**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE**
**News and Information Bureau**

**PRESS BRIEFING OF PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON HARRY ROQUE**
**July 1, 2021 (12:6 P.M. – 1:08 P.M.)**

**SEC. ROQUE:** Maayong udto sa inyong tanan.

Narito po tayo ngayon sa Siyudad ng Iloilo 'no, sa Iloilo City Hall, kung saan kanina po tayo po ay nag-turnover ng mga karagdagang bakuna – 50,000 Sinovac – at sampung ventilators, limang CPAP machines at limang mga BiPAP machines para po sa Siyudad ng Iloilo.

Kasama po natin ngayon ang Alkalde po ng Iloilo City, walang iba kung hindi si Mayor Jerry P. Treñas. Kasama rin po po natin ang kinatawan po sa Kongreso ng Siyudad ng Lone District of Iloilo City, si Honorable Jam-Jam Baronda. Mamaya po ay maririnig din po natin si Usec. Leopoldo Vega, ang ating Treatment Czar. Pero sa panel ngayon po ay kasama rin po natin ang ating Asec. of the DOH, Dr. Romeo A. Ong; ang ating DOH Regional Director for Region VI, Dr. Subaan; and ang ating Director for Logistics ng DOH, Dr. Ariel Valencia, Director of DOH.

Maya-maya po ay maririnig po natin si Mayor Treñas, Congresswoman Baronda at si Usec. Vega.

Pero bago po iyon, naaprubahan po ng inyong IATF kahapon, a-trenta ng Hunyo, ang final community quarantine classifications para sa buwan ng Hulyo. Ito po ay aprubado ng ating Presidente.

Tingnan po natin ang infographic ng mga lugar na nasa MECQ, GCQ at MGCQ. May dalawang nabago po rito 'no: Una, ang Probinsiya ng Apayao sa Cordillera Administrative Region ay nasa GCQ simula July a-uno hanggang July a-kinse 2021. Ito ay matapos na maaprubahan ng IATF ang appeal nito na ma-de-escalate mula sa Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine classification patungo po sa GCQ. Habang ang apela ng Probinsiya ng Ifugao na ma-de-escalate sa MGCQ mula sa MECQ ay inaprubahan din ng inyong IATF.

Samantala, naglabas din ang IATF ng listahan ng tinatawag na "green" countries at jurisdiction. Kung inyong matatandaan, naglabas ang inyong IATF ng guidelines noong Lunes, June 28, 2021, para sa inbound international travel ng mga indibidwal na nabakunahan sa Pilipinas at mga indibidwal nabakunahan sa tinatawag na green countries or jurisdictions.

Ang green countries or jurisdictions ayon sa IATF Resolution 123-C ay iyong mga low-risk countries/jurisdictions ayon sa Department of Health.

Anong basehan ng pagiging low-risk? Una, para sa mga lugar na may mga populasyon na higit sa 100,000, ang basehan ay ang incidence rates or cumulative new cases over the past 28 days per 100,000 population. Kasama rin sa basehan ay ang new case trajectory or case trend for daily new cases over the past 28 days. Pangalawa, para naman sa mga populasyon na may mababa sa 100,000 ang mga basehan ay ang COVID-19 case counts or cumulative new cases over the past 28 days at ang new case trajectory.

Makikita sa susunod na infographic ang mga green countries/jurisdictions kung saan pinapayagang ang fully vaccinate individuals na makapasok ng Pilipinas subject to 7-day quarantine. Ito po ang mga bansang:

Albania
American Samoa
Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Australia
Benin
Belize
The British Virgin Islands
Brunei
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cayman Islands
Chad
China
Côte d'Ivoire
Eswatini
Falkland Islands
French Polynesia
Gambia
Ghana
Greenland
Grenada
Hong Kong
Iceland
Isle of Man
Israel
Laos
Liberia
Malawi
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritius
Micronesia
Montserrat
Morocco
Mozambique
New Caledonia
New Zealand
Niger
Nigeria
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau
Rwanda
Saba
Saint Barthelemy
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Sierra Leone
Senegal
Singapore
Saint Eustatius
South Korea
Taiwan
Togo
Turks and Caicos Islands
Taiwan
Zimbabwe

Napagdesisyunan din po ng inyong IATF na ang opsyon naipresenta ng Philippine Overseas Labor Office validations bilang proof of vaccination status ay exclusive lamang po sa mga Overseas Filipino Workers. Magsisimulang tumanggap ang ating mga POLO ng applications for validations simula July 5, 2021.

Samantala, ang mga OFWs na makakapagpresenta ng international certificate of vaccination ay maaari na rin pong makapag-avail ng green lanes simula ngayon araw, July 1, 2021, provided na makakasunod sila sa mga requirements. Paalala: Mayroon pa rin pong pitong araw na facility-based quarantine upon arrival kahit na ikaw ay fully vaccinated sa Pilipinas o sa abroad.

Para sa mga tagasubaybay natin sa Iloilo City at Visayas, libre ang bakuna, first dose at second dose po.

COVID-19 updates po tayo: Mayroon tayong 4,509 na mga bagong kaso ayon sa June 30, 2021 datos ng DOH. Muling tumaas po ang ating recovery rate, ito ay nasa 94.8%. Maraming salamat po sa ating mga medical frontliners. Nasa 1,339,248 na po ang bilang ng mga naka-recover. Samantalang malungkot po naming binabalita na nasa 24,662 ang binawian na po ng buhay. Nakikiramay po kami sa mga naulila. Nasa 1.75% po ang ating fatality rate.

Ito naman po ang kalagayan ng ating mga ospital ‘no. Sa buong Pilipinas:

- Fifty-five percent ang utilized na ICU beds
- Forty-seven percent po utilized ang ating isolation beds
- Forty-four percent utilized ang ward beds
- At 34% ang ating mga ventilators

Sa NCR po:

- Forty-two percent po ang nagagamit na ICU beds
- Thirty-nine percent po ang nagagamit na isolation beds
- Thirty-five percent po ang nagagamit na ward beds
- At 31% po ang nagagamit na ventilators

Sa ibang usapin: Pinirmahan po ni Presidente Rodrigo Roa Duterte kahapon, June 30, 2021, ang Republic Act # 11569 na nag-i-extend ng real estate amnesty. Binibigyan ng batas na hanggang June 14, 2023 ang pagpa-file po ng sinumpaang estate amnesty return.

