the DOST scholarship programs. Since 2016, the number of scholarships under these programs

183 DOST, July 9, 2021.



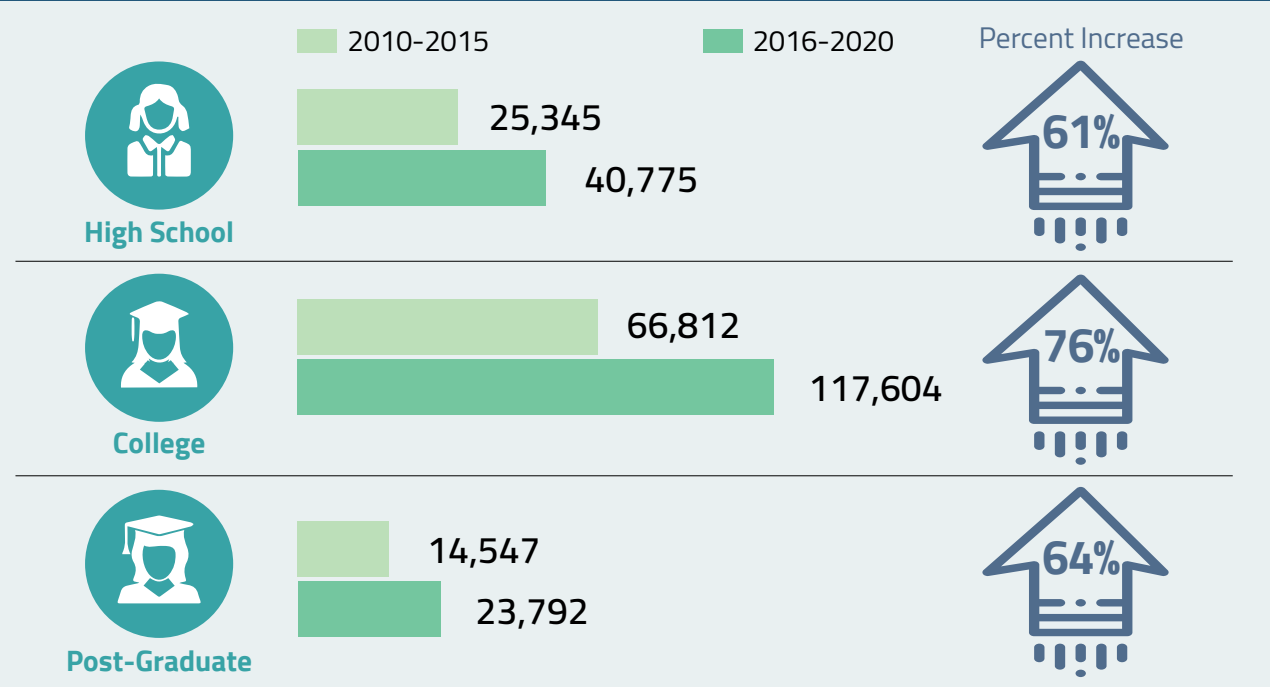
DOST Secretary de la Peña signs the diplomas of more than 1,300 students from the Philippine Science High School System's graduating class of 2021.

Photo Credit: Official Facebook Page of the DOST Secretary

consistently increased (see Figure 5.3). We will continue to expand these scholarship programs to support the growing number of Filipino students who aspire to pursue science-related courses.

Initiated R&D Projects in Response to the Pandemic.¹⁸⁴ Through the collaborative efforts of different government agencies, the private sector, and the academe, we made significant progress and notable advancements in R&D. Specifically during this pandemic, we introduced new methods, strategies, programs, and equipment that helped us in responding to COVID-19 and related challenges. These include the development of locally made COVID-19 diagnostic kits, specimen collection booths, a telemedicine device, ventilators, and a web-based disease surveillance platform (see Table 5.1).






Figure 5.3 Increased Number of Scholarships under the DOST Scholarship Programs



Source: DOST

184 DOST, July 9, 2021.

Table 5.1 Advanced R&D Initiatives for Pandemic Response

Program / Project	Description and Status
<p>GenAmplify rRT-PCR detection kit</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first locally-made COVID-19 diagnostic kit developed by a team from the UP through a DOST-funded research ▪ As of May 2021, 1,301 detection kits had been manufactured and distributed for free to 22 hospitals and laboratories nationwide.
<p>Specimen Collection Booths</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Equipped with a secured ventilation and barrier, thus allowing specimen collection without direct contact with the patient. It also has pressure and infrared temperature sensors, and interior and exterior disinfection instruments ▪ Designed by the Futuristic Aviation and Maritime Enterprise (FAME) Inc., through a research grant from the DOST ▪ As of May 2021, 132 specimen collection booths had been fabricated and deployed to 89 health facilities nationwide.
<p>RxBox</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A telemedicine device that can remotely measure a patient's vital signs and monitor multiple patients at once ▪ Developed by a team of researchers from the UP, DOST, and DOH ▪ As of June 2021, 525 units of the RxBox's current version had been deployed nationwide.
<p>FASSSTER</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stands for <i>Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler for Early Detection of Diseases</i> ▪ A dashboard that generates data-based COVID-19 forecasts, which has become a part of the basis of the IATF-MEID in recommending the duration and type of community quarantines ▪ Developed by a team from the Ateneo de Manila University, in collaboration with UP Manila, DOH, and DOST ▪ By 2022, a FASSSTER version that focuses on four diseases (i.e., dengue, malaria, typhoid fever, and measles) is targeted for nationwide deployment.
<p>Locally made ventilators</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To address the need for ventilators amidst the pandemic, the DOST supported the development of <i>Ginhawa</i>, a compact and portable ventilator that can be powered by an alternating or direct current. Currently, three <i>Ginhawa</i> prototypes have been completed and undergone bench testing. ▪ The DOST has also provided support to the development of the following ventilators, which are set for clinical trials: Automated Emergency Ventilator [SiglaVent] (Technological Institute of the Philippines); Spiritus Vitae (Don Bosco Technical College); and Neurovent System (Neuronmech).

Source: DOST

Long-term Approach to Manage Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases¹⁸⁵

The ongoing pandemic has pushed the world to the brink. It also highlighted the country's need for dedicated institutions with the capacity, competency, network, and high-level authority to confront or avert future outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics.

As part of our long-term strategies to manage emerging and re-emerging diseases, we shall pursue the establishment of the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) and a disease prevention and management authority.

There are bills on the establishment of these entities that are pending in the Legislature. If passed into law, the VIP shall serve as the country's first research facility specializing in animal, plant,

and human viruses; diagnostics and therapeutics; and vaccine development, among others. On the other hand, a disease prevention and management authority shall be the primary government instrumentality tasked to develop and implement policies on forecasting, surveillance, prevention, and management of infectious diseases.

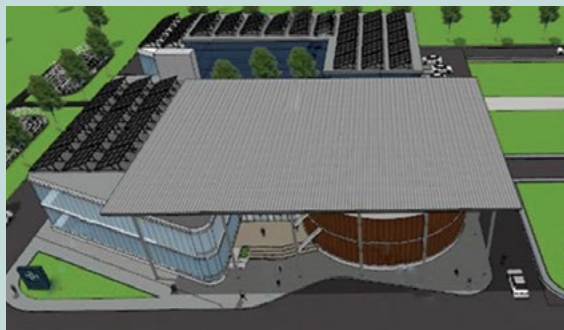
I implore my co-patriots in the Legislature to fast track the deliberation for the prompt approval of these bills.

Indeed, no person nor place is immune to the horrendous effects of a pandemic. The same holds true with the impact of climate change and the risks posed by natural hazards. Thus, we remain committed to enhancing the country's overall resilience by further boosting our capacities to prepare, plan, respond, and recover from calamities of different types and forms.

The DOST's VIP Program

While the bill for the establishment and operation of the VIP is pending in the Legislature, the DOST has initiated R&D works for the VIP Program. With an initial funding of PhP284 million, the eight projects to start the VIP Program will focus on the fields of human, animal, and plant virology, and the research areas of diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. These will be implemented by the DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute, in partnership with the Baylor College of Medicine in the United States, St. Luke's Medical Center, and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

The VIP Facility

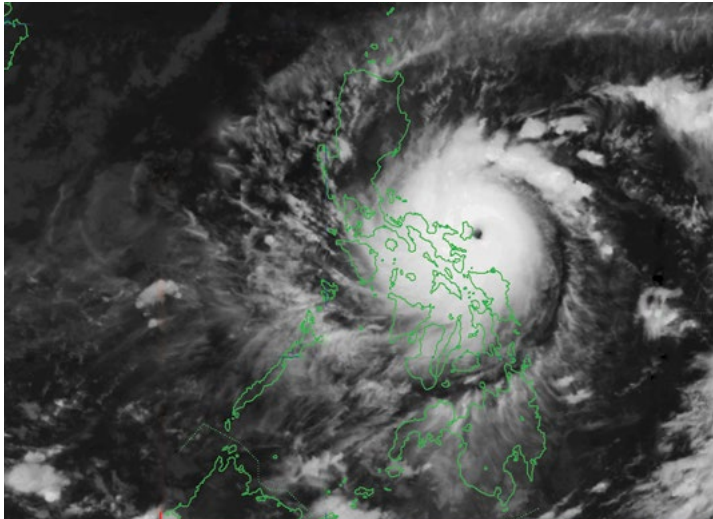


The VIP Facility in New Clark Economic Zone, Capas, Tarlac is targeted for construction in 2022 and for operation by 2023.

Photo Credit: DOST

185 DBM, July 12, 2021; and DOST, July 9, 2021.

Strengthened Climate and Disaster Resilience



Satellite image of Typhoon Rolly (2020) in the Philippines.

Source and Photo Credit: DOST

The Philippines experiences an average of 20 to 21 tropical cyclones and 9,355 earthquakes yearly.

From 2016 to June 2021, we had 104 tropical cyclones, 48 strong earthquakes, and 19 volcanic eruptions across the archipelago, all while the GMMA is facing the threat of a highly destructive 7.2-magnitude earthquake from the imminent movement of the West Valley Fault (WVF).

As we deal with the pandemic, our country continues to face other threats, both natural and man-made.

The Philippines is located along the Pacific Typhoon Belt and the Pacific Ring of Fire, highly exposing us to natural hazards such as tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. To make matters even more challenging, the 21st Century is characterized by rapid changes in climate that strengthen the impact of natural hazards.

We cannot prevent natural disasters from happening but we can reduce their impact. The vicious cycle of destruction and reconstruction impedes our full potential towards growth and development. Those we help lift from poverty slip back when disaster hits. Thus, we are continually and tirelessly

working hand-in-hand with all sectors of society to reduce disaster risks, enhance our disaster preparedness for effective response, and build towards a more resilient nation.

Prioritized Disaster Risk Reduction

We cannot protect people's lives by simply being reactive to these known but unavoidable threats. Thus, to protect the most vulnerable and minimize the adverse impact of natural hazards to lives and livelihood, we are proactively undertaking the following measures:

Implemented Science- and ICT-based Approach in Assessing Risks.¹⁸⁶ Risk assessments and hazards mapping are crucial in disaster risk management as these would guide us in formulating and implementing effective mitigation and preparedness measures across the country.

186 DOST, July 9, 2021.

In 2018, we launched the Geospatial Information Management and Analysis Project for Hazards and Risk Assessment in the Philippines Project or GeoRiskPH Initiative. It aims to systematize data from various sources into one platform and make disaster risk management information available to the public, local governments, and national government agencies through various web and phone applications (see Table 5.2).

To mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change information into development plans and projects, I directed all departments and agencies to use the GeoRiskPH platform for the conduct of hazard and risk assessments. As of May 31, 2021, the DOST-Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) had forged partnerships with 13 government instrumentalities¹⁸⁷ and eight LGUs, i.e., cities of Batangas, Legazpi, Puerto Princesa, Iloilo, Tagbilaran, Cagayan de Oro, General Santos, and Zamboanga, on the use of the GeoRiskPH platforms.



DOST Secretary de la Peña and DOST Undersecretary and PHIVOLCS Officer-in-Charge Renato Solidum Jr. during the launching of the *HazardHunterPH* in July 2019.

Photo Credit: DOST

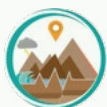
USE OF THE GEORISKPH PLATFORMS



“It is really a big help for us LGUs in our risk assessment and database development.”

*Richard Michael Uy
from LGU of Lanao del Norte*

Table 5.2 Platforms under the GeoRiskPH Project



HazardHunterPH

Quickly generates assessments in a location for seismic, volcanic, and hydro-meteorological hazards, thus providing property owners, buyers, land developers, planners, and other stakeholders with real-time and free-of-charge hazard assessment reports.



GeoAnalyticsPH

Generates summaries of hazard and risk assessments and performs analysis and visualization of exposure and elements at risk to natural hazards, which could be used in the smart implementation of infrastructure projects and development planning.



GeoMapperPH







Facilitates the easy collection and updating of hazards, exposure, vulnerability, and coping capacity data from the office or field to support decision-making before, during, and after disasters.

Source: DOST

187 These include the DepEd, DOH, DPWH, DA (Bureau of Animal Industry), DENR (Climate Change Service, Mines and Geosciences Bureau, and National Mapping and Resource Information Authority), DHSUD (Social Housing Finance Corporation, and National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation), DND (OCD), PMS, and other DOST offices (Advanced Science and Technology Institute, and Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration).

Improved Early Warning Systems and Communications.¹⁸⁸ We improved the country’s early warning systems to ensure the accurate and timely delivery of disaster information and warnings down to the local levels. This would also provide the national and local governments, as well as the public, ample time to prepare for an upcoming natural hazard (see Table 5.3).

However, improvements in warning systems will only be relevant if people understand their roles in disaster risk reduction and if these warnings translate into actions.

Table 5.3 Improved the Country’s Early Warning Systems		
Monitoring System	Total Number of Installed / Established Monitoring System	
	As of June 2016	As of June 2021
TYPHOONS AND FLOODS		
 Doppler Radars Stations <i>For tropical cyclone and rain monitoring</i>	10	7 → 17
 High Frequency Doppler Radars <i>For sea waves monitoring</i>	0	29 → 29
 Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems River Centers <i>For monitoring of water levels in river basins</i>	5	10 → 15
EARTHQUAKES AND TSUNAMIS		
 Seismic Stations <i>For monitoring of small earthquakes with magnitude of less than three</i>	87	22 → 109
 Tsunami Detection Stations	23	6 → 29
 Increase from July 2016 to June 2021		
Source: DOST		



DOST officials led by DOST Secretary de la Peña during the soft launching of the Davao Ground Receiving Station (GRS) in June 2019.

Photo Credit: DOST

Largest Satellite-Tracking Antenna for Earth Observation Operates in Davao City

In 2019, the second Satellite GRS in the country was operationalized in Davao City to provide additional capacity and redundancy to the Philippine Earth Data Resource and Observation (PEDRO) Center in Quezon City. The Davao GRS has a 7.3-meter tracking antenna for earth observation, the largest of its kind in the country to date, which allows more efficient download of satellite images at a higher bandwidth. The facility can be used to support government agencies and research institutions in disaster risk assessment, hazard and urban mapping, maritime and aquaculture monitoring, environmental monitoring, and land cover classification, among others. During the series of earthquakes in Mindanao in October 2019, the GRS was used to acquire before and after images of the landslide event in Makilala, North Cotabato, which significantly contributed to disaster risk reduction and management operations.

188 DOST, July 9, 2021; DILG, July 13, 2021; and OCD, July 14, 2021.

To promote disaster risk reduction at the local level, we distributed hazard maps to different stakeholders and conducted awareness initiatives on risk-informed planning. We also provided technical assistance to the LGUs on the assessment and updating of their respective disaster risk reduction and management, climate change action, and land use plans to ensure risk-centered approaches in local development planning (see Figure 5.4).

We continue to pursue public awareness campaigns and maximize the use of digital technology in the process. These initiatives include the conduct of quarterly simultaneous earthquake drills; distribution of Information, Education and Communication materials and utilization of social media platforms to promote disaster risk reduction; dissemination of emergency alert and warning messages to mobile phone users, in partnership with telecommunications companies; and making available to the public user-friendly platforms for hazards assessment, such as the *HazardHunterPH*.

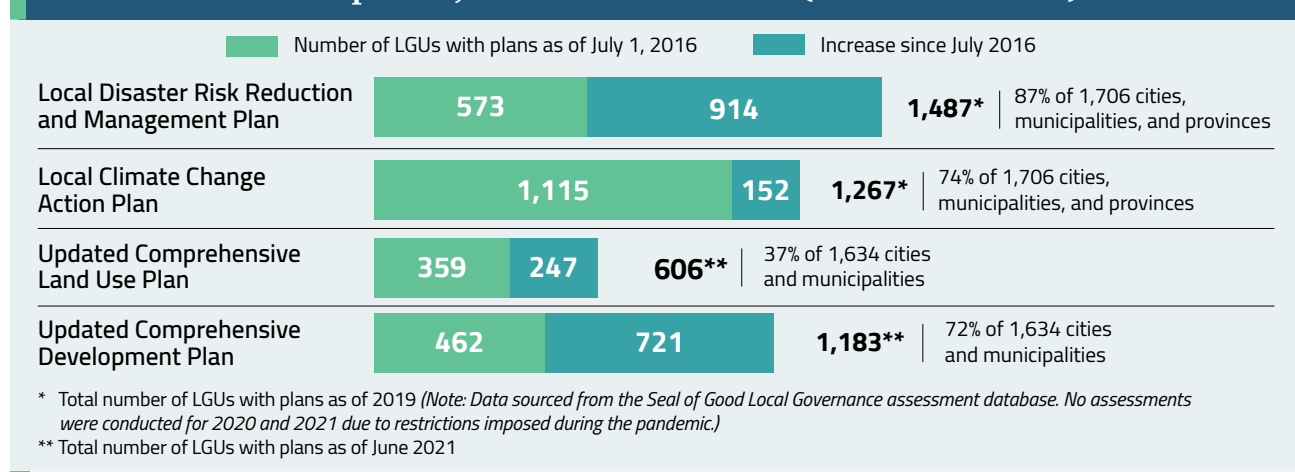
To ensure that communities are aware and able to understand disaster information, we also translated Disaster Information for Nationwide Awareness posters for tropical storm, flood, landslide, and earthquake into different dialects.

Ensured Effective Disaster Management and Response

Natural disasters wait for no one. We must act now, or it would be too late. We need to be fully prepared to respond urgently as people's lives are at stake. Hence, we are ensuring that adequate resources and proper systems are in place to facilitate effective response and continued service to our people in times of disasters.

Constructed Evacuation Centers.¹⁸⁹ As we also look forward to the return of students to schools under the new normal, we resolved, at the urging and guidance of DepEd Secretary Briones, to refrain from using public schools as evacuation centers, as it disrupts the learning and development of our children.

Figure 5.4 LGUs with Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Action, Development, and Land Use Plans (as of June 2021)



Source: DILG

189 DPWH, July 16, 2021.

As such, we are currently constructing resilient evacuation centers. As of June 30, 2021, 223 evacuation centers were completed and 99 are ongoing construction (see Figure 5.5) while 70 are under pre-construction activities. As part of our efforts to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, 85 of the completed evacuation centers have been temporarily converted as quarantine facilities for COVID-19 patients.

Further, we are making sure that these evacuation centers are gender sensitive, safe, and livable. We cannot doubly punish those who are forced by circumstances to take shelter in evacuation centers by subjecting them to the risk of gender-based violence, exploitation, diseases, and neglect. Facilities such as separate toilets for male and female, infirmaries, breastfeeding rooms, and ramps for persons

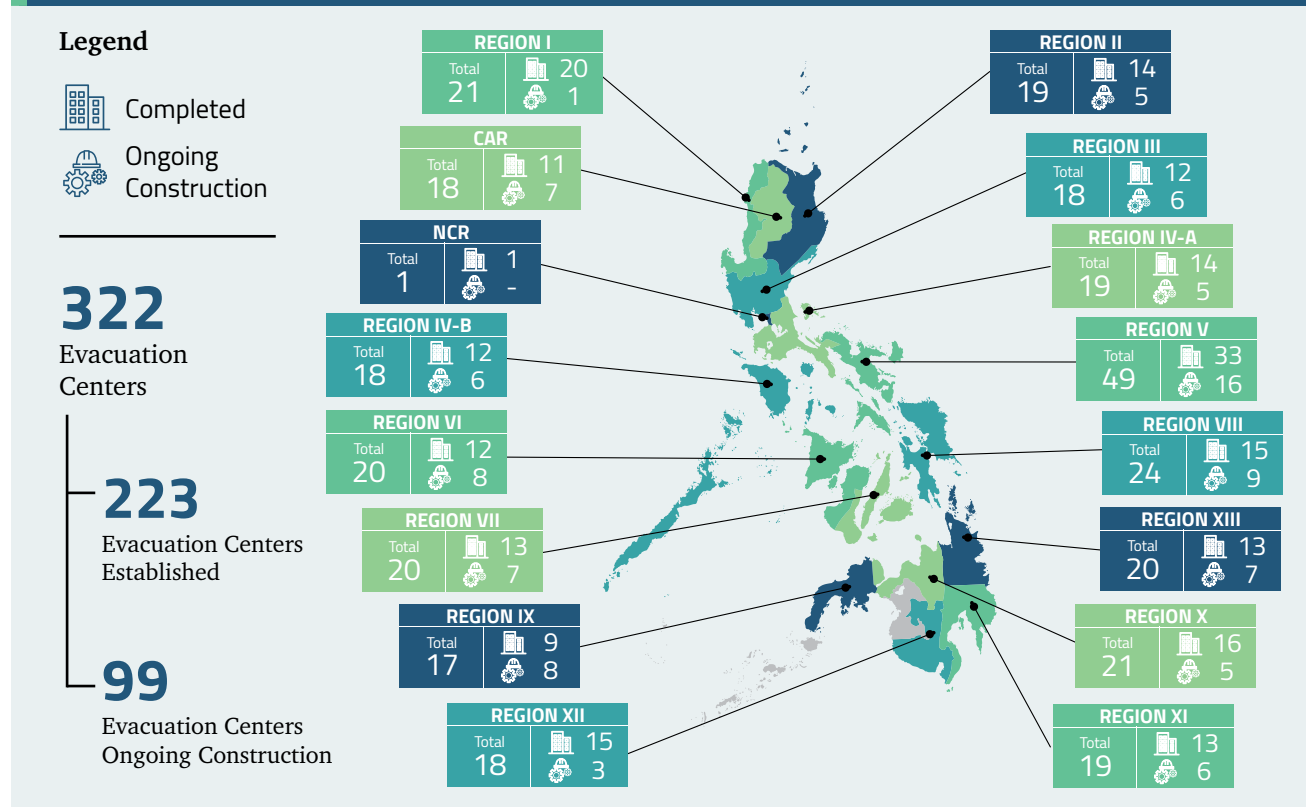


An evacuation center in Brgy. Tubod Monte, Jagna, Bohol that has been repurposed as a COVID-19 facility.

Photo Credit: DPWH

with disability, among others, have been built to prevent these problems. These evacuation centers may also be utilized as multi-purpose buildings for calamity drills and other disaster preparedness activities during normal times.

Figure 5.5 Evacuation Centers Constructed per Region (as of June 30, 2021)



Source: DPWH

Improved Emergency Communication Systems.¹⁹⁰ In times of natural disasters, breakdown of electrical power and communication facilities is sometimes inevitable. To ensure connectivity during critical situations, the DICT, in collaboration with the United Nations World Food Programme, established the Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency under its Government Emergency Communication System or GECS-MOVE. This is a rapidly deployable communications system that can respond before, during, and after a disaster. Of the current six GECS-MOVE units, one was deployed to Davao City in November 2019 and was used for capacity building

activities and communication exercises with different stakeholders from the cities of Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. The other five GECS-MOVE units were deployed to the NCR, Clark, and the cities of Batangas, Tacloban, and Butuan.

Capacitated and Prepared First Responders.¹⁹¹ We need to capacitate our first responders to ensure their safety and effective response to the people's needs. From 2016 to June 2021, we provided DRRM training programs and learning initiatives to 7,080 individuals from the NGAs, 21,266 from LGUs, 3,413 from sectoral groups, and 1,280 from volunteer groups.



DICT Secretary Gregorio Honasan II (fourth from left), together with other DICT and OCD officials and UN World Food Programme representatives, leads the send-off and handover ceremony of the GECS-MOVE sets on May 17, 2021.

Each GECS-MOVE set consists of a state-of-the-art communication hub truck with radio, internet, and satellite capability, a 4x4 dispatch pick-up with on-board information server and microwave systems for expanded service coverage, and an off-road capable motorcycle able to ferry responders for back-up support and restoration missions.

Photo Credit: DICT

190 DICT, July 15, 2021.

191 OCD, July 14, 2021.

Responded and Provided Immediate Relief in Various Disasters.¹⁹² Our country has faced numerous disasters that tested our resilience as a nation and posed a huge impact on the lives of our people. From July 2020 to May 2021 alone, we experienced ten tropical cyclones, including Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses that affected almost two million families and caused Php38.1 billion worth of damage to agriculture and infrastructure. On August 18, 2020, a 6.6-magnitude earthquake hit Masbate, affecting thousands of families and causing over Php27 million worth of damage to infrastructure.

In these dire times, we responded with urgency to help the affected families. Aside from the deployment of personnel for search, rescue, and retrieval operations, we provided affected families with the necessary assistance. Through various disaster relief operations we conducted from July 2016 to June 2021, 4.66 million households were provided assistance to sustain their basic food and shelter needs. Moreover, from July 2016 to June 2021, 2.57 million families and 752,843 households were provided with Cash-for-Work and Emergency Shelter Assistance, respectively, to assist them in rebuilding their damaged houses.



DSWD Secretary Bautista hands over a family food pack to an evacuee during a relief distribution in the NCR following the onslaught of Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020.

Photo Credit: DSWD

To ensure fast and efficient distribution of emergency relief assistance in disaster-stricken communities, not only in the Philippines but also in other ASEAN states, a warehouse for the stockpiling of goods and equipment for disaster response at the AFP Logistics Command depot in Quezon City was inaugurated on July 1, 2019. The warehouse forms part of the network of satellite warehouses across the ASEAN region to increase the speed and scale of ASEAN response during disasters.



The Philippine Coast Guard conducts rescue operations in Cagayan, which was heavily affected by the massive flooding caused by Typhoon Ulysses in November 2020.

Photo Credit: DOTr

192 DSWD, July 16, 2021; and OCD, July 14, 2021.

Building Towards a More Resilient Nation

The Filipino's innate resilience has been challenged disaster after disaster. It behooves upon the government to make its institutions and systems adapt to enhance the nation's resilience. I would never want our people to go through the same tragedies over and over again. Hence, we shall continue to improve our mechanisms and systems towards better management and response to future disasters, built on best practices and lessons learned.

Strengthening Recovery and Rehabilitation Efforts.¹⁹³ On November 18, 2020, I issued EO no. 120 to strengthen rehabilitation and recovery efforts in typhoon-hit areas through the creation of the Build Back Better Task Force.

The Task Force is currently focusing on three priority geographic areas that bore the brunt of Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses namely: the Cagayan, Marikina, and Bicol River Basins (*see Table 5.4*).



Aerial photos during the President's inspection of severely affected areas in the Cagayan Valley (top photo) and Bicol Region (bottom photo) due to typhoons in November 2020.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Table 5.4 Implemented Recovery and Rehabilitation Projects in Three Priority River Basins (as of June 2021)

Area	Dredging Activities Along the River Basins <i>To improve water flow of heavily silted river channels and minimize flooding</i>	Establishment of Strong and Resilient Settlements <i>To facilitate the resettlement of the people in areas prone to flooding and prevent future casualties</i>
Cagayan River Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dredged 297,233 cubic meters of soil (86 percent of the 344,304.51 cubic meter target) for Phase 1 in Magapit Narrows, Bangag, Lal-lo, Cagayan from February 2, 2021 to June 28, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DHSUD identified resettlement projects in the municipalities of Amulung, Baggao, and Enrile in Cagayan; and Quezon in Nueva Vizcaya for the families affected by flooding.
Marikina River Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dredged 67,425 cubic meters of soil (97 percent of the 69,248 cubic meter target) in the four priority sites at the Marikina River from February 17, 2021 to June 27, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NHA initiated the drafting of a Preliminary Resettlement Action Plan for the East Sector of the NCR for the 2,722 informal settlers affected.
Bicol River Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dredged 23,817 cubic meters of soil (41 percent of the 58,328 cubic meter target) for Phase 1 in Camaligan, Camarines Sur from March 23, 2021 to June 28, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of June 2021, the NHA initiated the negotiated bidding for the construction of 296 housing units in Camaligan, Camarines Sur and 2,020 units in Bato, Catanduanes. The bidding process for seven other housing projects in the Bicol Region has also started.

Source: DENR and DHSUD

193 DENR, July 9, 2021; and DHSUD, July 15, 2021.

Integrated and Unified Action Towards Earthquake Resiliency.¹⁹⁴ While the immediate rehabilitation of the affected communities is important, we need to urgently address our gaps and strengthen the resilience of communities to better respond to future disasters.

