

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
[Aired on 21 August 2021]**

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Good evening, countrymen. Again we have to face the nation to explain ‘yung mga issues importante ‘yan na hindi kayo mawalaan ng tiwala sa amin sa gobyerno; otherwise, this nation would be in trouble.

Alam mo ‘yung mga pera na sinasabi bilyon-bilyon ‘yan eh. Alam mo kasi itong ano, itong gobyerno talagang hindi mo ma-perfect. We are trying very hard to really comply with the law because it is the law. Ang problema the vagaries of governance hindi mo talaga maalís ‘yan minsan well of course outright corruption, ‘yung iba naman, well, negligence. There are so many factors omission or non-performance and all of these things would be reflected time and again, maski kaninong administration lalabas talaga ‘yan.

But for today, we will begin to talk to the people and I would ask Secretary Sid Lapeña who heads the TESDA. Ito rin siya, I think he was also... He has a lot to explain and parang na-flag rin. The vogue --- the vogue of the day is nice --- is spelled f-l-o-g-g-i-n-g, it’s not flag, f-l-a-g-g-i-n-g. Iyon ang ano ngayon eh. Ngayon paano, before we go to the itong mga sabi mga anomalya, let us hear the TESDA make the report.

Secretary Lapeña, the floor is yours.

TESDA SECRETARY ISIDRO LAPEÑA: Sa ating Pangulo, Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte; Senator Bong Go; mga kapwa kong miyembro ng Gabinete; mga kababayan; magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat.

Mr. President, noong ipinagkatiwala po ninyo sa akin ang pamumuno sa Technical Education and Skills Development Authority o TESDA, I had committed to immediately work towards winning the hearts and minds of our people through training in order for them to have jobs and livelihood after.

Layunin po ng TESDA na maiparamdam sa ating mga kababayan ang ating genuine and sincere concern sa kanilang kapakanan para maging katuwang po natin sila sa nation building at sustainable progress. Isa ang Technical Vocational Education and Training or TVET sa mga itinuturing na pangunahing puwersa para sa sustainable economic development kung saan itinaas nito ang antas ng buhay ng ating mga kababayan. Gaya ng ating mantra, we aim to transform their lives and eventually contribute as productive members of society.

Ang paglagda po ninyo ng Executive Order No. 83 para sa National Technical Education and Skills Development Plan or NTESDP, ang aming naging batayan sa lahat ng mga programa at serbisyo na aming ibinibigay sa ating mga kababayan. Ginamit po natin ang two-pronged

strategy ng NTESDP sa paghahatid ng TVET sa ating mga kababayan. Una, ang TVET for Global Competitiveness and Workforce Readiness at, pangalawa, ang TVET for Social Equity and Poverty Reduction.

Sa pagsisimula ng aking pamumuno sa TESDA noong October 30, 2018, inilunsad po natin ang ating guiding principle TESDAbot Lahat. Ito ang direksyon na ating sinimulan upang mas mapalawak at mapalakas ang ating mandato. Ito ang simbolo ng paglilingkod sa mas marami nating kababayan lalo na sa malalayo at mahihirap na lugar upang matulungan silang mapabuti ang kanilang buhay.

Mas pinalawig po natin ang sakop ng TESDA. Under your time, Mr. President, ay nakapagdagdag tayo ng 60 provincial training centers sa buong bansa kabilang na rito ang provincial training center sa Pigcawayan, Cotabato Province na personal ninyong ipinag-utos sa TESDA. Mayroon din pong nadagdag na tatlong regional training centers: ito po ay sa National Capital Region, Region XII at CARAGA. Dahil sa aming layunin na mas maging accessible ang TVET, ang bawat rehiyon at probinsiya sa buong bansa ay mayroon ng mga training centers ngayon sa inyo pong administrasyon.

Sa paglagda ninyo sa Executive Order No. 70, ang TESDA po ay naatasan mamuno sa paghahatid ng serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan sa mga malalayong lalawigan at Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas or GIDAs. Bilang chair ng Poverty Reduction, Livelihood and Employment Cluster or PRLEC, tinipon po natin ang iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan kabilang na ang mga local government units upang makapaghatid ng iba't ibang barangay development projects sa buong bansa.