Isa pa pong good news: Mamayang hapon po ay pangungunahan ni Presidente Rodrigo Roa Duterte, kasama ni DOTr Secretary Art Tugade, ang inauguration ng LRT 2 East Extension

Project. Dalawang istasyon po ang madadagdag sa LRT 2 – ang Marikina-Pasig Station at ang Antipolo station.

Ang proyektong ito ay two decades in the making, 1999 ho nang ito ay unang plinano; 2012, naaprubahan ng NEDA Board; at taong 2017 naman nagsimula ang aktuwal na construction.

Sa pagbubukas ng LRT 2, bababa ang travel time mula Recto sa Manila hanggang Antipolo, Rizal mula sa kasalukuyang tatlong oras na biyahe gamit ang bus o jeepney sa 30 to 40 minuto na lamang. Oras na maging operational ang proyekto sa July 6, 2021, madadagdagan ng 80,000 na pasahero kada araw ang kasalukuyang 240,000 passenger capacity ng LRT 2.

Sa ibang usapin: Ang buwan ng Hulyo ay Nutrition Month. Ang Nutrition Month ay may temang, “Malnutrisyon Patuloy na Labanan, First 1,ooo Days Tututukan!” Ito ay panawagan para sa lahat na magtulung-tulong para lutasin ang malubhang problema ng malnutrition sa ating bansa at paigtingin pa lalo ang mga serbisyo sa first 1,000 days ng buhay.

Sa kampaniya na pinangungunahan ng National Nutrition Council, pinapahalagahan ang wastong nutrisyon para mapalakas ang ating resistensiya laban sa sakit lalo na laban sa COVID-19, makamit ang tamang paglaki ng mga bata at maging produktibo ang ating mga mamamayan.

Mabuhay po ang National Nutrition Council!

Dito po nagtatapos ang ating presentasyon. Unahin ko na po si Mayor Jerry Treñas. Mayor Treñas, kumusta na po ang estado ng COVID sa ating siyudad; at ano pa po ang mga iba pa ninyong mga pangangailangan dito sa Siyudad.

**ILOILO MAYOR TREÑAS:** Secretary, first of all, I would like to thank the national IATF through you, Secretary Roque and Secretary Galvez, for allowing the delivery of 50,000 Sinovac vaccines to Iloilo City. Aside from this, we have seen the ventilators, the high-flow oxygen cannula, and the additional PPE for our frontliners.

Kami po ay nagpapasalamat kay Presidente Rodrigo Duterte at saka sa national government sa mga tulong na pinadala dito.

Nagpapasalamat din kami sa presensiya ni Usec. Leopoldo Vega, ni Asec. Ong, ni Director Ariel ng DOH kasi kailangan namin ng tulong para ma-improve ang aming healthcare capacity.

And we need all the support that we can get and we are very thankful to the national government and especially to you for your physical presence here in Iloilo City.

Thank you very much.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Thank you very much, Mayor Treñas. May we ask for a few words from our congresswoman of the lone district of Iloilo City, Congresswoman Jam-Jam Baronda.

**CONGRESSWOMAN BARONDA:** Thank you so much, Secretary Harry Roque, of course, the presence of DOH and together with Mayor Jerry Treñas, we felt, Ilonggos felt the presence of the national government. And we would like to say thank you in advance to President Rodrigo

Roa Duterte and of course, salamat din kay Secretary Galvez, Secretary Lorenzana and I would like also to say thank you to Secretary Bebot Bello because after this we need to reboot economy, he gave us P50 million para sa COVID adjustment program para sa 10,000 transport sector for Iloilo City.

So, again, thank you sa vaccines. I hope that with the support of our barangay captains, with the support of every Ilonggo with the leadership of our beloved Mayor Jerry Treñas who is so assertive na matulungan po natin, and together we will face this COVID.

Salamat, Secretary.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Kasama rin po natin ngayon si Treatment Czar, USec. Vega 'no. USec., ano po ang plano ninyo while you are here in Iloilo because I understand you will be spending the night here in Iloilo? The floor is yours, Usec. Vega.

**USEC. VEGA:** Good morning po sa lahat, Spox Harry, Mayor Gerry and of course, Congresswoman Jam-Jam.

Unang-una po, nagpapasalamat kami for the very warm reception given to us by Iloilo City and the City officials here. Ang Iloilo po ngayon at present is on moderate risk category. That means that the two-week growth rate is already negative but the ADAR which is the Average Daily Attack Rate is still high.

But ang problema po sa Iloilo City ay iyong HCUR, iyong ating Health Care Utilization Rate lalung-lalo na sa intensive care units kasi nasa critical risk position. And this is the reason why we are here together with Secretary and my DOH family to talk to the different medical directors and hospital institutions, both public and private, on how best we can adjust to the crisis or the surge that we have here in Iloilo.

That means that we need to come up with better strategies on making sure that the critical and severe cases from Iloilo and from the nearby provinces can access the critical care units here in Iloilo City. So, on behalf of the Department of Health, Secretary Francisco Duque, we are here to support Iloilo City.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay. Tuloy na po tayo sa open forum and you can ask any questions from anyone in the panel. As usual po, when we go on an out-of-town press briefing, we will be alternating. Unahin po natin ang Malacañang Press Corps and then the local media will be moderated by our Liez'l Lamasan of the Philippine Information Agency.

So, Usec. Rocky, go ahead please.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Yes. Good afternoon, Secretary Roque, at sa atin pong mga bisita.

From Leila Salaverria of Inquirer, question number one niya: What does the government think of the World Bank report that based on three multi-country assessments, Philippines students are faring poorly in Math, Reading and Science even before COVID and the crisis in education will have been made worse by COVID?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, that is very disturbing po and very alarming and I'm sure Secretary Liling Briones and her team at the Department of Education will sit down and study as well as discuss ways forward upon receiving this World Bank report. Huwag po kayong mag-alala, pag-aaralan pong mabuti natin kung ano iyong sinasabi ng report at titingnan po natin kung paano natin mababago ang ating curriculum lalung-lalo na sa panahon po ng pandemya.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Second question po niya: Since face-to-face classes are out of the picture for now, what interventions will it do to improve the quality of education and address other concerns such as student's low growth mindset and poor nutrition?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, sa poor nutrition po 'no, I was the author in the 17th Congress of the 'Masustansiyang Pagkain Para sa mga Kabataan' 'no. Although wala po tayong face-to-face, tuloy naman po iyong programang iyan, dini-deliver po sa ating mga kabataan iyong masustansiyang pagkain at dinagdagan pa po natin ng libreng gatas na programa 'no para doon sa mga kulang na timbang.

