# **DUTERTE** ADMINISTRATION MID-YEAR REPORT

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# Introduction



This mid-year report highlights some of the major accomplishments and interventions done by the national government amid the continued threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first half of 2021, the focus of the national government is the safe reopening of the economy that was made possible through the gradual lifting of community quarantine restrictions and the rollout of the national vaccination program.

Vaccination took the spotlight in the government's strategies to contain the pandemic starting in March. As more vaccine supplies arrived in the succeeding months, the number of vaccinated Filipinos gradually increased as well, giving the national government the confidence to gradually relax some restrictions and reopen more businesses and industries. The gradual lifting of restrictions enabled millions of workers to regain their jobs and income sources in the first quarter. According to the National Economic and Development Authority, the Philippines has surpassed pre-COVID employment by 2.8 million jobs as of March 2021. Unemployment rate likewise fell to 7.1 percent – the lowest since the height of the pandemic.

The national government's economic managers projected that with the continued and fast-track implementation of the vaccine rollout, coupled with economic recovery measures, the Philippines is expected to register an economic growth between 6 and 7 percent this year, and up to 7 to 9 percent in 2022.

As the government continues to strive to achieve population protection by vaccinating 70 percent of the country's eligible population by the end of the year, Filipinos can look forward to a better Christmas and a better future for all.



Harry #

Secretary Harry L Roque, Jr. Presidential Spokesperson

# II. ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

#### Economy, Finance and Trade **•**

With the pandemic still on-going, the government's priority has been the total health and welfare of the people. When COVID-19 infections spiked, the government imposed the stringent quarantines like the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and modified ECQ (MECQ) to save lives from COVID-19 and buy time to improve our health system capacity. On the other hand, when the COVID-19 risk subsided, the government focused on the safe reopening of the economy to help people recover their jobs and income sources to address hunger and non-COVID-19 illnesses.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the gradual and safe reopening of the economy, timely implementation of the recovery package, and the accelerated implementation of the vaccination program will help the economy recover by 6 to 7 percent in 2021 and return to pre-pandemic levels by 2022.

The economic managers highlighted that the lowering of the quarantine level in the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus to general community quarantine (GCQ), along with the faster roll-out of the vaccination program, led to gains in labor and employment figures as of May 2021.

As reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the unemployment rate in the country decreased to 7.7 percent in May 2021 from 8.7 percent in April. Underemployment rate also fell from 17.2 percent in April to 12.3 percent in May, the lowest reported underemployment rate since 1987. Meanwhile, the labor force participation rate increased to 64.6 percent in May from 63.2 percent in April.

Coupled with the decrease in unemployment, this led to the creation of 1.5 million jobs between April and May 2021. Following the trend of recovery from the previous months, total employment remains above pre-COVID-19 levels with a net job creation of 2.2 million since January 2020.



Source: NEDA

#### ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

#### Foreign Borrowings

Through prudent fiscal management, the Department of Finance (DOF) said the country was able to pull down its borrowing costs. The Philippines did not suffer constrained fiscal space despite the recent increase in borrowings due to the pandemic. The affordability of the country's debt remains manageable with interest payments as a share of revenues increasing slightly from 11.5 percent in 2019 to 13.3 percent in 2020. This is still better compared with 36.9 percent in 2004. Likewise, the ratio of interest payments to expenditure even improved to 9 percent in 2020 from 9.5 percent in 2019 and a high of 31.1 percent in 2005. Meanwhile, the weighted average interest rate of the country's domestic and foreign borrowings has gone down from 5.5 percent in 2013 to only 4.2 percent in 2020. Furthermore, the Philippines' external debt stock remained manageable, decreasing to 26.7 percent of GDP in the first quarter of 2021 from 27.2 percent in 2020. This ratio is about half of that in 2005 at 57.3 percent. In Southeast Asia, the external debt-to-GDP ratio of the Philippines is the lowest among ASEAN-5 countries.

#### Credit Rating

The government has long been supporting the business sector by ensuring fiscal stability, which has led to the country's highest-ever sovereign credit ratings—a status that has helped ensure lower interest rates and cheaper, more accessible financing for enterprises. Amid the challenges posed by the pandemic, the Philippines continues to stand out in the international financial community amid a wave of negative credit rating actions worldwide.

# S&P Global -

In May 2021, Standard & Poor's (S&P) GLobal affirmed the Philippines' investment grade credit rating of "BBB+" with a "stable" outlook in a vote of confidence that the country continues to enjoy favorable medium-term growth prospects despite challenges posed by COVID-19.



In July 2021, Fitch Ratings affirmed the Philippines' credit rating at "BBB," which is one notch above the minimum investment grade.



In April 2021, Japanese debt watcher Rating and Investment Information Inc. (R&I) kept the Philippines' investment grade credit rating of BBB+ with a "stable" outlook in a vote of confidence on the Philippine economy's COVID-19 recovery and growth prospects over the medium term.

#### ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

#### Support to MSMEs

Several game-changing reforms have also been passed under the Duterte administration that have allowed MSMEs in the country to flourish. These reforms, among others, are the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Act to make it easy and convenient for people to start a business and encourage existing enterprises to expand their operations and the digitalization of the filing and payment of taxes in the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR). As part of the government's pandemic response, the CREATE Act was passed and signed into law to provide the largest stimulus for businesses in the country's history in the form of sizable cuts in corporate income taxes and a redesigned fiscal incentives system to better attract investments and create jobs. Meanwhile, the enactment of the Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer (FIST) Act will allow banks to efficiently offload their bad loans and non-performing assets during this economic downturn to extend more credit to pandemic-hit enterprises.



The Philippines remains an ideal investment destination as investors and businesses continue to look at the country to grow their businesses amid the pandemic, according to the Department of Trade and Industry and Board of Investments. The statement was released before the members and officers of the Chinese Enterprises Philippines Association (CEPA) during a briefing with the group on 15 April 2021 on the latest business environment policies in the country. The largest intervention to help pandemic-hit businesses keep afloat is the passage of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) Act, which was signed into law by President Duterte on 26 March 2021. CREATE will not only leave more cash resources for firms to sustain employment or use for investments, but it also provides for more flexibility in the grant of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. This will be critical as the Philippines competes for high-value investments from overseas now and in the post-pandemic era.

### **FOREIGN POLICY**



On 21 May 2021, President Duterte gave a keynote address at the Nikkei Future of Asia Conference where he shared that "we have to resolve our disputes peacefully according to international law. We have to work together – not against each other – to achieve [common] ends. This is the only way to realize the promise of a prosperous Asian century."