Simple lamang po ang pamamaraan ng TESDA: una ay alamin ang pangangailangan ng komunidad, bigyan sila ng angkop na pagsasanay at kagamitan upang makapagsimula at turuan sila kung papaano mapapakinabangan ang malawak nilang lupain upang magkaroon ng sustainable na hanapbuhay. Teach a man how to fish, as the saying, and he lives for a lifetime.

Sa buong bansa, 215,375 na mga kababayan nating katutubo at 19,471 na former rebels ang nagkaroon ng pagkakataong makapag-training sa TESDA sa ilalim ng PRLEC. Kabilang sa pangunahing programang matagumpay na nailunsad ay ang training program on photovoltaic or solar lights installation system. Tinawag ito na Project TALA o TESDA Alay ay Liwanag at Asenso sa Sitio Blit, Barangay Ned sa Lake Sebu, municipality ng South Cotabato Province. Ayon sa isang Tasaday elder na mahigit 70 taon nang naninirahan sa lugar nila, ngayon lamang siya nakakita ng ilaw pagkatapos ng napakahabang panahon na pagtitiis sa dilim. Mangiyak-ngiyak niyang ibinahagi ito sa amin. Ito ay isang patotoo ng kapabayaang ng gobyerno sa matagal ng panahon. Only in your time, Mr. President, na sa wakas ay nakarating din ang serbisyo ng gobyerno sa kanila.

Nais ng TESDA na suportahan ang food sufficiency and security ng bansa kaya mayroon din po tayong training na agri-crop at livestock production para maturuan ang mga komunidad na maging productive ang kanilang mga lupain. Dahil dito, nagkaroon sila ng kakayahan na makapag-produce ng kanilang sariling pagkain. Sa pamamagitan naman ng community

enterprise development models, natuturuan din natin ang ating mga kababayan na magbenta ng kanilang mga sobrang produkto para sa karagdagang kita.

Isang matagumpay nating proyekto ang Alabel Food Hub o bagsakan ng mga gulay at prutas sa Barangay Alegria, Alabel, Sarangani Province. In a span of 17 Thursdays --- iyan po ang market day nila, designated market day --- since its opening, nakapagtala na po ang ating mga kababayan ng mahigit 800,000 pesos na kita mula sa food hub na itinayo ng munisipyo ng Alabel.

Sa tulong ng TESDA at iba pang ahensya, nagkaroon ng training sa biomass feedstock production, power generator installation, at solar power irrigation system ang Ata Matigsalog Tribe sa Sitio Side 4, Barangay Mangayon, Compostela, Davao de Oro.

Nagkaroon na po sila ng alternatibong pagkukunan ng enerhiya at kasabay nito ay nagkaroon din sila ng pangkabuhayan dahil sila rin ang nagtatanim ng mga materyales na ginagamit para sa biomass power system na ito.

Hindi na rin po problema ang patubig. Malaki ang kaginhawaang dala ng techvoc skills sa mga taga-Sitio Side 4 na dating tinatawag na “Munisipyo ng mga NPA.”

Malaki na rin po ang naitulong ng mga batas na inyong nilagdaan sa pagpapalawig ng TVET. Una dito ay ang Republic Act 10968 or Philippine Qualification Framework or PQF Act. Dahil sa PQF, mas nailatag ang TVET sa kabuuan ng education system at it established the mechanism for lifelong learning, at lalong pinaigting ang ladderized diploma program.

Dahil dito, ang isang kababayan natin ay maaari munang mag-aral ng TVET at magtrabaho. Pagkatapos, puwede siyang bumalik sa pag-aaral kung gusto niyang tumaas pa ang antas ng kanyang education. Nakatulong din ito sa pagbubukas ng oportunidad sa ibang bansa dahil ang kanyang qualification ay recognized or at par sa standards ng bansang kanyang papasukan.