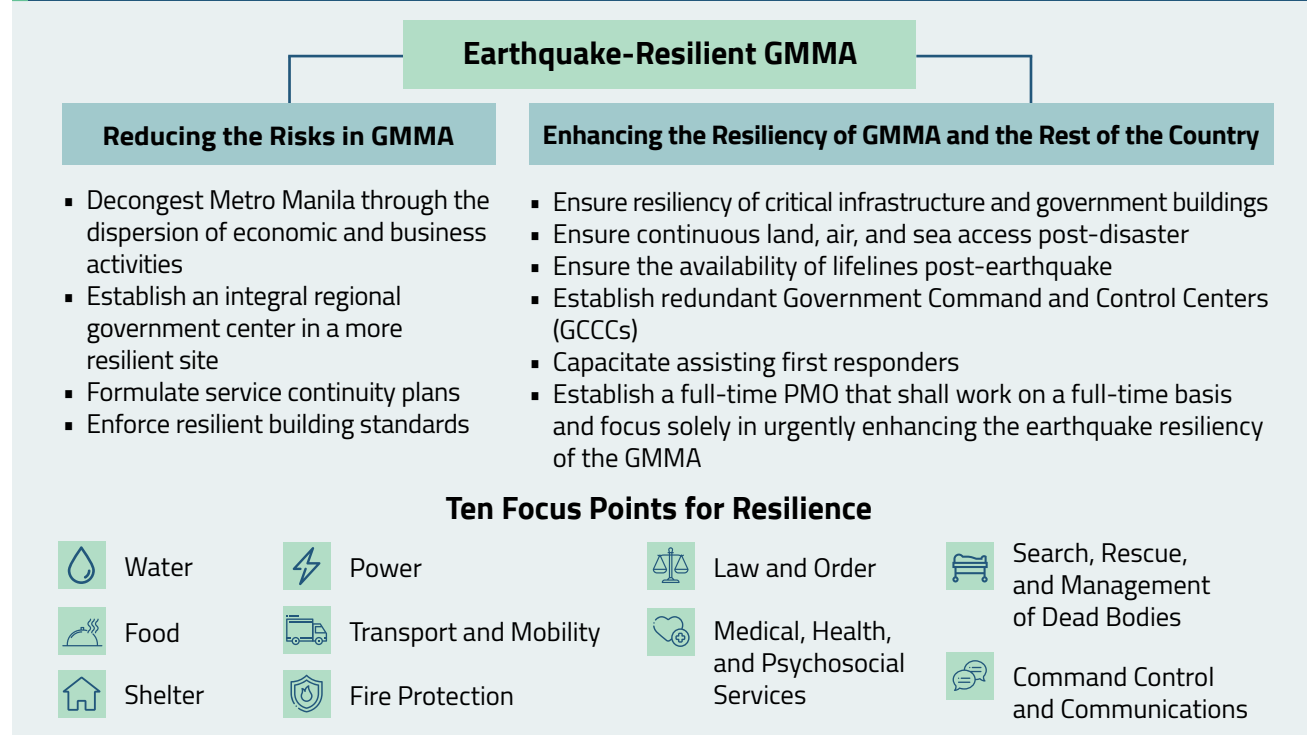
With the GMMA at the epicenter of a potential 7.2-magnitude earthquake or the “Big One”, our national security is at stake. Thus, it is critical to undertake earthquake resiliency measures with great urgency, in parallel and tandem with COVID-19 pandemic management, and go beyond the existing structures, processes, and systems.

In my 2017 SONA, I emphasized the need to ensure disaster resilience and effective response to the real and imminent threat of a major

earthquake in the GMMA. Thus, I directed the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCAM-DRR) to immediately work with the concerned departments and agencies, LGUs, the private sector, and affected communities in implementing disaster resiliency measures.

Through EO no. 52 that I signed in 2018, the Program Management Office for Earthquake Resiliency of the GMMA (PMO-ERG) was created to spearhead the immediate operationalization of the “Two-Pronged Strategy Towards an Earthquake-Resilient GMMA” and integrate all government efforts to enhance the earthquake resiliency in the GMMA, prioritizing ten focus points and lifelines for resilience (*see Figure 5.6*).

Figure 5.6 Adopted the Two-Pronged Strategy Towards an Earthquake-Resilient GMMA



Source: EO no. 52, series of 2018

194 OCD, July 14, 2021.

To strengthen collaboration among government agencies and facilitate unified decision-making of national leaders for disaster response, a Cabinet-level Simulation Exercise focused on a 7.2-magnitude earthquake scenario in the GMMA was held on October 16, 2019. This was a historic undertaking for the country and the ASEAN region as the first simulation exercise involving top government officials as key players.



DPWH Secretary Villar, Cabinet Secretary Nograles, DFA Secretary Locsin, and DND Secretary Lorenzana during the Simulation Exercise in October 2019 on a 7.2-magnitude earthquake scenario in the GMMA.

Photo Credit: PMS

The exercise brought out the key decision points for top policy makers and the areas for improvement in our disaster resiliency planning and execution. It was observed by experts from the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center, National Resilience Council, and Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, whose evaluation will form part of the continuing capacity building program for top government officials in disaster risk reduction and management.



DENR Secretary Cimatu, DND Secretary Lorenzana, Acting PMS Head Ferdinand Cui Jr., DOST Secretary de la Peña, DSWD Secretary Bautista, and PHIVOLCS Officer-in-Charge Solidum during an ERT Meeting in 2019.

Photo Credit: PMS

Ensuring Earthquake Resiliency Amidst the Pandemic

On September 10, 2020, the OCD organized the first virtual Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill to continuously instill earthquake preparedness in people amidst the pandemic. The public was encouraged to watch the live stream and perform the “duck, cover, and hold” procedure in their respective places upon the sounding of the ceremonial alarm. Also, Earthquake Resiliency Team (ERT) Meetings had been held virtually since March 2021 to ensure that efforts are being undertaken to ensure earthquake resiliency, even while managing the pandemic.



A group photo of some of the attendees during the virtual ERT Meeting presided by DND Secretary Lorenzana on March 13, 2021.

Photo Credit: PMS

Pursuing Resilient Infrastructure to Reduce Risks.¹⁹⁵ Poorly constructed structures are threats to public safety. An example of this was when a 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck Luzon in April 2019 and claimed the lives of several individuals who were buried alive under the rubbles of haphazardly constructed structures. To prevent the same from happening, we are intensifying our efforts to ensure the resiliency of our infrastructure against earthquakes.

In view of my directive to ensure the resiliency of all critical infrastructure and government buildings, the DTI, DILG, and DPWH issued a Joint Memorandum

Circular in 2019, requiring all local chief executives and local building officials to immediately conduct structural integrity assessment on all public and private structures within their jurisdiction. To capacitate and assist LGUs in conducting infrastructure audit, we trained 255 LGUs from NCR, Regions III, IV-A, and eight other regions from 2017 to 2019.

The DPWH had been conducting structural assessment and subsequent retrofitting works of various essential public buildings in the GMMA to mitigate risks, especially in the event of a strong earthquake (see Figure 5.7).

Figure 5.7 Ensuring Structural Integrity of Public Infrastructure in the GMMA



Source: DPWH

195 DPWH, July 16, 2021; DILG, July 13, 2021; and Joint DTI-DILG-DPWH MC no. 2019-01 dated October 22, 2019.

We are likewise continuously building flood mitigation structures to reduce flooding in high-risk areas. From 2016 to May 2021, we completed 11,340 flood mitigation structures, which include projects along key river basins such as the Cagayan and Tagoloan Rivers. The PhP9-billion Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase III was also completed on July 29, 2020, aimed at decreasing flood inundation by 18 percent and reduce flood damage by PhP14.3 billion. Channel improvement works, construction of the Marikina Control Gate Structure and flood gates, and bank improvement works under the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phases IV and V are also underway.

Establishment of Service Continuity Sites.¹⁹⁶ On November 17, 2020, I signed EO no. 119 for the establishment of the National Government Administrative Center (NGAC) in New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac, to serve as an integrated government center outside the NCR and a recovery center and back-up administrative hub in case of major disasters. We are also looking at establishing public service continuity sites in other relatively resilient areas in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

On top of this, we are establishing redundant GCCCs in the three main island regions. These centers shall carry out communications, warning signals, emergency transportation, evacuation, rescue, health and rehabilitation, public education, and other auxiliary services to ensure the protection and welfare of the people during disasters and emergencies.



The Flood Risk Management Project for the Cagayan River to address serious bank erosion was completed in November 2019.

Photo Credit: DPWH



The Flood Risk Management Project for the Tagoloan River, covering Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, was completed in June 2019.

Photo Credit: DPWH



The Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase III, which involves channel improvement works at the remaining sections of Pasig River and priority critical sections of Lower Marikina River, was completed in July 2020.

Photo Credit: DPWH

196 OCD, July 14, 2021.

*Pursuing the Passage of the Administration version of the Department of Disaster Resilience Bill.*¹⁹⁷ I cannot countenance the immense suffering our people experienced in the aftermath of natural disasters. We need to adapt given the natural hazards and the risks of climate change. A council type set-up is a thing of the past and I want to sign legislation creating a department that allows for unity of command and ensures a science-based approach to prevention, preparedness, and response to protect the well-being and safety of our countrymen.

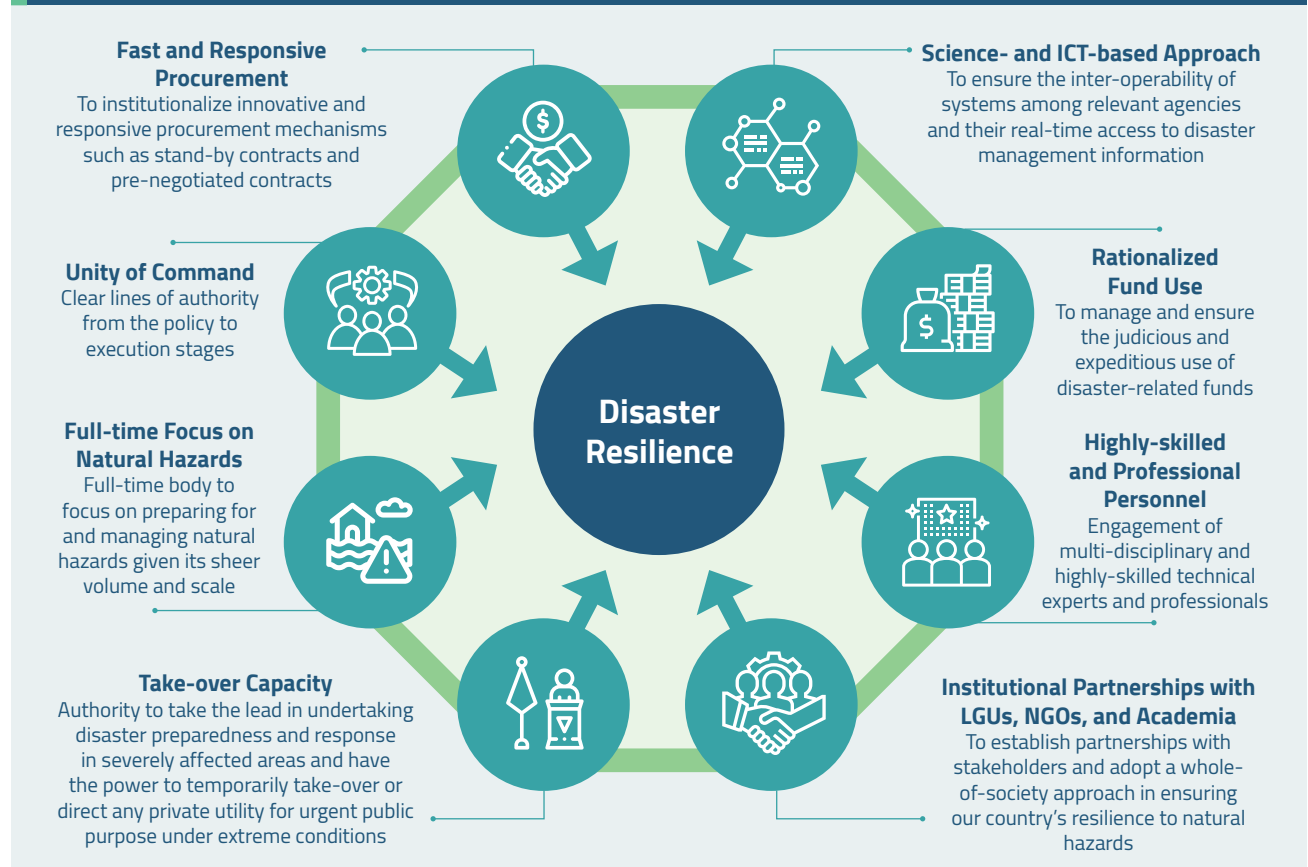
I am still looking forward to the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience, or the DDR, to ensure that our communities are safe, adaptive, and disaster resilient.

With the overall goal of bolstering the resilience of our nation, the Department will focus full-time on mitigating the impact of natural hazards, ensure unity of command and immediate response, address gaps on procurement, and promote a whole-of-nation and science- and technology-based approach in managing natural disaster threats in the 21st century (see Figure 5.8).

“We need to hasten the establishment of the Department of Disaster Resilience. Our people’s safety cannot be delegated to a council or commission. We must act now before another major disaster shakes us into action.”

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte
Fourth and Fifth SONA,
July 2019 and 2020

Figure 5.8 Key Features of the Proposed Department of Disaster Resilience



Source: Administration Version of the Department of Disaster Resilience Bill

197 Administration version of the DDR Bill.

Safeguarded the Integrity of the Environment Towards Sustainable Development



The 23.85-hectare Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center (NAPWC), found in the heart of Quezon City, is one of the new 94 protected areas, pursuant to RA no. 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System (E-NIPAS) Act of 2018.

Photo Credit: DENR

Disasters are oftentimes triggered or aggravated by environmental degradation that resulted from human exploitation of natural resources. Thus, for our disaster risk reduction and management efforts to be successful, it must be tackled in harmony with environmental protection, which is a component of our even larger goal—sustainable development.

When I assumed office in 2016, I saw up-close the state of our environment. Previous efforts on climate change adaptation and management were minimal, and the enforcement of environmental laws was weak. In line with protecting the environment while advancing sustainable development practices, we made several bold decisions to address the

longstanding environmental problems that we inherited.

Protected Philippine Biodiversity and Sustained the Adaptive Capacities of Ecosystems

The wealth of a nation is anchored on safeguarding the integrity of its environment and natural resources. Thus, we can only truly prosper if these are continuously nourished for the benefit of the present and future generations. Towards this end, we intensified our efforts to restore and protect wildlife habitats and ecosystems through conservation measures and sustainable management of the country's protected areas. We likewise strictly enforced regulations to avert illegal wildlife trade.

Sustained the Gains of the Enhanced National Greening Program (ENGP).¹⁹⁸

In line with our goal of rejuvenating our unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands, we sustained the implementation of the ENGP. From 2017 to June 30, 2021, 387.73 million seedlings were planted covering an area of 422,047 hectares, which is about 86 percent of our target area of 491,460 hectares of unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands until 2021.

The ENGP generated an estimated 1.61 million jobs related to seedling production and plantation establishment and maintenance. It also provided incomes to 248,144 individuals from local communities and people's organizations.



DENR Secretary Cimatu plants a narra seedling to rise with the towering mahogany trees that he planted 44 years ago as a Philippine Army junior officer along the major road of Camp Leandro Fullon in Antique. His stop-over at the camp site coincides with his visit to the DENR-Region VI office in May 2017 — marking the first leg of his official tour of duty as the DENR chief.

Photo Credit: DENR

Strengthened the Management of Protected Areas to Restore Ecosystems.¹⁹⁹

To further boost our efforts to conserve and protect the country's rich biodiversity and ecosystems, I signed into law RA no. 11038 or the E-NIPAS Act on June 22, 2018. As an amendment to the NIPAS Act of 1992, the E-NIPAS Act identifies additional 94 protected areas, bringing the total number of protected areas covered by legislation to 107, with a combined area of 4.38 million hectares. The legislation permanently changed the classification of public lands within these protected areas into national parks pursuant to the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which cannot be changed unless by an act of Congress. The law also strengthens institutional arrangements for the management of protected areas and streamlines the process for accessing the Integrated Protected Area Fund for harnessing economic opportunities in the sites.

Intensified Law Enforcement Against Illegal Trade of Wildlife Species.²⁰⁰

The destruction and conversion of natural habitats, including illegal wildlife hunting and trade, bring undue disturbance to wildlife that may increase the risk of disease spillover to humans.

Thus, this Administration has been persistent in combatting the illegal trade of wildlife species through more stringent policing activities. This includes the designation of more forest rangers to guard against illegal collection, possession, and trade of wildlife.

Through the DENR's intensified wildlife protection and enforcement efforts,

198 DENR, July 9, 2021.

199 Ibid.

200 Ibid.

coupled with the sustainable management of ecosystems, 12 species are no longer on the edge of extinction. The respective conservation status of these species were downlisted from endangered to vulnerable, and vulnerable to other threatened species (OTS)²⁰¹ in 2019 (see Figure 5.9).

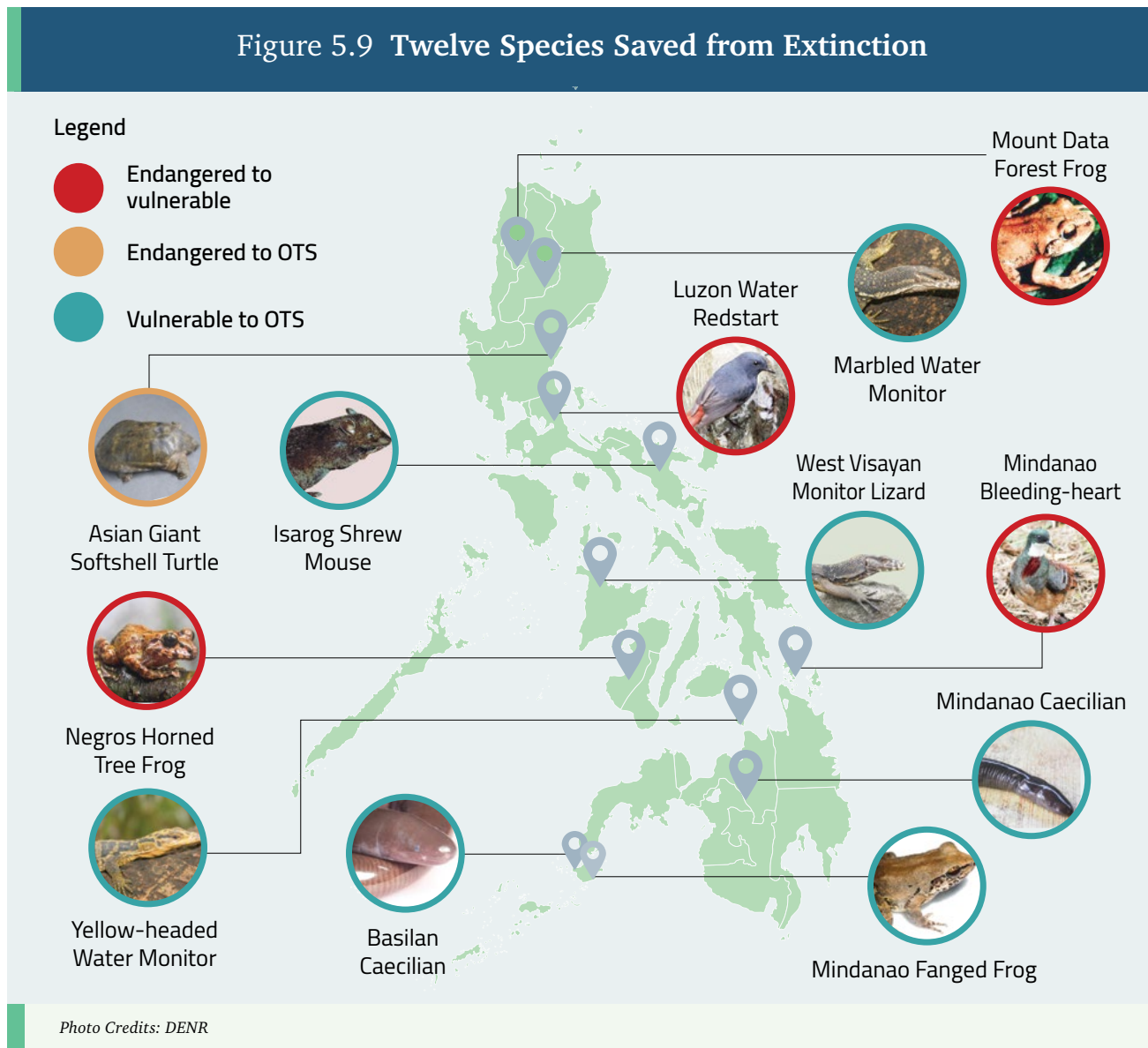
The DENR conducted 91 enforcement operations from July 2016 to June 2021, leading to the confiscation of 6,172 pieces of flora, fauna, including wildlife

products, cave resources, and 64.63 kilograms of agarwood, with an estimated cost of PhP132 million.

Improved Environmental Quality for the Well-being of Filipinos

Our resolve to strengthen compliance with environmental standards and mitigate the negative impacts of human activities to the environment and human health remain a top non-negotiable.

Figure 5.9 Twelve Species Saved from Extinction



201 DENR AO no. 2019-09 defines the following: (i) endangered species – critically endangered species whose survival in the wild is unlikely if the causal factors continue operating; (ii) vulnerable species – neither critically endangered nor endangered but is under threat from adverse factors throughout its range and is likely to be moved to the endangered category in the future; and (iii) OTS – species or its varieties that is not critically endangered, endangered, or vulnerable, but is under threat from adverse factors such as over collection throughout its range.

Pursued the Rehabilitation of the Manila Bay.²⁰² The sustainability of Manila Bay has been threatened over the years by pollution, illegal and destructive fishing, overexploitation of resources, and uncontrolled development. On December 18, 2008, the Supreme Court issued a Writ of Continuing Mandamus directing 13 government agencies to clean up, rehabilitate, and preserve Manila Bay to make its waters fit for swimming, skin diving, and other forms of contact recreation. Unfortunately, no immediate substantial actions to comply with the Supreme Court’s order were undertaken.

In line with our strong resolve to bring Manila Bay back to life, we launched the DENR-led Manila Bay Rehabilitation Program in 2019. Part of our ongoing efforts include the continuous dredging of waste materials along the Manila Bay coastline; clean-up of *esteros* that drain to the Bay; repair and rehabilitation of old sewer lines within Metro Manila; and establishment of a solar-powered sewage treatment facility along Roxas Boulevard. We likewise shut down all illegally operating open dumpsites surrounding the Manila Bay region,²⁰³ while ensuring that LGUs within the region have access to sanitary landfills.



The beach nourishment project along Manila Baywalk is being undertaken to prevent coastal erosion and increase beach width.

Photo Credit: DENR



In July 2020, the DENR unveiled the country’s first solar-powered sewage treatment plant that can treat 500,000 liters/day of domestic wastewater from major drainage outfalls along Manila Bay.

Photo Credit: DENR

Improved Water Quality in Manila Bay

Water samples taken from 21 water quality monitoring stations surrounding Manila Bay showed that its water quality had improved since its rehabilitation.

As of June 29, 2021, average fecal coliform level in the waters of Manila Baywalk area registered at 16,900 most probably number per 100 milliliters (MPN/100ml). This is significantly lower than the 5.75 million MPN/100ml average fecal coliform level in 2019, although still way above the 100 MPN/100ml standard that is for safe swimming and other forms of contact recreation.

Fecal coliform level in the waters near the beach nourishment project, beside the US Embassy, likewise dropped from 2.2 million MPN/100ml on January 4, 2021 to 6,633 MPN/100ml on July 2, 2021, based on the average count from three monitoring stations.

202 DENR, July 9, 2021.

203 The Manila Bay region is composed of the NCR and eight provinces from Regions III and IV-A (i.e., Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Laguna, Rizal, and Cavite). As of April 2021, 151 or 81 percent of 187 LGUs have access to sanitary landfills.

Continued the Rehabilitation of Boracay Island.²⁰⁴ It is the government's mandate to take care of the nation's marine wealth. For this reason, I issued Proclamation no. 475 in 2018, ordering Boracay Island's temporary closure from tourists to give way to its long-overdue rehabilitation after decades of indiscriminate development that led to its degradation.

Through our decisive and collective actions, we gave Boracay Island a new lease in life. Spearheaded by the Boracay Inter-Agency Task Force (BIATF),²⁰⁵ our implementation

of various high-impact developmental initiatives in the Island helped restore it to its former glory and avert its further degradation (*see Figure 5.10*).

To sustain the gains from rehabilitation, the Boracay Island Development Authority (BIDA) must be created. The BIDA will focus on developing the Island as a self-sustaining commercial, financial, investment, and tourism center, while also taking into account the protection and preservation of the Island's natural resources and biodiversity.



The new Boracay

Photo Credit: DOT and DENR

204 DENR, July 9, 2021; and DPWH, April 26, 2021.

205 A resolution by the DOT, DENR, and DILG endorsing the term extension of the BIATF is underway. (Source: OES, July 1, 2021.)

Figure 5.10 Rehabilitated Boracay Island (as of June 2021)



Improved Water Quality Status: As of end-2020, the average coliform level at the “White Beach” was down to **10 MPN/100ml**. This is way below the 100 MPN/100ml standard for swimming, skin diving, and other recreational activities.



Enforced strict easement rules

- **1,022 out of 1,230 establishments** compliant with the 12-meter road easement rule
- **273 out of 339 structures** compliant with the 25+5-meter beach easement rule



Improved ecosystem management

- Implemented an integrated wetland management plan, in partnership with the private sector, resulting in **five out of nine wetlands** adopted for rehabilitation by private companies
- Prepared the **Cave Management Plan for the Protection and Management and Preservation of the Golden Flying Fox**



Expansion of septage and sewerage facilities

- **428 establishments and households** connected to sewer lines of the Boracay Island Water Company, Inc.
- **151 out of 158 establishments** complied with the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP)



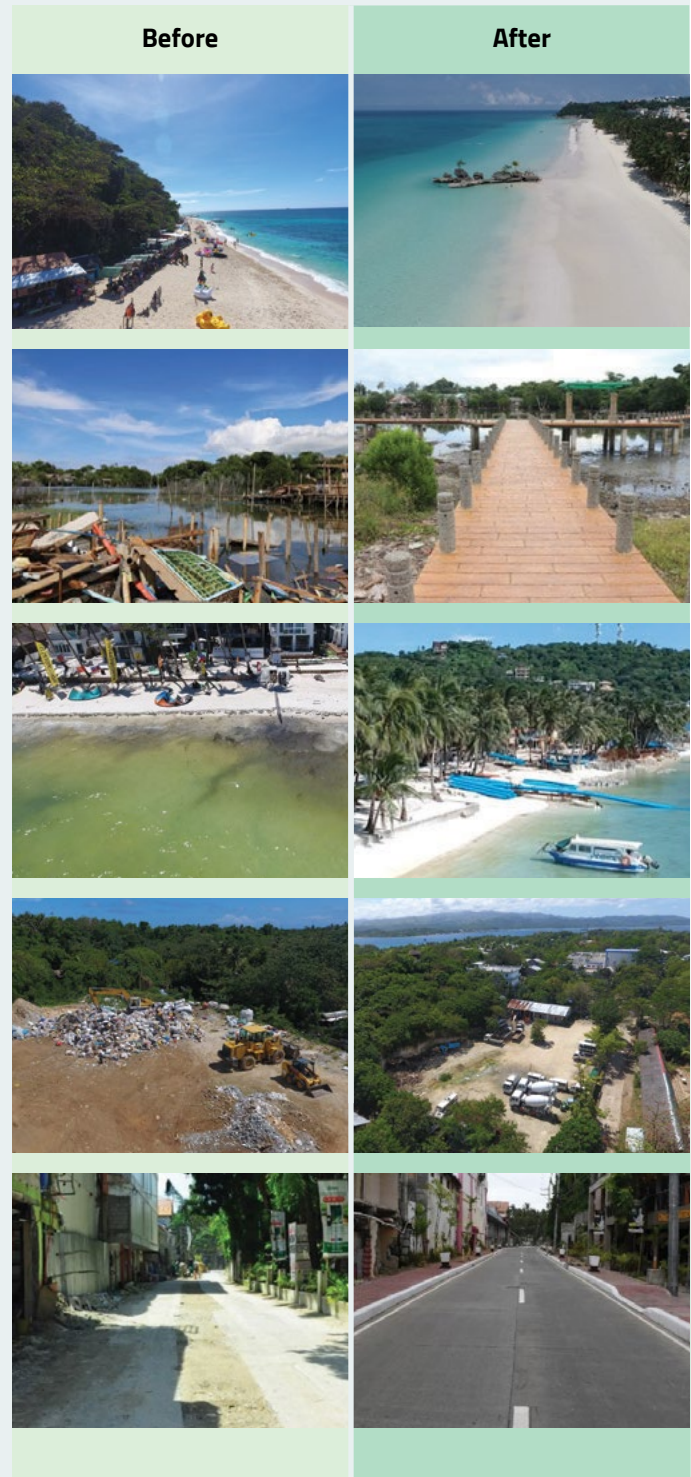
Strengthened solid waste management

- Identified **69 pick-up points**, each with a solid waste monitoring officer, for the collection of segregated wastes from establishments and households



Paved and widened road connections

- Completed the improvement and rehabilitation of **8.73 kilometers of the 21.64-kilometer** Boracay Circumferential Road



Source: DENR

Sustained Efforts on the Area Development of Laguna de Bay.²⁰⁶ The Laguna de Bay is a multi-use water resource for irrigation, hydropower, transport, recreation, livelihood, and domestic use. However, due to unsustainable practices, the condition of the Laguna de Bay slowly worsened over the years.