During a 30 minute telesummit on 13 April 2021, President Duterte and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed views to further strengthen efforts of the two nations in the global fight against COVID-19.

President Duterte joined the GAVI COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC) One World Protected Summit on 2 June 2021 where he reiterated his call for universal access to safe and effective vaccines.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on 19 April 2021 called for the abolition of the Kafala system in the Middle East, which he said resulted in violation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrant workers. Speaking during his participation in the Migrant Labor Governance and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, President Duterte said the Philippines recognizes the sovereign right of each state to adopt its own migration policy stressing, however, that universal liberties and moral standards must be observed at all times.





#### Job opportunities under the BBB

The Build, Build (BBB) Program of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's administration not only built roads, bridges, and other public infrastructure to spur economic development but also provided employment opportunities to the Filipino people amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The DPWH reported that 1,013 engineer positions coterminous with BBB Program were filled-up nationwide. Under the BBB Program, hired were 108 additional work force in the DPWH National Capital Region and its nine (9) District Engineering Offices (DEOs); 153 in Region 3; 126 in Region 4-A; 162 each in Region 5 and Region 6; 54 in Region 7; 123 in Region 8; and 125 in Region 10. Also regularized and now enjoying the security and benefits of permanent employees are a total of 253 individuals previously hired under contract of service in the Central Office.

Finished Projects



On 12 June 2021, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) finally opened the Sta. Monica-Lawton Bridge now dubbed as Kalayaan Bridge, which connects Lawton Avenue in Makati City and Sta. Monica Street in Pasig City. This aims to relieve traffic congestion going in and out of Makati/BGC Taguig and Pasig/Mandaluyong City.



Motorists will now be able to use the first 18-kilometer portion of the 30-kilometer Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Project from SCTEX/TPLEX connection in Tarlac City up to the intersection of Aliaga-Guimba Road in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija. On 15 July 2021, President Duterte led the inauguration ceremony of the four Iane toll-free expressway covered by three contract packages: 4.10 kilometer Tarlac Section, 6.40 kilometer Rio Chico River Bridge Section including the 1.5 kilometer Rio Chico Viaduct, and Aliaga Section with up and down ramps at Guimba-Aliaga Road. CLLEX is one of the key infrastructure projects with funding assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) under the Build, Build program



In March 2021, the DPWH inaugurated the completion of the first four (4) phases of the Puerto Princesa Cruise Port and Facilities while also inspecting three (3) other phases which are on-going. The P3.5 Billion Puerto Princesa City Cruise Port was designed to be a 500 lineal meter by 21 lineal meter wharf to accommodate a large cruise liner. It is also provided with 36 lineal meter by 12 lineal meter trestle and 64 lineal meter by 13.4 lineal meter causeway which will serve as entrance to the Terminal Building with approximate area of 10,000 square meters that can accommodate 2,500 persons and passengers.



On 14 January 2021, President Rodrigo Duterte, together with other government officials, inaugurated the opening of the main trunk line of the Metro Manila Skyway Stage 3 from Buendia, Makati City up to North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) in Balintawak, Quezon City. This is expected to reduce travel time from Buendia to Balintawak from two (2) hours to just 15 to 20 minutes.



As of June 2021, the Department of Transportation has declared that the Common Station will already be partially operational by Q4 2021. Common Station features a 13,700-square meter concourse area, which will seamlessly interconnect LRT-1, MRT-3, MRT-7, and the Metro Manila Subway. Once operational, the Common Station is expected to serve approximately 478,000 passengers daily.



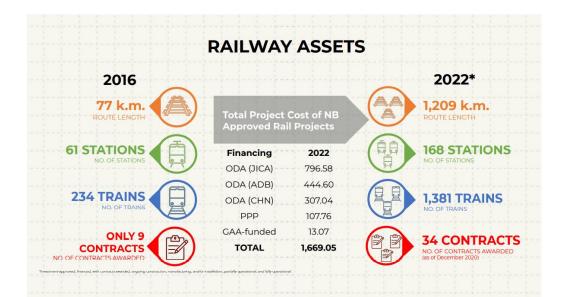
As part of the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project, the Philippine National Railway (PNR) Phase Clark Phase 1 (Tutuban-Malolos) is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2024. It is a 38-kilometer railway which is expected to serve 300,000 passengers daily, and will slash travel time from Tutuban, Manila to Malolos, Bulacan to just 35 minutes, from one hour and 30 minutes.



#### EDSA Busway

On 1 July 2020, the DOTr in cooperation with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) began the interim operations of the EDSA Busway. The interim operation of the EDSA Busway aims to help transport commuters in Metro Manila amid the general community quarantine (GCQ) still being enforced to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The EDSA Busway has 16 stops starting from Monumento to the PITX. 550 bus units were authorized to service the EDSA Busway. The EDSA Busway aims to significantly cut travel time from Monumento to PITX from the usual 2 to 3 hours because of traffic, to just 45 minutes to 1 hour.











# III. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

## **BAYANIHAN 1 & 2**

As of 25 June 2021, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released a total of Php 665.72 billion to support the implementation of various projects, activities and programs (P/A/Ps) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic under the Bayanihan Laws.



Of this amount, Php 387.17 billion was released pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (or Bayanihan I). Implementing agencies reported that they have already obligated Php 360.42 billion and disbursed Php 342.40 billion, thus corresponding to a 93.09 percent obligation rate and 95.0 percent disbursement rate, respectively.



Releases under RA No. 11465 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (or Bayanihan II), meanwhile, has amounted to Php 205.12 billion. Of this amount, Php 187.84 billion has been obligated and Php 141.45 billion was disbursed based on agency reports submitted to the DBM. This translates to a 91.6 percent obligation rate and 75.3 percent disbursement rate.

In addition to the releases made to support the Bayanihan Laws, the DBM has also released Php 73.43 billion for various COVID-19 P/A/Ps with Php 13.92 billion already obligated (18.9%) and Php 13.22 billion disbursed (95.0%) as of 25 June 2021. Said releases were charged against regular funds..

Sources: DBM



#### Licensed Laboratories >

The DOH Health Facility and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) and the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) continues to **provide technical assistance to laboratories nationwide**.