Pagdating po sa mga innovations, palagi naman pong nag-i-innovate ang ating Department of Education, we are on blended learning po. We utilize modules; we utilize TV, radio, as well as computer-aided forms of educational material po 'no. But I'm sure that the process of adapting to the new normal continues and the Department of Education will continue to introduce innovations.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Third question po niya: What has the President said, if any, about reports that alleged drug lord Peter Lim has slipped out of the country?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, wala pa po namang kumpirmasyon po iyan 'no dahil ang sabi po ng ating Department of Justice na under po ang Immigration eh wala pa po silang record na nakalabas po si Peter Lim 'no. Pero nonetheless eh nasa watch list naman po ng Interpol na itong si Peter Lim. At saka I'm sure po na gagawa ng hakbang ang DOJ to cancel his passport and to make sure that because he has no travel documentation, that wherever he may be, kung abroad man siya eh maalerto iyong mga receiving state kung nasasaan siya.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Last question po ni Leila Salaverria: What does the Palace say to concerns that this shows that the drug war only targets the poor and treats those with connection and influence differently?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Unang-una po wanted si Peter Lim, wala po siyang kalayaan. Pangalawa po nakakulong po si Senator Leila De Lima, proof na hindi lang po mahihirap ang tina-target dito sa war on drugs.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Thank you, Secretary Roque.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Punta muna tayo kay Liez'l for local media question before we go to Zoom question from Mela. Go ahead, Liez'l.

**LIEZ'L LAMASAN/PIA:** Good afternoon everyone. I am Liez'l Marlamasan of the Philippine Information Agency and this time I'd like to acknowledge Mr. Joel Franco of RMN Iloilo for his question.

**JOEL FRANCO/RMN ILOILO:** Secretary, good afternoon. Ano bang guidelines natin in allocating vaccines sa mga LGUs? Because seemingly parang may pabago-bago tayong sistema on how we allocate vaccines sa bawat LGUs.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Pabago-bago po talaga iyan kasi depende sa sitwasyon ng COVID sa iba't ibang lugar. So kung dati po walang prayoridad ang Iloilo City, ngayon po mayroon nang prayoridad because of the recent surge. Kaya nga po nagkaroon tayo ng tinatawag na NCR Plus 8 Plus 10 at kasama na po sa area na mabigyan ng prayoridad ang Iloilo City and this explains why medyo malaki po iyong na-deliver natin ngayon 'no na 50,000 na Sinovac.

**JOEL FRANCO/RMN ILOILO:** So, do we say na 'pag hindi magkakaroon ng surge ang isang LGU, hindi sila makatatanggap ng this much na number of vaccines?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, ang ating allocation po really is dependent on population 'no and incidents of COVID – iyon 'yung kinukonsidera po natin. There is actually a mathematical formula in the same way that we have a formula for our community classification 'no. So we always look at iyong two-week average attack rate, iyong average attack rate, healthcare utilization rate also in determining the allocation of a given area for vaccines.

Uulitin ko po, vaccines will prevent diseases pero ang epekto po ng vaccines will be felt 5 weeks later. So kinakailangan po ang primary weapon natin against the COVID is prevention – MASK, HUGAS, IWAS – and detection sa aggressive testing po natin, isolation, contact tracing.

**JOEL FRANCO/RMN ILOILO:** Kukunin ko lang po iyong reaksiyon ninyo sa sinabi ni Mayor Jerry Treñas kanina na parang iba iyong vaccine na binibigay sa mga malalaking siyudad doon sa NCR tapos iba naman dito sa Lungsod ng Iloilo.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, mayroon pong cold storage capacity ang Iloilo City so makakarating po sa kanila iyong mga sub—dito po, iyong mga subzero vaccines. Kakadating nga lang po noong isang araw ng Moderna so give it time po 'no, makakarating naman po iyan sa lahat ng mga urban centers na mayroong cold storage capacity. So hindi lang po Moderna 'yan, mayroon po tayong 40 million na darating na Pfizer and Pfizer will make it also to Iloilo City.

Okay. Mela Lesmoras of PTV4 by Zoom, please.

**MELA LESMORAS/PTV4:** Hi. Good afternoon Secretary Roque at sa ating mga guests po ngayon. Secretary Roque, on green countries lang po. I understand nasa IATF resolution na rin naman ito pero para mas marinig ng ating mga kababayan lalo na iyong ibang nagtatanong bakit iyong kanilang bansa na pinagtutuluyan ngayon ay wala sa listahan. Ano po ba iyong mga naging basehan ng ating IATF at ng DOH sa pagpili nitong green countries at ito po ba ay definite na o may tiyansa pa na madagdagan pa sa mga susunod na araw at buwan?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well depende po sa kaso ng COVID doon sa mga lugar na iyon, mababago po iyan. Pero ang tinitingnan po natin hindi lang iyong percentage ng mga nabakunahan sa mga areas classified as green countries kung hindi iyong prevalence rate din po 'no. Binasa ko po kung ano iyong criteria 'no. So similar po iyan doon sa tinatawag nating attack rate at two-week attack rate na binabasehan natin sa ating quarantine classification. Siyempre po titingnan natin iyong dami ng COVID doon sa mga lugar na iyan.

Alam ko po maraming nagtatanong na ang Estados Unidos hindi pa po kasama diyan sa tinatawag nating green countries kasi mataas nga po ang mga kaso ng COVID sa Estados Unidos ngayon.