In my first SONA, I directed the transformation of Laguna de Bay into a vibrant ecotourism zone where the welfare of poor fisherfolk is prioritized. We have come a long way since then (see Figure 5.11).

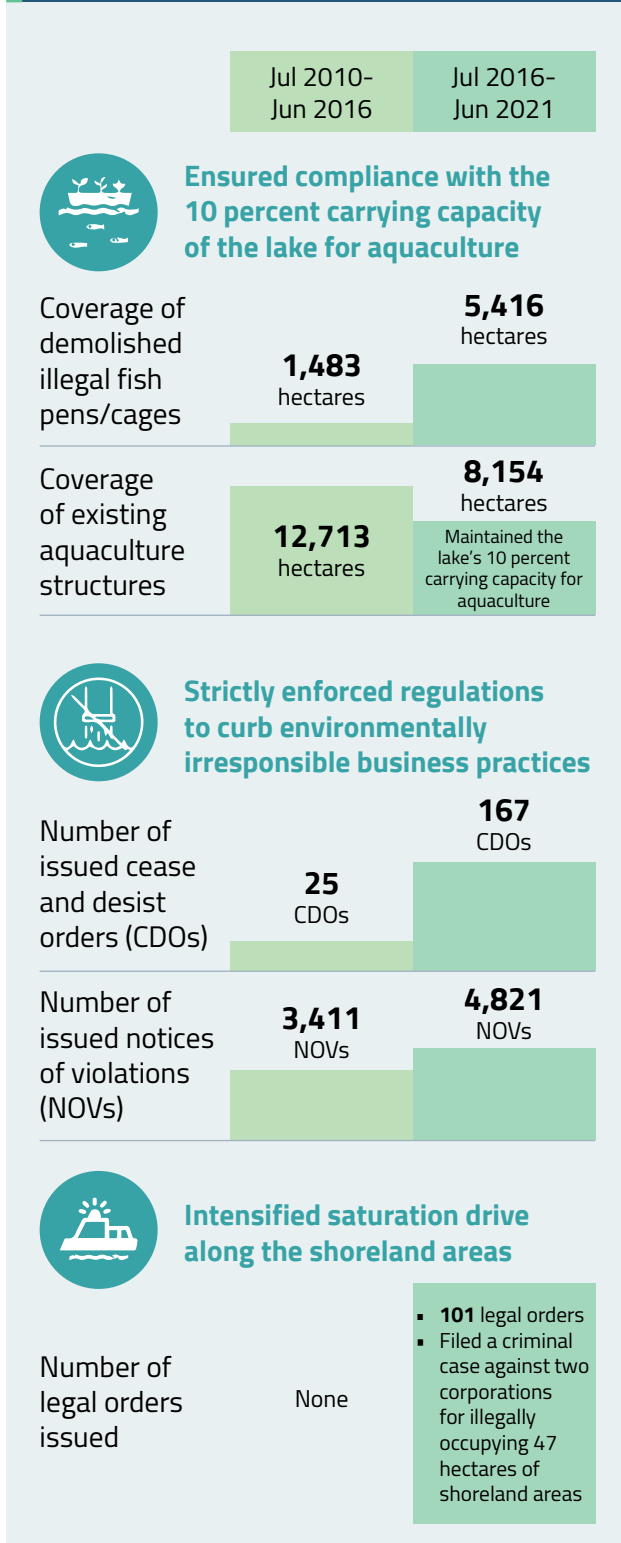


This floating solar farm, which is a joint project of Solar Philippines, Laguna Lake Development Authority, and the Municipality of Cardona, Rizal, will supply power to a covered court and a multi-purpose hall. A component of this project is the study on the effects of lake-based pilot solar farm in the Lake's water quality and fish growth.

Photo Credit: LLDA

Intensified Solid Waste Management.²⁰⁷ Twenty years since the enactment of RA no. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which prohibits, among others, the use of open dumpsites for disposal of solid wastes, it is only during this Administration that the long

Figure 5.11 Restored Laguna de Bay



Source: DENR

206 DENR, July 9, 2021.

207 Ibid.

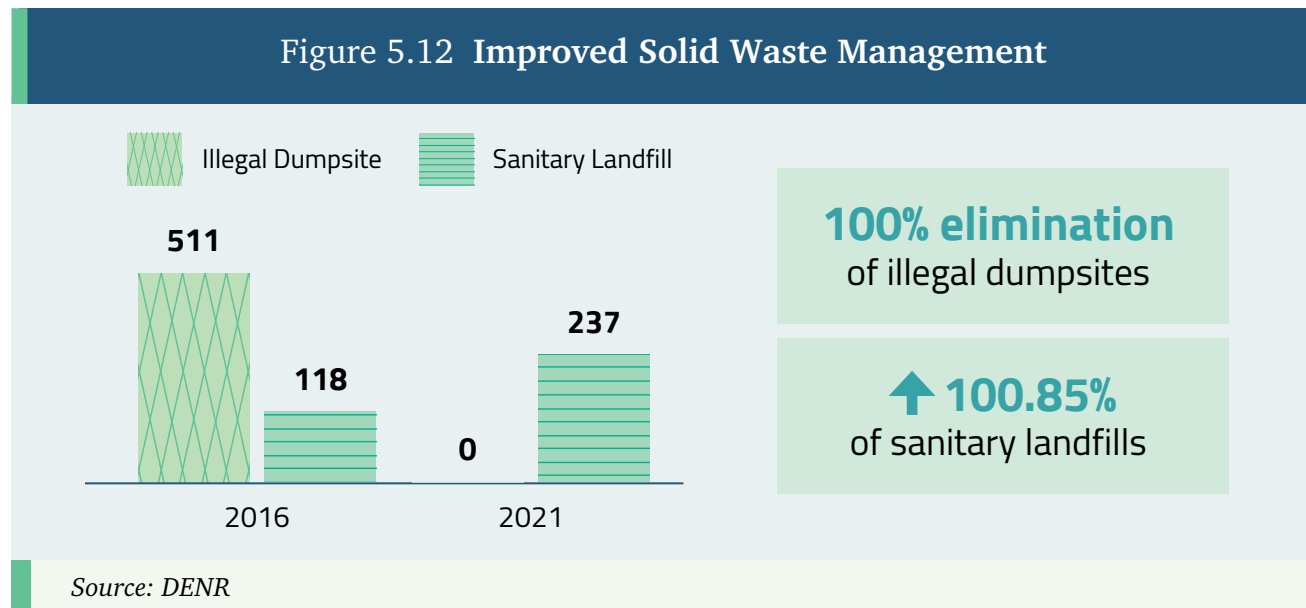
overdue closure of all illegally operating open dumpsites was accomplished. From 511 existing open dumpsites in 2016, the country’s last existing open dumpsite in Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental ceased operations in May 2021.

Aside from shutting open dumps, the DENR is also pursuing the establishment of sanitary landfills nationwide, as the primary environmentally acceptable method of solid waste disposal allowed under RA no. 9003. From 118 sanitary landfills in 2016, there were 237 sanitary landfills across the country as of June 2021 (see Figure 5.12).

Improved Air Quality Monitoring and Management.²⁰⁸ Air quality monitoring is a crucial step towards corrective action to reduce air pollution. Thus, the DENR continues to strengthen its air quality monitoring system to ensure that the environment and public health are protected from the dangers of air pollution.

From July 2016 to June 2021, 109 air quality monitoring stations were strategically installed by the DENR in 16 regions nationwide. Of the total, 54 are capable of continuous online monitoring, while 55 are using manual method of sampling.

Figure 5.12 Improved Solid Waste Management



Returned Canada’s Garbage

Between 2013 and 2014, 103 container vans were transported to Manila by Chronic Plastics Inc., a Canadian company. Though declared to contain recyclable plastics, the shipments, upon arrival in Manila, were found to actually contain tons of household wastes.

For years, the Philippines had called on Canada to retrieve the garbage. The latter, however, had been vague in its commitment to resolve the issue.

With the Administration’s strong resolve and decisive action to send back the wastes to its country of origin, 69 garbage-laden containers from Canada finally sailed out of the country on May 31, 2019.

208 DENR, July 9, 2021.

Employed Space Data for Air and Water Quality Monitoring.²⁰⁹ On August 8, 2019, RA no. 11363 or the Philippine Space Act was passed, providing for the establishment of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) as the central government agency for addressing all national issues and activities related to space science and technology applications.

In August 2020, marking PhilSA's first anniversary, the PhilSA and the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute launched the Space Data Dashboard, a platform that analyzes and compares different sets of space data, e.g., traffic monitoring, nightlights, land cover, air quality, and water quality.

The platform also highlights maps and other data in monitoring ground activities related to the impact of COVID-19, such as comparison of land and air traffic density, nitrogen dioxide emission observations, nightlights, and pollution monitoring — among many others — before and during the quarantine period. These proxy indicators may be utilized by government scientists, and other experts in various research and policy-related activities that study vulnerability and resilience.

Sustaining the Plant, Plant, Plant Program (Agri 4Ps)²¹⁰

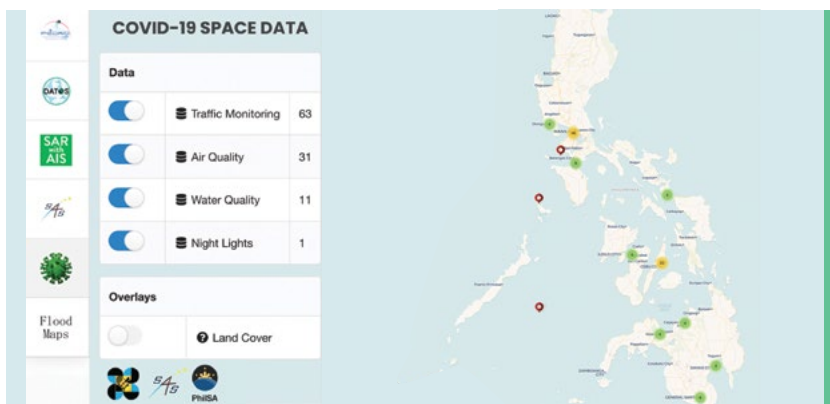


Green space in Tanay, Rizal.

Photo Credit: PMS

In recognition of the decline in food supply and production due to the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, we intensified the implementation of the Agri 4Ps to benefit our farmers, fisherfolk, and consumers nationwide. This is our centerpiece initiative, with our LGUs as our main partners, to ensure sustained food production and availability, accessibility, and affordability amidst the threats of the pandemic and beyond.

Employing the whole-of-nation approach to increase the country's food sufficiency level, we allotted PhP90 billion in 2021 for the agri-fishery sector including PhP41.6 billion under *Bayanihan 1* and *2* to bolster our COVID-19 response programs; and continuously expand local food production to avoid potential shortage.



The Space Data Dashboard is a publicly accessible Philippine earth and marine observation (EMO) data obtained from various satellites. These EMO data can be used as proxy indicators for pollution, health, economic activity, and even in tracking indicators related to the country's pandemic response.

Photo Credit: PhilSA

209 DOST, July 9, 2021.

210 DA, July 9, 2021.

Way Forward: Towards A More Resilient and Healthy Nation



View from Mount Cabuyao in Tuba, Benguet

Photo Credit: DOT

To quote the great scientist Albert Einstein, *“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”*

COVID-19 will not be the last pandemic that the world will face. For our country to be ready for future outbreaks, we must be bold in our actions towards increasing our resilience and adaptive capacities.

Future-proofing our country demands a long list of immediate-, medium-, and long-term strategies that the government could not do alone. By employing a whole-of-society approach, we shall focus our strategies into three key result areas: pandemic risk reduction, pandemic response and management, and building forward better.

Part of these strategies is to continuously reform, integrate, and modernize our healthcare system. In line with this, we hope to pursue the creation of institutions dedicated to managing emerging and re-emerging diseases.

However, we should not allow the pandemic to overshadow our other urgent concerns. Lest we forget, there are other massive threats that can undermine us.

Researchers at the Hong Kong University likened to a time bomb the large reservoir of coronavirus-like viruses in bats found in southern China. They emphasized the need to prepare for the possibility of the re-emergence of severe acute respiratory syndrome and other novel viruses from animals and other origins.

That warning came from more than a decade ago. Yet, up to this day and age and despite all the advancements by mankind, an invisible enemy of the same name has caught the world off guard and left it reeling. **The message of the pandemic is crystal clear: complacency breeds catastrophe and knowledge without action is dangerous.**

As we speak, other imminent dangers are lurking just beneath our feet. The West Valley Fault is ripe for movement and can generate a 7.2-magnitude earthquake that may flatten areas within the GMMA. Additionally, the rising sea levels is predicted to sink a part of Metro Manila.

We must prepare now or we will perish.

Ensuring people's survival, the national government's continuity, and the uninterrupted delivery of public services in the event of a major disaster remain our top priorities. Thus, we shall continue pursuing the transformation of the highly vulnerable Metro Manila-centric governance model into a resilient 21st Century bureaucracy. In line with this, we initiated the establishment of redundant government centers in more resilient sites

across the archipelago. We look forward to the institutionalization of a national land use policy that would provide a science-based approach to the rational allocation, development, and management of the country's land resources, as imperatives of sustainable and resilient development. We likewise hope for the creation of a department that could focus full-time on bolstering the resilience of our nation to natural hazards and managing the effects of climate change.

To defeat the pandemic, mitigate the impact of climate change, and sustain the reforms we initiated in protecting the environment, we must work with seamless unity, continuity, and consistency. Our present challenges transcend geographic and political borders. In recognition of the critical role of local governments, we therefore enjoin their full cooperation in our whole-of-government and whole-of-nation response to crises of massive proportions.

We still have a long way to go in bolstering the resilience of our nation, but I am confident that the seeds we planted these last five years have deeply rooted as a robust foundation of a better future.



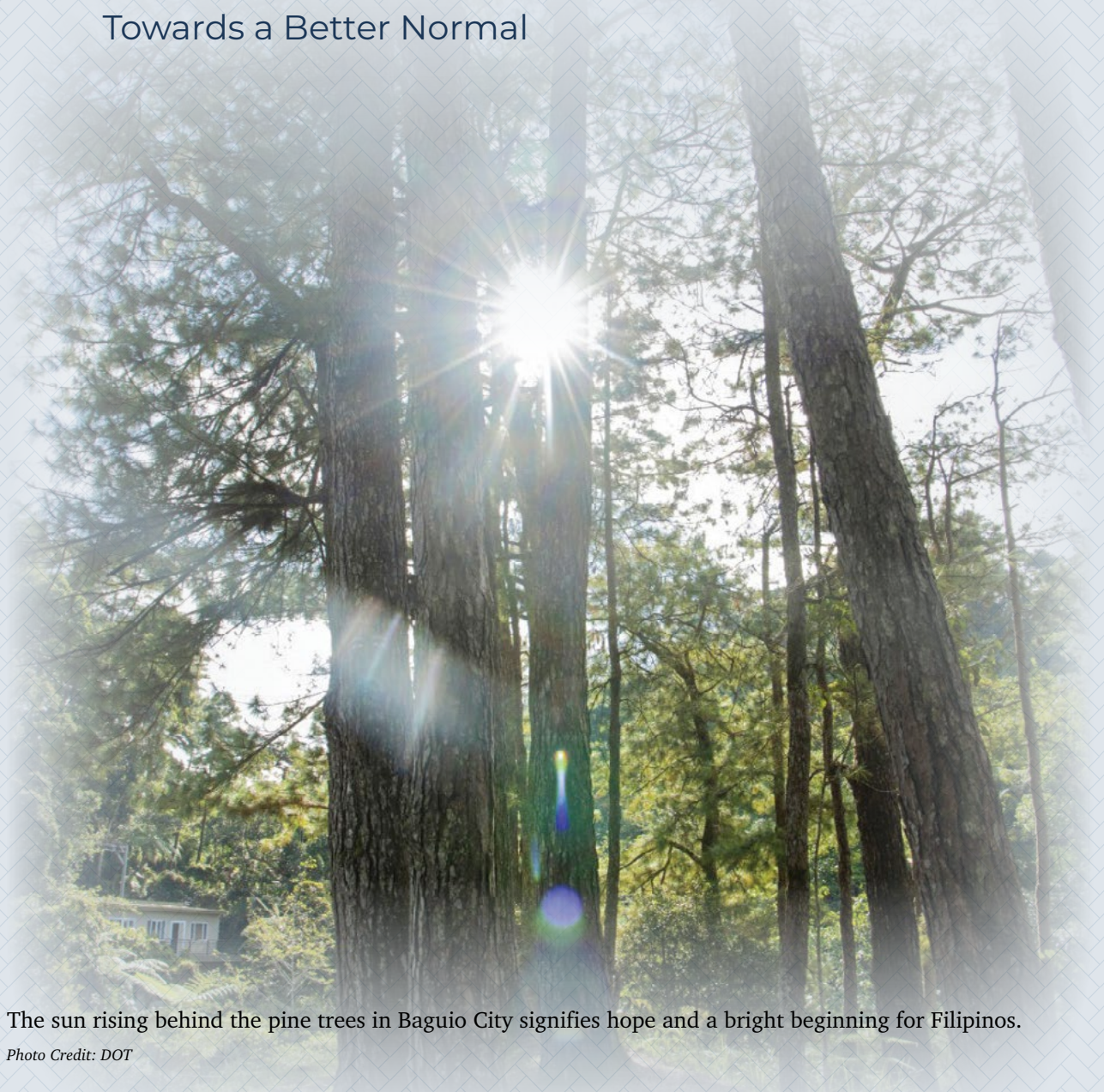
A bird flies over the waters surrounding Olango Island in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. The Island is known for its wildlife sanctuary where people go for bird-watching.

Photo Credit: DOT

PAGBANGON:

Ushering in a Better Normal for All Filipinos

- VI. Dispersing Economic Activities
Towards Balanced Regional Development
- VII. Reinforcing the Spirit of *Malasakit*
and *Bayanihan* among Filipinos
- VIII. Forging Ahead as One
Towards a Better Normal



The sun rising behind the pine trees in Baguio City signifies hope and a bright beginning for Filipinos.

Photo Credit: DOT

Chapter

6

Dispersing Economic Activities Towards Balanced Regional Development



With the trust and help of the private sector and the Filipino people, I am confident that we can build the foundations of an inclusive, robust, and prosperous nation that we can proudly leave behind to our children.”

The President’s speech during the inauguration of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3. Completed in partnership with the San Miguel Corporation, Skyway Stage 3 is the longest elevated toll road in the country.

Photo Credit: San Miguel Corporation

As a Mindanaoan, I have personally witnessed and experienced the ill effects brought about by our country’s decades-old problem of inequitable regional development. Though referred to as the “Land of Promise,” many areas in Mindanao have remained poor. This is no different from every *Juana* and *Juan dela Cruz* in far-flung areas across the country who are deprived of opportunities that are available only in urban centers. As a result, many of our *kababayan* flocked to big cities, which led to overpopulation, pollution, and urban decay over the years.

Against this backdrop, I embraced the mission of laying down the foundation for a balanced, responsive, and sustained regional development from day one of my Administration.



The President delivers a speech during the inauguration of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 on January 14, 2021. Behind the President are Senator Go, Executive Secretary Medialdea, and House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco.

Photo Credit: DOTr

Crucial to rectifying our country's inequitable growth is infrastructure development. Before the pandemic, we implemented much-needed and long-awaited projects under the Build, Build, Build (BBB) Program. These forward-looking projects aim to improve the quality of life of Filipinos both in urban and rural communities.

For those in the urban centers, these projects shall provide quality, convenient, and accessible multi-modal transportation networks, enabling them to seamlessly move without delay. Meanwhile, those in far-flung areas shall be enabled to access better opportunities for growth and development.

We likewise made radical reforms in the telecommunications sector and poured sizeable investments in technology and innovation to ensure that people in remote areas can keep pace with those from the better developed parts of the country through access to information, services, and employment opportunities.

As complementary initiatives, we are pursuing the creation of safe and sustainable communities in the countryside and harnessing strategic growth areas in all corners of the country.

While more work needs to be done, I am confident that through our initiatives, the Filipino people shall be better prepared to face the new normal.

Enhanced Mobility and Connectivity

Infrastructure has long been considered the *Achilles' heel* of our country's development. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), developing countries like the Philippines should invest more than five percent of their GDP on infrastructure to achieve and sustain economic growth and development. However, from 1992 to 2015, our country's annual public infrastructure spending was below five percent of the GDP.

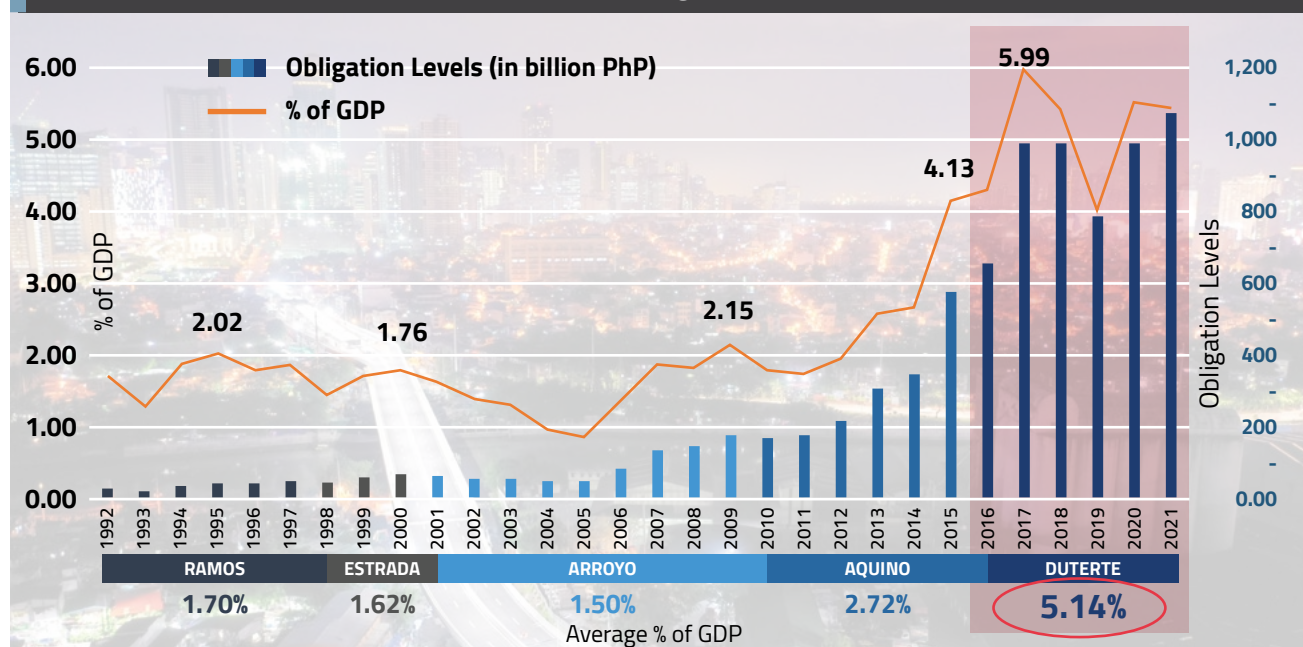
This is why we brought it upon us to set the stage for the country's Golden Age of Infrastructure. We have spent an average of 5.14 percent of the country's GDP for infrastructure development since 2016. This is significantly higher than the investments made

by each of the past four administrations (see Figure 6.1).

To ensure that our infrastructure projects remain relevant and achievable amidst the pandemic, we reassessed our strategies and targets under the BBB Program. I am confident that with the right policies, financial instruments, and a whole-of-government approach, the implementation of the BBB Program shall put the Philippines in a stronger and more competitive position in the coming years.

We remain faithful to our commitment to distribute wealth, expand local businesses, and create more jobs through infrastructure development even as we face tremendous constraints brought about by the pandemic.

Figure 6.1 Significantly Increased Government Infrastructure Spending as Percentage of GDP



Source: DBM

Photo Credit: Dim Valencia, content creator of a web page on Philippine transportation infrastructure

Increased Sea Connectivity²¹¹

For an archipelagic country like ours, the need to improve maritime connectivity is indisputable. The economic activities and daily lives of many Filipinos depend largely on maritime transportation. Domestic shipping, in particular, remains the most affordable way for our small farmers and micro-entrepreneurs to transport goods to markets and business hubs across islands. Thus, we strived to modernize and expand seaports, construct new ones, and increase the number of roll-on/roll-off (RoRo) trade routes.

In 2016, we only had 120 RoRo routes, which facilitated the annual movement of about 223 ships and 2.8 million vehicles nationwide. As of end-2020, we had opened 61 additional trade routes, increasing the number of RoRo routes to 181, which cater to 274 ships and 4.7 million vehicles per year. By the end of my term, we aim to open 41 additional maritime trade routes. With these new routes, we will be able to cater to 325 ships and 4.8 million vehicles per year.

To provide better accessibility to coastal and island communities, we completed more than 400 seaport projects as of June 2021 (see Figure 6.2). Notable among these completed projects is the **Cagayan De Oro (CDO) City Port Passenger Terminal Building**, which was inaugurated in July 2019. The CDO terminal is the biggest in the country and can accommodate up to 3,000 passengers per day.

Seaports that were devastated by natural calamities during the

previous administration underwent major improvements. The second terminal of the **Port of Tagbilaran** was inaugurated in April 2021. The completion of the project is an important milestone for Tagbilaran City's main port after it sustained significant structural damage from the Bohol earthquake in 2013. With the completion of the new terminal, the Port of Tagbilaran can now accommodate an additional 613 passengers – bringing the Port's total passenger capacity to more than 1,000 at any given time. Also, the restoration of the **Ports of Tacloban and Ormoc**, which were severely damaged by super typhoon Yolanda in 2013, were completed in 2018 and 2020, respectively. By 2022, we target to complete an additional 44 seaport projects (see Annex Table 6.1).

To serve as a long-term solution to the congestion problems of the current Cebu International Port, the construction of the US\$199.25 million **New Cebu International Container Port (NCICP)** is now underway, with groundworks targeted to start by January 2022. The NCICP, which is one of the big-ticket flagship infrastructure projects under this Administration, is targeted for completion by 2024.

Parallel to these projects, we continue to modernize our country's lighthouses to ensure maritime safety. From 543 in 2016, we increased operational lighthouses to 564 as of June 2021.

211 DOTr, June and July 2021.

Figure 6.2 Strengthened Inter-Island Connectivity through Strategic Port Projects



Source and Photo Credit: DOTr

*Based on available data

Enhanced Air Connectivity²¹²

Numerous long-standing issues in our air transportation sector greeted this Administration when it took office in mid-2016. Many of our airports had old, dilapidated, and incomplete facilities. Our vital international and primary airports, especially the NAIA, on which international travelers base their first impressions of the country, had stagnated and were left behind by their counterparts in neighboring countries.

I experienced first-hand the struggles of our countrymen, especially our OFWs, and foreign tourists in travelling through the NAIA with runways and taxiways riddled with potholes and surface depressions. The long waiting period for flights and disembarkation that travelers had to endure due to airport congestion was simply unacceptable.

To decongest our airports, especially the NAIA, we constructed new airports and improved existing ones. From July 2016 to May 2021, we completed more than 200 airport projects, including long-delayed international airport projects and the rehabilitation of airports severely damaged by natural calamities in previous years.

Among the major projects completed were the new terminal buildings of the **Mactan-Cebu International Airport** and the **Clark International Airport**. The **Ormoc Airport**, which served as a reminder of the devastation brought by super typhoon Yolanda in 2013, was upgraded with the completion of its renovated terminal and expansion of its floor area from 150 to 1,350 square meters. Similarly, the Tacloban Airport, which is the

gateway to Eastern Visayas and one of the busiest airports in the country is being given a face lift. The construction of its control tower and new terminal is targeted for completion in 2022.

The country's first "eco-airport," the **Bohol-Panglao International Airport (BPIA)**, was also completed under our term. Inaugurated in November 2018, the airport was a long-overdue project. The feasibility study for the project was done in 2000 with actual substantial construction works undertaken only at the start of my Administration in 2016. This is a mark of my governance: we get things done and show concrete results for our people. Built with environment-friendly and energy-saving features, the BPIA can serve two million passengers annually, a significant increase from the 800,000 passengers accommodated by its predecessor, the Tagbilaran Airport.

We also inaugurated on June 4, 2021, the newly improved **Kalibo International Airport**, which is the gateway to Boracay. The airport's expanded 2,633.40-square meter international terminal can now accommodate 406 passengers from its previous 344 passenger volume.

One of our ongoing big-ticket airport infrastructure projects for completion within my term is located in Bicol, Luzon's emerging economic powerhouse. After a delay of 11 years and three groundbreakings, the **Bicol International Airport (BIA)** was finally realized under this Administration. Identified as the "Most Scenic Gateway," the BIA is targeted to be completed within 2021 with a capacity of two million passengers annually (*see Figure 6.3 and Annex Table 6.2*).

212 DOTr, June and July 2021.



DND Secretary Lorenzana, Executive Secretary Medialdea, DOT Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, and DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade witness the inauguration and commissioning of the repair and overlay of the NAIA's Runway 13/31 on February 16, 2021.