Laboratory (RITM) January 2020



206 RT-PCR Laboratories and 67 GeneXpert Laboratories As of July 20, 2021





Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# TESTING





Source: Worldometer

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)



In June 2021, the DILG reported a total of 119,246 contact tracers being organized into teams nationwide nearing the ideal ratio of 1 to 800 persons. These tracers have since traced and assessed 87 percent of close contacts and isolated 82 percent of suspected/probable cases within 24 hours.



#### Use of StaySafe App

In June 2021, the DILG conducted a regional roll-out of the StaySafe.PH contact tracing application causing an upsurge in the registration on the app to an additional 1.3 million users compared to 669,070 users recorded in the previous month. This has resulted in a total of 5,363,665 application users having been registered in the said application. Similarly, the application is now being used in a total of 65,970 establishments and organizations nationwide.

Source: DILG

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# TREATMENT AND QUARANTINE/ISOLATION FACILITIES

In April 2021, the DPWH has built additional COVID-19 treatment facilities at the Batangas Medical Center in Batangas City. Three (3) cluster facilities were completed including one (1) unit with 10 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) rooms with closed circuit television (cctv) monitoring for moderate to severe patients and one (1) unit with 21 rooms for isolation and monitoring of mild symptoms cases. Other than the treatment facilities for patients, a makeshift dormitory with 22 rooms dedicated to accommodate 44 healthcare professionals who will attend to patients was also completed.



Source: DPWH

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# TREATMENT AND QUARANTINE/ISOLATION FACILITIES

In March 2021, the DPWH turned over the newly-built Zamboanga City Quarantine Facility located in Barangay Pasonanca to augment the existing quarantine facilities and mitigate the rapid spread of the COVID-19 infection in the city. The isolation facility made of two (2) tents with 20 beds capacity are equipped with air conditioner units, beds, adequate lighting and ventilation, uninterrupted electricity supply, potable water source and sewer line.



Source: DPWH

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# TREATMENT AND QUARANTINE/ISOLATION FACILITIES

Likewise, DPWH also turned over two (2) more quarantine facilities with 50-bed capacity in Surigao City, Surigao del Norte. Constructed in Barangays Cagniog and Silop. Each facility is composed of a 4-unit building which includes a quarter for medical personnel, a kitchen, a building for male patients, and another for female patients.





The DPWH also recently completed two (2) newly-completed healthcare facilities in Bacolod City. These include the two-unit, 32-room container vans turned isolation/quarantine facilities in Barangay Alijis and 45-cubicle makeshift isolation/quarantine facility from an existing evacuation center in Barangay Vista Alegre.



Source: DPWH

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

#### TREATMENT AND QUARANTINE/ISOLATION 21, the DPWH has completed FACILITIES

In February 2021, the DPWH has completed a new guarantine facility in Barangay Alasasin. Mariveles which includes a total of three (3) units of health facilities with individual quarters, comfort rooms, separate quarters for health personnel, and nurses' station. The project involved the conversion of 20-feet container vans converted into 16-units of air-conditioned emergency health facility equipped with persons with disability (PWD) friendly ramps, portable generator sets. single-phase electrical power distribution system, and electrical room.

DPWH also completed five The (5) COVID-19 facilities in Iloilo City and in the towns of Lambunao and Pototan in Iloilo Province. The new structures are composed of three (3) isolation/quarantine facilities located in the Provincial Sports Complex in Lapaz, Iloilo City; and two (2) off-site dormitories situated in Dr. Ricardo V. Ladrido Memorial District Hospital in Lambunao, Iloilo and Iloilo Provincial Hospital in Pototan, Iloilo. The container vans turned isolation/guarantine facilities are composed of 16 air-conditioned rooms with their own comfort rooms and necessary amenities like nurse quarters and nurses' station. Meanwhile, the off-site dormitories are composed of 16 air-conditioned rooms with individual comfort rooms, dining and living area, kitchen and laundry area, and other necessary features.





#### Total COVID-19 Dedicated Beds



то



July 18, 2021



Source: DOH



No.

#### Isolation and Quarantine Facilities and Beds



#### New Clark City Isolation Facility



#### Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs) / Quarantine Facilities



Mega Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs)



Temporary Treatment and Monitoring Facilities (TTMFs)' Total Bed Capacity

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# **RECOVERY / VACCINATION**

President Duterte welcomed the arrival of the first batch of COVID-19 vaccines in the country on 28 February 2021. The Philippines received 600,000 CoronaVac doses from the People's Republic of China. During the ceremony held in Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, the President thanked China for the vaccine donations. The President also encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and take part in preventing further spread of the disease.







Source: PCOO

#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# RECOVERY / VACCINATION

After the delivery of the first batch of vaccines, the country's national vaccination program started. On 1 March 2021, a symbolic vaccination was held at the University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital with Dr. Gerardo Legaspi, UP-PGH's Medical Director as the first Filipino to get inoculated officially with COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccination launch in the Visayas was held at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City on 4 March 2021, while the Mindanao launch was held at the Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City on 5 March 2021.







#### Prevent Detect Isolate Treat Reintegrate (PDITR)

# **RECOVERY / VACCINATION**



President Duterte welcomed the arrival of the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine developed by British-Swede drugmaker AstraZeneca on 4 March 2021.

The Philippines' total vaccines administered nationwide has reached 16,426,267 as of 22 July 2021, as the national government and local governments continue to ramp up the deployment and administration of vaccines.

National COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard – I	Data as of July 22, 2021 🛛 🔤 😳
1st dose	Coverage ratio
10,866,238	15.52%
2nd dose	
5,560,029	7.94%
Total doses administered	
16,426,267	<b>472,356</b> Daily Jabs
	Source: DOH

### **EDUCATION**



Reinforcing support to learners, teachers through BE-LCP implementation >

The Department of Education (DepEd) managed to open the School Year 2020-2021 amidst a global health crisis through the implementation of the Basic Education-Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP).

To foster harmony on the implementation side, the Department conducted the week-long Strand Interface on Programs and Guidelines (SIPAG) Conference in the first quarter of 2021. Participated by more than 100,000 personnel, SIPAG discussed concerns and challenges faced by DepEd personnel in 2020 due to the pandemic and the rollout of programs for the incoming transition once vaccination starts in the education sector.

In addition, DepEd released additional Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) to all public schools to strengthen their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Around Php 3.7 billion additional funding allocated for MOOE was cascaded to 16 Regional Offices, 213 Division Offices, and 44,851 public schools nationwide, which can fund reinforcement of new normal set-up and the implementation of minimum health requirements in field offices.