**MELA LESMORAS/PTV4:** Opo. And Secretary Roque, another follow up po about sa green countries. Kasi may mga OFWs po tayong nakausap na like sa Hong Kong, may ilan na puwedeng umuwi pero nasa 8 days lang or 2 weeks or mas unti nga lang. So ang tanong ng ilan, may tiyansa po kaya na dumating iyong panahon na wala nang quarantine at all, swab test na lang? At if ever man, kailan po kaya natin nakikitang darating iyong panahong ganito?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, ang tanong mo if there is a possibility – there is always a possibility. Pero sa ngayon po, from what I know 'no, wala pa rin pong bansa na hayaang pumapasok ang kahit sino na wala pong quarantine lalung-lalo na po dahil mayroon nga po tayong Delta variant – at least dito po sa karatig bansa natin. I know the people can freely go to the United States 'no without a quarantine requirement pero increasingly dito po sa lugar ng daigdig kung saan nga tayo eh talagang mayroon pong quarantine requirement. Although marami na pong nagli-lessen to 7 days ang quarantine period para sa mga vaccinated individuals gaya po ng ginawa natin.

**MELA LESMORAS/PTV4:** Opo. And my final question na lamang po, Secretary Roque. Officially today, pumasok na tayo sa second half ng taong 2021. Nasaan na po tayo ngayon sa ating laban kontra COVID-19? At iyon nga, sa gitna pa rin nitong Delta variant at iba pang variants ng COVID-19, confident pa rin po ba tayo na maa-achieve natin iyong better Christmas?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Yes, confident pa rin po tayo for a better Christmas. We have exceeded the 10-million mark for vaccination. We have managed the COVID cases in Metro Manila Plus 8 na naging kuta talaga ng COVID-19. There are more areas now under MECQ, but population-wise, ang population naman is not as great as when the numbers were so high or at its peak dito po sa Metro Manila Plus 8' no. And we are confident that with more supplies of the vaccine come in, mas maraming mabibigyan ng proteksiyon and we can move towards containment and a better Christmas this year.

**MELA LESMORAS/PTV:** Okay, thank you po.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay. Punta tayo uli kay, Usec. Rocky.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Yes, thank you, Secretary Roque. From Margot Gonzales ng SMNI: Within this week daw po ay lilipad na si Senator Manny Pacquiao para sa fight niya, laban niya sa Agosto. Totohanin ba ni Presidente ang banta niya sakaling mabibigo ang Senador na magpalabas ng listahan ng mga corrupt na ahensiya?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, inaantay po ni Presidente iyong listahan ng mga corrupt na ahensiya ni Senator Pacquiao. Kagaya ng sinabi ko kahapon, bagama't sinabi niya, isa doon sa ahensiyang ito ay DOH, eh talaga naman pong naimbestigahan na iyan fully ng Senado. So, wala pong bago doon sa sinabi niyang departamento na DOH. So sana nga po, bago naman umalis is Senator Pacquiao ay makapagsabi siya kung sino talaga ang dapat maimbestigahan, dahil ang mensahe ni Presidente, hindi po niya tino-tolerate ang korapsiyon. Malaman man lang niya kung saan mayroong sunog at papatayin niya iyong sunog na iyon.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. For Usec. Vega. Question from Sweeden Velado of PTV: Usec. Vega, may recent study na ipinalabas ang University of Oxford saying mixing doses of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines creates a strong immune response. If this can make use of the scarce vaccine more flexible, are we also willing to do it in the country, Usec. Vega?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Usec. Vega, nakuha po ninyo iyong question?

Unfortunately, can we find a way to have a monitor so that we can hear the questions here? Subukan lang natin kasi all the rest of the panelist, hindi nila naririnig iyong nangyayaring mga questions and everyone else. So, if we could find a way to broadcast, siguro even through a cellphone, lalagyan natin ng mic para alam lang ang mga questions.

But, Usec. Vega, the question is may recent study na inilabas ang Oxford po saying mixing doses of Pfizer and AstraZeneca creates a strong immune response. If this can make use of scarce vaccines more flexible, are we willing to do it in this country?

**USEC. VEGA:** Thank you, Spox Harry, tama ho iyon. There is a preliminary results na lumalabas na itong mixing and matching of different vaccine platform, kagaya ng AstraZeneca at saka Pfizer has been done and they found out that people injected with AstraZeneca and Pfizer or the other way around, [it generates] a good quantity of antibodies and cell-mediated immunity. Very effective in terms of the results. But this is just a very preliminary study. What they are saying is that, we still have to make use of the bigger clinical trials, which is actually the same vaccine, the same platforms.

This study actually is a good chance and a good also to recommend that later on, there might be a flexibility in terms of mixing and matching different vaccines. So probably in the near future a bigger study that has to be concluded, I think this will be a better prospective or advantage for countries wherein the vaccines are limited, the supplies that are coming in. So mixing and matching would be a very good strategy and a form of flexibility for the population to get vaccinated.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** My second question siya, Secretary Roque: Where are we right now in terms of studying the possibility of mixing and matching vaccines? Are we purely dependent on WHO guidelines?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Usec, may follow up question sa iyo. Ulitin ko lang po iyong tanong: Where are we in terms of studying the possibility of mixing and matching vaccines? Are we purely dependent on WHO guidelines?

**USEC. VEGA:** Yes, we are very much dependent on the clinical trials done especially in bigger centers and of course the WHO guidelines. And definitely, once there would be a very clear recommendation of a mixing and matching different vaccines, I think, that would be the strategy of the national vaccination implementation.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Thank you, Usec. Can we go now to Liez'l for question from the local media, please?

**LIEZ'L:** Thank you, Secretary Roque. Our next question comes from Mr. Arniel Lumbo of RGMA.

**LUMBO/RGMA:** Secretary, good morning. Are we saying here that the rollout is dependent on whether deaths and sicknesses are prevalent and on the rise before national government's attention is given?

**SEC. ROQUE:** No! We are distributing vaccines to all on the basis of population but, of course, with more to areas with local surges.

**LUMBO/RGMA:** So it depends on the recommendation of DOH on every region?

**SEC. ROQUE:** It will depend on the recommendation of experts, yes, and epidemiologists.

**LUMBO/RGMA:** One more thing, Secretary. When can we see a realization of the equitable distribution of vaccines? Ano ang inyong masasabi sa mga Ilonggo who are desperate for protection?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Alam po ninyo ang katotohanan, hindi po sapat ang bakuna sa ngayon. Lahat po ng ating mga kababayan ay nagsasabi kulang po ang bakuna. Yes, there are more, sometimes, given to Metro Manila Plus 8 areas only because of the higher cases there, but also of the higher population. But it is never enough as of now. Hindi lang po tayo ang nauubusan ng supply, buong Pilipinas po iyan.