Photo Credit: DOT

Consistent with my directive for the DOTr to pursue all possible means to decongest air traffic operations, especially at the NAIA, we increased the number of airports capable of accommodating night flights. From 14 night-rated airports in 2016, we had more than 20 night-rated airports as of June 14, 2021. We are also developing other airports for future night-rating such as the **Cauayan Airport** and **Tuguegarao Airport** (see *Figure 6.3*).

Our efforts to reduce flight delays also showed results. With the help of our private partners, we improved the on-time performance (OTP)²¹³ of our airlines. As early as 2017, the OTP of airlines at the NAIA improved from about 50 to 70 percent due to the strict implementation of the five-minute rule.²¹⁴ In 2019, the NAIA received a Star Rating for its consistent OTP for the period 2017 to 2018 from the Official Aviation Guide, a UK-based air travel intelligence company. We expect to have an 85 to 90 percent OTP rating by the end of my Administration.

In February 2021, we also inaugurated the upgraded airside facilities of the NAIA. These are the repaired and cemented NAIA Runway 13/31 and the additional holding area, which will boost the airport's maximum allowable commercial aircraft movement from 40 to 50 flight movements per hour. The completed project will help ease air traffic at the NAIA, especially now, as our people gain confidence to travel again after getting vaccinated (see *Figure 6.4*).

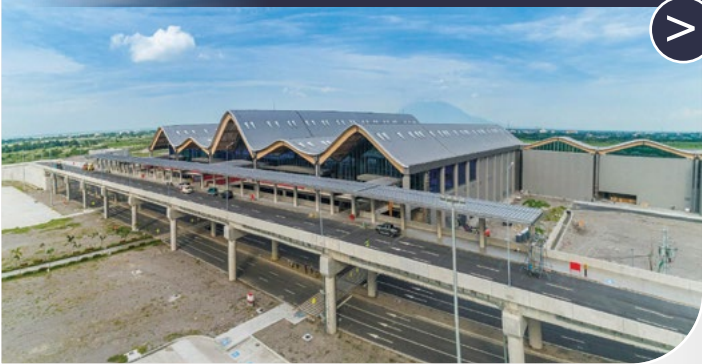
To complement these efforts, we are enhancing air traffic safety. On January 16, 2018, we commissioned the Communications, Navigation, Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM). From only three radars covering 30 percent of Philippine airspace in 2016, we now have 10 additional radars – ensuring the full coverage of Philippine airspace in 2018.

213 An airline departure or arrival, which is considered to be on time if a departure or arrival occurs within 15 minutes of the scheduled time.

214 The policy requires pilots who declared that they are ready to take off shall depart within the prescribed time or they would be put at the back of the queue.

Figure 6.3 Enhanced Air Travel through Vital Airport Projects

Clark International Airport



Asia's Premier Gateway

World class terminal completed in September 2020

International operations to start by September 2021

Increased the airport's annual capacity from 4.2 million passengers to **12.2 million**

Mactan-Cebu International Airport



World's Friendliest Resort Airport

World class terminal inaugurated in June 2018

Increased the airport's annual capacity from 4.5 million passengers to **13.5 million**

Bohol-Panglao International Airport



Country's First Eco-Airport

Inaugurated in November 2018

Can accommodate **2 million** passengers per year

Bicol International Airport



Most Scenic Gateway

Can accommodate **2 million** passengers per year

For completion within 2021

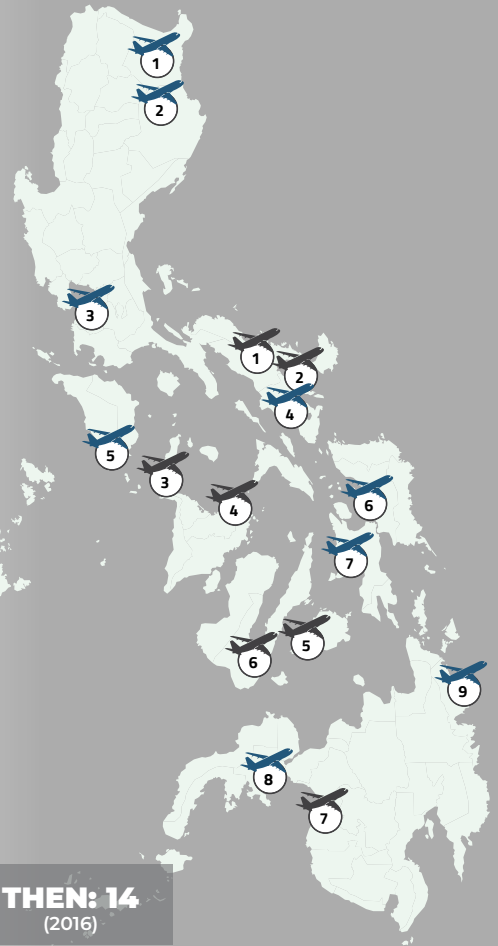
AIRPORT PROJECTS

THEN
(2016)

No significant progress in key international airports

NOW
(2021)

Completed and improved various international airports



THEN: 14
(2016)

Airports Night-Rated* under the Duterte Administration

1. Naga Airport (Departure only)
2. Legazpi Airport
3. Caticlan Airport
4. Roxas Airport
5. Bohol-Panglao International Airport
6. Dumaguete Airport
7. Cotabato Airport (Departure only)

NOW: 21
(2021)


Airports for Future Night-Rating

1. Tuguegarao Airport**
2. Cauayan Airport**
3. Sangley Airport
4. Bicol International Airport
5. San Jose Airport
6. Catbalogan-Buri Airport
7. Ormoc Airport
8. Pagadian Airport
9. Tandag Airport

*or Instrument-Rated
**by 2022

Source and Photo Credit: DOTr

Figure 6.4 The NAIA: Then and Now

Then	The President's Policy Directions and Government Actions	Now
<p>One of the World's Worst Airports</p> <p>! One of the world's worst airports from 2011 to 2016, according to international travel critics</p> <p>! Flight delays normal with OTP at only 50%</p> <p>! Rampant incidents of <i>Laglag-Bala</i> and <i>Bukas-Bagahe</i></p> <p>! Airport security systems not technologically up-to-date</p> <p>! Overcrowded passenger terminals</p> <p>! Lack of transport options for passengers going home or with connecting flights in other terminals</p>	<p>“Address the problem on flight delays and cancellations in the short- and long-term and improve airport operations” (Surprise Inspection of the NAIA Terminal 2 in 2019)</p> <p>“Study the possibility of transferring flights to the Clark International Airport” to help decongest NAIA (1st Cabinet Meeting in June 2016)</p> <p>Government Actions</p> <p>Hired additional airport police enforcers</p> <p>Upgraded the Manila International Airport Authority's security equipment and explosive detection (e.g., acquisition of hold baggage x-ray machines with dual view energy security screening equipment worth PhP228.54 million)</p> <p>OFWs no longer required to line up to refund terminal fee</p> <p>Augmented passenger travel options through the premium airport shuttle bus service and more free airport shuttle services for inter-terminal connectivity</p>	<p>One of the World's Most Improved Airports</p>  <p>In 2018, NAIA was named the 10th most improved airport in the world by Skytrax, a UK-based consultancy firm.</p> <p>In 2017, NAIA was no longer among the worst airports by the “Guide to Sleeping in Airports.”</p> <p>In 2017, NAIA's OTP performance improved to 70%.</p> <p>The nightmare of <i>Laglag-Bala</i> is now behind us.</p>

Source and Photo Credit: DOTr

Developed Land Connectivity²¹⁵

For decades, many of our countrymen endured the poor public transportation infrastructure in the country. From roads, bridges, to railways, many of us grappled with inefficient infrastructure and transportation networks and systems that translate to huge economic losses. During my term, we endeavored to improve the connectivity of our islands through the construction and expansion of strategic roads, expressways, railways, and bridges.

Pursued the Construction of Roads for Trade and Tourism. To improve access and connectivity to tourism sites, we completed the construction, improvement, and upgrading of more than 2,400 km of roads leading to tourism destinations as of May 2021. We are also working on the completion of 1,200 km of tourism roads by 2022. These include the **Sabangan-Sagada Road** in Mt. Province, which will provide access to famous tourist sites such as the Kiltapan Peak, Sumaguing Cave, and Hanging Coffins.

To promote balanced development through the dispersal of industries to rural areas and the creation of more jobs and income opportunities for every *Juana* and *Juan*, we initiated the Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade (ROLL-IT) Program



The 9.86-km Sabangan-Sagada Road is 76% accomplished and slated for completion by 2022.

Photo Credit: DPWH

in November 2016. Through this program, we constructed and enhanced industry-developing infrastructure in priority tourism, economic, and manufacturing zones. As of May 2021, we completed more than 700 km of roads leading to industries and trade corridors while another 591 km are for completion by 2022. Notable among the completed roads is the **Poro Point Freeport Zone Road** in La Union. Completed in December 2020, this road supports development in the province by improving access to tourism sites in the area.

Advanced the Implementation of the Luzon Spine Expressway Network (LSEN) Program. Connecting numerous expressways across regions, the LSEN is a 1,101-km network of roads, which aims to reduce the travel time from Ilocos Region to Bicol Region from 20 hours to nine hours.

Under the LSEN, we completed the **North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) Harbor Link, Segment 10** in April 2019; the **NLEX Harbor Link, C-3-R10 Section** in June 2020; the **last segment of the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX)** in July 2020; opened the main trunkline of the **Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3** in December 2020; and inaugurated 18 km of the **Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Phase 1** on July 15, 2021. The government is fast-tracking the completion of more high standard highways and expressways that will form part of the LSEN such as the **Cavite-Laguna Expressway**, remaining portion of the **CLLEX Phase 1**, and **NLEX-South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Connector Road** (see Figure 6.5 and Annex Table 6.3).

215 DPWH, June and July 2021; and DOTr, June and July 2021.

Figure 6.5 Enhanced Transportation Network
through Long-Awaited Expressway Projects

Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3



**18.83-km
Elevated Expressway**

(from Buendia, Makati City to NLEX
in Balintawak, Quezon City)

Reduced travel time between the 2 areas

FROM: 2 hours
TO: 15-20 mins.

- Main trunkline opened in December 2020 while Section 2A is for completion by December 2021

NLEX Harbor Link C3-R10 Section



**2.6-km All Elevated
Portion of the NLEX
Harbor Link**

(from the C-3 Road, Caloocan to
Radial Road 10 in Navotas City)

Reduced travel time between
the port area of Manila and NLEX

FROM: 1 hour
TO: 10 mins.

- Benefits 30,000 motorists per day
- Completed in June 2020

NLEX Harbor Link Segment 10



**5.58-km
Expressway**

(connecting MacArthur Highway and C-3)

Reduced travel time between
Valenzuela City and C-3 Caloocan City

FROM: more than 1 hour
TO: 5 mins.

- Benefits 20,000 motorists per day
- Completed in April 2019



Source: DPWH
Photo Credit: DPWH and Dim Valencia

89.21-km Elevated Expressway

(from Tarlac City to Rosario, La Union)

Reduced travel time between the 2 areas

FROM: **3.5 hours**
TO: **1 hour**

- Benefits 20,000 motorists per day
- Opened to traffic in July 2020

Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway



30-km Expressway

(from Tarlac City to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija)

Will reduce travel time between the 2 areas

FROM: **70 mins.**
TO: **20 mins.**

- Will benefit 11,200 motorists per day
- 18 km section from Tarlac City to Aliaga, Nueva Ecija inaugurated on July 15, 2021
- Section up to Cabanatuan City for completion by 2022

CLLEX (Phase 1)



44.58-km

(connects CAVITEX in Kawit, Cavite and SLEX-Mamplasan in Biñan, Laguna)

Will reduce travel time between the 2 areas

FROM: **1.5 hours**
TO: **45 mins.**

- Laguna section is 100% completed
- Cavite section is 10% accomplished
- For completion by end-2022

Cavite-Laguna Expressway



Implemented Crucial Railway Projects.

Our railways had been plagued by so many problems. Then, the MRT-3 was called “MRTirik” as passengers were pestered by daily numerous breakdowns, unloading incidents, train derailment, and long waiting time between trains. Further, numerous rail projects were left hanging, including the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, MRT-7, Common Station, Metro Manila Subway, and the Northrail to Clark International Airport. Worse, from more than a thousand-kilometer railroad network in the 1970s, our country’s operational length drastically shrunk to only 77 km in 2016. It was unfathomable that while our neighboring countries were extending their railway networks, we were on the opposite path.

Thus, we revitalized and enhanced our railway systems. Compared to the Php438.05 billion estimated investment in approved rail projects as of July 2016, this Administration had almost Php1.7 trillion in investments in approved rail projects as of end-2020.

Aside from the **MRT-3 Rehabilitation Project**, which continues to record significant improvements as it nears its completion (see Figure 6.6), we finally witnessed the completion of the **LRT-2 East Extension**. Inaugurated on July 1, 2021, the LRT-2 East Extension reduces travel time between Manila and Antipolo from two to three hours to 40 minutes.

We are also looking forward to the partial completion of the **Common Station** by end-2021, which was delayed for a decade. The Common Station, which will connect MRT-3, MRT-7, LRT-1, and the Metro Manila Subway, can accommodate 500,000 passengers per day.



DOTr Secretary Tugade leads the inspection of the LRT-2 East Extension Project in May 2020.

Photo Credit: DOTr

Figure 6.6 MRT-3 Transformation



NOW
THEN

no longer records unloading incidents
numerous breakdowns, service interruptions, and unloading incidents



NOW
THEN

Trains run at 60 km per hour
30 km per hour



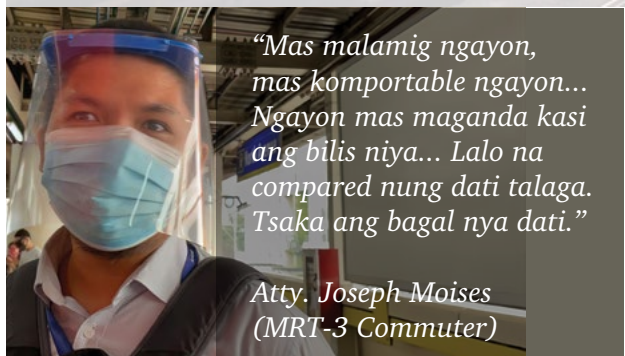
NOW
THEN

All-time high of 23 running trains
from the 10 to 15 trains before the rehabilitation



NOW
THEN

Reduced waiting time between trains to about 4 mins.
from 8 to 9.5 mins.



“Mas malamig ngayon, mas komportable ngayon... Ngayon mas maganda kasi ang bilis niya... Lalo na compared nung dati talaga. Tsaka ang bagal nya dati.”

*Atty. Joseph Moises
(MRT-3 Commuter)*

Source and Photo Credit: DOTr

Other railway projects are also in full swing. In 2019, after 40 years and six administrations, the **Metro Manila Subway**, our country's first underground railway system, finally started with site-clearing works at the Valenzuela Depot. Two massive tunnel boring machines have arrived in the country for the start of the underground works.

Moreover, the **MRT-7 Project**, which was discussed way back in 1998 but still with no single post built as of 2016, is now more than halfway complete and is targeted to be fully operational by 2022. Similarly, the **Manila to Clark Railway**, planned way back in 1993, is now undergoing full-blast construction with Philippine National Railways (PNR) Clark Phase 1's first train set scheduled for delivery within the fourth quarter of 2021. We are likewise pursuing the **extension of PNR services to other areas such as Laguna and Bicol**.

To my fellow Mindanaoans, I am pleased to report that Phase 1 of the Mindanao Railway is underway with the procurement process now on full speed. Once fully operational, this railway will service approximately 122,000 passengers per day (see Figure 6.7 and Annex Table 6.4).



The recently inaugurated LRT-2 East Extension

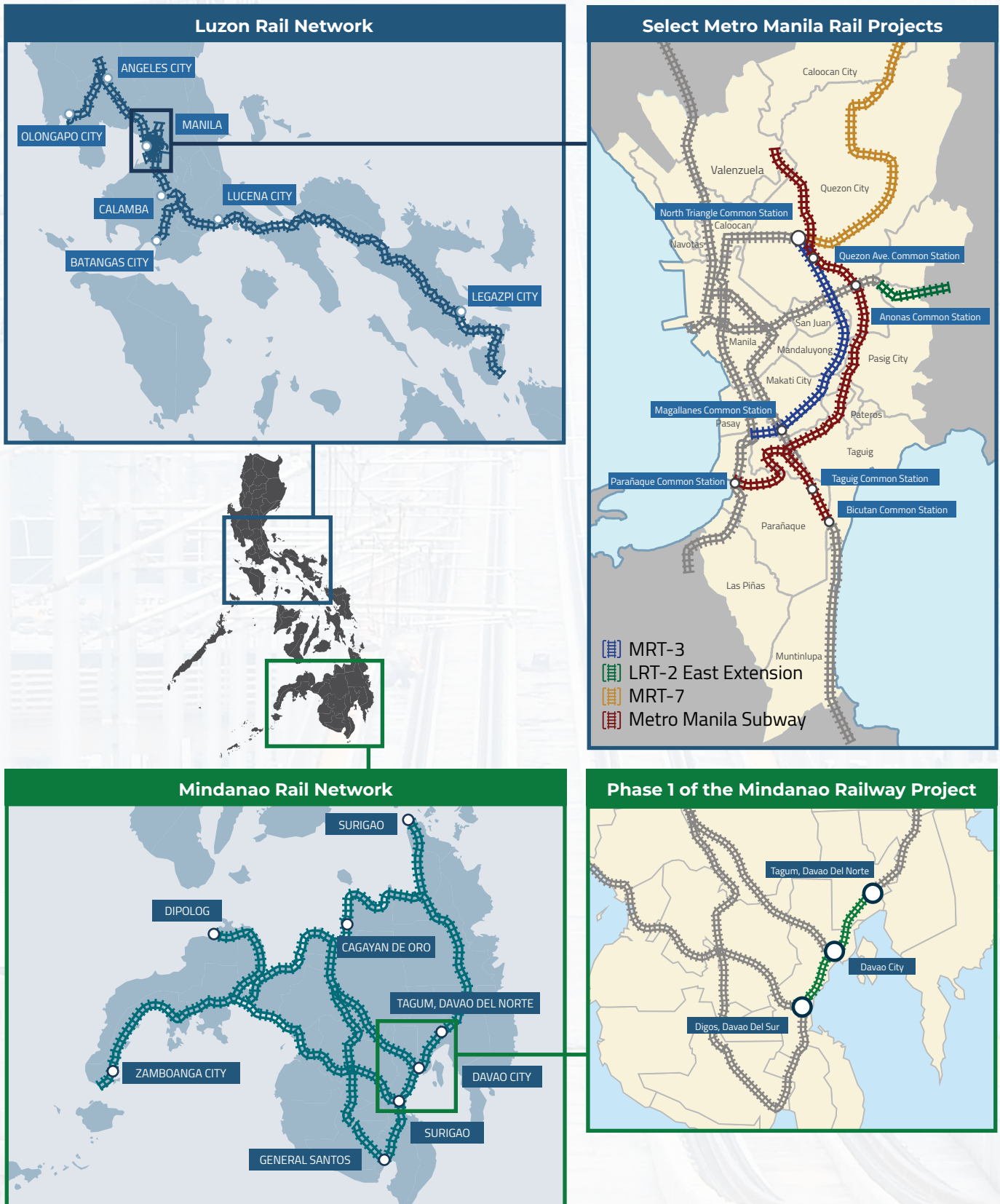
Photo Credit: DOTr



DOTr Secretary Tugade (center) leads the inspection of the Valenzuela and Bulacan segment of the PNR Clark Phase 1 Project in May 2021.

Photo Credit: DOTr

Figure 6.7 Philippine Rail Network



Source and Photo Credit: DOTr



DPWH Secretary Villar (center) and DPWH officials inspect the Sta. Monica-Lawton Bridge or the “Kalayaan Bridge” prior to its opening on June 12, 2021.

Photo Credit: DPWH

Eased Traffic Congestion in Major Urban Centers

I was deeply concerned that traffic congestion had become the norm in Metro Manila and other mega urban areas such as Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. Traffic congestion does not merely bring inconvenience, it robs Filipinos of their productivity for work and quality time for family.

Thus, I ordered the agencies responsible for traffic management and infrastructure development to undertake interventions to reduce traffic congestion. While we still have a long way to go before traffic congestion is fully addressed, I am optimistic that through these interventions, we will achieve our long-term goal of a comfortable and faster commuting experience for all Filipinos.

Intensified Efforts to Address Traffic Congestion in Metro Manila.²¹⁶ To facilitate traffic flow and ensure safety of road users, we intensified our traffic

management operations. From January 2018 to May 2021, the Inter-Agency Council for Traffic (i-ACT) impounded 864 colorum vehicles in Metro Manila. Also, through the MMDA, we implemented various interventions such as the No Physical Contact Traffic Apprehension Policy and apprehension of colorum vehicles (see Table 6.1).

To help decongest our major roads and reduce travel time around Metro Manila, we implemented the Metro Manila Logistics Improvement Program. This program includes the construction of the **Binondo-Intramuros Bridge**, replacement of the **Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge**, and the **Bonifacio Global City (BGC)-Ortigas Center Link Road Project**, all of which are for completion before my term ends (see Figure 6.8).

As we pursue all these interventions along with our BBB projects, I am optimistic that by the time I step down in 2022, we would be closer to our goal of connecting every city in Metro Manila within 20 to 30 minutes.

216 DPWH, June and July 2021; and MMDA, June and July 2021.



MMDA Chairperson Benjamin Abalos Jr. visits the MMDA Metrobase on January 18, 2021 to check the traffic situation along the major thoroughfares in Metro Manila.

Photo Credit: MMDA

Table 6.1 Facilitated Traffic Flow and Ensured Safety of Road Users in Metro Manila

Particulars	Then (2016)	Now (2021)	Percentage increase
Summons and tickets issued under the "No Physical Contact Apprehension Policy"	34,044	472,757	1,288.67%
Colorum vehicles apprehended	215	3,018	1,303.72%
Illegally parked vehicles impounded	5,211	261,178	4,912.05%
Illegal vendors removed	7,616	97,150	1,175.60%

Source: MMDA
Photo Credit: Dim Valencia

Eased Mobility in Urban Areas Beyond Metro Manila.²¹⁷ To help address traffic woes in major cities outside of Metro Manila, we pursued the implementation of high-impact projects that are for completion within my term and in the following years. This includes the **Sorsogon City Coastal By-pass Road, Davao City Coastal Road, and Bacolod-Negros Occidental Economic Highway** (see Figure 6.9).

Our aim of connecting cities and provinces through the construction of various infrastructure is driven by our goal of connecting people. Thus, recognizing the multi-faceted nature of mobility and connectivity, we also pursued the improvement of our ICT connectivity.

217 DPWH, June and July 2021.

Figure 6.8 Improved Mobility within Metro Manila through Crucial Bridge Projects

Binondo-Intramuros Bridge



680 lineal meter-bridge connecting Intramuros and Binondo with a viaduct over Estero de Binondo

Will divert about **30,000 vehicles per day** from adjacent bridges

65% accomplished for completion by January 2022

Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge



506 lineal meter-bridge connecting Estrella Street in Makati City and Barangka Drive in Mandaluyong City

With 4 lanes to accommodate **9,438 additional vehicles per day**

96% accomplished substantially completed by July 2021

BGC-Ortigas Center Link Road Project



Inaugurated the Sta. Monica-Lawton Bridge on June 12, 2021

Viaduct structure traversing Lawton Avenue up to the entrance of BGC is for completion by September 2021

Will reduce travel time between BGC and Ortigas Center **from 1 hour to 12 mins**

Source and Photo Credit: DPWH

Figure 6.9 Eased Traffic Flow in Urban Areas
Outside Metro Manila



5.66 km road
connecting Daang Maharlika
to Sorsogon City's transport
terminal

For completion
by end-2021



18.50 km road

**15 mins.
travel time**
between Toril and Poblacion
(from 45 mins.)

For completion
by 2023



49.82 km road
connecting Bacolod South
Road and Victorias City

Will benefit
20,000 motorists
per day

For completion
by 2024

Source and Photo Credit: DPWH

Empowered the People Through Information and Communications Technology (ICT)



Installation of “Free Wi-Fi for All” Tower amidst the new normal

Photo Credit: DICT

I had acknowledged and emphasized at the outset the crucial importance of boosting ICT to address geographic isolation and improve national connectivity. We likewise recognized that ICT promotes socio-economic growth by encouraging investments, generating revenues and employment, enhancing competitiveness, and spurring economic activities in the countryside.²¹⁸

In the past five years, we achieved considerable headways in enhancing connectivity through breakthrough reforms, especially with the entry of the third major telecommunications company in the industry. However, more needs to be done, especially amidst the challenges brought about by the new normal. We shall continue to work towards further improving our ICT infrastructure and competitiveness to

ensure that no *Juana* and *Juan* shall be left behind in my last year as President.

Improved ICT Competitiveness²¹⁹

Internet speed in the Philippines was among the slowest in the world at the start of my Administration. To address this, we prodded internet service providers (ISPs) to provide every Filipino with faster, affordable, and reliable internet connectivity.

Increased Connection Speed. In 2016, the country’s internet speed was only at 7.91 Mbps for fixed broadband and 7.44 Mbps for mobile internet. By March 2021, we had achieved a 484.7 percent increase in fixed broadband download speed at 46.25 Mbps and a 241.80 percent increase in mobile download speed at 25.43 Mbps.²²⁰ We shall continue to pursue our

218 World Bank, Information and Communication Technologies: Results Profile, April 13, 2013.

219 DICT, June and July 2021.

220 Ibid.

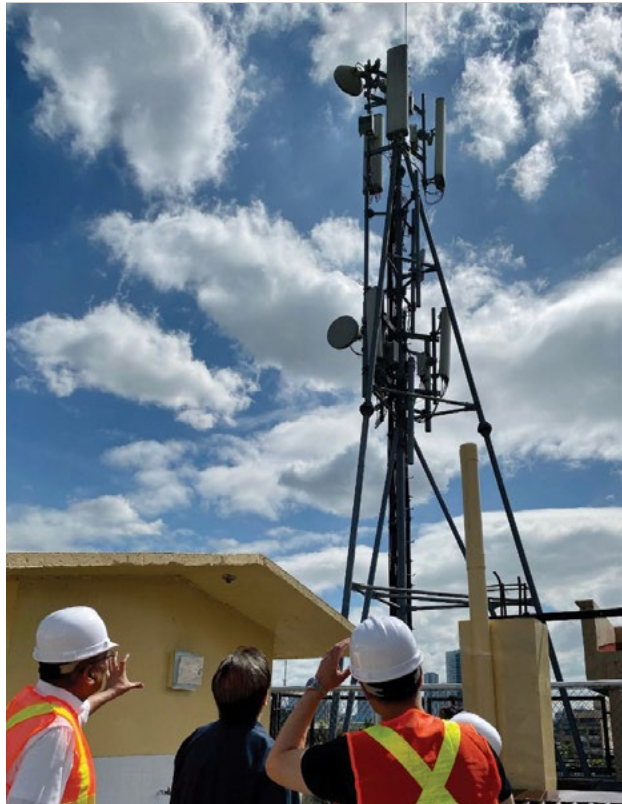
goal of faster and more reliable internet connectivity for all Filipinos.

Launched the National Broadband Plan (NBP). Among our efforts to improve the country's internet connection is the NBP, which we launched in 2017. Upon its activation by end-2021, the NBP shall serve as the blueprint to establish a government-owned broadband network and accelerate the deployment of fiber optic cables and wireless technologies for the overall improvement of the nation's internet speed, reliability, affordability, and accessibility, especially in GIDAs. In 2020, we completed the construction of the Luzon Bypass Infrastructure (LBI), consisting of two international landing stations in Baler, Aurora and Poro Point, La Union, and the 250-km fiber conduit. The LBI shall serve as a network corridor to provide a terrestrial bypass route for international submarine cable owners who seek to avoid damage to their infrastructure in the earthquake-prone Luzon Strait.

Moving forward, we shall pursue the activation of 28 nodes of the National Fiber Backbone by end-2021. Of these, 23 are of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) and five are of DICT (see Figure 6.10). These nodes shall connect various infrastructure and equipment towards the provision of access to Free Wi-Fi especially the GovNet clients. The GovNet is a network that interconnects government agencies for faster communication, better coordination, and easier access to online services, among others.

As of May 2021, 820 government offices had been interconnected through the GovNet. We aim to establish an additional 32 GovNet sites that will

connect 1,557 more government agencies and offices enabling them to provide more efficient, interconnected, and client-centered services.



The third major telecommunications company player begins roll-out of cell towers across the country.