#### Expansion of DepEd TV and DepEd Commons to improve blended learning

DepEd Commons and DepEd TV, the Department's online and TV-based platforms, expanded its respective services to further cater to the needs of learners, since its launch last year.

DepEd Commons, which was made available for the public, private, and Alternative Learning System learners, recorded 9.6 million unique users after its first anniversary. Partnerships with telecommunications companies have helped learners, teachers, and personnel access the platform easily since it was made free from any data charges. It also secured a partnership with Globe Telecom to add the Globe Elibrary as one of the DepEd Common's features.

Meanwhile, DepEd TV was able to produce 130 video lectures weekly that cover major subjects from Kinder to Grade 10. Earlier this year, DepEd TV was awarded the Most Outstanding Thematic Presentation of SIGNIS Asia TV Conference held in South Korea.

#### Protecting the mental health of personnel, learners

Regarded as one of the priorities of the Department, programs, and activities aimed at protecting the mental health of personnel and learners continued to be implemented.

The provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) has continued as the school year progressed. Aside from materials developed, DepEd's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Service (DRRMS) reinforced the initiative by producing weekly MHPSS episodes for different audiences.

Garnering an average of 400,000 views, MHPSS Programs T.A.L.A.: Tuklasin, Alamin, Likhain at Alalahanin for elementary learners and OKKK! Tambayan (Online Kahusayan at Katatagan ng Kabataan) for secondary learners provided avenues for children learners to cope with the effects of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Kakaiba-yanihan for learners with disabilities and their guardians and TAYO Naman!: Tulong, Alaga, Yakap at Oras for DepEd personnel encouraged viewers to develop positive coping mechanisms and build safe environments for their loved ones and communities. In April, the Bureau of Human Resource and Organizational Development (BHROD) launched the second season of Stronger from Home, an online wellness program that focuses on the mental, physical, emotional, financial, and spiritual well-being of employees, in line with the Employee Welfare and Wellness Framework currently being finalized by the BHROD. Overall, these MHPSS programs have garnered 1.27 million supporters in views.

DepEd School Health Personnel also initiated field activities related to mental health as part of the School Mental Health Program, under the initiative called Oplan Kalusugan sa DepEd (OK sa DepEd), a convergence of DepEd's school health and nutrition programs, coordinated at the National Level by the Bureau of Learner Support Services-School Health Division (BLSS-SHD). In addition, the Department created a Technical Working Group on Mental Health to harmonize and strengthen its efforts related to mental health, in line with its mandate under the Mental Health Act.

#### Ensuring healthy learners through the School-Based Feeding Program

Despite school closures, the Department acknowledged the importance of its School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) to provide nutritious food products (NFP) and pasteurized/sterilized milk to undernourished learners. The SBFP is a flagship program under OK sa DepEd.

Depending on the quarantine and health situation in the community, school-based and home distribution were implemented for this year's SBFP. For School Year 2020-2021, DepEd surpassed its 1.7 million target beneficiaries and posted actual beneficiaries of 3,517,939 learners from 34,794 schools that implemented the NFP component and 3,134,336 learners from 33,760 schools that implemented the milk component

Next school year, DepEd aims to provide fresh milk and NFP to 3,159,118 learners in 34,375 public schools nationwide. The primary beneficiaries of this SBFP are the incoming kindergarten learners and grades one to six under the wasted and severely wasted categories in the nutritional status report. Secondary beneficiaries are learners in Last Mile Schools with 100 enrollees and below, pupils-at-risk-of dropping-out (PARDOS), indigenous peoples (IP) learners, those coming from indigent families, and stunted learners identified in the SY 2019-2020 SBFP implementation.

#### Establishment of the National Academy of Sports

Created through Republic Act No. 11470 which was signed by President Duterte on 9 June 2020,, the National Academy of Sports (NAS) has started taking shape under the leadership of Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones, who is also the academy's Chair of the Board of Trustees. The NAS is envisioned to be at the forefront of global sports development and education to produce well-rounded student-athletes whose potentials shall bring pride and honor to our country. Set to open in August 2021, the NAS, in collaboration with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), has started its search for promising young student-athletes who will be offered full scholarships in secondary education. The NAS Annual Search for Competent, Exceptional, Notable and Talented Student-Athlete Scholars (NASCENT SAS) will identify talented Filipino student-athletes from all sectors of society, including indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.

#### Gearing up for the Future of Education ►

Amidst the sudden transition from classroom to online learning due to the pandemic, the Department of Education launched the **Education Futures Programme** to anticipate and prepare for challenges and issues in education through research-based solutions. The program seeks to modernize existing education perennials by exploring the use of technologies for remote learning, reframing the curriculum, anticipating educational opportunities from innovations, "smartifying" learning spaces and resources, and reinforcing learning sciences, assessments, analytics, and knowledge mobilization.

#### Advancing the reforms of Sulong EduKalidad

While some programs were reprioritized, the Department remained focused on addressing the challenges of quality education through its Sulong EduKalidad campaign. Utilizing the valuable insights and data of international assessments and studies, DepEd continued its review of the K to 12 curriculum. Meanwhile, the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) transformation is in full swing. Identified components include the increase in permanent items and reorganizing functional units (organizational), the introduction of a recognition system to ensure the quality and integration of in-service professional development programs, courses, and training for teachers and school leaders (program), and the upgrading of facilities, such as the rehabilitation and renovation of the NEAP Building in the Baguio Teachers Camp. Moreover, as part of the commitment to upskill public school teachers, DepEd also initiated virtual In-Service Training (VINSET) focused on education technology to aid the teachers in conducting blended learning. During its week-long live sessions, the virtual INSET reached approximately five million participants, making it the largest online activity of the Department.

#### Face-to-face classes

Twenty-four (24) higher education institutions (HEIs) all over the country were allowed to hold limited face-to-face classes effective the 2nd Semester of AY 2020-2021. These HEIs passed stringent retrofitting and health standards imposed by CHED, DOH and the COVID-19 Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID). Selected allied health-related degree programs, such as Medicine, Nursing, Medical Technology/Medical Laboratory Science, Physical Therapy, Midwifery, and Public Health, were prioritized to conduct limited face-to-face classes for two major reasons: (1) To enable students to achieve key learning outcomes on specialized laboratory courses and hospital-based clinical clerkship/internship/practicum and (2) to provide additional manpower to the country's health system.