We ask your indulgence po because, unfortunately, we do not manufacture the vaccines. Mayroon po talagang scarcity of supply worldwide. Ngayon po eh lumuluwag na po ang supply because iyong mga mayayamang bansa na naunang kumorner ng mga bakuna ay natatapos na po ng kanilang vaccination program, kagaya ng Estados Unidos na inaasahan nating magdedeklara ng independence from COVID sa July 4.

So, lumuwag nga po ang supply. Kaya nga po naka-order na po tayo ng 40 million na Pfizer. Hindi lang po Iloilo ang nagkukulang ng vaccine; lahat po ng siyudad, lahat ng probinsiya, lahat ng sulok ng Pilipinas, kulang po talaga ang vaccine. Kasi hindi po dumarating siya na isang bulto lamang; unti-unti po talaga ang pagdating. Kaya nga po doon sa unti-unting pagdating ng supply, mayroon tayong binibigyan ng priority, iyong mga most vulnerable; at ngayon po habang dumadami ang supply ay ini-include na natin ang economic frontliners.

So humihingi po kami ng pasensiya dahil iyan po ang riyalidad. We cannot do anything about it. Sabi nga po ni Secretary Galvez, kahit anong gawin natin ay talagang we are limited by the fact na kakaunti po talaga ang supply ng mga bakuna. But I think our strategy worked, kasi kung hinintay natin iyong mga preferred vaccines na ginagawa sa west, we would not have successfully vaccinated in excess of 10 million people already before the first sizeable amount of western vaccines arrived in the country. So, I ask for the patience po of my kapwa Ilonggo: Hindi lang po tayo ang talagang nagrereklamo na kulang ang vaccine, it's the whole Philippines po because right now, wala pa pong 20 million ang dumating na bakuna sa ating bansa.

Okay, punta tayo kay Melo Acuña, please via Zoom. Kung wala pa si Melo perhaps we should go to Usec. Rocky please.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Secretary Roque, questions from Kris Jose of Remate: Reaksiyon sa sinabi ni Senator Pacquiao na dalawang bagay ang kaya niyang panghawakan: Hindi siya tiwali at hindi siya sinungaling. Nag-ugat ito sa naging hamon ni Pangulong Duterte na pangalanganan po ng Senador ang mga corrupt officials sa gobyerno, matapos naman ang naunang sinabi ni Pacquiao na malala ang korapsiyon sa kasalukuyang administrasyon?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Good for him po but patuloy pong hinihintay ni Presidente iyong sinasabi niyang mga corrupt na ahensiya nang sa ganoon ay titingnan ni Presidente kung talagang may kailangang sibakin diyan 'no. Pero kinakailangan sabihin niya kung saan iyong korapsyon, anong ahensiya iyan at anong ebidensiya niya.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Ang second question po niya: Ano ang nakikita ng Malacañang sa motibo ni Pacquiao na tila binabangga si Pangulong Duterte? Sa tingin ninyo, tama ba ang istratehiya ng Senador para lamang maging bukambibig ang kaniyang pangalan hanggang sa halalan?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Pulitika po iyan 'no, eh alam naman nating lahat gustong tumakbo ng presidente ni Senator Pacquiao. Sa akin po, hindi tamang istratehiya iyan kasi napakatagal naman pong nagsama si Senator Pacquiao at ni Presidente, at sa ngayon po, wala pa namang pinapangalanan pang tao ang Presidente na ieendorso niya para maging presidente sa susunod na halalan.

At paulit-ulit ko nga pong sinasabi eh 'no, binanggit na ni Presidente isa sa tatlo na posible sana niya noon na i-endorso for president is Senator Manny Pacquiao, hindi ko po alam kung bakit hindi nakapaghintay si Senator Manny Pacquiao.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Ang sunod po niyang tanong: Suportado ba ng Malacañang ang multa o community service laban sa mahuhuling magtatapon ng basura sa estero, ilog at kanal na itinuturong dahilan ng MMDA kung bakit nagbabara ang mga pumping stations sa Kalakhang Maynila?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Suportado po iyan pero alam ko po mayroon din tayong existing laws that provides for more than just community service or fines sa mga nagtatapon po ng basura sa mga estero.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Iyong last question po niya: Bilang abogado, ano daw po ang tamang parusa sa mga taong mahuhuling magtatapon ng basura sa estero?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Depende po iyan sa ordinansa o sa batas. So, we have to refer to existing laws po dahil '*Nullum crimen nullum poena sine lege*.' Wala pong pupuwedeng parusa kung wala pong batas o ordinansa na nagpapataw ng parusa.

Okay! Punta na tayo uli kay Liez'l, please. Thank you very much, Usec. Rocky.

**LIEZ'L MARIE LAMASAN:** We have Ms. Jeremae Ventar from Aksyon Radyo.

**JEREMAE VENTAR/AKSYON RADYO:** Good afternoon po, Secretary! What are your thoughts, Secretary, sa speech ni Mayor Jerry Treñas na kulang po iyong ibinibigay na bakuna ng National IATF sa Iloilo City?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, I acknowledge po na kulang talaga ang ibinibigay na bakuna sa buong Pilipinas not just to Iloilo City and we wish we had more vaccine pero as is stands po, talagang kulang po dahil kulang po talaga ang supply.

**JEREMAE VENTAR/AKSYON RADYO:** Here po on Region VI, there are government agencies ang barangay captains who were reported to have violated the health protocols particularly on physical distancing, consumption of liquor in public place and the conduct of mass gathering event despite expressed prohibition of local guidelines and IATF guidelines? What are your thoughts regarding this, Secretary?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, nananawagan po tayo sa ating mga lokal na pamahalaan, kinakailangan po i-apprehend itong mga lumalabag sa minimum health protocols kasi ito po talaga iyong dahilan kung bakit dumadami ang kaso ng COVID, habang nagkukumpulan, habang hindi po nag-o-observe ng minimum health standard eh Iyan po ang dahilan kaya dumadami ang COVID kaya kinakailangan ipatupad po natin ang mga ordinansa na nagpapataw ng parusa doon sa mga hindi tutupad o susunod minimum public health standards.