Nagpapasalamat po kami sa inyo, Mr. President, sa pagpasa ng Republic Act 11230 or Tulong Trabaho Act. Sa ilalim po ng batas na ito, mas marami pong manggagawang Pilipino ang nabibigyan natin ng upskilling at reskilling lalo ngayon sa post-pandemic recovery upang matulungan natin sila na magkaroon ng bagong hanapbuhay at makabangon mula sa epekto ng pandemya.

Ang Republic Act 10931 or Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act ay nakatulong naman sa --- makapagpalawak ng enrollment sa TVET diploma programs. Ito ang magiging daan na --- sa pag-produce ng mga technologists and technicians na magpapatakbo ng ating mga piling industriya.

Sa loob po ng mahigit limang taon ninyong panunungkulan mula noong 2016, mahigit 10 milyon nating mga kababayan sa loob at labas ng bansa ang nakatanggap ng skills training mula sa TESDA; 9.8 million naman ang nakapagtapos; at 6.6 million ang ating na-certify na skilled at competent sa kanilang mga napiling kasanayan.

Ang employment rate ng ating mga graduates ay tumaas mula 71.87 percent noong 2017 to 84.15 percent noong 2019. Noong nakaraang taon, sa kabila ng pandemya ay nakapagtala pa rin po tayo ng 70.51 percent employment rate. Ibig sabihin nito, pito sa kada 10 graduates ang nagkaroon ng trabaho o hanapbuhay pagkatapos ng kani-kanilang training sa TESDA; 63.37 percent ay wage employed o nagkaroon ng trabaho sa mga kompanya o opisina; at 31.11 percent naman ang self-employed o nakapagtayo ng sariling negosyo, kasama na rito ang farming.

Mr. President, we would like to emphasize that TVET is a wise investment dahil sa bawat tao na nakapag-aral o nakapagtatrabaho, nakakatulong tayo sa lima pa niyang kapamilya upang maging productive members ng society.

Bilang tugon naman po sa pangangailangan ng sektor ng construction ng mas marami pang manggagawa para sa Build, Build, Build program ng pamahalaan, 371,369 na indibidwal ang nakapagtapos sa 63 construction-related courses ng ahensya mula 2019 hanggang ngayong June 2021.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang agriculture ay isa sa priority sectors ng TESDA to ensure food sufficiency and security in the communities lalo po ngayon na patuloy pa rin ang pandemya. Kaya naman ang paglagda ng ating Presidente sa Rice Tariffication Law ay malaking tulong sa ating layunin. Sa pamamagitan ng Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund ngayong taon, ang TESDA ay nakapag-assist sa 21,075 farmers, kabilang na rin ang kanilang mga dependents at iba pang farm workers. Under the fund's Rice Extension Services Program, nakapag-establish po kami ng 301 farm schools na nagpapatupad ng iba't ibang programa para mapalakas ang produksyon ng bigas at madagdagan ang kita ng ating mga magsasaka. Sinabi nga ni Secretary Dar ng Department of Agriculture, malaking tulong ang mga TVET agriculture-related trainings ng TESDA upang dumami ang ani at kita ng mga magsasaka.

Sinisigurado rin ng TESDA na mabigyan ng angkop at sapat na training ang ating mga techvoc trainers. As of July 31 ngayong taon, nakapagtala po kami ng 21,214 certified trainers at sila din po ay proficient sa blended learning mode of techvoc delivery na ngayon ay talagang essential sa ating new normal state.

Sa katunayan, maging ang ating mga katutubo ay nabigyan na rin ng pagkakataong maging community TVET trainers. Ginagawa na po ito sa Davao sa pamumuno ni Datu Benito Bayloanon ng Sitio Side 4 kung saan pinamumunuan niya ang pagsasanay ng kanyang mga katribo.

Ang ating mga uniformed personnel din po mula sa Department of National Defense at Philippine National Police ay nabibigyan din ng trainers training para sila ay makapag-conduct ng iba-ibang skills training sa lugar kung saan sila nakadestino. Ang training regulations ay napakahalagang parte ng ating techvoc training programs. Ito ang basehan ng training upang masiguro ang kalidad ng ating mga graduates.