Photo Credit: DICT

Facilitated the Entry of a New Player in the Telecommunications Market. For over two decades, our telecommunications market was dominated by only two companies. To improve market competitiveness, which will ultimately redound to more reliable and cheaper ICT services, we welcomed a third major telecommunications company in the country in 2019. This company launched its initial commercial operations in the Visayas and Mindanao in March 2021. We further ensured its continued services to the Filipino people when we granted the company a 25-year franchise on May 18, 2021. As of May 2021, the

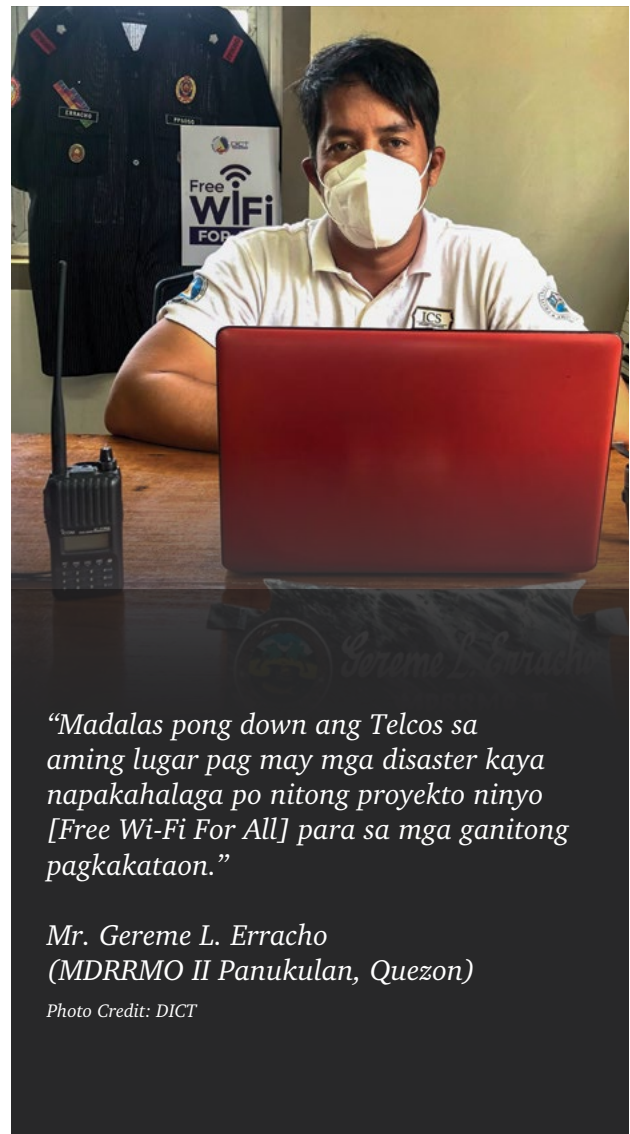
said company had expanded its services to cover the whole of NCR and 106 cities and municipalities in 18 provinces.

Institutionalized the Mobile Number Portability (MNP) Act. As we pursue a more competitive telecommunications market, we also strive to promote consumer welfare. Thus, in 2019, I signed into law RA no. 11202 or the MNP Act, which allowed subscribers to keep their mobile number, regardless of a switch in service provider or subscription, for free. Under this law, consumers shall not be charged porting fees nor interconnection charges among the mobile network operators.

The MNP Act is set to roll out by end-September 2021. The three major telecommunications company have formed a conglomerate and tapped a service provider to bring in the technical infrastructure that would serve as their clearinghouse and ensure the smooth implementation of mobile number porting services.

Ensured Internet Accessibility to All Filipinos²²¹

In 2016, the United Nations recognized that access to an open and reliable internet is a basic human right. Thus, we pursued various reforms and initiatives to connect every Filipino, regardless of location. As we continue to face the new realities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for greater accessibility and connectivity grows. Hence, the implementation of projects and initiatives that enhance our facilities and infrastructure towards bringing our nation closer shall remain a priority.



“Madalas pong down ang Telcos sa aming lugar pag may mga disaster kaya napakahalaga po nitong proyekto ninyo [Free Wi-Fi For All] para sa mga ganitong pagkakataon.”

*Mr. Gereme L. Erracho
(MDRRMO II Panukulan, Quezon)*

Photo Credit: DICT

Intensified the Free Wi-Fi for All Project (FW4A). To connect every Filipino, regardless of geographical location, we launched the FW4A in 2017. Under the project, we established live sites in public areas and State Universities and Colleges where people can access free internet service. From the 233 live sites in 18 provinces in 2016, we increased the number of live sites to 9,214 in 81 provinces as of May 2021, catering to almost 7.4 million unique users (see Figure 6.10).

221 DICT, June and July 2021.

In addition to the FW4A sites, we also installed free Wi-Fi connection in 6,521 government facilities and offices nationwide, particularly in far-flung areas. Moreover, to aid in empowering our countrymen who were afflicted by COVID-19 and armed conflicts, we also provided free Wi-Fi in 2,470 government hospitals and 1,409 conflict-affected areas. Moving forward, we shall expedite the establishment of additional 67,233 live sites by 2022. We shall also expand our provision of free Wi-Fi to our COVID-19 *Bakuna Centers*.

Implemented the Common Tower Policy.

To address the nation's connectivity needs and ensure more access to cost-efficient ICT infrastructure, we crafted and issued the Common Tower policy in 2020. This aims to encourage private investments in the construction of telecommunication towers in the country, especially in unserved and underserved areas. We streamlined the issuance of permits, licenses, and certificates for the construction of Passive Telecommunications Tower Infrastructure (PTTI), with the goal of accelerating the rollout of telecommunication infrastructure and service projects. Moreover, in June 2020, we issued the policy guidelines on Co-location and Sharing of PTTI for Macro Cell Sites. Through this, we encouraged Independent Tower Companies (ITCs) to construct cellular towers that aid in completing the needed 50,000 towers to enhance wireless network coverage and quality of ICT services across the country. As of March 2021, the DICT issued 14 ITC Certifications, valid for five years. We shall maximize the year ahead to expedite the issuance of the necessary permits to commence construction.

Instituted the Public Education Network. Beginning 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to shift our modes of instruction and education to a blended one. Thus, I directed the DepEd and the DICT to connect all schools, especially last mile schools, and DepEd offices nationwide. The DepEd and the DICT signed two separate MOAs allowing public schools to host common towers in April 2021, thereby speeding up and improving the quality of internet connectivity services in the country and accessibility to teachers and public school students.

Improved Productivity through ICT²²²

Technology and connectivity play crucial roles in the promotion of equal livelihood opportunities for every Filipino, especially in the time of pandemic. Thus, we continue to empower localities through ICT development and enable individuals through ICT skills development programs.

Launched the Digital Cities PH. In 2020, we launched the Digital Cities 2025 program. The five-year program aims to provide localities with necessary support in four key areas: (i) institutional development; (ii) talent attraction and development; (iii) infrastructure development; and (iv) marketing and promotion. We are now developing the Digital City Roadmaps of eight cities and municipalities.²²³ These roadmaps shall serve as frameworks for action and strategies, towards promoting these localities and inviting more development partnerships and investments. Through the Digital Cities program, we shall empower localities and boost their potentials for growth.

222 DICT, June and July 2021.

223 These are: (i) General Santos City; (ii) Balanga City; (iii) Batangas City; (iv) Iligan City; (v) Zamboanga City; (vi) Puerto Princesa City; (vii) Municipality of Taytay; and (viii) Legazpi City.

Implemented the Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4Ed) Project. We acknowledge the invaluable role of ICT in the creation and enhancement of economic activities throughout the country. Thus, we implemented the Tech4Ed Project, which aims to establish self-sustaining shared facilities that serve as the government's conduit in the provision of various services under eight segments, namely: eAssist, eMarketPlace, eGovServices, Gender and Development, eAgri, eHealth, digitaljobsPH, and eEduSkills.

From 844 in 2016, we now have 4,683 Tech4Ed Centers as of May 2021. These centers cater to all provinces in the country (see Figure 6.10). The DICT is now working towards upgrading the existing Tech4Ed sites towards becoming Digital Transformation Centers (DTC), which seeks to meet the standards of the International Telecommunication Union. We are currently working to increase this further, with the establishment of 11 additional centers by end-2021.

Intensified ICT Capacity Building. To complement the Tech4Ed Centers, we also launched in June 2021 the ICT Academy to train our countrymen to be adept in digital jobs.

Since 2017, 297 digitaljobsPH training sessions were held, benefiting 7,083 individuals from the government and private sectors, of whom, 1,553 were employed in online jobs. This year, we aim to ramp up our efforts towards creating a more technologically savvy workforce through the conduct of 183 additional digitaljobsPH training sessions nationwide targeting almost 5,000

individuals. We will likewise expand the coverage of these trainings to include information security and cybersecurity, among others, for government employees.

Strengthened the Country's ICT Protection

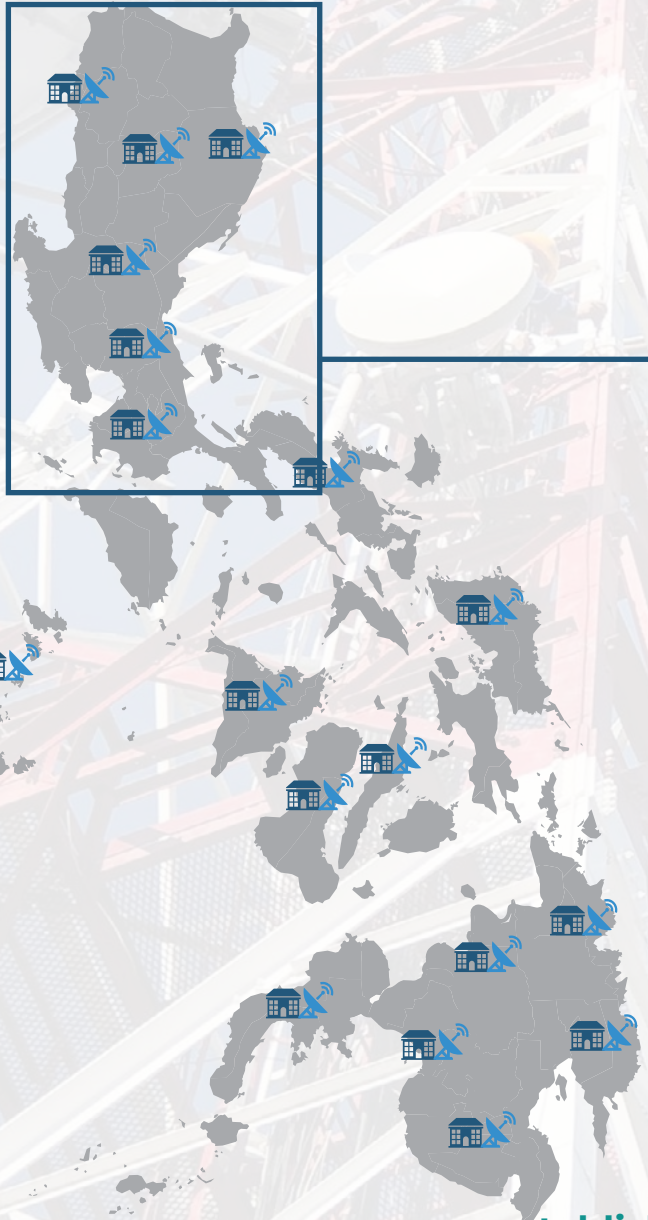
As we shift to more digital transactions and interactions, the threats that accompany the same also grow. Thus, we continue to pursue the implementation of more comprehensive and stringent cybersecurity measures.

Introduced the Critical Information Infrastructure (CII) Protection. We acknowledge that good connectivity is characterized by its reliability, affordability, and security. That is why we initiated the CII Protection in 2017. The CII is a system that strengthens the protection of critical infrastructure against threats through the integration of physical equipment and information technology. As of June 2021, 3,631 websites and network systems of 74 agencies had been equipped with Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing services. In addition, we aim to establish 20 additional CIIs and connect the same to the Security Operations Center (SOC) by end-2021. The SOC enables a centralized resource for the monitoring of IT security incidents affecting the whole government infrastructure. We shall further increase this with 30 additional CIIs by 2022 to ensure our country's resilience to cyber threats.

Intensified Campaign Against Child Pornography and Fraud. As ICT opened numerous opportunities and allowed the dispersion of economic activities, it also exposed us to online exploitation and crimes. Thus, as we improve our ICT, we

Figure 6.10 Improved Internet Accessibility through Various ICT Development Projects

From 233 free Wi-Fi live sites in 18 provinces and 844 Tech4Ed Centers in 67 provinces in 2016...



...we established **9,214** free Wi-Fi live sites and **4,683** Tech4Ed Centers in **81** provinces in the country.

Notes:

(1) No. of provinces excludes Metro Manila.

(2) 🏠 pins reflect corresponding regional locations of the free Wi-Fi live sites and Tech4Ed Centers.

Source and Photo Credit: DICT

are also strengthening efforts to protect children and women against pornography. In particular, we are ensuring that ISPs fulfill their duties under RA no. 9775 or the Anti-Child Pornography Act by using available technology to immediately intercept access to child pornography sites. We reiterated this in January 2021, following the prevalence of online sexual exploitation of children in the country amidst the pandemic. We issued Show Cause Orders to ISPs for failing to install programs or softwares that would block access or filter websites with child pornography materials.

In light of the shifts brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the subsequent growth of e-commerce in the country, the government pursued last year the Internet Transactions Act (ITA). Once approved, the ITA, which is in

the Senate for review, will regulate all business-to-business and business-to-consumer commercial transactions over the internet, including those related to internet retail, online travel services, digital media providers, ride hailing services, and digital financial services. It shall also authorize the creation of an Electronic Commerce Bureau that shall regulate online trade and act as a virtual one-stop-shop for consumer complaints on internet transactions.

To complement our initiatives in improving connectivity and mobility towards inclusive regional growth amidst the pandemic, we also worked doubly hard towards the creation of resilient and sustainable settlements, generation of jobs, and promotion of economic activity in the countryside.



The President welcomes the then newly appointed DICT Secretary Honasan to the Cabinet.

“Now that we are moving towards greater capacity in information and communications technology, we will have better opportunities to improve our personal, social, political, and economic aspirations.”

The President’s speech during the Presentation of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to a telecommunications company on July 18, 2019.

Photo Credit: DICT

Fostered Inclusive and Responsive Regional Growth

The number of informal settler families (ISFs) in Metro Manila has been continuously increasing due mainly to the lack of opportunities in the countryside. As projected by the DHSUD²²⁴ and the Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute in 2017, the number of ISFs in Metro Manila would reach 339,397 by 2022. Thus, we intensified the provision of support to the poor to enable them to have safe, decent, and affordable houses in sustainable communities with opportunities for growth and development.

Pursued the Provision of Quality Settlements outside Metro Manila²²⁵

We saw the failure of the government's massive housing projects that were solely focused on building houses without due consideration to necessities for decent living – livelihood, education, health, and transport. We strived to address this concern through the Building Adequate, Livable, Affordable, and Inclusive Filipino Communities (BALAI Filipino) Housing Program. In partnership with LGUs and other stakeholders, we began building communities with access to social and economic facilities such as schools, public markets, transport terminals, hospitals, police stations, business centers, and recreational facilities (*see Chapter 1, page 17*).

Through the Housing One-Stop Processing Centers, all regional housing and urban development programs, projects, and activities are now streamlined and harmonized at the grassroots level.

To further ensure sustainable growth in the regions, the DOST, together with the UP-Planning and Development Research Foundation, Inc. (UP-PLANADES), launched in 2020 the DOST-PLANADES Settlement Model Training Module, which is an online training course for local government planners and developers. The online course is a useful tool in identifying suitable locations for urban expansion, predicting future demand for housing and its financial requirements, and planning for the spatial development of these emerging areas.²²⁶ I have no doubt, that through this intervention, our aim of a balanced urban land development will be realized soon.

Propelled Regional Development for Sustained Livelihood Generation

One of the sobering truths in our rural communities is that most of our *kababayan* still live in impoverished conditions. Faced with little opportunity for gainful livelihood, many are pushed to migrate to urban areas to widen work options and improve their plight. We are therefore shifting to a higher gear to generate more sustainable jobs in the countryside to make rural-to-urban migration an option rather than an imperative.

224 Formerly called the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

225 DHSUD and DOST.

226 DOST-PCIEERD, July 2021.

Strengthened Agricultural and Value Chain Development.²²⁷ The COVID-19 pandemic strengthened our resolve to transform Philippine agriculture into a dynamic and high-growth sector to help speed up recovery and reduce poverty. Apart from providing food value chains and affordable and nutritious food, our country's agricultural systems ensured that raw materials reach our MSMEs. We undertook interventions to ameliorate the welfare of our farmers. In particular, we implemented and will continue to carry out agricultural modernization, irrigation systems improvement, and construction of farm-to-market roads, among others (see Chapter 1, page 3).

In 2020, we rolled out various development assistance under the Rural Agro-Enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development and Growth (RAPID Growth) Project with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The project aims to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic development for rural farming in 20 provinces from Regions VIII to CARAGA. True to its initiatives, the RAPID Growth Project, in its Phase 1 of implementation, forged 171 commercial partnerships with 183 farmer organizations and 56 anchor firms, and trained 4,397 farmers, cooperatives, and MSMEs.



The project remains committed to help 78,000 households increase their income by 60 percent, and generate 31,000 direct jobs and 155,000 indirect jobs by the end of its implementation.

Sustained Investments and Employment through the Continuous Establishment of New Special Economic Zones in Rural Areas.²²⁸ To accelerate rural growth through robust development of special economic zones, I issued AO no. 18²²⁹ in June 2019. Since 2016, we established 89 new ecozones, bringing the total number of economic zones to 416. Of this number, 225 are located outside Metro Manila. These ecozones directly employ about 1.57 million workers.

We also approved on February 3, 2021 the establishment of the First Bulacan Business Park (FBBP), which is the country's first pharmaceutical economic zone. The FBBP is poised to spur medical research, manufacturing, and tourism in the country.

Relatedly, we wish to acknowledge our investors for having faith in the Philippine economy. Despite the health crisis, we were able to achieve a historic high of PhP1 trillion in our BOI-approved investment in 2020. These investments will help spur growth across the country.

The FBBP will rise in this 259,069 square meter area in Malolos City, Bulacan.

Photo Credit: DTI

227 DA, July 2021 and DTI, June 2021.

228 DTI, June 2021.

229 Entitled "Accelerating Rural Progress Through Robust Development of Special Economic Zones in the Countryside"



The DOT's digital campaign called "Wake Up in the Philippines" features a wide spectrum of tourist attractions in the country to keep the dream of travelling in the Philippines alive amidst the pandemic.

Photo Credit: DOT

Pushed for the Revitalization of the Tourism Industry.²³⁰ The tourism industry is vital to our economy. In 2019, the industry's contribution to Philippine GDP was estimated at 12.8 percent. The annual growth in employment in tourism industries also increased from 5.2 million in 2016 to 5.7 million in 2019, translating to a 13.6 percent share of total employment in the country. However, it is very unfortunate for an industry that had contributed so much to economic development to be placed on life support amidst the pandemic.

To ensure the tourism sector's recovery, we updated the Tourism Response and Recovery Plan (TRRP) prepared by the DOT in May 2020. The Plan was updated in consultation with LGUs, private sector, and tourism stakeholders. The TRRP aims to ensure continued business operations and the survival of tourism enterprises through the upgrading of the skills

of displaced workers, promotion of domestic tourism, and diversification of tourism products.

As part of our efforts to ensure that travelling within the country remains safe, we launched "Have a Safe Trip, Pinas" in November 2020. It aims to ensure the implementation of health and safety protocols in reopened tourist destinations through its microsite, www.philippines.travel/safetrip. The campaign also shows that we can still experience the Filipino trademark of "having fun" when travelling amidst the pandemic.

To further spur domestic travel, we partnered with the UP-Philippine General Hospital and the Philippine Children's Medical Center to subsidize 50 percent of the hospitals' RT-PCR testing cost for qualified domestic tourists. As of June 2021, 44,673 domestic tourists benefited from the subsidy program.

230 DOT, July 2021.

Photo Credit: DOT



DOT Secretary Puyat awards the WTTC Safe Travels Stamp to the Hilton Clark Sun Valley Resort on May 26, 2021.

Photo Credit: DOT

I am honored to report that though grappling with the effects of the pandemic, our tourism industry consistently remains a source of national pride. In September 2020, the Philippines received the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC)'s Safe Travels Stamp. The WTTC Safe Travels Stamp is the world's first global safety and hygiene stamp created to restore traveler confidence in the destinations they choose to visit. As a recipient country, we now take on the role of Safe Travels Ambassadors, advocating the implementation of the Safe Travel protocols and the enrollment of facilities and destinations. As of July 7, 2021, 137 DOT-accredited accommodation establishments nationwide were granted with the WTTC Safe Travels Stamp.

As I enter my last year in office, I stand by my commitment to pursue equitable

regional development where no one is left behind wherever he or she may be in the country.

Thus, I will ensure that the Administration's gains and its remaining time to complete the programs and projects it started are maximized. I will prioritize the continuous and accelerated implementation of our infrastructure projects and ICT interventions as we gradually revive our tourism industry.

With the support of the entire nation, this Administration will exert all efforts to finish what it started, fulfill what it promised, and deliver what it envisioned — a stronger foundation for sustained inclusive growth in all parts of the country enabling every *Juana* and *Juan dela Cruz* to thrive in the new normal.



Chapter

7

Reinforcing the Spirit of *Malasakit* and *Bayanihan* among Filipinos

More than a year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic changed our lives in so many ways. The pandemic has forced people to be physically apart and socially distant. Amidst these challenges, the doors of opportunity to show genuine compassion and *pakikipagkapwa* opened up. Our innate values of *malasakit* and *bayanihan* have been showcased once again. Even when times were difficult and personal circumstances were trying, the Filipinos' collective spirit of helping and reaching out to one another was strong. We have exemplified that the power of one nation working together could bring a positive impact on people's morale amidst the pandemic.

Heeding the call for unity when the pandemic first struck, we witnessed how the executive and legislative branches of government joined hands to swiftly pass the *Bayanihan* to Heal as One Act of 2020. Six months after, we knocked upon the

“

The woes that weigh heavily upon our shoulders may bend our back, but they shall not bend or break our spirit. From the rubbles of adversity, a more resilient and stronger nation built on *bayanihan* and *pagkakaisa* shall rise. Together we shall overcome.”

*The President's State of the Nation
Address, July 27, 2020*

Photo Credit: PLDT-Smart Foundation

doors of Congress again as the nation continued to bear the brunt of COVID-19 and our legislators passed the *Bayanihan* to Recover as One Act.

Honoring Our Unsung Heroes



The President pays tribute to Gen. Gregorio H. Del Pilar and COVID-19 pandemic frontline workers in celebration of the country's 123rd Independence Day on June 12, 2021 in Malolos City, Bulacan.

Photo Credit: PCOO

In my call for unity, many kind and strong-hearted individuals rose to the occasion. The humble feats that we accomplished would have been far from possible had it not been for the dedication, hard work, and acts of kindness shared by each and every one of us.

As we navigate through the uncertainties of the times, allow me to acknowledge the selfless acts of our fellow countrymen who have been helping us in the fight against the pandemic. I am most grateful for the invaluable ingenuities of my fellow workers in government; the willing cooperation of the public; and most importantly, the unreserved efforts of our COVID-19 frontline workers, who are at the very forefront of this health emergency response.

To all our modern-day heroes, who have been at the core of the pandemic response, especially those in the medical sector and its allied fields, this nation is forever indebted to your sacrifices.

To the other frontline workers, who maintained our food supply and sustained essential needs and services; and the uniformed personnel who, under the scorching heat of the sun or a heavy downpour, have firmly enforced law and order in our communities, please accept my sincerest gratitude. Rest assured that your sacrifices are well-recognized.

My Administration draws strength, consolation, and reassurance from the fact that we were never alone in the fight against COVID-19. As we forge ahead, let us remind ourselves that there is hope in each one of us, as exemplified by our frontline workers who have tirelessly given so much so that others may live.

Our nation has proven yet again that no adversity, however severe, can break the Filipinos' time-tested resilience and *bayanihan*. Backed by the dedication of our frontline workers and the cooperation of every Filipino, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.



"The challenges of the past years attested to our character as a nation. Each of us have been called upon to be heroes in our own rights in fighting for our survival and devoting ourselves to the common good just as our heroes did more than a century ago."

The President's Speech, Independence Day Celebration, June 12, 2021, Malolos City, Bulacan

Photo Credit: PCOO

Salute to the Fallen Frontliners

In our path to recovery as one nation, our tales of triumph come hand-in-hand with heartbreaking stories of loved ones we lost in this fight. I am in deep grief that we had to lose many of our healthcare workers and other essential frontliners along the way while they braved the danger and stayed away from their own families to protect our people.

My heart goes out to the bereaved families of our fallen frontliners who remained true to their vow until the end. Thank you for entrusting them to our country. Their sacrifices

are firm reminders of our unyielding resilience and determination in the face of any hardship. No words could ever be enough to show our appreciation, but we sincerely applaud their selflessness and dedication to serve our fellow countrymen.

Indeed, there is no greater honor than to die fighting for one's country. We stand with our fallen frontliners who continue to be the living testaments to the spirits of *bayanihan* and *malasakit*.

Our Fallen Heroes

As of July 2021, we have suffered the loss of **454** frontline workers, **326** served in our country – **219** were frontline healthcare workers, **30** military personnel and **77** police personnel; while **128** served in various countries around the world.²³¹ These men and women had made the ultimate sacrifice of giving their lives in service to the country.

Let us pay homage to the lives, the bravery,

and the patriotism of these individuals who served above and beyond the call of duty.

We shall honor the heroism of our fallen healthcare workers and law enforcement officers by inscribing their names on a wall of heroes to be built at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.²³² Through this humble tribute, their memory will live on and echo through the ages.

231 For frontline healthcare workers, the numbers were based on the number of workers who claimed their death benefits per DOH on July 15, 2021. DFA, July 7, 2021; PNP, July 13, 2021; and DND, July 7, 2021.

232 Announced during the Independence Day Celebration on June 12, 2021.

Paying Tribute to Our Good Samaritans

While we saw how the pandemic devastated lives and livelihoods, we also witnessed the epitome of the parable of the Good Samaritan expressed in simple acts of kindness.

Many “Good Samaritans” – community members, professionals, and volunteers, young and old, companies and groups – big and small, left the comforts of their homes to share their resources with others. The donation drive initiatives and volunteerism have exemplified genuine *malasakit*

and *bayanihan*. All these humanitarian endeavors have significantly contributed to ensure food security, strengthen healthcare, mitigate risks, and help our economy recover during this critical time.

In the midst of fear and despair, community support and acts of kindness and solidarity have remarkably flourished. The pages of this book will never be enough to include all these Good Samaritans but please allow me to feature some of them.



The Iglesia ni Cristo turns over sacks of rice to Calamba City LGU as part of its *Lingap sa Mamamayan* for NCR Plus on May 30, 2021.

Photo Credit: Iglesia ni Cristo



USAID – ReachHealth Project donates COVID-19 essential kits and 32-Gigabyte USB flash drives to Zamboanga City on March 18, 2021 to be used for information drive campaigns.

Photo Credit: Zamboanga City LGU



Gothong Southern Foundation donates bicycles to medical frontline workers of Vicente Sotto Medical Center in Cebu City.

Photo Credit: Gothong Southern Foundation



Mary Christ Dimatalo proudly displays her laptop donated by various donors of the *Ayuda Pang Eskwela* Facebook group.

Photo Credit: Ayuda Pang Eskwela Facebook group



Protect Feed Save launches its Community Pantry Project in Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte.

Photo Credit: Ms. Jannarie Q. Zarzoso, Ambassador, Protect Feed Save



The City Government of Cebu, assisted by the Market Operations Division and the Carbon Market Vendors' Association, launches the Cebu City Community Pantry at the Senior Citizen's Park, Cebu City on April 26, 2021.

Photo Credit: Cebu City LGU

Amidst these difficult times, hope has been ignited in all of us because of the remarkable display of compassion among the ordinary and the poor. One novel translation of the *bayanihan* spirit is the community pantries that were established in the streets by the locals. In these pantries, everyone was welcomed to partake and contribute as they consider other people's needs. I was genuinely moved by the fishermen who gave away their catch, farmers who donated baskets of their produce, and those who were struggling financially but donated what they have. These Good Samaritans have indeed transcended charity and kept the community pantries

afloat. When the poor help their fellow poor, there is great hope for humanity.

I earnestly thank all the people behind this noteworthy initiative and all those who shared what little they have.

For all these acts of benevolence, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your contributions, big and small, serve as our inspiration to work harder to triumph over the pandemic and usher in a better normal for all Filipinos. I believe that these initiatives will continue to bring out the best among Filipinos during the worst of times.



A senior citizen queues in a community pantry launched by the Batangas II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BATELEC II), Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, and the 1 Electric Cooperative - Member Consumer Owners Network Foundation in its 10 offices.

Photo Credit: BATELEC II



Helping Hand Community Barter sets up a community pantry in Maddela, Quirino.

Photo Credit: Helping Hand Community Barter

Recognizing the Private Sector's Helping Hand

The pandemic requires solidarity and coordinated response not only from the government but also from the private sector, which has the capacity and resources to help mitigate the impact of the public health crisis. Indeed, the collaboration between the government and private sector was strengthened as they saw avenues to work together to address the effects of COVID-19.

The spirit of *bayanihan* between the government and private sector is thriving.

Notably, our country's big businesses were among the early responders when we implemented the community quarantine last year, until our vaccine roll-out this year.

I could not thank you enough for the outpouring of donations and sustained support, and your benevolence to sacrifice profit to help our nation bounce back. I continue to draw hope, inspiration, and strength to survive from this adversity from all of you.