At mayroon nga pong warning ang Presidente sa mga lokal na opisyales po kasama na ang mga barangay captains, kapag hindi nila ipinatupad ang minimum health standards sila mismo magkakaroon ng pananagutan on the basis of dereliction of duty.

Okay! Balik tayo kay Usec. Rocky, please.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Yes. Secretary Roque, hindi ko lang po alam kung maririnig na po ako ni USec. Vega. May tanong po sa kaniya si Pia Gutierrez ng ABS-CBN: Would you give us an update sa budget [signal fade] na pinahahanda sa inyo ni Secretary Duque at kailan ito maisu-submit sa office ni Senator Pacquiao?

**SEC. ROQUE:** I think the question is for you, USec. Vega.

**USEC. VEGA:** [OFF MIC] Thank you [unclear]. The budget [unclear] and laboratory need for the molecular labs [unclear] country [garbled] DBM—

**SEC. ROQUE:** Siguro po paki-ulit dahil wala po kayong mic kanina.

**USEC. VEGA**: Okay. I'd like to confirm that the budget utilization for both Bayanihan 1 and 2 has already been submitted to the office of Senator Pacquiao from the Office of Secretary Francisco Duque.

The utilization reported that for Bayanihan 1, the DOH was able to utilize 98% of the budget given and for Bayanihan 2, 93% of that was utilized. We also submitted the report to the office of Senator Pacquiao on the procurement through PS-DBM since this is a whole-of-government kind of approach and we had the support of PS-DBM in the procurement of several testing kits, laboratory reagents and of course equipment through PS-DBM.

And these include the PPEs, has already been submitted. The report on the vaccine obligation and disbursement has also been submitted to the office of Senator Pacquiao.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Question for Secretary Roque from Pia Guiterrez: Tinanggap na ba ng Pangulo ang resignation ni General Parlade sa NTF-ELCAC?

**LIEZ'L MARIE LAMASAN:** Our next question comes from Bombo Radyo, we have Ms. Rezzy Bordon.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay. I will answer first USec. Rocky. Tinanggap po ang resignation ni General Parlade as spokesperson of NTF-ELCAC. So, that's what I was able to confirm from Secretary Lorenzana.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Iyong susunod pong tanong—

**SEC. ROQUE:** Usec. Rocky, mayroon pa ba?

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Tanong po ni Vanz Fernandez doon po sa widening rift sa ruling party na PDP-Laban: Will the President consider re-approaching or asking Senator Manny Pacquiao to consider reconciliation daw po to help the Party's chances of reelection in the coming 2022 Presidential Elections or will the President push through on the desires of the PDP-Laban Party leaders to allegedly evict Pacquiao from the Party presidency?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Vanz, I'm a spokesperson po. I'm not a fortune teller; I cannot see the future. In politics, anything is possible kaya hindi ko po masasagot iyan. I cannot even speculate. One thing I've learned from a very limited period of time that I've been in politics is anything is possible.

Okay? Thank you, Usec., punta naman tayo kay Liez'l, please.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Question po ni Vanz ay nasagot ninyo na, Secretary.

**LIEZ'L MARIE LAMASAN:** Our next question comes from Bombo Radyo, we have Ms. Rezzy Bordon.

**REZZY BORDON/BOMBO RADYO:** Hi, Secretary! Magandang hapon po. Aside from the 50,000 doses na naipadala kahapon dito, kailan po ba ulit magpapadala dito ng volume na COVID-19 vaccines?

**SEC. ROQUE:** I'm not sure po pero regular po iyan. As soon as we receive further deliveries mayroon na po iyang programa na ipapadala nationwide iyang mga bakunang iyan.

**REZZY BORDON/BOMBO RADYO:** Follow-up question lang po. Ano po iyong help ng national government sa Iloilo City sa kulang po ng bed capacities dito sa mga hospitals dito po?

**SEC. ROQUE:** USec. Vega? That's why USec. Vega is here as Treatment Czar

**USEC. VEGA:** Thank you, Sec. Harry. For Iloilo City, kailangan talaga mag-usap ang mga medical directors and institutions on the allocation of beds specifically for the critical care. And we have already instructed the hospital here, the Western Visayas Medical Center and the Western Visayas Sanitarium, to make sure that they will be able to improve and allocate more critical bed units because I think this is much more needed in terms of a surge. So, we are now

in the process, really, of increasing the capacity of the hospitals by providing them support in terms of human resource and also of equipment.

So, we are here really to gather them and come up with a very good strategy on how best we can actually give access especially for COVID patients who would need critical care management. Thank you.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay. Wala na ba tayong nasa Zoom? Mayroon bang nasa Zoom na taga-Malacañang Press Corps? Usec. Rocky, go ahead please.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Iyong last question po ni Vanz Fernandez about Senator Pacquiao and Secretary Duque, nasagot ninyo na po.

From Llanesca Panti of GMA News Online: Two suspects arrested by NBI for kidnapping in Manila are claiming they are police assets and that they get paid for kidnapping drug suspects. Is the Palace or President aware of this practice by law enforcers?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Iyan po ay iligal. Pero let me state na hindi po nila ina-alleged na pulis sila. Sinasabi lang nila that they are police assets; that's an allegation. We'll have to verify that. We'll have to investigate. Napakadali pong magsabi ng mga ganiyang bagay, so hintayin po natin ang resulta ng imbestigasyon.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** From Joseph Morong of GMA News: Are there any dangers to having two protocols for returning Filipinos like the one suggested in Cebu? Can this help avoid the entry of the Delta variant?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, sa ngayon po, ang desisyon ng Presidente, lahat po ay dapat sumunod po sa isang protocol – sampung araw na facility quarantine, test on the 7th day na PCR, at kung negatibo po ay release and the last four days of quarantine will be at home.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Second question po niya: Why was the appeal of Lucena City to de-escalate not approved?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Sino po? Anong City?

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Lucena City po.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, okay. May formula naman po iyan 'no, iyong two-week ADAR [Average Daily Attack Rate] at saka ang pinakaimportante, healthcare utilization. Talaga pong kapag kritikal lalung-lalo na ang ICU capacity ng isang lugar ay mahirap pong mag-de-escalate, kasi saan mo dadalhin iyong mga magkakasakit na kritikal po 'no, kung wala nang facilities.