Pinaigting namin ang ating mga pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno, private companies, corporate foundations, and industry associations. Kaugnay nito, isinasagawa din natin ngayon ang area-based and demand-driven TVET upang mas angkop at masiguro na ang

mga programa ng TESDA ay tumutugon sa tunay na pangangailangan ng ating employers and industry partners at masolusyonan na ang job skills mismatch.

Bilang pagtugon sa ating guiding principle na TESDAbot Lahat, nagsasagawa rin po ang TESDA ng iba't ibang assistance program sa mga kababayan nating naging biktima ng mga sakuna, trahedya, o mga kalamidad.

Nagsasagawa po tayo ng training cum production sa mga komunidad na nasunugan upang makatulong na maibalik ang kanilang mga nasirang tahanan. Binibigyan din natin sila ng training sa ibang skill areas ng sa gayon ay mabilis silang makabangon mula sa trahedya.

Nagsagawa din tayo ng relief operations and assistance programs sa mga nasalanta ng mga nakaraang bagyo, sa mga naging biktima ng pagsabog ng Bulkang Taal, at lindol sa Cotabato. Ang mga beneficiaries sa mga skills training na ito ay nakakatanggap din ng training allowance na 160 pesos kada araw na nakakatulong din sa kanilang pang-araw-araw na gastusin.

TESDA's operational plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic calls for the implementation of flexible learning in the delivery of TVET. Inaasahan po natin na ang face-to-face classes ay patuloy pa ring apektado sa iba't ibang parte ng bansa kaya naman ang TESDA ay nag-transition na rin sa flexible learning delivery arrangements na kombinasyon ng blended, distance, online, at face-to-face learning na ipinapatupad depende sa community quarantine condition sa isang lugar.

Nang magsimula ang pandemic sa ating bansa, mas pinaigting at mas pinalawig po natin ang ating serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan. Una po rito ay ang pag-expand ng ating TESDA Online Program. Mula sa 60 online courses, mayroon na ngayong 103 online courses na libre para sa lahat. Mahigit 1.7 milyong kababayan natin ang nag-register sa TESDA Online Program simula noong community quarantine noong March 2020 hanggang July 2021.

Ang TESDA Online Program ang naging katuwang natin upang ang ating mga kababayan ay maging produktibo noong kasagsagan ng community quarantine. Nagsagawa din po tayo ng mass production ng mga face masks at iba pang personal protective equipment at namigay tayo ng mga farm products at food packs sa ating mga frontliners at mga kababayan nating naapektuhan ng community quarantine restrictions.

Mr. President, we believe that the true measure of the effectiveness of training is the transformation of the lives of techvoc graduates. Narito ang iba't ibang kuwento ng pagbabago at pag-asa ng ating mga techvoc graduates mula Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao.

Si Jeron Tanglaw, tubong Tanauan, Batangas, ang una nating tampok. Sa gitna ng pandemya, kumuha siya ng kursong Barista NC II. Bukod dito, siya rin ay nagtapos ng tourism promotion services sa TESDA. Bitbit ang kanyang determinasyon, tiyaga, at barista skills, ginamit niya ang kanyang quarantine bike at nilagyan ng sariling cart para magsilbing lagayan ng kanyang mga gamit sa paggawa ng kanyang produkto. Pagkatapos nito ay naging tuloy-tuloy na ang pagsikat ng kanyang coffee cart sa Batangas.

Isa din sa mga naging successful na techvoc graduate natin ay si Joeminel Cutcharo, 23 years old, tubong Tacloban, Leyte. Isa ang pamilya ni Joeminel sa mga nasalanta ng Bagyong Yolanda. Ito ang nagtulak sa kanya upang isipin ang kanyang hinaharap at maging matagumpay kung kaya siya ay nag-enroll sa TESDA ng Automotive Servicing NC I hanggang sa NC IV. Bunga ng kanyang tiyaga at galing, isa siya sa mga pinadalang delegado ng Pilipinas sa ASEAN Skills Competition noong 2018 at World Skills Competition sa Kazan, Russia noong 2019 at nakapag-uwi siya ng Medallion of Excellence sa parehong skills competition, at isa rin siya sa Best of Nation Awardees nitong nakaraang World Skills Competition.