# HOUSING

On 1 June 2021, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development's (DHSUD) key shelter agencies (KSAs) posted significant achievements during the first quarter of the year despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



- The Home Mutual Development Fund or Pag-IBIG Fund posted a 33% rise in home loan releases valued at Php 20.94 billion during the first three months of the year. The Fund likewise recorded a P29.40-billion dividend payout for Fiscal Year 2020, marking a 5.62% surge per annum.
- As for the National Housing Authority, it reported a higher Q1 performance compared to the same period during the previous year on the back of the rollout of housing projects for typhoon "Yolanda" victims and shelter schemes for former rebels, garnering accomplishment rates of 302% and 68%, respectively. The housing agency likewise trumpeted a 253% growth in housing completions mainly due to finalized projects intended for informal settlers affected by the Supreme Court Mandamus and those affected by government-led infrastructure projects. It also excelled in terms of housing programs for government employees, recording a 94% growth rate for the said period.
- The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC), meanwhile, touted its significant achievements both in the first quarter of the year and during the previous years like issuing BALAI Bonds 1 and 2, securing ISO certification for securitization of housing loan portfolios and borrower's services, as well as posting PHP6.82-billion worth of housing receivables purchased.

# HOUSING



- The Social Housina Finance Corporation, on the other hand. reported that it had released loans amounting to P228.8 million through 13 projects under its Community Mortgage Program that benefitted 3,742 ISFs during the first guarter of the year. It also rolled out five other schemes that housina helped improve the lives of 8.282 ISF families across the country. SHFC highlighted a nearly 84% also modified collection efficiency rate as of January 2021 and succeeded in raking in P248.19 million in payment collections as of the end of March this year.
- As for the Human Settlements Adjudication Commission (HSAC), its Regional Adjudication Branches (RABs) were able to handle 1,816 cases in the first three months of the year, with most of the cases lodged with the RAB-4A. One hundred and nineteen (119) of these cases were disposed, 39% of which were from the National Capital Region. There are still 1,697 ongoing cases being handled by HSAC as of end-March 2021.

# Assistance to Taal Volcano eruption victims ►

DHSUD finalized a commitment pact to grant Php 30 million to Batangas local government units and assist families affected by the January 2020 Taal Volcano eruption. On 29 April 2021, DHSUD Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario spearheaded the event held in line with the Taal Rehabilitation and Recovery Program to reaffirm government's commitment the to assist Batanguenos recover from last year's eruption. The P30-million grant will be distributed among 15 cities and municipalities severely affected by the eruption. The assistance will be used to identify and acquire suitable and sustainable resettlement sites for the affected families.



Source: DHSUD

## **TASK FORCE BANGON MARAWI**



In June 2021, Task Force Bangon Marawi (TFBM) Chairman and DHSUD Secretary Eduardo Del Rosario stated that the ongoing rebuilding process spearheaded by the Task Force's implementing agencies is already at 68% accomplished. The Secretary also reiterated that the TFBM is on track in completing all ongoing infrastructure projects by December 2021 and will finish the rehabilitation within the term of President Duterte.

The TFBM constructed **4,388 temporary shelter units** that are occupied by IDPs as they undergo the repair and rebuilding of their houses in the Most Affected Area (MAA). For the permanent houses, the Task Force already completed the construction of **528 units** out of the target 2,857 units. Of which, 370 were awarded to and occupied by families living previously in danger areas. Construction and rehabilitation activities likewise persisted despite the holy month of Ramadan as 60% of workers in various projects are non-Muslims.

For its part, the DepEd continues its efforts in rebuilding schools and providing support programs for learners and teachers in Marawi City. Under the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Recovery Plan of DepEd and as a member of the Task Force Bangon Marawi, the Department has been monitoring and supervising the construction of schools for children that aims to cater to at least 9,000 students in the most affected area.



Sources: TFBM, DepEd

### LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

DFA repatriation of OFWs



#### DOTR's One-Stop-Shop (OSS) for returning OFs⊾

Since the start of operations on 23 April 2020 to 14 June 2021, the One-Stop-Shop (OSS) has already served more than half a million OFWs—728,232 to be exact—, with 226,251 OFWs in Terminal 1, 282,152 in Terminal 2 and 219,829 in Terminal 3. Furthermore, the OSS has also assisted a total of 196,779 Overseas Filipinos (OFs)/tourists since the start of its operations.



Sources: DFA, DOTR

### LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

#### DOTR – LTFRB free ride for health workers and APORs



#### CAMP

As of 9 May 2021, DOLE, through COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP), has approved the application of 503,616 workers from 17,607 establishments, organizations, and associations nationwide, while 17,408 workers in the tourism sector who have applied individually have also been identified as beneficiaries. The DOLE has remitted P1,773,740,000 to payment centers for 354,748 worker beneficiaries while the remaining 166,276 approved applications equivalent to a total of P831,380,000 are scheduled for disbursement.

#### AKAP 🕨

In April 2021, DOLE-OWWA reported 502,581 OFW repatriates have been safely transported back to their home provinces after undergoing COVID tests and quarantine protocols in various hotels. It was also reported that it has extended a total of \$1.93 million in cash assistance to 9,667 OFW COVID patients. Another \$2.6 million in medical and food aid has been extended to 124,945 OFWs. As of April 2021, DOLE's AKAP assistance has extended P5.043 billion to 497,122 OFWs.





Sources: DOTR, DOLE

### TOURISM



#### Loans for tourism enterprises

The government extended to two years the grace period for repayment of the business loans to distressed tourism enterprises under Bayanihan 2 Act. The Department of Tourism (DOT) said the terms of the interest-free soft loans have been relaxed even more to encourage more micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the tourism industry to avail themselves of the loan facility managed by the Small Business Corp. (SB Corp) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). The relaxed terms also allow for a second round of loans for employee retention and a maximum loanable amount of Php 5 million. The adjustment to the terms of the CARES for TRAVEL partnership program of the DOT and SB Corp was in response to the current needs of tourism MSMEs. Businesses were urged to take advantage of the loan to help them recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Source: DOT

### ENVIRONMENT

#### Solid Waste Management >

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has completed the closure of 335 open dumpsites all over the country after its strict enforcement of Republic Act (RA) No. 9003 or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Open dumpsites are those where solid waste is deposited without planning and consideration for environmental and health standards and are illegal to establish or operate, based on RA No.9003. It is a testament of the political will of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and his administration since it is only now, 20 years after the enactment of RA No.9003 in 2001, that the closures have been fully accomplished.



