Updates on Philippine Identification System (PhilSys)

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Background

Republic Act No. 11055, otherwise known as the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act, aims to establish a single national identification system for all citizens and resident aliens of the Republic of the Philippines. Signed into law by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte in August 2018, the PhilSys Registry Office (PRO) was created as a dedicated unit, carried out under the Philippine Statistics Authority as the primary implementing agency, to oversee the overall planning, management and administration of the PhilSys.

The valid proof of identity provided as a digital ID system, shall be a means of simplifying public and private transactions, and shall be a social and economic platform that promotes seamless social service delivery to provide an inclusive coverage that enables access to the most vulnerable groups such as the poor, people living in geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. As a foundational digital ID system, the PhilSys also transforms how services are delivered and accessed in the Philippines, and accelerates our transition to a digital economy, including paperless and cashless transactions.

Philippine Identification System Registration Process and Target

The President gave the directive to fast-track the implementation of PhilSys to strengthen financial inclusion and accelerate social protection programs for Filipinos through the National ID.

The PhilSys registration process involves three steps:

- Step 1 - submission of demographic data (e.g., birth date and place, sex, etc.) and setting of appointment for Step 2 Registration
- Step 2 - validation of demographic data and capture of biometrics (fingerprint, iris scan, and facial photograph) at registration centers
- Step 3 - issuance of PhilSys Number (PSN) and delivery of PhilID card

The PSA aims to register **50 to 70 million individuals in 2021**, and cover the entire adult population by the end of the current administration in mid-2022.

Updates on rollout of Philippine Identification System

A. Step 1 Registration

1. As of 25 August 2021, daily online Step 1 Registrations uploaded were 47,260, bringing the total to 7,018,852 Step 1 online registration completed from 30 April to 25 August 2021. This is equivalent to 59,483 average daily registrations, and 18.5 percent of the total online registration target at 37.9 million by the end of the year.

2. Overall Step 1 Registrants are 41,016,302 from both assisted and online registrations as of 25 August 2021.

For further reference, see **ANNEX 1** – PhilSys Step 1 Registration Quick Counts as of 25 August 2021.

B. Step 2 Registration

As of 26 August 2021, daily Step 2 registrations completed were 215,965 bringing the total to 27,632,464 registrations completed by day 193 of operations. The cumulative accomplishment is 67.5 percent of the 40.9 million targets at the end of September 2021 for the Step 2 Registration.

For further reference, see **ANNEX 2** – Step 2 Registration Dashboard as of 26 August 2021. Data is based on the daily Step 2 Registration quick counts reported by the 81 provinces, and the five Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Provincial Statistical Offices in the National Capital Region.

B.1. Bank Account Opening Co-location

The PSA also partnered with the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) for the co-location at registration centers and enable opening of bank accounts for low-income households. As of 22 August 2021, a total of 5,219,062 (18.9%) of Step 2 registrants were onboarded for LANDBANK accounts. A total of 1,745,067 (33.4%) of 5,219,062 have opened their bank accounts onsite through the LANDBANK Agent Banking Partner (ABP). The remaining 3,473,995 registrants were onboarded either through Digital Onboarding System (DOBS) or pen-and-paper method and account opening is still for batch processing in Landbank branches nearest the respective registration locations.

C. Step 3 Registration

As of 26 August 2021, PSN generation reached 7,782,700, which is equivalent to 18.6 percent of the annual target. A total of 3,774,204 PhilID cards have already been personalized. Of this, 3,493,133 cards have been kitted, and 3,455,142 have been dispatched to Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost). The PHLPost reported 1,313,652 card deliveries to registrants as of 26 August 2021.

See **ANNEX 3** – Step 3 Registration PSN Issuance and PhilID Delivery as of 26 August 2021.

PhilID Design

The PSA presented to the public the different features of the Philippine Identification card or the PhilID through an advisory released to agency's website on 24 June 2021. The PhilID has key security features that aim to ensure the protection of each cardholder against identity theft and other types of counterfeiting.

A. Front Design of PhilD

The front of the PhilID contains the cardholder's front-facing photograph and basic demographic information in print, such as their full name, date of birth, and residence address. The PhilID also carries covert features that cannot be replicated to ensure the card's security and authenticity, such as the ID's guilloche design, microprinted texts, and color-shifting prints.

