

# REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### **RESOLUTION NO. 52**

Series of 2020 July 06, 2020

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Executive Secretary issued Executive Order (E.O.) No. 112 Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and a General Community Quarantine in the Rest of The Country from 01 To 15 May 2020, Adopting The Omnibus Guidelines On The Implementation Thereof, And For Other Purposes;

**WHEREAS**, on May 23, 2020, pursuant to the authority granted to the IATF under E.O. 112, the IATF issued and published amended Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of the Community Quarantine in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, due to developments in the situation of the COVID-19 health event in the country, further amendments are required to further streamline the government's response to the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, as of 06 July 2020, there are Forty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-three (46,333) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** as it is hereby resolved that the IATF approves the following:

- A. In order to ensure continuity of transportation services in Metro Manila while safeguarding the safety and well-being of the commuting public, the recommendations of the Department of Transportation as to the operations of Manila Metro Rail Transit System Line 3 (MRT-3) are hereby approved the specifics of which are as follows:
  - 1. Operations of the MRT-3 shall be temporarily suspended for approximately 5 days beginning 07 July 2020 or until Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) testing confirms negative a sufficient number of personnel to resume at least limited operations;
  - 2. Disinfection of facilities and RT-PCR testing of MRT-3 personnel by Philippine Coast Guard shall be prioritized; and
  - 3. Bus augmentation during the suspension shall be increased.
- B. The proactive recommendations of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in implementing a whole-of-nation approach to deter the spread of the new strain of G4-H1N1 or the Swine Flu Virus are hereby approved, the specifics of which are as follows:
  - The setting-up of inter-agency surveillance mechanisms for swine farms and workers
    especially those regularly exposed to pigs is a must. This effort shall be actively linked to
    global efforts to monitor the emerging disease. Further research on any emerging disease
    shall be conducted; and



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- 2. The concerned agencies particularly the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, and Bureau of Customs are hereby directed to strictly implement Republic Act No. 10611 or the Food Safety Act of 2013, especially Section 12, Item (b) thereof.
- C. The recommendations of the sub-Technical Working Group on the Entry of Foreign Nationals are approved, the specifics of which are as follows:
  - 1. The sTWG on the Entry of Foreign Nationals shall be reconstituted to sub-Technical Working Group on Travel;
  - The suspension of non-essential travel by Filipinos pursuant to Inter-Agency Task Force Resolution No. 13 dated 17 March 2020 is hereby lifted. All travel restrictions relative to outbound travel of Filipinos pursuant to previous IATF Resolutions are likewise lifted;
  - 3. The non-essential outbound travel of Filipinos shall be subject to the following conditions:
    - i. Submission of confirmed round-trip tickets for those travelling on tourist visas;
    - Adequate travel and health insurance to cover rebooking and accommodation expenses if stranded, and hospitalization in case of infection, in such amount as may be determined by the Department of Tourism;
    - Allowed entry by the destination country in accordance with their travel, health and quarantine restrictions;
    - iv. Execution of a *Declaration* acknowledging the risks involved in travelling, including risk of delay in their return trip, to be provided for in the check-in counters by the airlines; and
    - v. Upon return, shall follow the Guidelines of Returning Overseas Filipinos of the National Task Force (NTF).

All of the foregoing is without prejudice to the exercise of the mandate of the Bureau of Immigration prior to departure.

D. The overall strategic communications roadmap as presented by the NTF Task Group on Strategic Communication is hereby approved.

**APPROVED** during the 52nd Inter-Agency Task Force Meeting, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting, held this 6th of July 2020 *via* video conference.

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary, Department of Health

IATF Chairperson

KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES

Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Cabinet Secretary

IATF Co-Chairperson



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#### CERTIFICATION

#### This is to certify that:

- 1. I am presently an Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health;
- 2. I am the designated Head of the Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases created under Executive Order No. 168, series of 2014 and chaired by the Department of Health (DOH);
- 3. The IATF Secretariat holds office in the DOH Main Office, San Lazaro Compound, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila;
- 4. I am the custodian of the records of the IATF, including the Minutes of Meetings and Resolutions;
- 5. In the Regular Meeting of the IATF held on <u>JULY 2020</u> via teleconference during which a quorum was present and acted throughout, IATF Resolution No. 52 was unanimously approved and adopted;
- 6. The foregoing resolution has been signed by Secretary Francisco T. Duque III and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles upon authority of the IATF Members;
- 7. The aforesaid resolution has not been altered, modified nor revoked and the same is now in full force and effect;
- 8. I am executing this Certification for whatever legitimate purpose this may serve.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this  $\frac{7^{10}}{2020}$  day of July 2020, Manila.

KENNETH G. RONQUILLO, MD, MPHM Assistant Secretary, Department of Health Secretariat Head, IATF