San Miguel Corporation

- San Miguel Corporation (SMC) COVID-19 response to support the country totaled to over PhP14 billion
- Donated RT-PCR testing machines, automated ribonucleic acid extraction machines and test kits, and 105 high flow nasal cannulas to hospitals nationwide for critical COVID-19 cases
- Converted liquor facilities and produced 1.3 million liters of disinfectant alcohol that were donated to hospitals, LGUs, and NGOs
- Constructed 10 temporary quarantine facilities at military camps nationwide
- Mounted the largest food donation drive in its history, with over PhP526.7 million worth of food donated
- Waived PhP246.5 million in toll fees as of June 30, 2021 for over 10,000 medical frontliners, while Skyway Stage 3 was free of charge from December 2020 to June 2021
- Purchased 524 million kilograms of corn from farmers across Central Luzon, Pangasinan, and Camarines Sur; and put up 22 *Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita* stores to provide farmers a venue to sell their produce, in partnership with the DA
- Bought 5,000 liters of excess milk and donated these to LGUs and poor communities, in support of carabao raisers and farmers
- Developed a packaging format that will extend the shelf life of carabao milk to six months without preservatives, opening up new markets for farmers
- Completed 450 housing units at San Miguel-Christian Gayeta Homes for fisherfolk-relocatees in Sariaya, Quezon. Included in the development are the Sariaya fishermen's dock and hall, and a marketplace, where fisherfolk and their families can sell their catch and other products.
- Deployed over 100 medical personnel to 27 vaccination sites in NCR to boost the government's vaccination rollout



Malasakit at work. SMC community volunteers help build 450 housing units for fisherfolk relocatees at the San Miguel-Christian Gayeta Homes in Sariaya, Quezon.

Photo Credit: SMC

Source: SMC Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



GMA Kapuso Foundation

- Launched the Operation *Bayanihan: Labanan Natin* ang COVID-19 disaster relief distribution immediately after the ECQ was declared and implemented in March 2020
- Distributed PPEs and safety supplies in 192 public hospitals nationwide, in partnership with the AFP



A family receives relief packs during the GMA Kapuso Foundation's relief distribution in Pandi, Bulacan on June 24, 2020.

Photo Credit: GMA Kapuso Foundation

Source: GMA Kapuso Foundation Report on COVID-19 response, June 2021

Nestlé Philippines

- Intensified its partnerships with the government amidst the pandemic. These partnerships are vital in accomplishing Nestlé’s goals, including reaching out to families in need, helping children live healthier lives, improving coffee farmers’ livelihood and pursuing zero environmental impact.
- Served a million families in 2020 through its *Kasambuhay ng Pamilyang Pilipino* initiative. As it celebrates its 110th year, Nestlé Philippines is working with LGUs to provide half a million families impacted by the pandemic in 110 cities and municipalities with its products.



Nestlé Philippines signs a MOA with the DepEd in support of blended learning during a virtual meeting on January 13, 2021.

Photo Credit: Nestlé Philippines

Source: Nestlé Philippines Report, June 2021

Unilever Philippines

- Donated hygiene, sanitation, and food products to over 300 public hospitals, local communities, NGOs, and volunteer groups, which reached 280,000 families across the Philippines through the *Malasakit for All* Program
- Donated PPEs to health workers through the fund-raising initiatives of Unilever employees



Unilever Philippines takes pride in being a force for good as the company shares "Malasakit for All" through donation of PPEs, hygiene, food, and sanitation products to frontliners in hospitals and communities nationwide.

Photo Credit: Unilever Philippines

Source: Unilever Philippines #MalasakitForAll: Committed to Stronger, Safer, Resilient Philippines Report, June 2021

Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc.

- Constructed handwash stations in various public areas all over the country
- Launched the *Balik Pinas* Program in 2020, which aims to support returning OFWs seeking livelihood opportunities, benefiting more than 40 OFWs to become Coca-Cola distributors or wholesalers
- Marshalled resources to help community pantries in Metro Manila and provided 1,200 bottles of Wilkins 500 mL drinking water in May 2021, in partnership with the Philippine Air Force



A beneficiary of the *Balik Pinas* Program gives a big thumbs-up to celebrate the success of his store in Brgy. Quezon, Surigao City.

Photo Credit: Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc.

Source: Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines, Inc., June 2021.

BDO BDO Unibank

- Set up BDO ATM on Wheels in select quarantine areas, to serve the cash requirements of communities
- Provided link to much-needed cash in the far-flung communities through its Cash *Agad* service, present in 1,634 municipalities, where its 8,872 partner agents, including *sari-sari* stores, perform banking transactions. IPs and 4Ps beneficiaries were able to withdraw their financial aid from the government through the Cash *Agad*.
- Funded the pilot implementation of pooled RT-PCR testing in 3 cities to help bring down testing costs for 18,000 market vendors, PUV drivers, and medical frontliners
- Donated 10,000 RT-PCR test kits to 10 hospitals
- Distributed 1,900 hygiene kits to OFWs and frontliners in NAIA and Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX)
- Supported the RapidPass System through the donation of 300 smartphones for use as QR

- code scanners and 550 powerbanks
- Donated 200,000 doses of vaccines to the national government



BDO deploys ATM on Wheels in areas under lockdown where people, including 4Ps beneficiaries, withdraw much-needed cash.

Photo Credit: BDO Unibank

Source: BDO Unibank Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021

Ayala Group Of Companies

- Allocated PhP16 billion in various pandemic-related initiatives, including the conversion of the World Trade Center into a mega isolation facility; donated swabbing booths to four of the country's biggest swabbing centers; and capacitated key laboratories across the country
- Donated RT-PCR machines to the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City, University of Cebu Medical Center, and Quezon City Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
- Raised over PhP1.7 billion worth of food vouchers and in-kind donation, which benefited over 14 million individuals in the most vulnerable barangays in Metro Manila, being the lead convener of the Project *Ugnayan*, together with Caritas Manila and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, the Ayala Corporation (AC) and other private companies
- Designated some Ayala Land's real estate and commercial developments, such as Ayala Malls Manila Bay, Ayala Malls Capitol Central, and Circuit Makati, as vaccination centers



Ayala healthcare arm, AC Health, partners with the LGU of Makati City to launch its first drive-thru vaccination site for persons with disability and bedridden residents of Makati City at Ayala Malls Circuit, Makati Estates grounds on May 7, 2021.

Photo Credit: Ayala Group of Companies

Source: Ayala Group of Companies Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



Globe Telecom, Inc.

- Raised Php51.2 million COVID-19 support for the first quarter of 2021 through services and promos, external fund-raising efforts, and customer cash and in-kind donations
- Accumulated Php22 million from its Globe Rewards Program, which supported the PGH's procurement of PPEs and other medical supplies
- Raised Php26 million for nine COVID-19 hospitals nationwide in 2020
- Raised over Php24 million for its various charity partners under its #FightCOVID19 campaign
- Launched the HealthNow App offering doctor consultations and purchasing medicines online
- Supported 67,464 students and teachers with SIM and load cards, home prepaid WiFi kits, and pocket WiFi for their distance learning needs
- Partnered with the DepEd's Disaster Risk Reduction Management Service in the implementation of *TAYO Naman!* (*Tulong, Alaga, Yakap at Oras para sa mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Edukasyon*), an online mental health and psychosocial support program of education advocates, including teachers, non-teaching personnel, and parents
- Provided free access for teachers and students to online learning sites such as: DepEd Commons, PHL CHED Connect, and TESDA online program
- Provided free access to e-learning resource materials through the Globe e-Library
- Provided free and unlimited GoWiFi connection in 124 hospitals and vaccination sites nationwide



A fisherman in Dingalan, Aurora navigates through Globe's ISDApp to check the current weather update before he sails to sea.

Photo Credit: Globe Telecom, Inc.

Source: Globe Telecom Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



SM Group

- Donated PPEs, ICU grade ventilators, x-ray machines, ultrasound units, and extraction machine amounting to Php105 million to 230 hospitals across the country
- Allocated over Php36 million to distribute 20,000 RT-PCR test kits and 48,050 Ribonucleic acid test kits
- Provided immediate relief and assistance, through the SM Foundation's Operation *Tulong Express* Program, by distributing more than 85,400 *Kalinga* packs in communities nationwide
- Waived rental fees and other charges for tenant-MSME partners amounting to Php19 billion and donated Php11 billion to employees and third-party service providers
- Supported almost 18,000 tenants and 10,000 retail suppliers through its support programs
- Converted spaces in 50 malls nationwide into accessible, convenient, and safe inoculation venues



Frontliners at the Lung Center of the Philippines inspect their new x-ray machine donated by the SM Group on June 23, 2020.

Photo Credit: SM Group

Source: SM Group Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

- Constructed 10 molecular laboratories amounting to Php61 million, which included the largest molecular laboratory in the country at the former Philippine Red Cross (PRC) Headquarters in the Port Area, Manila City, as well as molecular laboratories built at the Manila Doctors Hospital, Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City, and seven laboratories were coursed through Ayala Healthcare Holdings, Inc.
- Distributed Php116 million worth of donations in the form of grocery vouchers, packed meals, and feeding activities, which benefitted 113,966 families and 199,428 individuals through the Project *Ugnayan* Program
- Donated Php28.6 million worth of PPEs to 25,100 medical frontliners of 30 government and private hospitals, and 151,100 AFP and PNP personnel
- Donated Php15 million worth of locally developed RT-PCR kits and antibody rapid test kits to the UP National Institute of Health and *GoNegosyo's* Project ARK (Antibody Rapid Test Kits)
- Donated printers, copiers, and risograph machines to 59 schools that benefitted 48,795 students; and laptops and tablets to 616 students



Metrobank Foundation, Inc. and Ateneo de Davao University turn over a molecular laboratory to the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Bajada, Davao City on June 9, 2021.

Photo Credit: Metrobank Foundation, Inc.

Source: Metrobank Foundation, Inc. Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



Jollibee Foods Corporation

- Extended food donation amounting to Php280.5 million as of June 2021, which is equivalent to 6.5 million meals for 1.4 million frontliners and 5.8 million individuals from affected communities
- Developed low-cost, delicious, and nutritious ready-to-cook food products, such as beef meatballs and chicken *guisado*, which were distributed to affected families
- Implemented Project *Karinderya* aimed at feeding urban poor families while spurring economic activity by tapping *karinderyas* whose operations were affected by the lockdowns
- Imparted its expertise by training *karinderya* owners on food preparation, food safety, and customer service
- Participated in the industry-wide *Bakuna* Benefits Program by offering 10 percent discount for vaccinated customers of Jollibee, Chowking, Mang Inasal, Greenwich, Red Ribbon, Burger King, Panda Express, and PHO24 from June to August 2021



A beneficiary of the Jollibee FoodAID Program shows the vegetables and chicken *guisado* she received during the Jollibee Group Foundation's distribution in *Pangarap* Village, Caloocan City in October 2020, in partnership with the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor.

Photo Credit: Jollibee Foods Corporation

Source: Jollibee Foods Corporation Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc.

- Provided PPEs to 8,750 healthcare workers in 37 hospitals nationwide
- Provided rice, alcohol, Vitamin C, and PPEs to 133 LGUs nationwide
- Donated PhP10 million to Project *Ugnayan*, in collaboration with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation and Caritas Manila
- Donated Vitamin C and PPEs to 3,403 personnel of 83 public schools nationwide
- Donated PhP20 million worth of medicines and medical supplies to the 33 AFP treatment facilities nationwide



A family receives Vitamin C and various hygiene items from Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc. and Caritas Manila.

Photo Credit: Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc.

Source: Mercury Drug Foundation, Inc. Nationwide Outreach Against COVID-19, June 2021



One Meralco Foundation

- Installed solar power systems to 15 off-grid public schools in Masbate and Western Samar enabling technology-aided learning for 4,489 students
- Raised PhP28 million through fund-raising initiatives of Meralco employees, providing financial assistance to more than 6,000 daily wage earners of its third-party contractors who were unable to work during the ECQ
- Procured more than five tons of fresh produce from 30 farming families in Kabayan, Benguet, and fed at least 15,000 frontliners
- Suspended the implementation of the Guaranteed Minimum Billing Demand charge in March 2020 to ease the payment burden of business customers, through this, a total of PhP3.2 billion was waived, which assisted nearly 95,000 businesses.
- Shouldered convenience fees charged by third-party payment gateway partners amounting to PhP75 million for 1.9 million Meralco online payment transactions in 2020



A resident of Bay, Laguna checks her electric meter installed through One Meralco Foundation's Household Electrification Program.

Photo Credit: One Meralco Foundation

Source: Meralco and One Meralco Foundation Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021

P&G Procter & Gamble (P&G) Philippines

- Repurposed its Cabuyao manufacturing plant to produce and donate over 3 million medical-grade face masks to DOH, LGUs, PNP, PRC and other institutions
- Donated over 20,000 PPEs to government COVID-19 referral hospitals
- Donated an estimated PhP42.5 million worth of health and hygiene products year-round to frontliners, hospitals, government agencies, and COVID-19 hotspot communities



A P&G employee shows DOH and DTI officials the medical-grade face mask production line operations in the P&G Cabuyao Manufacturing Plant.

Photo Credit: P&G Philippines

Source: P&G Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



PLDT and Smart

- Helped alleviate financial pressure on consumers through extended payment plans, discounts, and affordable promos
- Provided free access to COVID-19 information sites for customers without using their data (i.e., DOH, DepEd Commons educational portal, Philippine Information Agency [PIA], National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council [NDRRMC], Staysafe.ph contact tracing)
- Enabled over 70 government entities from the national and local levels, through its affiliate PayMaya, to offer cashless payments and disburse financial aid
- Deployed mobile retailers and online channels to allow consumers to buy load even when malls and stores were closed
- Turned over 30 of its service vehicles to the AFP and PNP for its anti-COVID-19 operations and sponsored 10 buses as transportation for frontline health workers
- Partnered with the DepEd, CHED, and various educational institutions to ensure continuing education through the provision of connectivity, gadgets, and GigaStudy promo
- Deployed 86 portable digital classrooms to DepEd schools nationwide under the Smart's School-in-a-Bag Program
- Donated water-resistant backpacks, which contain up to 20 student tablets in each bag, pre-

loaded with educational content that is accessible even when offline, and a laptop with Smart pocket WiFi kit for the teachers

- Close to half a million educators benefited from 27 e-learning sessions from its "Learning Never Stops" series through the *Gabay Guro* App, which generated over 100,000 downloads. This app offers a vast library of digital resources and ready-to-use online platforms aligned with the curriculum of the DepEd and CHED.



In line with the national financial inclusion goals, the PLDT and Smart enables a digital system through its mobile money and payments to encourage more Filipinos to use digital payments during the pandemic.

Photo Credit: PLDT and Smart

Source: PLDT - Smart Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021



McDonald's Philippines

- Donated more than 500,000 packed meals to frontliners and marginalized communities nationwide since March 2020 through the McDonald's Kindness Kitchen and Ronald McDonald House Charities

- Supported the "Pilipinas Kontra Gutom" multi-sectoral drive, led by the government's Task Force (TF) Zero Hunger, to address hunger during the pandemic



(From right) Zero Hunger TF Chairperson and Cabinet Secretary Nograles joins McDonald's President and Chief Executive Officer Kenneth Yang and San Miguel Corporation Vice President for Corporate Affairs Kin Limchauco to serve meals for families in Bacoor, Cavite.

Photo Credit: McDonald's Philippines

Source: McDonald's Philippines Report on COVID-19 Response, June 2021

LGUs Stepped Up to the Challenge

In our fight against COVID-19, our LGUs played a critical role in securing the health of their communities. Many were proactive during the early stages of the pandemic and sustained their momentum to this day.

When I declared a National State of Calamity on March 16, 2020,²³³ the LGUs were put in the position to serve as first responders against COVID-19 in their jurisdictions. This proclamation granted them access to the resources needed to overcome this crisis and undertake urgent measures to help their constituents. These initiatives include the provision of relief goods and health and quarantine facilities; the conduct of contact tracing, testing, disinfection, and information drives; and the passing of relevant local legislations.



Marikina City's Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory

Photo Credit: Marikina City LGU

To the local chief executives and fellow government workers in the LGUs, I recognize that this pandemic challenged you to respond to an unprecedented health emergency. You rigorously enforced the community quarantine measures to control the spread of the virus. You also ensured that your residents have ready access to vital services. I am pleased that you were able to rise above this challenge and have worked doubly hard to protect and care for the people. The effects of this pandemic would have been more severe had you not acted with dispatch. I am truly grateful for all your efforts.

Intensifying Testing Efforts

Many LGUs exhibited exemplary ingenuity in preventing the spread of COVID-19, including through increased testing. Among these is Marikina City's molecular diagnostic laboratory, which made them the first local government to provide free COVID-19 testing to its residents during the early stages of the pandemic.²³⁴

Several LGUs were also creative enough to have brought COVID-19 testing to the people's homes. These include Balanga City, Bataan's mobile swabbing team and Pasay City's swab test on wheels. The City Government of Manila and Taguig's free community-based drive-thru testing were also followed by many LGUs nationwide. In so doing, the spread of the virus was curbed, allowing places to open more safely.²³⁵

²³³ Proclamation no. 929, s. 2020 declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19.

²³⁴ Marikina City LGU, July 2021.

²³⁵ Balanga, Bataan LGU, Manila City LGU, and Taguig City LGU, June 2021.

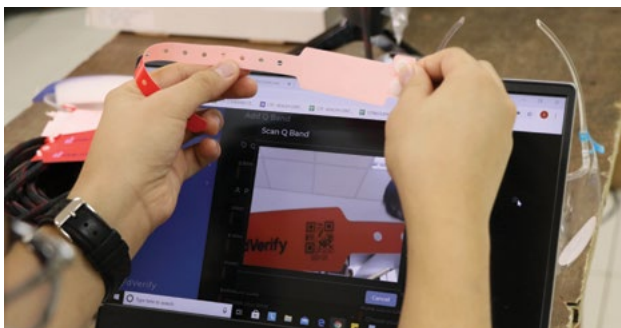


(From left) Presidential Spokesperson Herminio Roque Jr. listens to the briefing of Contact Tracing Czar and Mayor Benjie Magalong on the city's COVID-19 management and response at the Incident Command and Contact Tracing Operations Center in Baguio City on August 1, 2020.

Photo Credit: Baguio City LGU

Contact Tracing

There were noteworthy efforts to intensify contact tracing in their respective localities. A remarkable example is the aggressive contact tracing done by the City Government of Baguio. This program is a model for contact tracing and managing the spread of COVID-19 in the country, which was commended by the WHO during their visit on July 10, 2020.²³⁶ Meanwhile, other LGUs took advantage of digital tools to boost their contact tracing efforts. For instance, the City Government



A frontline worker tests the functionality of the City Government of Caloocan's Q-band.

Photo Credit: Caloocan City LGU

of Valenzuela automated its contact tracing procedures, implemented localized targeted mass testing, and established a mega contact tracing center.²³⁷ Likewise, the City Government of Caloocan was the pioneer in using Quarantine wristbands (Q-band), a system for sharing and reporting health status, location, and infection risk.²³⁸

Capacitating Local Treatment Hospitals

Other laudable LGUs are those that capacitated their local treatment hospitals and facilities. These include the City Government of Makati, which set up additional facilities such as negative pressure tents and Emergency Quarantine Facilities (EQF).²³⁹ Meanwhile, the City Government of Taguig deployed robotic nurses (Robonurses) at a quarantine facility to take care of patients and protect health workers from contracting the virus.²⁴⁰



The City Government of Taguig's Robonurse ready for deployment in a quarantine facility.

Photo Credit: Taguig City LGU

Vaccination Efforts

When we started rolling out vaccines, some residents displayed vaccine hesitancy. In

236 Baguio City LGU, June 4, 2021.

237 Valenzuela City LGU, June 2021.

238 Caloocan City LGU, June 2021.

239 Makati City LGU, June 2021.

240 Taguig City LGU, June 2021.



A nurse administers COVID-19 vaccine to a Quezon City resident inside the *Protektodo* Bus.

Photo Credit: Quezon City LGU

response, LGUs employed unique solutions to boost people's vaccine confidence and ensure safe inoculation. For instance, the City Government of Makati was the first LGU to launch a drive-thru vaccination through its *Vaccination on-the-go Program*.²⁴¹ It also hired tricycle drivers to transport residents, who are bedridden or with disabilities, to and from vaccination sites for free. Moreover, the Quezon City government utilized its *Protektodo* Bus to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to constituents from hard-to-reach places in the city.²⁴² Likewise, in 2020, the City Government of Manila pioneered the launch of a pre-registration website for inoculation against COVID-19 in anticipation of the arrival of vaccines.²⁴³

Disinfection of Communities

To allow for the unhampered disinfection of streets and public spaces and limit the movement of persons who were not authorized to leave their residences,

some areas in Mindanao implemented a *No Movement Sunday*. This mechanism helped control the spread of the virus and break the chain of infection. The system was practiced by the City Governments of Cotabato; General Santos; and Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat; and the Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur.²⁴⁴

Management of Casualties

To help the national government manage deaths and ease the burden of families, the City Government of Navotas provided free cremation services to deceased confirmed and probable COVID-19 patients through its local crematorium, the *NavoHimlayan*.²⁴⁵ Meanwhile, the crematorium of the City Government of Davao provided free cremation services for COVID-19 related deaths. This facility can cater to up to four cadavers per day.²⁴⁶ The Quezon City government, on the other hand, provided temporary storage facility services for the dead using refrigerated container vans.²⁴⁷



The City Government of Davao's PHP14.8 million crematorium.

Photo Credit: Davao City LGU

241 Makati City LGU, June 2021.

242 Quezon City LGU, May 16, 2021.

243 Manila City LGU, June 2021.

244 Cotabato City LGU, General Santos City LGU, Tacurong City LGU, and Lanao del Sur Provincial LGU, June 2021.

245 Navotas City LGU, July 2021.

246 Davao City LGU, June 2021.

247 Quezon City LGU, June 2021.

Balay Tinabangay sa Loay: Fostering Bayanihan in the Community

As the ECQ compelled everyone to stay at home, it was vital to ensure that every Filipino had a refuge to make them feel safe and secure amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic. I am grateful for the LGUs who worked tirelessly to provide decent shelters for their constituents. Moreover, I would like to express my utmost admiration for the generosity and solidarity demonstrated by the Municipal Government and residents of Loay, Bohol.

When a netizen posted a photo of the destitute living conditions of Nang Betty, a 68-year-old

grandmother who is taking care of her four grandchildren, the Municipal Government of Loay called for volunteers and donations to help repair her home. This act of kindness has since snowballed into the *Balay Tinabangay sa Loay* Program, which constructs housing units for qualified families in the municipality.²⁴⁸ True to its origins – the Visayan word “*tabang*”, which means “help or aid” was exemplified. This initiative is a proof that the spirit of *bayanihan* and the value of *malasakit* are indelible in Filipinos.



Before



After

A look at the before and after pictures of the home of Nang Betty, a beneficiary of the *Balay Tinabangay sa Loay* Program of the Municipal Government of Loay, Bohol.

Volunteers of the *Balay Tinabangay sa Loay* Program exhibit the spirit of *bayanihan* and *malasakit* as they construct houses for deserving families in their locality.

Photo Credit: Loay, Bohol LGU



Support to Frontliners

I cannot emphasize enough my appreciation for the LGUs that supported our healthcare workers and other frontline workers as they provided free meals, accommodations, transportation, PPEs, medical equipment, and many other forms of assistance.

I enjoin all others to participate in this initiative. Similar with the Municipal Government of Llanera, Nueva Ecija, which provided rescue vehicles to its barangays, and the Provincial Government of Lanao



Rescue vehicles for 21 barangays in Llanera, Nueva Ecija on display while awaiting distribution.

Photo Credit: Llanera, Nueva Ecija LGU

248 Loay, Bohol LGU, June 2021.

del Sur, which facilitated the procurement and distribution of ambulances to 11 municipalities.²⁴⁹ This ensured the delivery of responsive and timely services to the people in their respective localities. I hope that these efforts helped ease the heavy burden of our frontline heroes, who offered tireless and unwavering service to the Filipino people.

Ensuring Food Security

I also laud the LGUs' efforts for quickly responding to the call to provide the basic needs of their constituents. I witnessed your collective effort to feed the people by providing them with relief goods, food packs, nutritious meals, and financial assistance. Many took it a step further by initiating food production in their respective localities. Among these are the City Government of Manila that housed

garden in the middle of the street. I especially appreciate the efforts of the *Ospital ng Malabon* of the City Government of Malabon that established a human milk bank to ensure that sick infants are provided with the nutrients and protection that only breast milk could provide.²⁵⁰



The City Government of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur distributes one sack of rice per family. It purchased 27,000 sacks of rice from the local farmers.

Photo Credit: Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur LGU



A woman inspects the vegetables planted in the veggie garden in the middle of the street. This veggie garden is an initiative of the Municipal Government of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

Photo Credit: Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur LGU

an Urban Garden in the Manila Zoo and the Municipal Government of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, which started a vegetable

I acknowledge that the community quarantines made it difficult to transport goods, which hampered the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolk. In response, some LGUs established *bagsakan* centers (drop-off centers) and improved their transport channels to assure the unhampered delivery of goods, especially local produce. This helped farmers and fisherfolk to recover and ensure food security for their community. Some LGUs also distributed farming and fishing tools and equipment to further aid those who were affected. There were also resourceful LGUs, such as the City Government of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, which purchased the products of local farmers and distributed them to residents affected by community quarantines.²⁵¹

249 Llanera, Nueva Ecija LGU and Provincial Government of Lanao del Sur, June 2021.

250 Manila City LGU, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur LGU, and Malabon City LGU, June 2021.

251 Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur LGU, June 2021.

Provision of Medical and Psychosocial Support

I also recognize the difficulty in accessing healthcare amidst the pandemic given our health workers' focus on COVID-19 response and the people's fear of exposure to the virus in hospitals. Likewise, there had been an overwhelming need for psychosocial services as we all dealt with fear, anxiety, and other psycho-emotional effects of the pandemic.



The Tele-Rehabilitation Program of the Municipal Government of Carmona, Cavite offers occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech pathology.

Photo Credit: Carmona, Cavite LGU

In line with this, I commend the LGUs' initiatives to deliver medical and psychosocial health services to the people through tele-rehabilitation and tele-consultation programs,²⁵² the establishment of mental health hotlines and mobile clinics, and the creation of quick response teams. The Municipal Government of Carmona, Cavite's tele-rehabilitation program, the Provincial Government of Pangasinan's *Abig Laman ed Barangay – Kalusugan Karaban* (Good Health in the Barangay – Health Caravan), and the City Government of Tagbilaran, Bohol's *Balay-to-Balay* (house-to-house) Health Check-up are among the admirable

efforts of LGUs to bring healthcare services within reach of the people.²⁵³

Sustaining Livelihood

We have always valued hard work. As such, I recognize the uncertainty caused by the temporary inability to earn and provide for your families due to the restrictions imposed during this pandemic. This is especially evident among our OFWs, MSMEs, and those working under the transport and tourism industry.

Therefore, to provide job security and keep our economy moving, some LGUs have initiated livelihood programs that the others can model. For instance, the Municipal Government of Pulilan, Bulacan hired displaced tricycle drivers for its *Pabili* System. The jeepney drivers were also employed for the program during the ECQ and hired to provide company shuttle services during community quarantines.²⁵⁴



The *Pabili* System of the City Government of Pulilan, Bulacan provides an alternative source of income to displaced tricycle and jeepney drivers.

Photo Credit: SM Center Pulilan

Promoting Digital Services

There is certainly so much to do to revive our economy and it is crucial that LGUs help the national government by improving their

252 Tele-rehabilitation and Tele-consultation are the delivery of rehabilitation and health consultation services via ICT.

253 Carmona, Cavite LGU; Provincial Government of Pangasinan; and Tagbilaran City, Bohol LGU, June 2021.

254 Pulilan, Bulacan LGU, June 2021.

respective financial services and creating business recovery programs. As such, I reiterate the call for LGUs to streamline processes²⁵⁵ using online and digital platforms and alternative modalities for payment and financial services. Examples are the City Government of Manila's GO! Manila Mobile App or the City Government of Caloocan's Bank on Wheels or mobile ATMs.²⁵⁶

As we continue our fight against COVID-19, I look towards the future and laud LGU efforts to support continuing education and alternative learning modalities amidst the pandemic. The City Government of Taguig's massive *Tele-Aral*²⁵⁷ Program is a testament to the unwavering determination of our LGUs to safeguard the future of our youth.²⁵⁸



Ongoing online class of the students of the City Government of Taguig's *Tele-Aral* Program. This program has 70 staff members who assist students and parents in the blended learning for Kindergarten to Grade 12.

Photo Credit: Taguig City LGU

Truly, there are numerous LGUs with praiseworthy initiatives amidst the pandemic. They have proven their capability to handle bigger responsibilities during this health emergency. While I am unable to formally recognize you all,

rest assured that I am grateful for your endeavors and commitment to serve our people, who have placed their hopes in your hands.

Furthermore, I call on all LGUs to share with one another your best practices and emerging lessons on COVID-19 management and response, more so with the upcoming implementation of the Mandanas Ruling. With more resources due to the LGUs, I earnestly hope that the models presented here will enkindle all government officials to be more responsive to the needs of their constituents.

The COVID-19 pandemic, in all its magnitude, has been a test of our nation's true character. As this health emergency continues to pose the worst, it has unquestionably brought out the very best in the Filipino people.