Further, the front of PhilID contains the PhilSys Card Number (PCN). The PCN only serves as the serial number for the physical ID card and is different from the registrant's PhilSys Number (PSN). The PCN shall be used when transacting for private and government services. Meanwhile, the PSN is a randomly generated combination of numbers that serves as a permanent digital identification and is unique to each registrant. The public was advised that this shall be kept confidential at all times.

B. Back Design of PhilD

The back design of the PhilID includes the rest of the cardholder's demographic information such as their sex, blood type, marital status, and place of birth. This part of the ID also displays a QR code that can be scanned to determine the cardholder's PSN, a barcode for the card's serial number, and a microprint of the PSN

See **ANNEX 4** for the details of PhilID Design.

The PSA has partnered with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to produce the PhilID cards. Meanwhile, the Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) facilitates the door-to-door delivery to the registrants.

PhilSys Benefits and Use Cases

The PhilSys is not just another ID to add to the list of "valid IDs". It is a platform to transform and streamline how services are delivered. The PSA aims to partner with various agencies and companies from the government and private sector in order to achieve the goal of providing easier, faster, and more efficient services to the public. For instance, this could be achieved by offering authentication services to various agencies and companies for a more convenient way to validate identity of their clients.

A. PhilSys Authentication Services

1. Offline authentication services

1.1 Use of Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The public key is issued to the Relying Party (RP). The key is embedded in the RP's application for verifying the QR Code. This method will allow the RP's application to verify the following data:

- Demographic data as compared to the data printed on the face of PhilID; and
- Validity of the ID—if it is still valid or has been revoked.

1.2 Use of the PhilID QR Code Verification (PQRCV) website. Verifiers will need to be online—with internet access—to view the PQRCV website. The website will allow the verifier to check the following data:

- Demographic data as compared to the data printed on the face of PhilID; and
- Validity of the ID—if it is still valid or has been revoked.

TIMELINE: Will be released within September 2021.

2. Online authentication services

2.1 Online identity verification/authentication – the RP sends, over a secure network connection, a PCN or Alyas PSN and one or more of the following factors for an automated match against the corresponding record in the PhilSys Registry, and receives a yes or no response:

- Biometric data (fingerprint, iris, and/or facial image);
- Demographic data; and
- SMS OTP (via mobile number registered in the record).

2.2 Receiving PSN token seeding – the RP receives a back-end PSN token as part of the response to be incorporated in their information system(s), following a successful online verification or e-KYC.

2.3 Electronic-Know Your Customer (e-KYC) – the RP receives specific demographic information and/or facial image, based on regulatory requirements, in a machine-readable format from the PhilSys Registry following a successful online identity authentication.

2.4 Matching PSN Seeding Tokens – PhilSys maps back-end PSN tokens stored in the information system(s) of one RP with those stored in the information system(s) of other RPs, when such data matching or sharing has a lawful basis.

B. Pilot Use Cases

1. PhilSys-Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Pilot Use Case

The DSWD programs for pilot use case are as follows:

- Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)
- Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)

Target start of pilot activity is in December 2021.

2. PhilSys-Civil Registration Service

The PhilSys shall also be piloted with the PSA's Civil Registration Service in the following areas (16 CRS outlets in 11 regions):

Region	Number of Outlet/s
National Capital Region	1
Ilocos Region	3
Cagayan Valley	1
Central Luzon	1
CALABARZON	2
Bicol Region	2
Western Visayas	2
Central Visayas	1
Eastern Visayas	1
Davao Region	1
SOCCSKSARGEN	1

Table 1. Pilot Areas for PhilSys-Civil Registration Service Use Case

Target start of pilot activity is in October 2021.

Provision of Mobile ID to PhilSys Registrants

The PhilID cards take a while to be produced and delivered to the PhilSys registered citizens. The PSA, through its Systems Integrator, will develop a MobileID or virtual ID that will function like the PhilID card itself. Citizens can present the MobileID to verifiers in the absence of a physical ID card, as proof of identity.