### ASSISTANCE DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY QUARANTINES



#### NCR Plus assistance

In May 2021, the DILG reported that the distribution of ayuda is substantially complete at 99% percent distribution rate or Php 22.889 billion distributed to 22,915,422 NCR Plus beneficiaries. Ninety-three (93) out of 108 cities and municipalities in NCR Plus completed the ayuda distribution by 25 May 2021, the deadline set by the national government. Eight (8) LGUs expressed that they will be returning the unused fund worth Php 6,302,846.00 to the Bureau of Treasury.



#### DOT-DOLE Program

On 16 June 2021, a total of Php 8.6 million in financial assistance under the national government's pandemic recovery program was received by 1,726 beneficiaries. Each beneficiary received a cash aid of Php 5,000. The beneficiaries include tourism support service providers in the NCR such as food and non-food vendors and photographers that were displaced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Bayanihan 2 Emergency Subsidy Program

As of 10 February 2021, a total of P475.5 million has already been disbursed to 90,374 beneficiaries in granular lockdowns, while a total of P3.1 billion has already been disbursed to an additional 484,280 beneficiaries.



# IV. GOOD GOVERNANCE, JUSTICE, PEACE AND SECURITY

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME AND ILLEGAL DRUGS



# Campaign against crime and illegal drugs

#RealNumbersPH (as of 1 July 2016 - 31 May 2021)

Value of seized drugs, CPECs and Laboratory Equipment

Total value: P59.93 billion

Total value of shabu seized: P49.31 billion - 7,838.11 kgs

- Shabu: 7,838.11 kgs
- Cocaine: 523.48 kgs
- Ecstasy: 117,101 pcs
- Marijuana: 5,927.15 kgs

#### **Dismantled dens and clandestine laboratories**

- 789 dens
- 18 clandestine laboratories
- 807 total number of dismantled dens and clandestine laboratories

#### Drug-cleared barangays

• Drug cleared barangays: 22,093

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME AND ILLEGAL DRUGS

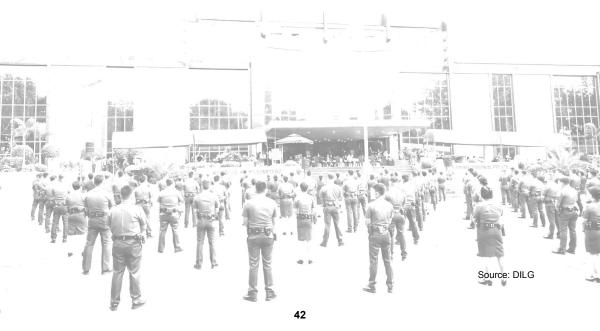
#### Improving National Crime Situation >

The national crime situation in the country significantly improved over the past five (5) years. Total Crime Volume steadily decreased, while the Crime Clearance Efficiency (CCE) and Crime Solution Efficiency (CSE) both remarkably increased for the period July 2016 to June 2021 under the Duterte Administration and continued to improve during the community quarantine period in CY 2020.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CRIME VOLUME. CRIME CLEARANCE

#### EFFICIENCY (CCE) AND CRIME SOLUTION EFFICIENCY (CSE) July 2016 to June 2021 Anti-July to Jan to Jan to Jan to Jan to Jan to Criminality Dec Dec Dec Dec Dec June Success 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 Indicators Crime Volume 292.589 490.393 520,641 496.628 383.189 193,103 Crime 71.06% 74.62% 85.15% 92.36% 94.44% 94.59% Clearance Efficiency (CCE) 61.21% 74.40% Crime Solution 58.61% 83.11% 83.71% 84.25% Efficiency (CSE)

(Source: PNP, Nationwide Crime Statistics, CIRAS (as of 01 July 2021), 08 July 2021)



### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRIME** AND ILLEGAL DRUGS



#### DILG's ECLIP

The Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP) for Former Rebels extended various benefits and assistance to former rebels (FRs) who surrendered starting 01 July 2016 (formerly under CLIP), which they can use to start anew and build better lives with their families. As of end of June 2021, a total of 7,244 FRs (4,708) Regular NPA and 2,536 Militia ng Bayan) were provided with a total of Php541.358 million benefits and assistance through E-CLIP, which started in July 2018 per Administrative Order 10, s. 2018, and through CLIP from 2nd Semester of 2016 to 1st Semester of 2018.

#### Strict Enforcement of Peace and Order and Public Safety during the Duration of Community Quarantines and the State of Public Health Emergency

The DILG, through the PNP and BFP (as members of the Joint Task Force Coronavirus Shield or JTF CV Shield), continued its mandated function of ensuring public safety and order amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. As of 30 June 2021, a total of 1,187,351 individuals were noted to be in violation of the community guarantine protocols (287,950) arrested, 560,670 fined and 338,731 warned), and 1,020 due to hoarding/profiteering/manipulation of prices.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION



### PHILIPPINES TOPS COVID-19 GLOBAL SCORECARD ON ACCOUNTABILITY

#### Global Scorecard on Accountability

The Philippines is one of the only four countries that demonstrated an adequate level of accountability in its early COVID-19 fiscal policy responses, based on the rapid assessment survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), covering the period of March to September 2020. The other three (3) countries sharing the same ranking with the Philippines are Australia, Norway, and Peru. The Philippines was assessed by the IBP based on its transparency measures, extent of public engagement, and oversight powers over its fiscal measures, as implemented under the Republic Act No. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act.



#### Implementation of Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act in the Workplace

On 16 May 2021, the DOJ signed Department Order (DO) No. 107 which adopts a non-discriminatory policy on HIV and AIDS that will guarantee a workplace environment free from HIV-related stigma and discrimination. It is noted that the Department is the first government agency that adopted its own Guidelines on the Implementation of the Workplace Policy and Education Program on HIV and AIDS under Republic Act No. 11166, which was signed into law by President Rodrigo R. Duterte on 20 December 2018.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION



Issuance of Show Cause Orders and Filing of Complaints against Local Officials due to alleged violations / abuses during the pandemic

In compliance with the President's directive, Show Cause Orders/ Notices to Explain were issued to 16 local government officials who jumped the line for COVID-19 vaccine prioritization, but this was prior to the recommendation of the IATF to include the LCEs in the priority list for COVID-19 vaccination.

The DILG also responded to complaints received against Barangay and SK officials on alleged corruption/violation/abuses related to the implementation of community quarantine protocols, alleged mass gatherings, relief distribution, and the implementation of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP). From 16 March 2020 until 01 July 2021, a total of 480 complaints against barangay officials were acted upon.