As the leader of this nation, I am eternally grateful for the strong camaraderie and resilience that all of you have shown. From the deepest recesses of my heart, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to our noble COVID-19 frontline workers, dedicated local government officials and workers, the Good Samaritans, and the generous donors from the private sector – the heroes in our midst, for swiftly taking on the challenge that is unlike any other in recent history. *Maraming, maraming salamat po!*

Time and again, reality will always show that no ordeal is stronger than the Filipino's hallmark spirit of *bayanihan* and *malasakit*. Together as one nation, we shall rise and look forward to better days ahead.

255 RA no. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

256 Manila City LGU and Caloocan City LGU, May 2021.

257 *Tele-Aral* means to learn (*aral*) over telecommunication networks.

258 Taguig City LGU, May 2021.



Chapter

8

Forging Ahead as One Towards a Better Normal



As we do our best to revive our economy and give our people the opportunity to recover and lead better lives, I appeal to everyone to please continue observing the prescribed health and safety protocols, whether in our homes or in public places, especially transport. It is only with everyone's cooperation that the nation can effectively contain the spread of COVID-19 and triumph against the pandemic.

In solidarity, let us take further strides towards a better, more dynamic and prosperous nation for everybody.”

*Speech of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte during the Inauguration of Several Development Projects within the Dumaguete-Sibulan Airport
March 11, 2021*

Photo Credit: PCOO

As with the rest of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has put the nation to a great test. Nonetheless, we cannot, and should not, continue to live constrained by the pandemic. Hence, it is essential to enable the majority to live and adjust accordingly in the new normal.

We improved the capacity of our healthcare system to enable the same to manage and overcome possible surges in COVID-19 cases. As we continued to enhance our COVID-19 response, we also intensified our contact tracing efforts, allowing us to limit the implementation of quarantines at the barangay level. This helped minimize the spread of the virus without the need to close a whole municipality.

Together with the vaccination program, and the continued adherence to health protocols, I am confident that we will be able to achieve population protection and fully reopen the economy soon. This would translate to more people able to go out, travel, dine, shop, and more importantly, go back to normal but much better lives.

Priorities in the Final Year

I am fully determined to restore the vigor of the Philippine economy as my term draws to a close. To mitigate the adverse social and economic impact of the restrictions imposed to stem the spread of the virus, we endeavor to further intensify efforts towards fully reopening the economy.

However, our success in this regard will be facilitated by the fast-tracking of the vaccination program and keeping the COVID-19 caseload at minimum levels. This will enable us to boost business and consumer confidence, which are crucial to economic recovery.

Rolling Out of the Vaccination Program

Essential to the re-opening of the economy is the effective and expeditious implementation of the country's vaccination program.

Vaccination Targets. The country's vaccination program started on March 1, 2021. It aims to achieve population protection by November 2021 through the inoculation of about 50 to 60 percent of the population in NCR plus 8 (i.e., Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, Bulacan, Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Pampanga, and Rizal); and herd immunity by end-2021 or early 2022 through the vaccination of about 50 to 70 million people nationwide.

We would like to acknowledge and seek the continued support of our partners on this. Our aggressive vaccination strategy

was made possible by the close cooperation among government agencies, LGUs, the private sector, and multilateral partners. Along with our strict implementation of COVID-19 mitigation efforts, our vaccination program provided the country an added leverage in handling the pandemic.²⁵⁹

Vaccines for the private sector are expected to arrive in August 2021. This will greatly contribute to the safe reopening of more economic activities that would help in the recovery of various industries affected by the pandemic.



The President receives his second dose of COVID-19 vaccine on July 12, 2021.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Post-Vaccination Protocols. We have put in place the protocols²⁶⁰ for fully vaccinated individuals. Under these protocols, there will be less movement restrictions for them, provided that they can present their vaccination card. This is a big leap for those who want to travel but find undergoing RT-PCR tests too costly. We shall continue to recalibrate our health protocols as we draw near our targets in

259 PCOO, Strong public-private sector collaboration behind PH's effective immunization rollout – Vaccine Czar, July 13, 2021.

260 IATF-MEID Resolution no. 124-B dated July 2, 2021.

Protocols for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

An individual shall be considered as having been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 based on the following qualifications:



2 weeks after having received the single-dose vaccine or the second dose (2-dose series)



Inoculated with vaccines included in the EUA List or Compassionate Special Permit issued by the Philippine FDA or Emergency Use Listing of the WHO

Intrazonal Movement



Fully vaccinated senior citizens with vaccination cards or certificate of quarantine completion by the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) will be allowed unrestricted movement in areas under GCQ and MGCQ.

Interzonal Movement



Fully vaccinated travelers must present vaccination cards or certificate of quarantine completion by the BOQ as alternative to LGU's testing requirement.

Shortened quarantine duration



Fully vaccinated asymptomatic individuals who are exposed to a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case may now undergo a seven-day quarantine period instead of 14 days.



Fully vaccinated asymptomatic individuals who are traced beyond the seven days of last exposure, shall no longer require testing and quarantine.

Source: IATF-MEID

our national vaccination program based on supply of vaccines. Living with the virus with minimal disruptions is possible. As such, we shall implement measures that will facilitate the full reopening of the economy without the fear of risking everyone's health and safety.

Standardization of National-Local Health Protocols. In anticipation of the gradual reopening of our local borders, the national and local governments, and other stakeholders have started to harmonize measures to ensure the safety of travelers, workers, and communities under the new normal. However, these efforts still need to be enhanced to ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page.

The close coordination between the national government and LGUs is

imperative to smoothly implement the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the potentially devastating financial impacts of the pandemic. As we appeal to our LGUs to implement science-backed policies of the national government, we also assure our local government partners that we will listen to your concerns and suggestions to improve the implementation on the ground. We need to work together to manage possible increase in cases instead of constantly implementing border control measures.

With the implementation of the Mandanas ruling²⁶¹ in 2022, the total shares of the LGUs from national taxes is expected to significantly increase while some functions of the national government shall be fully devolved to them, including field health

261 Mandanas, et al. vs. Executive Secretary, et. al [G.R. nos. 199802 and 208488].

Key Features of the Mandanas Ruling

Mandanas, et al. vs. Executive Secretary, et. al [G.R. Nos. 199802 and 208488]

Starting FY 2022, 40 percent of the share in the national internal revenue taxes based on the third fiscal year preceding the current fiscal year (2019) will be automatically released to LGUs.

Basic services devolved to LGUs



and hospital services. We shall therefore need the full cooperation and initiative of our partners in the local government. To our hardworking LGUs, my humble appeal is for you to make the most of the resources that shall become available to you and ensure responsiveness to the needs of every Filipino.

Ensuring Government Service Continuity. The pandemic revealed gaps in the delivery of government services. While we advocate alternative work arrangements to ensure the health and safety of our civil servants, government frontline agencies were expected to remain fully operational.

To facilitate the reopening of industries and the normalization of their workforce, people would need responsive government services to have their licenses, clearances, eligibility, and other permits. Given the challenges brought by COVID-19

in providing public service, I want our government to promptly adjust to the new normal and adopt drastic measures towards digital transformation through the use of electronic services and platforms.

Towards this end, we prepared the E-Government Masterplan (EGMP) 2022, a blueprint developed by the DICT for a harmonized, interoperable, and integrated government information system. It outlines our intent to develop the country's e-government systems through the digital transformation of basic services that cut across the public sector, onward to achieving a 'One Digitized Government'.²⁶²

The National Government Portal (NGP), which serves as the EGMP's frontline program, provides users with easy access to government services, whether between government agencies or with external clients. To date, the one-stop site has made accessible 222 e-services linked in GOV.PH.

262 DICT, May 2021.

Another priority program that seeks to ease transactions with the government is the PhilSys. It is a foundational digital ID system that aims to accelerate our transition into a digital economy, enabling contactless, paperless, and cashless transactions. At present, the PSA is in close coordination with the DICT, together with private telecommunication companies, in ensuring strong and reliable internet connection to facilitate the online registration and enable our fellow Filipinos to secure their national IDs, particularly those in remote communities.²⁶³

Promoting Wellness Amidst the Pandemic. Despite all our efforts to provide online services, we fully acknowledge the public's complaints concerning delays in some frontline services as we adopted alternative work arrangements in government offices. It must be emphasized, however, that my instruction was to ensure that government services would not be impaired by such arrangements. There should be no excuse in delivering my commitment of fast and streamlined government transactions to the Filipino people.

While I demand nothing less but the best services from all government instrumentalities, we also value our government personnel's safety and wellness. To enable more government workers to serve the public, we have included them under the A4 category of the COVID-19 vaccination priority list. With this, we hope to not only hasten the vaccination roll-out but more importantly to strengthen the provision of quality services to every Filipino without putting the lives of our civil servants at risk.

Safely Revitalizing the Economy

As we come to a point where the risk of COVID-19 transmission can be managed to a certain extent, I am hopeful that we shall be united in forging ahead towards bringing the country back to its robust growth path.

Ensuring Economic Recovery. The government has embarked on the safe reopening of the economy. With the latest health and economic data as our guidepost, we recalibrated our approach in managing COVID-19 risks to strike a balance between public health and economic recovery. We cannot afford to return to square one. As such, we have introduced a three-pillar strategy to arrest the spread of the virus, help the poor cope with the impact of the quarantines, and accelerate our recovery (see Figure 8.1).

Figure 8.1 Interventions to Safely Re-Open the Economy



Source: DBCC

For the financial sector, I signed an executive order institutionalizing the

263 PSA, June 2021.

Financial Stability Coordination Council. This body shall oversee and improve the stability of the country's financial system, as the health of our financial system is crucial to safeguard the welfare of all Filipinos.

Reviving the Tourism Industry.²⁶⁴

Tourism is one of the worst hit sectors by the pandemic. More than the closure of tourist destinations, the pandemic resulted in loss of livelihood not only for those employed in the formal sector but also those who benefitted from increased economic activities due to the influx of tourists. As such, restarting the tourism industry is vital for the economy. We shall continue to position the Philippines as a viable and fun destination in preparing

for the gradual reopening of local travel destinations (*see Chapter 6, page 206*).

As of July 2021, we had identified 158 Inter- and Intra- Regional Tourism Circuits across the country and continue to conduct validation and inspection trips in preparation for the re-opening of the tourism industry.

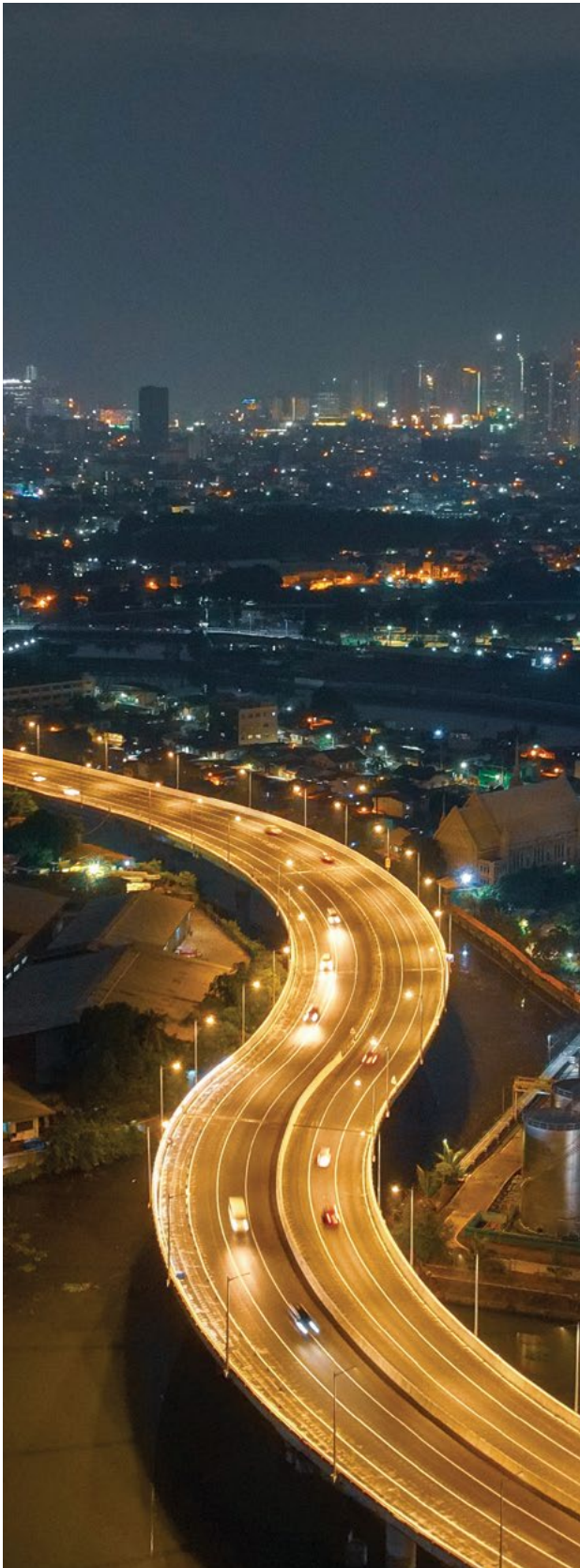
In 2022, the launching and implementation of these Inter- and Intra- Regional Tourism Circuits will commence where primary focus is to ensure that: (1) tourism products are resilient, inclusive/innovative, sustainable, and engaging; and (2) health and safety protocols are in place to avert the risk of community transmission.



Sunset by the beach in Siargao Island known to be the "*Surfing Capital of the Philippines*"

Photo Credit: Tommy Schultz

264 DOT 2021 SONA Inputs.



Aerial shot of warm-lighted Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 (Pandacan, Manila portion)

Photo Credit: Ken Jover

We hope that these tourism circuits will be a start-off point in our bid to jumpstart tourism. This will not only benefit thousands of tourism workers but also MSMEs that rely on the industry.

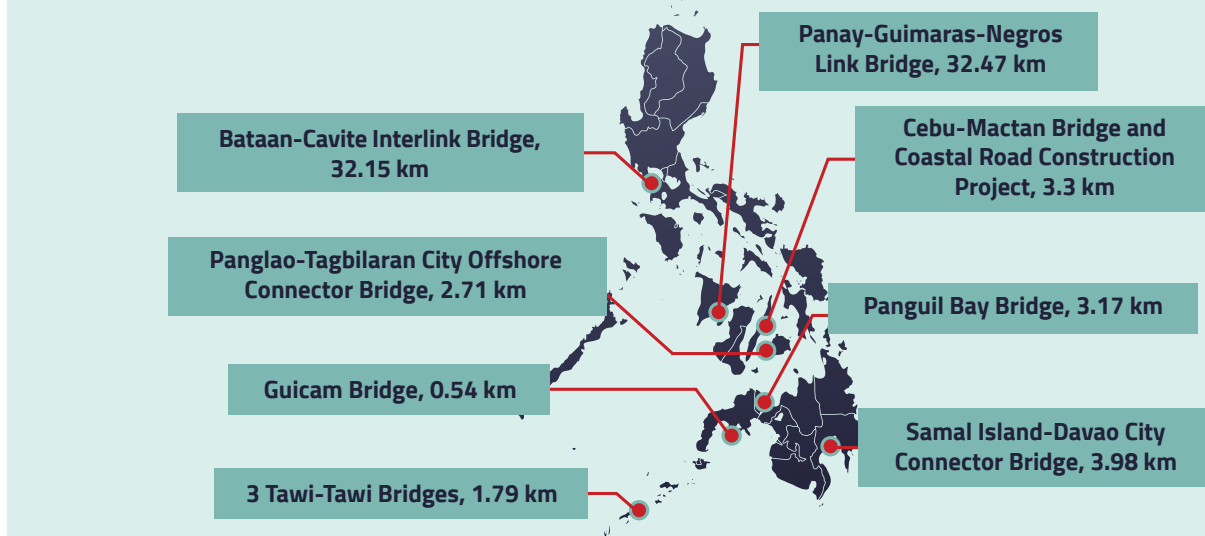
Consistent with our policy direction on reviving domestic tourism, the DOT shall engage in the capability building of the LGUs on tourism development and increase private sector engagement in the development of tourism products for the better normal. Further, we shall continue incentivizing the modernization and upgrading of tourism enterprises and their facilities to be ever adherent to the safety and health standards called for by the current and future circumstances.

Continued Prioritization of Infrastructure Projects. The continuous and accelerated implementation of the Build, Build, Build (BBB) Program is one of our key strategies to bounce back and emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the notable projects that we will still pursue under this program is the Inter-Island Linkage or the Mega Bridge Program which shall help ease travel and improve transport of goods between islands (see Figure 8.2).

We shall see to it that projects under the BBB are in full swing, with the end view of truly promoting mobility and connectivity and spur economic activities in the countryside.

Restoring Lost Livelihood and Employment. The recovery of lost jobs and livelihood is perhaps the next difficult task that we need to take on to usher in a better normal for all Filipinos. We find it imperative to retool our workers, especially the OFWs affected by the closures of businesses around the world. To attain

Figure 8.2 Inter-Island Linkage/Mega Bridge Program



As part of our vision to ease travel between islands, the government has initiated the Inter-Island Linkage Projects. Once completed, these mega bridge projects would offer an alternative and more efficient mode of transportation to the public.

Source: DPWH

this, the TESDA offered various courses made available online to enable greater reach (see Chapter 4, page 141).

Further, considering the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to the country's labor force, I issued EO no. 140 on June 25, 2021, which adopts the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS). The NERS Task Force aims to: (1) generate more employment opportunities for our people, through improved access to employment, livelihood, and training opportunities; (2) improve employability, wellness, and productivity of workers and take advantage of the opportunities in the labor market in the new normal; and (3) provide support to existing and emerging businesses, and security and preservation of employment.

On June 30, 2021 the NERS Task Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Employers' Confederation of

the Philippines. This is to implement the Reform, Rebound, and Recover Program. This aims to provide vaccines to qualified workers before onboarding them to fill in 1,020,000 jobs to be created through the Philippine Constructors Association with 600,000 jobs; IT & Business Process Association with 370,000 jobs; and Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. with 50,000 jobs.

On livelihood, it is important to note that MSMEs make up 99.6 percent of the total number of business establishments in the country. Nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit of the Filipino people is vital to the country's economic development. Not only do MSMEs help reduce poverty by creating jobs for the country's growing labor force, they also stimulate economic development in rural and far-flung areas. Hence, we will further strengthen long-term support mechanisms to help their businesses grow.

We will continue to provide support to the MSMEs, through livelihood assistance and loan programs such as the DTI's COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program (*see Chapter 4, page 133*). We encourage them to avail of these services by: (1) extending loan repayments from one year to two years; (2) increasing loanable amount depending on the business' financial stability; and (3) allowing enterprises with existing loans to apply for a second round provided that they have not exceeded the maximum loanable amount.

We have noted the growing number of small entrepreneurs²⁶⁵ in the Philippines that have turned to franchising as an alternative form of business. However, while the franchise industry has become larger and more competitive, there is currently no law or regulatory body in the country that covers the general franchising environment. The presence of ambiguous parameters in the qualifications of and requirements for franchisors to start operating their businesses may thus,



An elder oversees her child while he attends class through radio-based instruction in Sarangani.

Photo Credit: DepEd

also expose prospective franchisees to potentially fraudulent schemes or disadvantageous arrangements at the least.

To ensure the protection of franchisees, we target to issue a policy that will regulate the registration of franchise agreements of MSMEs and establish a dispute resolution mechanism between franchisees and franchisors, among others. We hope to issue this measure within the year as we begin to revitalize the economy.

Continuous Provision of Quality Education Amidst the Pandemic.

Education remains our top priority amidst the pandemic as we strive to further boost the country's human capital – an investment for the future of the Philippines.

The youth's education has not and will not be sacrificed; their safety will remain our top priority. As such, we will still utilize blended learning for SY 2021-2022. This is to ensure that we would enable learning to continue amidst the threat and uncertainties, while ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all learners, teachers, and other stakeholders.

Nonetheless, we have designed a three-pronged criteria towards the eventual safe resumption of face-to-face classes, namely: (1) Community COVID Risk Assessment driven from our COVID-19 monitoring models; (2) School-based Readiness for Health Standards that encompasses the upkeep of sanitation in schools; and (3) Shared Responsibility that would muster the commitment of essential stakeholders towards a systematic and risk-based approach in the reintroduction of school-based instruction.

²⁶⁵ According to the US' International Trade Administration, there are about 1,300 franchises in the Philippines covering food, retail, and service sectors as of May 2020.

Priority Legislation to Ensure Economic Recovery and Resiliency

It remains my goal to institutionalize key reforms that are necessary to effectively pursue the completion of our priorities, even as the end of my term nears.



The President signs into law RA no. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act on September 11, 2020.

Photo Credit: PCOO

Economic Recovery

In our final year, we are pushing for the passage of key legislative measures, which would help facilitate economic recovery and resilience. The Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council agreed on a Common Legislative Agenda with priority measures targeted to be passed before the end of my term (*see Table 8.1*).

For this purpose, I certified as urgent the passage of priority legislative measures, such as the amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, the Public Service Act, and the Retail Trade Liberalization Act. To complete our Comprehensive Tax Reform Program (CTRP), we are aiming

for the enactment of Package 3 (Valuation Reform Bill) and 4 (Passive Income Tax and Financial Intermediary Tax Act).

Other priority measures include the proposed Rural Agricultural and Fisheries Development Financing System Act, which would promote rural development; Establishment of Tax Regime for Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators that would help generate additional revenues from offshore gaming licensees, operators, agents, and service providers operating in the country; and the creation of a Department of Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos that would deliver full-time government services to OFWs and Filipinos abroad, whose economic

Table 8.1 Select Priority Legislative Measures Towards Economic Recovery

Title	Purpose
Package 3 of the CTRP or the Valuation Reform Act	Make current property valuation system at par with international standards
Package 4 of the CTRP or the Passive Income and Financial Intermediary Taxation Act	Simplify the taxation of passive income and financial services and transactions
Amendment to the Foreign Investments Act	Exclude the “practice of professions” from the foreign investment negative list, and reduce the number of mandatory direct local hires by foreign investors from 50 to 15
Amendment to the Public Service Act	Remove ambiguity and uncertainty between what constitutes a “public service” and provide clear economic bases for designating certain industries as “public utility”
Amendment to the Retail Trade Liberalization Act	Lower the required paid-up capital for foreign retail enterprises before they can enter the Philippine market

Source: NEDA

contribution is instrumental in the country's development.

Resilience to Natural Hazards and Pandemics

Ensuring the Filipino people's survival, and the uninterrupted delivery of public services even in times of major disruptions, remain our top priorities. Towards this end, we aim to transform the highly vulnerable Metro Manila-centric governance model into a resilient 21st Century Bureaucracy. This would require the passage of the e-Governance Act to establish an integrated, interconnected, and interoperable information and resource-sharing communications network in government for the speedy delivery of public services.

I also look forward to the creation of a department that could focus full-time on bolstering the resilience of our nation to natural hazards, managing the effects of climate change, and sustaining the reforms we initiated in protecting the environment. I therefore urge Congress to pass the Cabinet-endorsed bill creating the Department of Disaster Resilience (DDR). It shall be the primary government agency responsible for leading, managing, and organizing national efforts to prevent and reduce disaster risks; prepare for and respond to disasters; and recover, rehabilitate, and build forward better after the disruption.

Environmental protection and the responsible extraction, utilization, and equitable distribution of natural resources also remain among my top non-negotiables. In this regard, I renew my call to Congress to pass the National Land Use Act (NaLUA) to institutionalize a national land use policy that would provide a science-based approach

to the rational allocation, development, and management of the country's land resources through proper planning.

For our country to be ready for future outbreaks, we must be bold in our actions towards increasing our resilience and adaptive capacities. Future-proofing our country entails strategies that would need a whole-of-society approach.

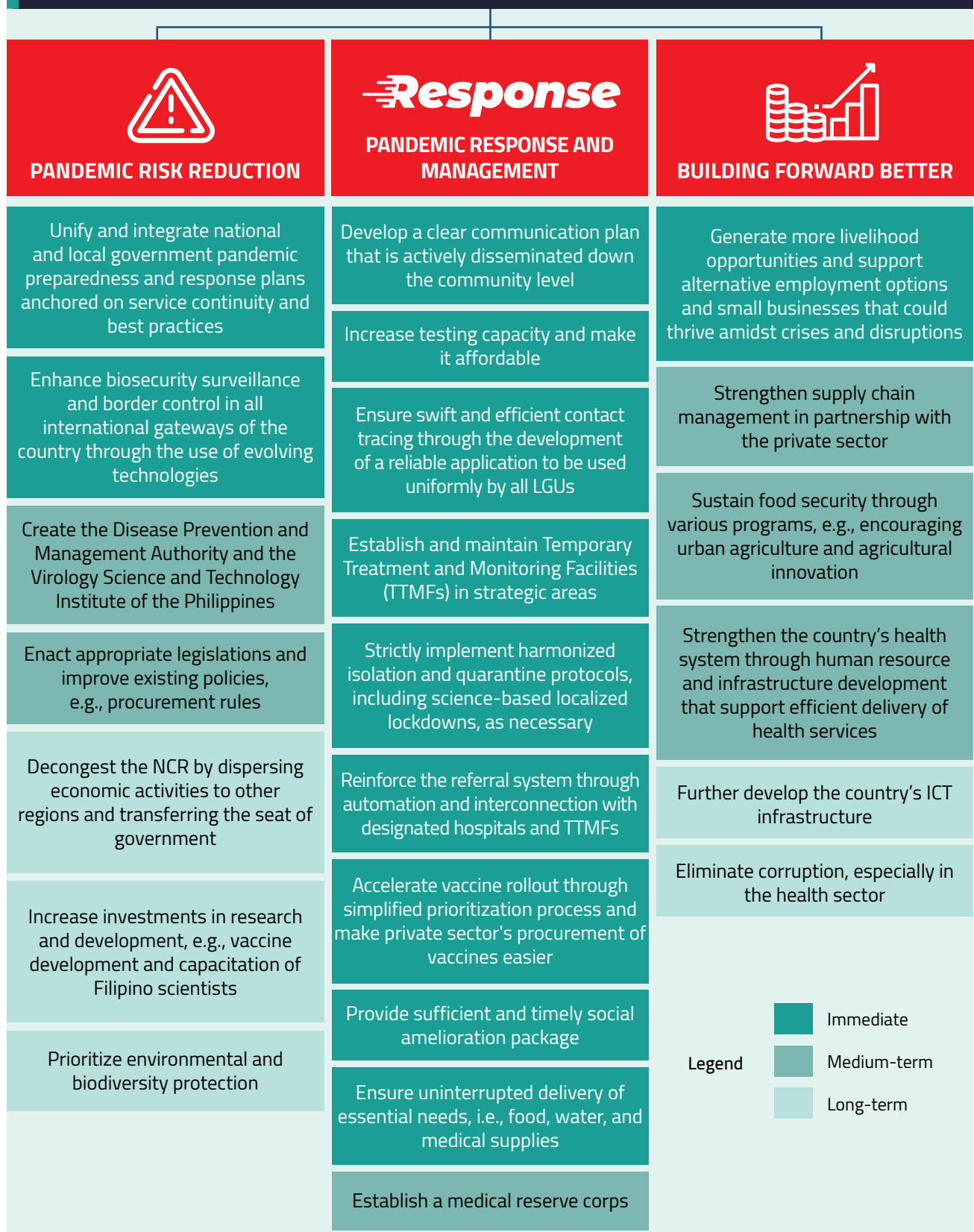
Our move towards resilience and adaptability from similar catastrophes is anchored on three key result areas, namely: (1) pandemic risk reduction; (2) pandemic response and management; and (3) building forward better. We have identified immediate, medium-, and long-term key strategies from these key result areas towards the country's overall goal of resiliency, based on global best practices and lessons learned from the current pandemic (*see Figure 8.2*).

In this regard, to make the bureaucracy adept in the management and containment of future pandemics, I fervently request Congress to pass a law that will create the Disease Prevention and Management Authority. It shall be primarily tasked to develop and implement policies on forecasting, surveillance, prevention, and management of infectious diseases.

We also call on Congress to pass the bill creating the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines. Once institutionalized, it shall focus on strengthening our country's epidemiological and disease surveillance capacities. It shall also serve as the premier research and development institute in the field of virology, encompassing all areas in viruses and viral diseases in humans, plants, and animals.

Photo Credit: NTF Against COVID-19

Figure 8.2 Key Strategies Towards National Resiliency to Pandemics



WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH

(National and local governments in coordination with international stakeholders, private sector, and civil society)

Igniting the Spirit of *Bayanihan* Towards a Safer and Better Philippines in the Next Normal

At the outset, we built upon what we inherited to strengthen our economic fundamentals, institutionalize bureaucratic reforms, and provide equal opportunities for all Filipinos across regions. All these were aimed at promoting sustained, inclusive and resilient growth.

We shall continue to champion measures that would reinforce the spirit of *malasakit* and *bayanihan* as we recover from the adverse economic impacts of COVID-19.

Likewise, in our quest to help the hardest hit sectors, we shall continuously employ a whole-of-nation approach akin to our concerted efforts during the early onset of the pandemic.

Mga minamahal kong kababayan, I have now reached the last full year of my term in serving the Filipino people. The past five years had been filled with multifarious and unprecedented challenges. However, with your utmost trust and cooperation, we continue to



The President during the Talk to the People on May 31, 2021.