Among the functions included in the Mobile App are the following:

1. User Login and Logout;

2. Manage Alyas PSN - Registered person is able to generate and manage multiple concurrent and active Alyas PSN
    ii. Display
    iii. Activate
    iv. De-activate
    v. Delete;
3. Registered person may choose the validity period as well as the personal data that can be shared by the PhilSys;
4. Generate a QR Code (with embedded machine-readable Alyas PSN) upon the request of the Registered Person;
5. QR codes can also be generated for active PSNs at any point in time, with embedded validity period and list of personal data that can be shared by the PhilSys Registry for an online e-KYC;
6. Generate and display a virtual PhilID Card;
7. Personal data displayed can be controlled by the Registered Person
8. Accurate visual representation of a physical PhilID card on a registered mobile device that can be shown during a face-to-face verification of identity;
9. Allow the registered citizen to delete from the device the generated virtual image of a PhilID;
10. Request for re-issuance of PhilID Card;
11. Generate an OTP via the mobile app valid until a certain number of minutes, as defined by PSA;
12. Verify another registered citizen’s QR code and it will be reflected in the record history of the person being verified together with the verifier's account with the date and time of activity;
13. Show the status of the ID of the person being verified and if digital signature is still valid;
14. Verify the identity of another registered person by scanning the second QR code bearing a low-resolution image of the person;
15. Show the status and validity of the digital signature of the person being verified;
16. A feature that allows the submission of complaints using the Transaction Numbers (TRN) and Alyas PSN;
17. Submit, track, and review responses for complaints;
18. Enable the registered citizen to view his/her record history;
19. Manage the duration of how long the record history should be viewable in the PhilSys Registry;
20. Display the detailed information of the application in use; and
21. Contact details for support purposes.

Acceptance of PhilID

The PSA has received a number of complaints on the non-acceptance of the PhilID card because of the absence of a wet signature. The PSA has issued advisory on 23 August 2021 to clarify on PhilID security and verification features, and why the PhilID has no signature.

Through Republic Act No. 11055 and its technical design, the PhilSys aims to accelerate the Philippines' transition to a digital economy, society, and government by allowing Filipinos to do paperless, cashless, and presenceless transactions.

Achieving this goal entails building the PhilSys as a digital and interoperable platform which enables public and private sector service providers to transform their systems and processes into more modern and digital approaches for identity verification and completion of forms. Traditional processes depend on paper forms, photocopies of IDs, and wet signatures, which are prone to inefficiency and fraud. Handwritten signatures are easily forged and cannot be easily verified. Furthermore, there are some Filipinos who cannot make handwritten signatures, which is why some forms offer an alternative of a thumbmark.

The non-inclusion of a wet signature as part of the PhilID was deliberate and aligns with other national ID systems, such as in India, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, among others. It intends to:

1. Promote greater security in transactions through stronger methods of verification and lower risks of forgery;
2. Incentivize the use of digital technologies and more modern approaches for identity verification; and
3. Ensure the PhilID remains universally accessible and usable for all Filipinos.

Hence, for highest levels of assurance and security, the PhilSys will offer online and offline as mentioned above.

Data Security and Privacy

Further, the PhilSys adopts Privacy by Design principles, which means privacy is incorporated into its technologies by default and from the start. The PSA has been working closely with the National Privacy Commission, the Department of Information and Communications Technology, and the National Security Council regarding the architecture and processes of the PhilSys, including identifying and mitigating privacy and cybersecurity risks.

The PSA is committed in ensuring the privacy, security, and integrity of registered persons' personal data. Sufficient safeguards are in place for information security, cybersecurity, data protection, and privacy, in compliance with Republic Act No. 10173

or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (DPA), its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and other relevant issuances of the National Privacy Commission (NPC).

ANNEX 1. PhilSys Step 1 Registration Quick Counts

as of 25 Aug 2021

Year	Completed Step 1 Registrations			Target Step 1 Registrants (in Million)	Target Completed (in Percent)
	Assisted	Online	Total	Online	
2020	10,640,487	-	10,640,487	-	-
2021	23,356,863 [2]	7,018,952 [1]	30,375,815	37.9	18.5
January to April	23,052,706	-	-	-	-
May 10 to June 5	304,157	-	-	-	-
Total			**41,016,302**		

Notes:

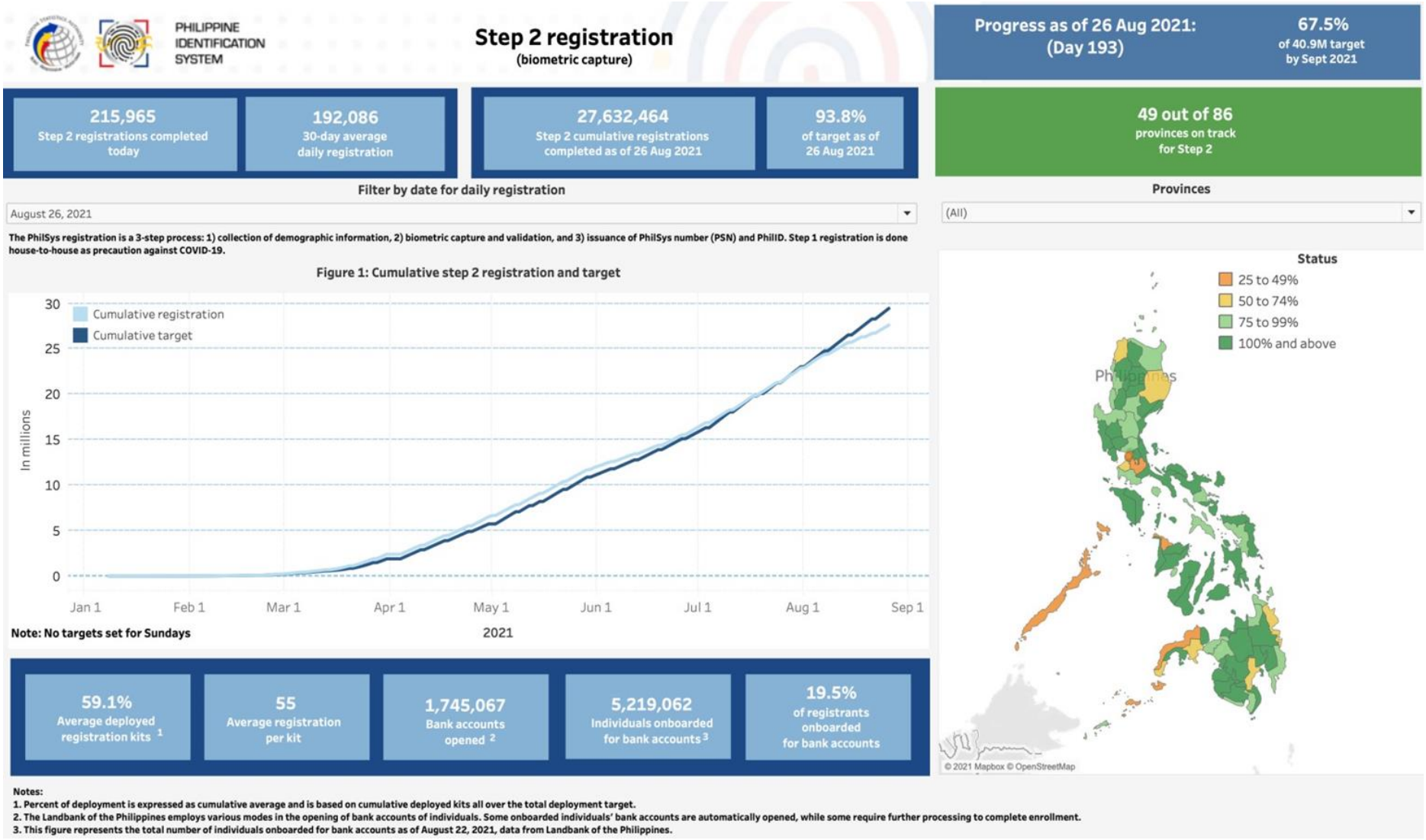
[1] period covered is April 30 to August 25, 2021

[2] Assisted Step 1 Registration to 81 provinces and the 5 PSA provincial offices of the NCR commenced on January 18, 2021 and ended on May 31, 2021 and was extended until June 5, 2021.

- no data collected/available

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

ANNEX 2. Step 2 Registration Dashboard as of 26 Aug 2021



Notes:

1. Percent of deployment is expressed as cumulative average and is based on cumulative deployed kits all over the total deployment target.
2. The Landbank of the Philippines employs various modes in the opening of bank accounts of individuals. Some onboarded individuals' bank accounts are automatically opened, while some require further processing to complete enrollment.
3. This figure represents the total number of individuals onboarded for bank accounts as of August 22, 2021, data from Landbank of the Philippines.