The Department also filed cases against 97 punong barangays to the Office of the Ombudsman for alleged anomalies related to the distribution of the first Social Amelioration Assistance. Of the total cases filed, 89 punong barangays have been placed under preventive suspension by the OMB.



#### Emergency 911 National Hotline L

The 911 hotline provides a clear command structure for responsibility and accessibility of national and local emergency service providers. Out of 8,315,288 legitimate calls, 296,137 (99.62%) of the 297,275 emergency and non-emergency calls received were responded to for the period July 2016 to June 2021.

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ANTI-CORRUPTION



Green lane for local COVID-19 vaccine makers >

The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) signed the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) No. 1, s. 2021 together with the Department of Health (DOH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments (DTI-BOI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and National Task Force Against COVID-19 (NTF-COVID19). The JMC entitled "Establishment of a Green Lane for Securing Permits, Licenses and Authorizations for the Establishment and Operation of a Bulk Import, Fill and Finish Local Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Manufacturing Facility and For the Registration for Availment of Incentives" aims to keep the processing time of documents submitted by these vaccine makers between 20 to 30 days thus speeding up the application process for manufacturers of COVID-19 vaccines.

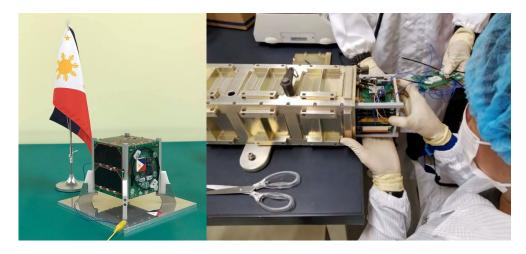


#### World Bank 2020 Doing Business Report L

In the World Bank 2020 Doing Business Report, the Philippines ranked 95th out of 190 economies, an improvement of 29 notches from the country's 124th rank during the 2019 survey. The improvement was due to the reforms on the Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, and Protecting Minority Investors indicators.

# V. INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



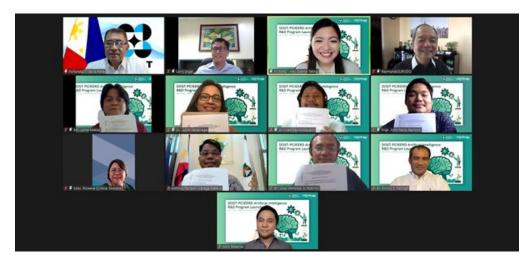
On 21 February 2021, the country's second cube satellite, called Maya-2 CubeSat that was developed by three Filipino student engineers, was launched through the International Space Station (ISS) along with Paraguay's GuaraniSat-1 CubeSat and Japan's Tsuru CubeSat for the BIRDS 4 Satellite Project - KyuTech aboard the Northrop Grumman CRS-15 mission.



On 23 March 2021, the DOST launched the first-ever Smarter City Belt Project in the Philippines, an undertaking that will spur economic growth in the region, with the theme, "Exploring New Growth through Innovation and Nurturing Engagement of Smart Solutions" or ENGINES. Smarter City Belt is a collaborative project that aims to make cities in the region future-ready. This can be done by using the latest technologies and innovations from DOST. the R&D outputs of the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and those from the Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).

Source: DOST

### **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**



On 8 April 2021, the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) launched nine (9) new projects on artificial intelligence (AI) research and development aimed at spurring growth in this emerging industry in the Philippines. The AI projects are to be undertaken by the DOST-Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI), University of the Philippines Mindanao (UPMin), De La Salle University (DLSU), University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Caraga State University (CarSU).



#### FASSSTER

Feasibility Analysis of Syndromic Surveillance using Spatio-Temporal Epidemiological Modeler or FASSSTER is a web-based disease surveillance platform that uses deterministic compartmental modeling. Data generated from this technology allows policymakers to understand the pandemic at the national, regional, and local levels; assess the effects of the preventive measures in place; and use best practices in specific communities. In June 2021, the DOST reported 2,534 registered users in FASSSTER from the national IATF-EID, RIATF/RTF, 80 provincial LGUs, and 403 city/municipal LGUs.

Source: DOST

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION

#### Leaps and Bounds in National Digital Connectivity ►

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) achieved great improvements in the Philippine ICT landscape as it intensified its programs, projects and initiatives in pursuit of inclusive digital transformation in the country. These efforts, among other results, led to a steady upward climb in the nation's Internet speed averages and international rankings. According to data from Ookla Speedtest Global Index, the country recorded a 741.34% increase in its average fixed broadband Internet speed and a 341.40% in mobile Internet speed since July 2016, wherein recorded average download speeds were 7.91 Mbps and 7.44 Mbps, respectively.

On the other hand, the DICT's mission to provide free, quality and reliable Internet connectivity to the Filipinos accelerated over the past two years as the Free Wi-Fi for All Program achieved a dramatic 500% increase in its rollout rate in 2020. From its previous annual average of 800 sites a year from 2016 to 2019, the DICT activated a total of 4,305 sites just in 2020.

#### Internet Speed

Ookla Speedtest Global Index figures for June 2021 indicate continued surge in the country's fixed and mobile broadband average speeds. Based on the report, the country's average download speed for fixed broadband is now 66.5 megabits per second (Mbps) compared to the 59.73 Mbps speed recorded in May 2021. For mobile Internet, the June 2021 speed reached 32.84 Mbps from the recorded 31.98 Mbps in May.

Additionally, the country claimed the 65th spot out of 180 countries in fixed broadband, while ranking 77th out of 137 countries in mobile for May 2021. This placed the country at 17th for fixed broadband and 23rd for mobile Internet speed among the 50 countries in Asia. In the ASEAN region, the Philippines ranked 5th in both the fixed broadband and mobile categories out of the 10 neighboring countries.

Average Internet Speed Increase from 2016:

741.34% Fixed-Line Broadband

341.40% Mobile Broadband

#### Free Wi-Fi for All

500% Increase In Project Implementation rate



### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION

#### Technology and Innovation Report

According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) Technology and Innovation Report 2021 published last February 25, the Philippines ranked second among the most overperforming countries in ICT deployment, skills, research and development (R&D), industry activity and access to finance. The Philippines was among the few developing countries that has exhibited stronger capabilities to use, adopt, and adapt to frontier technologies.