At ang pride ng Davao, si Ryan Cordova, kasalukuyang lead automation control and instrumentation engineer sa Singapore. Graduate si Ryan ng Mechatronics Servicing NC III at Industrial Automation sa Regional Training Center Korean-Philippines Davao. Hindi naging hadlang ang kahirapan upang buuin ni Ryan ang matayog na hinaharap na gusto niya para sa kanyang sarili at pamilya. Suportado pa siya ng tatay niyang TESDA graduate din. Pinapatunayan nito na kapag pinagsama ang sipag, diskarte, at techvoc siguradong aasenso. Ang mga ito ay patunay kung paano naging kaagapay ng ating mga kababayan ang TESDA sa kanilang muling pagbangon mula sa pandemya.

Sa inyong State of the Nation Address noong 2020, inyo pong inatasan ang TESDA na tulungan ang mga OFWs na apektado ng pandemya. Bilang tugon, inilunsad namin ang “TESDA Abot Lahat ang OFWs”. Gamit ang TESDA mobile app, libo-libong repatriated OFWs ang nakapag-register at nakapag-avail ng free skills training at free assessment at certification sa ilalim ng programang ito. Bukod po sa ating mga Malasakit Help Desk na matatagpuan sa ating mga paliparan, nagtayo din po tayo ng mga OFW desk at Malasakit help desk sa ating mga regional at provincial offices upang ma-prioritize ang mga pangangailangan ng ating OFWs. Lahat ng ito ay resulta ng ating pakikipag-ugnayan sa ating mga overseas Filipino workers.

Sa kabila ng pandemya, patuloy po tayong nagbibigay ng pagsasanay sa mga displaced workers upang sila ay mabigyan ng skills at makahanap ng trabaho o magsimula ng kanilang sariling negosyo. Sa ilalim naman po ng National Employment Recovery [Strategy] Task Force or NERS, tuloy-tuloy ang aming pagseserbisyo upang makapagbigay ng tamang skills training sa ating mga kababayan alinsunod na rin sa inyong direktiba nitong nakaraang SONA. Nagtutulong-tulong po ang DTI, DOLE, at TESDA kasama ang iba pang members ng NERS Task Force upang masiguro na ang ating mga manggagawa ay magiging matatag habang tayo ay nasa gitna ng pandemya at hanggang sa maibangon natin muli ang ekonomiya ng bansa.

Sa inyong huling State of the Nation Address, nabanggit po ninyo ang kailangan gawin ng TESDA: prioritize the upskilling and reskilling of the Philippine workforce and increase their employability.

Gusto po naming ipaabot ang pasasalamat sa pag-approve ninyo, aming mahal na Pangulo, ng 4.95 billion pesos funds para sa modernization ng mga TESDA Technology Institutions, pasilidad, at state-of-the-art learning system. Ito ay upang tayo ay maging handa sa mga challenges ng Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Kasabay po nang pag-modernize ng pasilidad, nagdagdag din tayo sa ating manpower compliment. Kasama na sa mga inaprubahan ay ang 996 plantilla positions na para sa iba't ibang operating units at training centers ng TESDA. Dagdag dito ay nire-review po natin ang ating mga training regulations and standards katuwang ang iba't ibang industriya upang masiguro na naaayon sa pangangailangan ng mga employers ang mga training programs.

Sa kasalukuyan po, mayroon na tayong tatlong nasimulan na TESDA Innovation Centers sa Cebu (Region VII), sa Northern Samar (Region VIII), at Zamboanga Sibugay para sa Region IX. May limang karagdagang innovation centers ngayong 2021 na itatayo sa Taguig City dito sa National Capital Region, Pangasinan sa Region I, Isabela sa Region II, Bataan sa Region III, at Davao City sa Region XI.