ANNEX 3. Step 3 Registration PhilSys Number Issuance and PhilID Delivery as of 26 Aug 2021

PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

Step 3 registration
(Issuance of PhilSys number (PSN) and PhilID)

Progress as of 26 Aug 2021

17,551,750 Blank cards produced [1]	7,782,700 PhilSys numbers generated	3,774,204 PhilID cards personalized	3,493,133 PhilID cards kitted	3,455,142 PhilID cards dispatched	1,313,652 PhilID cards delivered
35.1% of 50M target for 2021	18.6% of 41.8M target for 2021	25.4% of 14.8M target for 2021	23.5% of 14.8M target for 2021	23.3% of 14.8M target for 2021	4.8% of cumulative Step 2 registration [2] / 8.9% of 14.8M target for 2021
	13,785,995 Projected PhilSys numbers generated by end of 2021 [3]	8,222,378 Projected PhilID cards personalized by end of 2021	7,606,344 Projected PhilID cards kitted by end of 2021	7,574,729 Projected PhilID cards dispatched by end of 2021	2,890,465 Projected PhilID cards delivered by end of 2021 [4]

8/26/2021

Figure 1. Cumulative Step 3 registration [5]

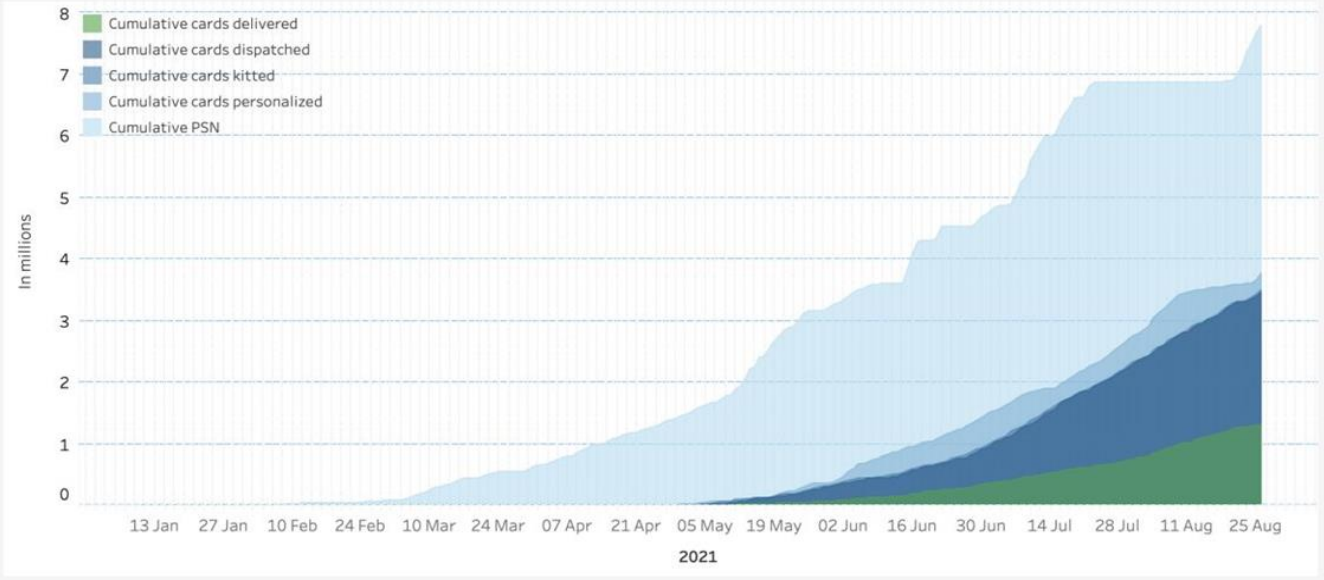
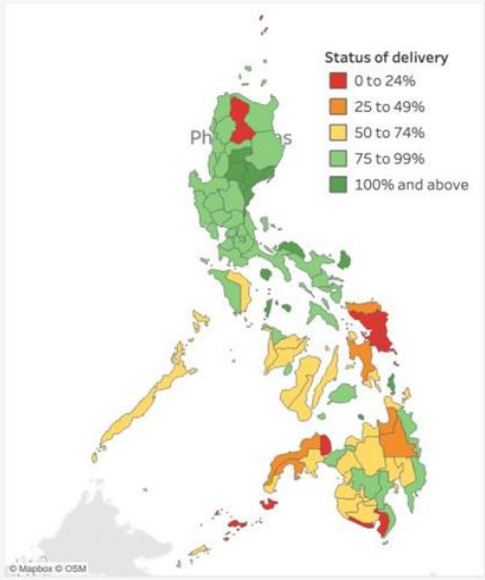
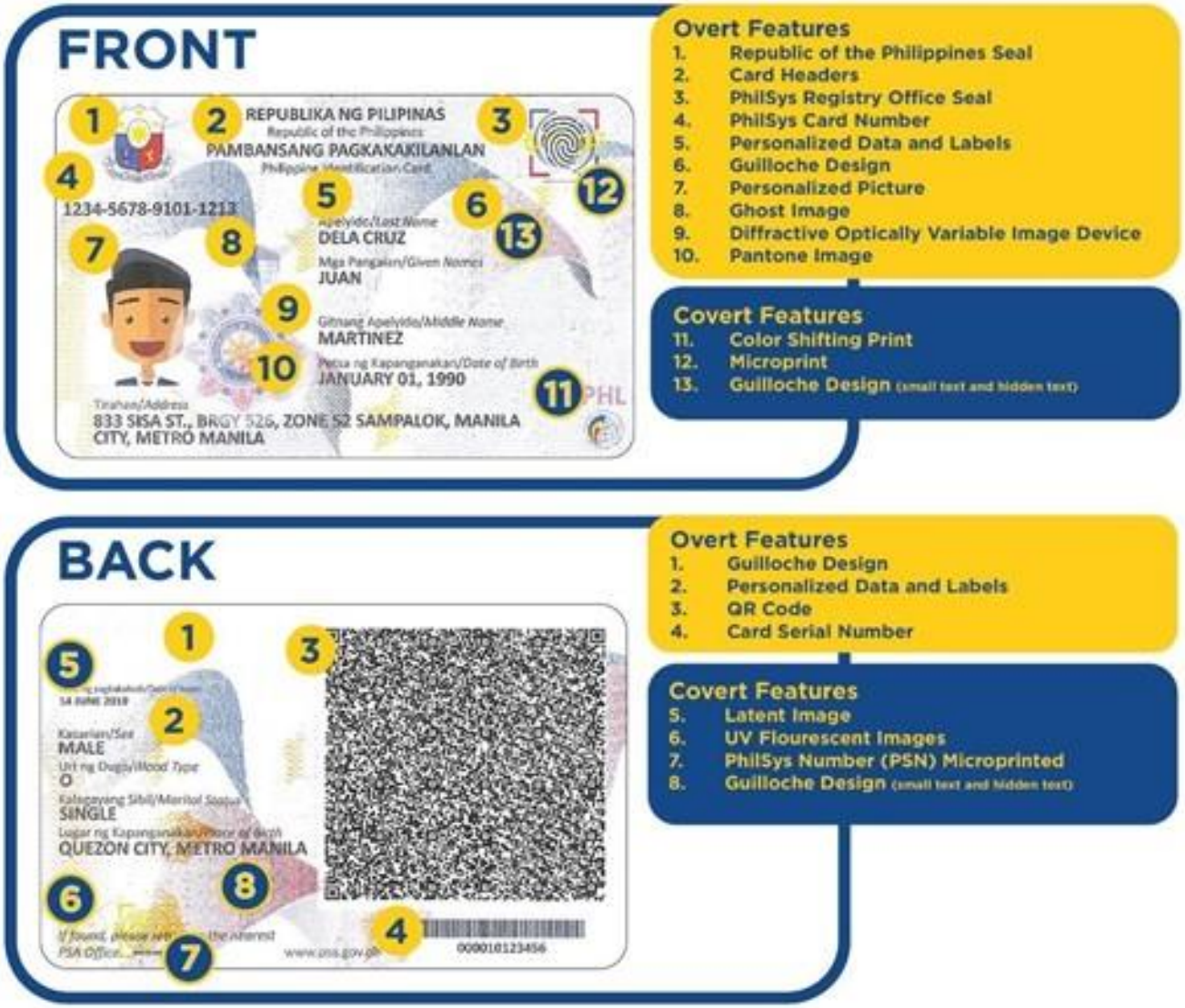


Figure 2: Status of delivery [6]



Notes:
1. Blank cards produced, PhylSys numbers generated, cards personalized, cards kitted, and cards dispatched as of 26 August 2021.
2. Percent of Step 2 Registrants with PhilID as of 25 August 2021.
3. Projected PhylSys numbers generated, cards personalized, cards kitted, cards dispatched by end of 2021 based on data as of 26 August 2021.
4. Projected PhilID cards delivered by end of 2021 based on data as of 25 August 2021.
5. Step 3 registration started on 8 January 2021.
6. Status of delivery as percent of total PhilIDs received by PHLPost postal offices as of 25 August 2021.

ANNEX 4. PhilID Design