#### ICT Skills Training for Women

Among its various training initiatives, the DICT was able to train more than 58,000 women on various ICT skills from March 2020 to 2021. Led by DICT Mindanao Cluster 1, trainings include topics on e-Marketing, Remote Teaching, Graphics Design, Branding Kit, among others. In addition, more than 13,000 women also learned about cyber safety measures during the same period. In partnership with the National Privacy Commission (NPC), DICT Cybersecurity Bureau and Facebook's Digital Tayo, the DICT Mindanao Cluster conducted a series of online and offline seminars related to Cybersecurity, Digital Parenting, Data Privacy, among others.



On 22 March 2021, DICT, DOST, and the DTI virtually signed the Joint Administrative Order (JAO) on the implementation of Republic Act No. 11337 or the Innovative Startup Act of 2019, and the management of the Philippine Startup Development Program (PSDP), which aims to support Philippine startups and empower entrepreneurs for a stronger and more resilient economy.





### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISSEMINATION



#### Free Wi-Fi for All Program (FW4A)

A major driver of the DICT's digital transformation agenda is the accelerated implementation of its Free Public Internet Access Program, or the Free Wi-Fi for All. The Program improved its rollout rate and was able to address delays caused by various factors, including challenges presented by geography and lack of infrastructure. Through the years, the DICT managed to put up 10,311 Free Wi-Fi for All sites across the country as of July 01, 2021, where 3,251 were deployed within the period of 2016 to 2019, and 4,305 were activated in 2020 alone.

- The accelerated and improved rollout of the program with high prioritization of geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) includes the employment of improved Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) satellites to replace existing VSATs deployed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) during the previous iteration of the program. The DICT's VSAT solutions provide faster Internet speeds at a cheaper cost as compared to the ones installed through the partnership between the DICT and the UNDP. The DICT-deployed VSAT technology has a combined (download plus upload) CIR of 6.3 megabits per second (Mbps) with three access points per site, while the UNDP-deployed VSAT has a combined (download plus upload) Committed Information Rate (CIR) of 0.3 Mbps for one access point per site only. Overall, DICT's Managed Internet Service (MIS)-VSATs provides around 20 times faster minimum speeds than the UNDP VSAT.
- Moreover, the DICT supported COVID-19 response efforts by connecting various health facilities. Among these, in April 2021, The DICT Luzon Cluster 2 (LC2) activated Free Wi-Fi access points at the new Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Temporary Treatment & Monitoring Facility in Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales. The facility can accommodate up to 300 asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients. The said initiative is in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and various government agencies.
- Further, the Department improved its implementation strategies, including partnering with local governments to install Free Wi-Fi sites in particularly challenging locations. In May 2021, the DICT-Luzon Cluster 2 (DICT LC2) widened the coverage of the Free Wi-Fi for All Program to include GIDA sites in Quezon, Laguna and Tarlac. In April 2021, DICT-Mindanao Cluster 2 (DICT MC2) provided Free Wi-Fi Internet Access through its Free Wi-Fi for All program in various locations in Bacolod and Maigo, Lanao del Norte. Likewise, the DICT Luzon Cluster 1 (LC1) and Luzon Cluster 3(LC3) also installed and activated Free Wi-Fi sites in Mayoyao, Ifugao and Kalayaan, Palawan to address the issue of slow and unreliable Internet connectivity in these municipalities. In March 2021, The Free Wi-Fi for All Program deployed a total of twenty (20) hotspots in five (5) different locations in Batanes with four (4) Wi-Fi access points in each location. These locations include Batanes General Hospital, Batanes State College, Provincial Capitol of Batanes, DICT Batanes Provincial Office in Basco as well as the Mahatao Town Hall.

### **MEDIA AND INFORMATION**



#### Laging Handa Public Briefings

The Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) continues with its Laging Handa operations by providing 24/7 essential information and public service announcements on the government's COVID-19 response efforts, among other relevant public issues.



#### OPS activities

In line with the government's efforts to keep the public up-to-date with timely and accurate information especially during calamities and this pandemic, the Office of the Presidential Spokesperson (OPS) held press briefings and spearheaded the strategic communications for the COVID-19 response.

The OPS, together with the NTF Against COVID-19, held different press briefings after symbolic vaccination of COVID-19 vaccines to different priority groups.



May 4, 2021 - First Sputnik V Vaccination, Ayala Malls, Paranaque City.



June 23, 2021 - Site visit with Israeli health officials, Solaire Vaccination Hub, Paranaque City.



June 30, 2021 - A4 vaccination for workers in Region IV-A, Ayala Malls Solenad, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.



July 12, 2021 - San Juan vaccinates 100% of the target population, Greenhills, San Juan City.



June 7, 2021 - A4 vaccination, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



June 24, 2021 - Site visit with Israeli health officials, Lakeshore Mega Vaccination Hub, Taguig City.



July 6, 2021 - Ceremonial vaccination rollout for A4 workers at the Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga.



July 22, 2021 - Pasig City 100% Vaccination of A2 with First dose and J & J launch for A2 & A3.

## Conclusion

Government programs and services that aim to raise Filipinos' living conditions toward a more resilient Philippines are continuing amid the ongoing pandemic.

The Build Build Build Program for one, not only builds infrastructure but also helps spur economic growth and development to continue providing employment opportunities for many Filipinos.

With the Bayanihan I and II, various projects, activities, and programs of the government were supported, particularly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the health front, intensified measures and strategies are being undertaken contain the pandemic including to strengthened Prevention. Detection. Isolation, Treatment. and Reintegration (PDITR) strategies, strict implementation of the minimum public health standards across all levels from the individual to the community, and the fast-tracking of the national vaccination program.

The provision of cash and livelihood assistance to those who were severely affected by the pandemic continued in 2021 through the distribution of emergency subsidies, provision of emergency work, and other assistance programs of various government agencies.

Indeed, the national government has not wavered in its commitment to alleviate the plight of its people toward a COVID-19-free future.

With the cooperation of all Filipinos, the goal of achieving population protection by the end of the year and economic recovery and growth by next year, will hopefully be realized.

###

We thank the National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance, Department of Foreign Affairs, Bases Conversion and Development Authority, Department of Transportation, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, Department of Health, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Tourism, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, National Housing Authority, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Justice, Department of National Defense, Task Force Bangon Marawi, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, Film Development Council of the Philippines, Department of Information and Communications Technology, and Presidential Communications Operations Office.



JULY 2021