Mahal na Pangulo, TESDA is fully aware of its role in this nation's recovery from the present crisis. Nakahanda po ang aming tanggapan lalong-lalo na sa pagsisiguro na ang ating human resources ay nakakasabay sa mga challenges ng new normal at future work environments.

Sa patuloy ninyong pagtitiwala at pagsusuporta sa TESDA, makakamtan natin ang inyong hangarin na magkaroon ng komportableng buhay ang bawat Pilipino.

Maraming salamat po at muli, magandang gabi sa inyong lahat. [applause]

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Maraming salamat, Secretary Lapeña.

Alam mo, I have been mayor --- I was a mayor of Davao City for 23 years, excluding the four years I was a congressman and excluding also the four year, and the four --- another four years as vice mayor to my daughter. Along these years, 'yung mayor ko lang 23 years, mayroon lang akong gustong i-share sa ating mga kababayan. May sabihin ako dito, may basahin ako. I want to make this very --- this thing very clear.

This is not an accusation against COA, it's neither a criticism against COA, it is just sharing with COA the heartaches of the so many people na dumaan diyan sa mga audit ninyo. I know that you have to do it. Kailangan gawin ninyo eh, utos ng batas. Wala akong... At saka hindi naman personal 'yan. Hindi tayo magkakilala.

Pero iyong mga repercussions lang na gusto man ninyo o hindi, gusto ko rin o hindi, ay mangyari pagka ganitong Philippine --- 'yung environment ng ating bansa, pulitika pati 'yung mga tao na... Well, there is a freedom to criticize whatever. But kailangan malaman ng Pilipino na ano talaga ang totoo.

Ngayon, iyong hindi maniwala, wala na akong magawa sa inyo. But you can check this with the government records. It's open.

Sabihin mo lang kung anong gusto ninyo at I will give the order to open whatever there is there -- there is that ating transparency law, transparency executive order. Wala pa ng batas --- wala pa 'yung batas. Mayroon ako executive order pero Congress has yet to act on itong mga batas na

making it transparent, kailangan mo 'yung --- well, everything that the public may want to know. Again, I repeat, this is not personal.

Pagka-mayor ko, in the 23 years, there have been so many audit, araw-araw, buwan-buwan iyan. But iyong may mga transactions sa gobyerno na ganoon, pinapakialaman ng COA 'yan, not because gusto nila pero trabaho nila alam ko. But as early as about when I was on the first term, mayroon nang --- mayroon kaming binili.

Alam mo ganito 'yung problema ng Pilipinas eh, I wanted to buy computers for my city government for their use. Tapos noon mayroong --- I don't know why they have to do it, the less regulation, the less corruption; more regulation, more corruption. We were required to go to the National Computer Center to get their approval for a government local unit to buy. Kaya gusto ko sa panahon ko, alisin ko talaga 'yan, bahala na ibalik ng kung sinong susunod. I want less regulation.

Iyong pakialam ng mga regulators dapat, you know, hindi naman ikontrol. But this is what happened, they filed a case against me doon sa computers kasi hindi ako sumunod doon sa National Computer Center kasi ang gusto nila kanilang brand, mahal. Mayroon isang computer corporation nag-offer mas mura. Halos about --- hindi naman one half, pero mababa. So sabi ko, as a lawyer, hindi ako susunod. Why should I buy an expensive one when I can buy two for one dito? Sabi ko sa kanila, hindi ako susunod. Eh iyong pagka-abugado ko sabi ko basta alam ninyo, as long as you know at saka nandiyan 'yung mga computers.