Photo Credit: PCOO



The President shares a light moment with foreign dignitaries who paid a courtesy call at Malacañan Palace on August 15, 2018.

Photo Credit: PCOO

overcome every obstacle, as we diligently work to provide the Filipino people with a more comfortable life.

As I bow out from the Presidency next year, I encourage the next President to continue and draw inspiration from the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan* and the people-centered development programs that I have espoused.

May this Administration's accomplishments as felt by ordinary citizens, evoke in you the drive to exceed what we have achieved thus far. Likewise, may the economic progress of the country, albeit for a time stalled by the pandemic; the gains of my strong resolve to address peace and security concerns in the archipelago; and the people's renewed trust and confidence in the government, be your launching pad in pursuing greater feats for the benefit of our people.

It is also at this juncture that I would like to assure whoever the next President will be, of my unwavering support to his or her Administration. I fervently pray for the next President's success in espousing more initiatives towards our common desire of further enabling each Filipino to attain a more comfortable life.

We shall continue laying down the groundwork, pushing for landmark reforms, and attaining key milestones up to the last days of my term in office.

The next steps would be up to the Filipino people. I have full confidence that the Filipino spirit will persevere and triumph, and together we shall continue to rise as a nation.

Conclusion

This report, comprehensive as it is, may not have entirely captured the full extent and depth of our accomplishments as a nation. Nevertheless, the meaningful change that is felt by every *Juana and Juan dela Cruz* is still the best affirmation of our accomplishments.

Looking back, my first wobbly steps in our journey towards a better Philippines only became powerful strides when many among you answered my call for *malasakit at tunay na pagbabago*.

Our landmark reforms and key accomplishments make our goal of a peaceful and prosperous Philippines within reach. Not even the most difficult of challenges will throw us off course in our quest for a better quality of life for every single Filipino.

Soon, I will be handing over the mantle of responsibility to the next will of the people. My appeal to you remains fervent: let us work tirelessly until a better normal for *Juana and Juan* is attained; and until every Filipino is able to actively contribute towards the shaping of our Motherland's destiny.

Together, we shall heal, build forward, and thrive as one towards a better tomorrow for all.

Once again, in the language of the old: *May God keep us forever sheltered in the hollow of His hand.*

Annex: Ongoing Infrastructure Projects (as of July 15, 2021)

Table 6.1 Select Ongoing Port Projects for Completion by 2022

Port	Project Description	Target Completion Date
Mauban Port, Quezon	Construction of back-up area and port operations building	August 2021
Capinpin Port, Orion, Bataan	Port expansion	November 2021
Pag-asa Island Port, Kalayaan Island Group, Palawan	Completion of berthing facilities, pavement, and other port facilities	2021
Isabela City Port, Basilan	Port improvement	December 2021
Libjo Port, Dinagat Islands	Port improvement	January 2022
Ubay Port, Bohol	Construction of Passenger Terminal Building	June 2022
Maguino-o Port, Calbayog City, Samar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitation and upgrading of existing back-up area ▪ Construction of port operations building 	June 2022
Pio V. Corpuz RoRo Port, Masbate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Widening and rehabilitation of causeway ▪ Construction of back-up area and pier 	March 2022
Balingoan Port, Misamis Oriental	Port expansion	December 2022

Table 6.2 Select Ongoing Airport Projects

Airport	Project Description	Status	Target Completion
Bicol (New Legazpi) International Airport, Albay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of an airport to accommodate two million passengers annually ▪ Will boost tourism in Bicol 	86.29% accomplished as of June 30, 2021	December 2021
New Manila International Airport, Bulacan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Construction of an airport to accommodate 100 to 200 million passengers ▪ Will serve as a new gateway to help decongest passenger traffic at NAIA 	Ongoing pre-construction works	2026
Catbalogan-Buri Airport, Samar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of the air safety, civil, and other improvement works to make it a multi-dimensional airport ▪ Will strengthen disaster resiliency, promote eco-tourism development, support security and law enforcement, and improve the multimodal transportation potential of the region 	Ongoing civil works (i.e., construction of terminal area, apron, and taxiway and hill obstruction removal and runway extension)	2022
Basco Airport, Batanes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrading of runway ▪ Will help ensure the preservation and protection of national sovereignty and security amidst territorial disputes, boost socio-economic development in the locality, and ensure disaster resiliency 	Ongoing civil works	2022
Ormoc Airport, Leyte	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Installation of night landing facilities ▪ Will improve the region's mobility and air connectivity by eliminating the need to travel to Tacloban City for air travel and foster socio-economic development 	Completed the renovated terminal	2022

Table 6.3 Select Ongoing Projects Under the LSEN

Project	Description	Status	Target Completion
Central Luzon Link Expressway (Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 30-km 4-lane expressway from Tarlac City, Tarlac to Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 70 minutes to 20 minutes Will benefit 11,200 motorists per day 	18-km section from Tarlac City to Aliaga, Nueva Ecija: Inaugurated on July 15, 2021	Remaining section up to Cabanatuan City: 2022
Cavite-Laguna Expressway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 44.58-km expressway connecting CAVITEX in Kawit, Cavite and SLEX-Mamplasan interchange in Biñan City, Laguna Will reduce travel time between CAVITEX and SLEX from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 45 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laguna section: completed Cavite section: 10% accomplished 	December 2022
Manila Cavite Toll Expressway Project, C-5 South Link Expressway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 7.70-km 6-lane expressway from R-1 Expressway to SLEX/C-5 Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 40 minutes to 10 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segment 2: 6.4% accomplished Segment 3A-1: Inaugurated and opened to traffic on July 23, 2019 Segment 3A-2: 10.26% accomplished Segment 3B: DED approved by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) 	Segments 2 and 3A-2: 2022
NLEX-SLEX Connector Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An 8-km 4-lane elevated expressway extending the NLEX southward from the end of Segment 10 in C-3 Road, Caloocan City to PUP Sta. Mesa, Manila and connecting to the Skyway Stage 3 Will reduce travel time between SLEX and NLEX from 2 hours to 20 minutes Will benefit 35,000 motorists per day 	Section 1-Caloocan and Manila: 34.98% accomplished	2022
Southeast Metro Manila Expressway, C-6 (Phase 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 32.66-km toll road from Skyway/FTI, Taguig City to Batasan Complex, Quezon City Will reduce travel time between Bicutan and Batasan from 1 hour and 50 minutes to 26 minutes Will benefit a maximum of 88,338 motorists per day 	Construction on C-5 Road: ongoing	Section 1-Skyway/FTI to C-5/Diego Silang: 2022
South Luzon Expressway – TR4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 66.74-km toll road from Sto. Tomas City, Batangas to Tayabas and Lucena Cities, Quezon Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 4 hours to 1 hour Will benefit 17,000 motorists per day 	Construction: ongoing	2023
NLEX Harbor Link Segment 8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An 8.30-km expressway from Segment 8.1 at Mindanao Avenue to Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 45 minutes to 10 minutes Will benefit 45,000 motorists per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DED: Approved by TRB Right of way acquisition: ongoing 	2023

Table 6.4 Select Ongoing Railway Projects

Project	Description	Status	Target Completion
Projects within NCR			
MRT-3 Rehabilitation Project from North Avenue in Quezon City to Taft Avenue in Pasay City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will increase the number of running trains during peak hours from 15 to 20 Will increase operating speed from 30kph to 60kph Will increase capacity to accommodate 600,000 from 300,000 passengers per day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall progress: 64.96% accomplished as of March 31, 2021 Partial rehabilitation: completed in December 2020 Rehabilitation of conveyance facilities: completed in August 2020 Replacement of rails at the mainline: completed in December 2020 Track replacement: completed in January 2021 All 46 escalators and 34 elevators are now fully operational. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation Completion: December 2021 Project Completion: May 2023
Metro Manila Subway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 30 plus km subway system with 17 stations that will connect the north and south portions of Manila from Quirino Highway corner Mindanao Avenue to NAIA Will reduce travel time between Quezon City and NAIA from 1 hour and 10 minutes to 35 minutes Will have the capacity to accommodate 370,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 23.78% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segment of East Valenzuela to North Avenue to PRI trial run: April 2022 Segment of East Valenzuela to North Avenue to PRI partial operations: 4th Quarter 2026 Full Operations: 3rd Quarter 2027
MRT-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 15.56-km line between Manila and Rizal Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 1 hour and 30 minutes to 36 minutes Will service about 234,000 passengers per day 	Procurement of DED consultant: ongoing	Full operations: 2025
LRT-2 West Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3-km extension between Recto, Manila and Pier 4, Manila Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 30-45 minutes to 8 minutes Will have the capacity to accommodate 124,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 15.59% accomplished	Full operations: 4th Quarter 2024

Table 6.4 Select Ongoing Railway Projects

Project	Description	Status	Target Completion
Projects Connecting NCR and Region III			
MRT-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 22-km line that will connect North Avenue in Quezon City to the City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan Will reduce travel time between Quezon City and Bulacan from 2-3 hours to 35 minutes Will accommodate 300,000-800,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 60.67% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial operations: April 2022 Full operations: 4th Quarter 2022
PNR Clark Phase 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 37.9-km line connecting Tutuban, Manila and Malolos City, Bulacan Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 1.5 hours to 35 minutes Will service about 300,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 45.82% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial operations: 2nd Quarter 2023 Full operations: 2nd Quarter 2024
PNR Clark Phase 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 53-km line between Malolos City, Bulacan and Clark, Pampanga Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 1.5 hours to 35 minutes Will be the first airport railway express Will accommodate about 340,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 28.79% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segment Clark to CIA Station trial runs: 3rd Quarter 2024 Full operations: 4th Quarter 2024
Projects Connecting NCR and Region IV-A			
LRT-1 Cavite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An 11.7-km extension connecting LRT-1 from Baclaran, Manila to the Niog area in Bacoor City, Cavite Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 1 hour and 10 minutes to 25 minutes Will accommodate 500,000-800,000 passengers daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall progress: 54.41% accomplished 24 Light Rail Vehicles delivered as of May 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segment of Baclaran to Dr. Santos Avenue trial runs: 2023 Segment of Baclaran to Dr. Santos partial operations: 1st Quarter 2024 Full operations: 2nd Quarter 2027
PNR Calamba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 56-km line between Manila and Laguna Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 3 hours to 1 hour Will accommodate about 340,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 22.77% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Segment Alabang to Calamba Trial Runs: 4th Quarter 2025 Partial operations: 4th Quarter 2025 Full operations: 2nd Quarter 2028
Project Connecting NCR and Region V			
PNR Bicol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 639-km line between Manila and Bicol Will halve the current 6-hour travel time between the two areas Will accommodate about 100,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 9.95% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full operations: 3rd Quarter 2025
Mindanao			
Mindanao Railway Phase 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 100-km railway that will connect Tagum City, Davao del Norte and Digos City, Davao del Sur Will reduce travel time between the two areas from 3 hours to 1 hour Will service about 122,000 passengers per day 	Overall progress: 6.13% accomplished	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partial operations: March 2022 Full operations: June 2023
Others			
Common Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 13,700-sqm concourse area to connect MRT-3, MRT-7, LRT-1, and the Metro Manila Subway Will accommodate about 500,000 passengers daily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LRT-1 Viaduct: 28.93% accomplished Atrium: 98% accomplished 	Completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th Quarter 2021 (without signalling) 2nd Quarter 2022 (with signalling)

LIST OF ACRONYMS

4Ps	<i>Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino</i> Program	BOC	Bureau of Customs
AC	Ayala Corporation	BOI	Board of Investments
ACPC	Agriculture Credit Policy Council	BOL	Bangsamoro Organic Law
ADB	Asian Development Bank	BOSS	Business One-Stop Shop
AFAB	Authority of the Freeport Area of Bataan	BPIA	Bohol-Panglao International Airport
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines	BPLS	Business Permit and Licensing System
Agri 4Ps	Plant, Plant, Plant Program	BRP	<i>Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas</i>
Agri-Agra	Rural Agricultural and Fisheries Development Financing System Act	BSP	<i>Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas</i>
AM	Assistance to Municipalities	BTMS	Budget and Treasury Management System
AO	Administrative Order	BTr	Bureau of Treasury
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation	BuB	Bottom-up Budgeting
App	Application	C-3	Circumferential Road 3
ARBs	Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries	C-5	Circumferential Road 5
ARK	Antibody Rapid Test Kits	C-6	Circumferential Road 6
ARN	Application Reference Number	CADTs	Certificate of Ancestral Domain Titles
ARTA	Anti-Red Tape Authority	CAMP	COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	CAMP-AKAP	CAMP- <i>Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong sa OFWs</i>
ASF	African Swine Fever	CARES	COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises
ATM	Automated Teller Machine	CARES-HEROES	CARES-Helping the Economy Recover through OFW Enterprise Start-ups
AWTIP	Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project	CARES for TRAVEL	CARES for Tourism Rehabilitation and Vitalization of Enterprise and Livelihood
AY	Academic Year	CAS	Cabinet Assistance System
BALAI Filipino	Building Adequate, Livable, Affordable, and Inclusive Filipino Communities	CAVITEX	Manila-Cavite Expressway
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	CBDR	Community-based Drug Rehabilitation
BATELEC II	Batangas II Electric Cooperative, Inc.	CBFMA	Community Based Forest Management Agreement
Bayanihan 1	<i>Bayanihan</i> to Heal as One Act	CBP	Central Business Portal
Bayanihan 2	<i>Bayanihan</i> to Recover as One Act	CBS	Cash Budgeting System
BBB	Build, Build, Build	CCAM-DRR	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction
BBWSP	Bulacan Bulk Water Supply Project	CCB	Contact Center ng Bayan
BCDA	Bases Conversion and Development Authority	CCLOA	Collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award
BDA	Basic Deposit Account	CDC	Clark Development Corporation
BDPC	<i>Barangay</i> Drug Clearing Program	CDO	Cagayan De Oro
BDP	<i>Barangay</i> Development Program	CDOs	Cease and Desist Orders
BE-LCP	Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan	CEO	Chief Executive Officer
BFAR	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources	BOQ	Bureau of Quarantine
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection	CEP	Capability Enhancement Program
BGC	Bonifacio Global City	CEZA	Cagayan Economic Zone Authority
BI	Bureau of Immigration	CFITF	Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund
BIA	Bicol International Airport	CHED	Commission on Higher Education
BIATF	Boracay Inter-agency Task Force		
BIDA	Boracay Island Development Authority		
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue		
BJMP	Bureau of Jail Management and Penology		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CII	Critical Information Infrastructure	DICT	Department of Information and Communications Technology
CLEA	Capital Loan Easy Access	DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
CLLEX	Central Luzon Link Expressway	DILP-	DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program
CLOA	Certificate of Land Ownership Award	<i>Kabuhayan</i>	- <i>Kabuhayan</i>
CNGH	Camp Navarro General Hospital	DJNRMHS	Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium
CNS/ATM	Communications Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management System	DLS	Driver's Licensing System
COA	Commission on Audit	DND	Department of National Defense
COC	Code of Conduct	DO	Department Order
COMELEC	Commission on Elections	DOE	Department of Energy
CORDS	Cabinet Officers for Regional Development and Security	DOF	Department of Finance
COVAX	COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access	DOF-SERG	Department of Finance-Strategy, Economics, and Results Group
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019	DOH	Department of Health
CPCS	Compensation and Position Classification System	DOJ	Department of Justice
CPP-NPA-NDF	Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front	DOLE	Department of Labor and Employment
CREATE	Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises	DOST	Department of Science and Technology
CSBP	Comprehensive Social Benefits Program	DOST-FNRI	DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute
CSC	Civil Service Commission	DOST-PCIEERD	DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development
CSF	Credit Surety Fund	DOST-	DOST-Planning and Development
CSP	Community Support Program	PLANADES	Research Foundation, Inc.
CTG	Communist Terrorist Group	DOT	Department of Tourism
CTRP	Comprehensive Tax Reform Program	DOTr	Department of Transportation
DA	Department of Agriculture	DPCA	Disease Prevention and Control Authority
DAR	Department of Agrarian Reform	DPTR	Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap
DARAB	DAR Adjudication Board	DPWH	Department of Public Works and Highways
DATRC	Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center	DROMIC	Disaster Response Operations Monitoring and Information Center
DBCC	Development Budget Coordination Committee	DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
DBM	Department of Budget and Management	DSWD	Department of Social Welfare and Development
DBP	Development Bank of the Philippines	DTC	Digital Transformation Centers
DDB	Dangerous Drugs Board	DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
DDR	Department of Disaster Resilience	DUs	Distribution Utilities
DED	Detailed Engineering Design	EAC	Excess Available Capacity
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources	EASE	Educational Assistance Scholarship in Emergencies
DENR-SCIS	Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Strategic Communication and Initiatives Service	eBOSS	Electronic Business One-Stop Shop
DepEd	Department of Education	eBPLS	Electronic Business Permits and Licensing System
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs	DMWOF	Department of Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

E-CLIP	Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program	GCG	Governance Commission for Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations
ECQ	Enhanced Community Quarantine	GCO	General Community Quarantine
EE&C	Energy Efficiency and Conservation	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
eFOI	Electronic Freedom of Information	GECS-MOVE	Government Emergency Communications System-Mobile Operations Vehicle for Emergency
EFTs	Electronic Payment Fund Transfers	GeoRiskPH	Geospatial Information Management and Analysis Project for Hazards and Risk Assessment in the Philippines
EGMP	E-Government Masterplan	GIDA	Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area
EIU	Economist Intelligence Unit	GMMA	Greater Metro Manila Area
EMO	Earth and Marine Observation	GOCC	Government-Owned and Controlled Corporation
ENGP	Enhanced National Greening Program	GOLs	Government-owned Lands
E-NIPAS	Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System	GPPB	Government Procurement Policy Board
eNNS	Expanded National Nutrition Survey	GRS	Ground Receiving Station
EO	Executive Order	GSIS	Government Service Insurance System
EODB Act	Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act	GVA	Gross Value-Added
EPAHP	Expanded Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty	HCWs	Health Care Workers
EQF	Emergency Quarantine Facilities	HEI	Higher Education Institution
ERC	Energy Regulatory Commission	HRH	Human Resources for Health
ERT	Earthquake Resiliency Team	HUCs	Highly Urbanized Cities
ESP	Emergency Subsidy Program	HUDDC	Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
EUAs	Emergency Use Authorizations	IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
FAME	Futuristic Aviation and Maritime Expertise, Inc.	i-ACT	Inter-Agency Council for Traffic
FASSTER	Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler for Early Detection of Diseases	IATF-MEID	Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases
FAW	Fall Armyworm	IBP	International Budget Partnership
FBBP	First Bulacan Business Park	iBPLS	Integrated Business Permits and Licensing System
FCAs	Farmers Cooperatives and Associations	IC	Insurance Commission
FCDA	Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment	ICAD	Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs
FDA	Food and Drug Administration	ICT	Information and Communications Technology
FFPs	Family Food Packs	ICU	Intensive Care Unit
FHE	Free Higher Education	ID	Identification Card
FLAg	Forest Landuse Agreement	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
FLGMA	Forest Land Grazing Management Agreement	IFMA	Integrated Forest Management Agreement
FMRs	Farm-to-market Roads	IPs	Indigenous Peoples
FOI	Freedom of Information	IRM	Interim Reimbursement Mechanism
FRs	Former Rebels	IRR	Implementing Rules and Regulations
FSRF	Financial Subsidy for Rice Farmers	IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
FTAAs	Financial and Technical Assistance Agreements		
FW4A	Free Wi-Fi for All Project		
FY	Fiscal Year		
G.R. No.	General Register Number		
GCCC	Government Command and Control Center		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ISFs	Informal Settler Families	MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	MGCQ	Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine
ISPs	Internet Service Providers	MIAA	Manila International Airport Authority
IT	Information Technology	MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
ITA	Internet Transactions Act	MLD	Million Liters per Day
ITCs	Independent Tower Companies	mm	millimetre
JDVP	Joint Delivery Voucher Program	MMDA	Metropolitan Manila Development Authority
JMC	Joint Memorandum Circular	MME	Money Market Encounter
JPST	Joint Peace and Security Team	MMT	Million Metric Tons
JPY	Japanese yen	MNP	Mobile Number Portability
JTF CV Shield	Joint Task Force Coronavirus Shield	MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
KAK	<i>KADIWA ni Ani at Kita</i>	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
kg	Kilogram	mPhilGEPS	Modernized Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System
KIA	Killed-In-Action	MPN/100ML	Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters
KIPO	Killed in Police Operation	MRT-3	Metro Rail Transit Line 3
km	Kilometer	MRT-4	Metro Rail Transit Line 4
KMME-MME	<i>Kapatid</i> Mentor ME Money Market Encounter	MRT-7	Metro Rail Transit Line 7
LAA	Less Affected Area	MSFF	Marginal and Small Farmers and Fisherfolk
LANDBANK	Land Bank of the Philippines	MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
LBI	Luzon Bypass Infrastructure	MT	Metric Tons
LCAC	Local Communist Armed Conflict	MTOE	Million Tons of Oil Equivalent
LGUs	Local Government Units	MUP	Military and Uniformed Personnel
LinGap sa MaSa	<i>Lingap at Gabay para sa May Sakit</i>	MVIP	Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project
LLDA	Laguna Lake Development Authority	MVP	Manuel V. Pangilinan
LMS	Learning Management System	MW	Megawatts
LRT-1	Light Rail Transit Line 1	MWSS	Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
LRT-2	Light Rail Transit Line 2	NAIA	Ninoy Aquino International Airport
LSEN	Luzon Spine Expressway Network	NaLUA	National Land Use Act
LSG	Livelihood Settlement Grant	NAMRIA	National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
LSP	Livelihood Seeding Program	NAPOLCOM	National Police Commission
LSP-NSB	<i>LSP-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay</i>	NAPWC	Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center
LSP-PPG	<i>LSP-Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa</i>	NBI	National Bureau of Investigation
LTFRB	Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board	NBOSS	National Business One-Stop Shop
LTG	Local Terrorist Group	NBP	National Broadband Plan
LTO	Land Transportation Office	NCICP	New Cebu International Container Port
LUCs	Local Universities and Colleges	NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
M	Million	NCMF	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
m3	Cubic Meter	NCMH	National Center for Mental Health
MAA	Most Affected Area	NCR	National Capital Region
MB	Militia <i>ng Bayan</i>		
LEDAC	Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council		
Mbps	Megabits per second		
MC	Memorandum Circular		
MCGP	MSME Credit Guarantee Program		
MECQ	Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine		
MERALCO	Manila Electric Company		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

NCs	<i>Negosyo</i> Centers	OSSCO	One-Stop Service Center for OFWs
NDRRCM	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council	OTP	On-Time Performance
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority	OTS	Other Threatened Species
NEHEMIA	National Effort for the Harmonization of Efficiency Measures of Inter-related Agencies	OWWA	Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
NERS	National Employment Recovery Strategy	P&G	Procter and Gamble
NFA	National Food Authority	P3	<i>Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso</i>
NFP	Nutritious Food Products	PACC	Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission
NGA	National Government Agency	PADS	Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy
NGAC	National Government Administrative Center	PAGASA	Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration
NGCP	National Grid Corporation of the Philippines	PAGCOR	Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
NGOs	Non-government Organizations	PBI	Performance-Based Incentives
NGP	National Government Portal	PCA	Philippine Coconut Authority
NHA	National Housing Authority	PCG	Philippine Coast Guard
NHIP	National Health Insurance Program	PCIC	Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation
NHTS-PR	National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction	PCOO	Presidential Communications Operations Office
NIA	National Irrigation Authority	PCSO	Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
NLEX	North Luzon Expressway	PCVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
NOVs	Notices of Violations	PDA	Pre-Determined Areas
NSC	National Security Council	PDEA	Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
NTF	National Task Force	PDIC	Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
NTF-ELCAC	National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict	PDITR	Prevent-Detect-Isolate-Treat-Reintegrate
NTF-RTF-ELCAC	National Task Force-Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict	PDP	Philippine Development Plan
NTF-WPS	National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea	PEDRO	Philippine Earth Data Resource and Observation
NWRB	National Water Resources Board	PEP	Philippine Energy Plan
OAS	Online Appointment System	PESONet	Philippine Electronic Fund Transfer and System Operations Network
OBI	Open Budget Index	PEZA	Philippine Economic Zone Authority
OBS	Open Budget Surveys	PFM	Public Financial Management
OCD	Office of Civil Defense	PH Rise	Philippine Rise
OCSP	Open and Competitive Selection Process	PhilHealth	Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
OER	Open Educational Resources	PhilID	Philippine Identification Card
OES	Office of the Executive Secretary	PhilRECA	Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association
OF	Overseas Filipino	PhilSA	Philippine Space Agency
OFWs	Overseas Filipino Workers	PhilSys	Philippine Identification System
OHCC	One Hospital Command Center	PHIVOLCS	Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology
OKKK!	Online <i>Kahusayan at Katatagan ng Kabataan</i>	PhP	Philippine Peso
OPAPP	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process	PIA	Philippine Information Agency
OPAV	Office of the Presidential Assistant for the Visayas		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

PLDT	Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company	RoRo	Roll-on/Roll-off
PLEA	Production Loan Easy Access	ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
PLGU	Provincial Local Government Unit	RTL	Rice Tariffication Law
PMO	Project Management Office	RT-PCR	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction
PMO-ERG	Program Management Office for Earthquake Resiliency of the GMMMA	SALINTUBIG	<i>Sagana at Ligtas na Tubig</i>
PMS	Presidential Management Staff	SAP	Social Amelioration Program
PN	Philippine Navy	SBFP	School-Based Feeding Program
PNA	Philippine News Agency	SBMA	Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
PNP	Philippine National Police	SCS	South China Sea
PNR	Philippine National Railways	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
POLO	Philippine Overseas Labor Offices	SDNT	Single Draft South China Sea Code of Conduct Negotiating Text
POW	Passport-on-Wheels	SBDP	Support to the Barangay Development Program
PPEs	Personnel Protective Equipment	SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
PPI	Producer's Price Index	SEMME	Southeast Metro Manila Expressway
PPP	<i>Pantawid Pasada</i> Program	SFA	Special Financial Assistance
PPSB	Philippine Postal Savings Bank	SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
PQF	Philippine Qualifications Framework	SHS	Senior High School
PRC	Professional Regulation Commission	SLEX	South Luzon Expressway
PRC	Philippine Red Cross	SMC	San Miguel Corporation
PRP	President's Report to the People	SOC	Security Operations Center
PRRD	President Rodrigo Roa Duterte	SONA	State of the Nation Address
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority	SPISC	Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens
PSBS	Project <i>Sagip Batang</i> Solvent	SPL	<i>Sangay ng Partido sa Lokalidad</i>
PSGSH	Presidential Security Group Station Hospital	SPLIT	Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling
PSN	PhilSys Number	SPMC-CCI	Souther Philippines Medical Center-Children's Cancer Institute
PTTI	Passive Telecommunications Tower Infrastructure	SRP	Suggested Retail Price
PUP	Polytechnic University of the Philippines	SSF	Shared Service Facilities
PUV	Public Utility Vehicle	SSS	Social Security System
PWUD	Persons Who Use Drugs	STP	Sewerage Treatment Plant
Q-band	Quarantine Band	STUFAPs	Student Financial Assistance Programs
QR Code	Quick Response Code	SUCs	State Universities and Colleges
QTP	Qualified Third Party	SURE	Survival and Recovery
R&D	Research and Development	SURE	Expanded SURE Aid and Recovery Project
RA	Republic Act	COVID-19	
RAFPMP	Revised AFP Modernization Program	SWS	Social Weather Stations
RAPID Growth	Rural Agro-Enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development and Growth	SY	School Year
RATE	Run After Tax Evaders	TALA	<i>Tuklasin, Alamin, Likhain at Alalahanin</i>
RCA	Revised Concession Agreement	Tayo Naman!	<i>Tulong, Alaga, Yakap at Oras para sa mga Tagapagtaguyod ng Edukasyon</i>
RCEF	Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund	TDP	Tourism Development Program
RE	Renewable Energy	Tech4Ed	Technology for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs and Economic Development
RFID	Radio-Frequency Identification	TES	Tertiary Education Subsidy
RNA	Ribonucleic acid	TESDA	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
ROLL-IT	Roads Leveraging Linkages for Industry and Trade	TF	Task Force
ROK	Republic of Korea		

LIST OF ACRONYMS

TFAC	Task Force Against Corruption
TFBL	Task Force <i>Balik-Loob</i>
TFBM	Task Force <i>Bangon Marawi</i>
TFSP	Transitory Family Support Package
TIP	Trafficking in Persons
TNVS	Transport Network Vehicle Service
TPES	Total Primary Energy Supply
TPLEX	Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway
TRAIN	Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion
TRAVEL	Tourism Rehabilitation and Vitalization of Enterprise and Livelihood
TRB	Toll Regulatory Board
TRRP	Tourism Response and Recovery Plan
TTMFs	Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities
TUPAD	<i>Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Ating</i> Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TY	Typhoon
UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
UGMO	Underground Mass Organization
UHC	Universal Health Care
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UP	University of the Philippines
UP-PLANADES	UP-Planning and Development Research Foundation, Inc.
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCO	Virgin Coconut Oil
VIP	Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines
WDs	Water Districts
WESM	Wholesale Electricity Spot Market
WHO	World Health Organization
WIA	Wounded-In-Action
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity
WPS	West Philippine Sea
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council
WVF	West Valley Fault