Yes, punta tayo kay Liez'l ulit.

**MODERATOR:** At this time, we have Mr. JP Hervas from Radyo Pilipinas.

**JP HERVAS/RADYO PILIPINAS:** Maayong hapon, Secretary. Sa darating na Hulyo a-kinse, magiging higit limampung araw na mula nang isinailalim ang Iloilo City sa MECQ status. With

that, may aasahan pa po bang karagdagang ayuda ang mga mamamayan ng Iloilo in order to survive this MECQ status?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Ang question is by July 15 or—

**JP HERVAS/RADYO PILIPINAS:** Yes po, by July 15 po ay magiging 50 days na po, higit 50 days na po iyong MECQ status. May karagdagang ayuda po ba na ibibigay ang national government?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, ang alam ko po, ang DSWD should be giving ayuda also to areas under MECQ, at the same time, the local government units also are giving also ayudas 'no, dahil pinagtutulung-tulungan naman po natin ito 'no. Pero I will assure you na—hindi ko lang nakasama ngayon ang DSWD regional officer, pero as soon as I leave here, I will call the DSWD and ensure na mag-release po nang mas maraming ayuda ang DSWD para po sa Iloilo City.

**ILOILO MAYOR TREÑAS:** The reason why Iloilo City requested for an appeal from the classification, MECQ to GCQ with strict protocols, is that our workers and our people are already hungry. And while Iloilo City continues to give out food assistance, DOLE continues to give us TUPAD, we all know that the economic activities under MECQ are very limited. And that is why we requested for an appeal, unfortunately it was not approved by the IATF. I will be issuing an executive order later as soon as Secretary Roque is on his way. I will be issuing more economic activities for Iloilo City and allowing more businesses to open, but we will continue to strictly enforce the protocols.

We cannot remain in this state forever. And I think Secretary Roque, as a former congressman who also attended to his constituents, will also understand that really people have to work whether we like it or not and we cannot forever give food assistance. Even DSWD is telling us, they can only give so much. So far, they have given us 3,500 food packs. I do not know if they can add.

I'm very thankful to DOLE for TUPAD, but you know, how much can we give. And that is the reason why Usec. Densing is coming here tomorrow to attend the one of our daily COVID team meeting so that he will listen to us and then see what else should be done so that we can lessen the effects of this pandemic in Iloilo City. As I have told the IATF, we have been in MECQ for the past 45 days already, and talagang hirap na hirap na talaga ang tao dito sa Iloilo.

Thank you.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Anyway, kaya isa po iyan sa misyon ni Usec. Vega, isa po sa pamamaraan para ma-de-escalate is to improve iyong healthcare utilization specifically iyong ICU capacity. So titingnan po niya, I think kaya hindi kayo na-de-escalate is because kritikal po lalung-lalo na iyong ICU capacity ng Iloilo City. So kung madadagdagan po natin iyan, that could be a good way of de-escalating to GCQ with restrictions.

Yes, Liez'l?

**MODERATOR:** Secretary Roque, can we accommodate one more question from our local media.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Go ahead, please.

**MODERATOR:** This time we have Sir Joey Marzan of The Daily Guardian.

**JOEY MARZAN/DAILY GUARDIAN:** Magandang hapon po, Spokesperson Roque. Ano po ba ang basis natin for rejecting the appeal of Iloilo City given din po na iyong latest report po ng DOH Regional Office VI dito po shows that the TWGR or the two-week growth report of Iloilo City is at low and iyong ADAR po is at moderate po?

**SEC. ROQUE:** ICU capacity po. You're in critical. Kaya nga po nandito si Usec. Vega as Treatment Czar, titingnan po niya if the bed capacity can be increased, if some regular rooms can be converted to ICU rooms, kasi iyon po iyong ginagawa natin in other places.

Well, alam ninyo, we don't have to reinvent the wheel. In Manila alone, noong we had to declare ECQ 'no because kulang nga iyong ating health-care [capacity], lalung-lalo na iyong ICU beds. Ang ginawa natin talaga is to convert regular rooms into ICU rooms. So from 700 ay naging 1,400 ba ang ating ICU beds, and that enabled us to de-escalate the community quarantine classification in Metro Manila.

So hayaan ninyo po, Usec. Vega is here, he will not leave without a solution. Management man po itong si Usec. Vega – he's both a doctor and an MBA degree holder 'no. So he has made a tremendous difference since he joined us beginning with his initiative to start the One Hospital Command Center. I think that's also one of the things that he will be implementing, a regional One Hospital Command Center, para we can utilize all the health resources, not just in the city but in the entire Region VI.

**JOEY MARZAN/DAILY GUARDIAN:** Follow up lang po, Sir. Regarding po sa vaccine prioritization. Do we really have to wait na dumami po iyong mga kaso at iyong mga deaths under COVID para po ma-escalate iyong priority ng isang area sa vaccination?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Unfortunately, yes, because of limited supply.

**MODERATOR:** Secretary, can we add one last question.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Go ahead, please.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. We have Victoria Casela from Radyo Bandera.

**VICTORIA CASELA/RADYO BANDERA:** Good day, Secretary Roque. My question is that, Iloilo City received 50,000 doses of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine. However, there are questions about the efficacy of the said vaccine. How do we address this kind of concern?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Wala pong kuwestiyon. Ang Sinovac po has been shown to be safe and effective in the Philippines and by the World Health Organization, and is being utilized by the world's most populous nation which is China. So, wala pong issue sa safety and efficacy.

Usec. Rocky, are you there? Mayroon pa bang magsu-Zoom? Wala na ba talagang magsu-Zoom or Zoom just conked out?

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Secretary, mayroon ka pang apat o limang questions dito from MPC. Pero bago po iyan, may gusto lang po i-clarify si Joseph Morong doon sa question niya. Iyon daw pong decision ni Pangulong Duterte after Governor Gwen Garcia ng Cebu proposed two protocols. Ano na daw po iyong final decision?

**SEC. ROQUE:** I think the President had the final decision – and that is there will be one uniform policy for the entire Philippines because of the common danger posed by the Delta variant.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Question from Kylie Atienza ng Business World: Will the Palace support the calls of lawmakers for a full accounting of the funds disbursed under the Bayanihan 1 and 2 laws?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Naku, that's a requirement of the Constitution po. We don't have to support it, it's a legal obligation to make a full accounting. At in fact, pagdating po doon sa mga Bayanihan 1 and 2, weekly reporting nga po ba iyon or monthly reporting iyon? Basta there was a regular reporting required by the law by itself which Malacañang complied with 'no. Natigil lang po iyong monthly reporting on Bayanihan 2 kasi natapos na po iyong Bayanihan 2 at ang na-extend lang ay iyong disbursement of funds but not the special powers of the President. Kaya with that eh natigil na rin iyong regular accounting na niri-require ng Kongreso. But of course, all money coming from the government are subject to strict COA rules and are subject to transparency.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. From Ivan Mayrina ng GMA News: Isang nurse daw po sa Maynila nahuli ng NBI na nagbibenta ng 300 vials ng Sinovac sa halagang 1 million pesos. Mukhang lehitimo po ang vaccine. Reaksiyon po ng Malacañang daw dito.

**SEC. ROQUE:** [Off mic] po natin ang imbestigasyon. I cannot speculate po. Sa totoo lang po, this is the first time I'm hearing about this.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Question from Prince Golez of Politiko Abante: Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas earlier said that he would support your senatorial bid in 2022. Does this mean that you are running for a Senate seat next year?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Well, hindi ko pa po alam 'no. Nothing is certain. In the field of politics, nothing 'no, nothing is certain until the papers have been filed. So, I continue to pray and ponder on this point po although it helps that the City of my mother has said—the Mayor of the City of my mother's birthplace has said that he will support me. And I appreciate that very much from the bottom of my heart, Mayor Treñas.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Opo. Second question po ni Prince Golez: Have you and President Duterte talked about your political plan for 2022? What did he tell you?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Question, last siguro?

**MODERATOR:** Yes, sir. Okay, this time we have Sir Joey Marzan of the Daily Guardian.

**JOEY MARZAN/DAILY GUARDIAN:** Sir, follow up lang din po doon sa ano natin 'no, questions regarding sa community quarantine statuses ng ating mga areas 'no. Sir, para ma-explain din po natin sa taumbayan, ano po ba iyong authority ng IATF to mandate ang ating mga LGUs to follow ang mga community quarantine na pronouncements ng ating national government?

**SEC. ROQUE:** That's pursuant po to the power of the President, to exercise police power to protect public health and pursuant to an executive order issued by the late President Noynoy Aquino. The power to create the IATF, to provide for quarantine classification was because of an executive issuance of then President Benigno Simeon 'Noynoy' Aquino.

**MODERATOR:** Okay. Thank you very much, Secretary Roque.

**SEC. ROQUE:** Okay. Since wala na po tayong mga tanong—Usec. Rocky, mayroon ka pa bang natitirang mga tanong?

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Yes, may tanong pa po. Secretary Roque, hindi ninyo po nasagot iyong second question ni Prince Golez: Have you and President Duterte talked about your political plan for 2022? What did he tell you?

**SEC. ROQUE:** *[Laughs]* That's between me and the President. Thank you very much, Prince.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Secretary, last question po from Ivan Mayrina: You mentioned in the last briefing that the President told you that the administration should already have a clear presidential candidate by June. With Senator Pacquiao seemingly out of the list, who is the frontrunner?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Wala pa po. I'm sure as the President has said in his Talk to the People Address; he will tell the people who he will endorse for the position of president for the next elections. 'Antayin na lang po natin.

**USEC. IGNACIO:** Last question po, Secretary Roque. From Cresilyn Catarong ng SMNI: Sinabi po ni Senator Panfilo Lacson na kailangan kumilos agad ang mga miyembro ng PDP Laban sa harap ng umiinit na bangayan sa pagitan nina Pangulong Duterte at Senator Manny Pacquiao. Ayon po kay Lacson, hindi magandang tingnan kapag patuloy na nagbabangayan ang dalawang opisyal ng bansa lalo't kapwa tinitingala sila ng publiko. Ano po ang masasabi ninyo rito? May pag-asa po kaya na magkaroon ng pulong ang partido kasama si Pangulong Duterte at Pacquiao para ayusin ang alitan ng dalawa?

**SEC. ROQUE:** Nasagot ko na po iyan kanina. In politics, anything and everything is possible and nothing is impossible.

Okay. Dahil wala na po tayong mga katanungan, I'd like to thank, first and foremost, our host, Mayor Jerry Treñas; our Congresswoman Jamjam Baronda; the City of Iloilo for hosting us. And maraming salamat din po kay Usec. Vega, kay DOH Assistant Secretary Romeo Ong; DOH Regional Director Dr. Suban; and Director of Logistics, Dr. Ariel Valencia 'no.

Well, I'm here po not just as a Presidential Spokesperson, I'm here also as an Ilonggo 'no. I understand po talaga na marami po tayong kakulangan lalung-lalo na po pagdating sa bakuna. Pero hindi lang po tayo ang may ganiyang problema dito sa Iloilo – the entire country and majority of the world have similar problems.

Iyong UN Secretary General na nga po ang nagsabi, we are approaching a situation of almost the grossest injustice and inequality dahil kung sino po ang mga mayayaman, sila po talaga ang nangorner [corner] ng mga bakuna.

Pero nakahanap naman po tayo ng paraan dahil po sa ating mga karatig bansa gaya ng Tsina, Russia at hopefully India soon eh nakakuha naman po tayo ng mga bakuna at hindi tayo umasa na makakakuha sa bandang huli ‘no. At nagkaroon po ng proteksiyon ang mahigit na sampung milyong mga kababayan na natin ngayon. Ang hinihingi lang po natin karagdagan pang pasensiya at parating naman po ang mga bakuna.

So with that, sa ngalan po ng ating Presidente Rodrigo Roa Duterte, maraming salamat sa suporta ng lahat ng mga taga-siyudad ng Iloilo at sa buong probinsiya ng Iloilo. At Pilipinas, huwag po kayong mag-alala darating din po ang bakuna.

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

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***SOURCE: PCOO-NIB (News and Information Bureau-Data Processing Center)***