Alam mo I tried to 'yung transaction --- I wanted 'yung delivery kaagad. Alam mo ganoon ako eh, sakit ko. Finile-an (filed) nila ako ng kaso. Sabi ko --- 'di sabi nila na illegal ganoon. Eh 'di sabi ko, "Eh 'di ibahin ko. I will come up with another contract." Madali lang naman, wala namang final. Anak... Eh 'di ni --- 'yung audit na. Alam mo ang audit na 'yun umabot ng Supreme Court. I was exonerated on all counts pero ang nagastos ko, buti't na lang 'yung mga abugado mga kilala ko, pero ang gastos ko easily --- easily. Iyong isang trabahanteng gobyerno na ma-demanda doon, gastos 'yan. Pagka mga treasurer, auditor, governor, milyon 'yan. Hindi ka magbigay, abugado lang tapos 'yung pabalik doon. You must be present during the ano. Pero ito hindi umabot sa talagang full hearing. I went up by certiorari as I was --- sabi ko, on all fours.

Tapos next, about medicines again, eh ako mismo nagaano na bakit ka ba bumili ng mahal ito pareho lang naman ito generic and branded? It has the same effect on the body. Ba't dadaan pa ito ng gobyerno 'yung FDA kung generic? Gusto ng... Finile-an nila ako ng kaso. Umabot ng Court of Appeals, exonerated ako.

Then the third... Alam mo, mayor ako. Alam ng taga-Davao lahat pati iyan si Congressman Nograles, lahat, lahat ng tao sa Davao, every Christmas nagpapakain ako by sectors, Christmas party, gratis sa gobyerno. Magpakain ako ng pulis and military, alam ng --- nandiyan si General Lapeña 'yun. Then, nagpapakain ako sa disabled, may pakain ako isang gabi for commercial sex workers. Bino-blowout ko 'yan sila lahat about mga 4,000 tapos bigyan ko ng tig-isang libo, pera ng gobyerno. Basta audited lang, basta alam lang saan pumunta ang pera.

Ngayon, pagdating dito sa teachers, maraming teachers, mas marami pa sa sundalo 'yan, kaya nagpa-party ako sa kanila for three nights, separate, kasi hindi ma-accommodate ng isang --- not big enough. Alam mo, dinemanda ako ng kalaban ko sa pulitika, he's still around. Finile-an na naman ako ng kaso. Umabot na naman kami sa nagpunta ako ng Supreme Court. And to think that mayor ako, at least kung magkakaso ako, 'yung eroplano mag-official trip ka lang... Eh alam mo 'pag nademanda ka and it is part of your duty, eh siyempre pupunta, patatawagin ka ng Sandigan, pupunta ka talaga doon. Eh ngayon 'yung bakit ano --- ito bang krimen na ito akin ito o sa gobyerno? I'm just doing what the law allows me to do.

Iyan ang aking personal experience. Masakit 'yan kasi alam mo, 8 out of 10, maglakad ka ngayon diyan sa daan... I... Hamunin ko kayo, iyon bang report ninyo na nabasa ninyo sa newspaper, sa radyo, anong tingin ninyo doon? "Wala, corruption." Iyong mga commentators, political commentators diyan sa radyo mga, "Ah mga kurakot."

Alam mo ang totoo niyan, ang DOH walang pera. Ang pera DBM. Kung may programa sila, ang magbayad sabihin nila, "Ito 'yung pera." Hindi humahawak si Secretary Duque ni piso. Iyan pero the perception of the public is that when you are flagged, you are flagged as in f-o --- f-l-o-g-g-i-n-g. It's not flagging, it's flogging. Magtanong kayo diyan, diyan sa newspaper, headline sa budget ganoon-ganoon-ganoon.

Iyan ang mahirap diyan. Alam ng COA 'yan. Ngayon sabihin nila, "Eh batas ito, papaano?" Eh 'di i-question and answer mo. Huwag kayong mag-draw ng conclusion without the side of... Sabihin ninyo ito 'yung tanong ninyo, ito 'yung sagot para malaman ng tao, at give him a chance also to answer, sufficient time.

At saka itong ginagawa ngayon ni Secretary Duque, Año, Secretary Galvez, Secretary --- si Defense, ongoing ito, adre. So you do not conduct unnecessarily 'yung mga audit na audit na ongoing pa. We are fighting a pandemic. Do you know what is pandemic is? It's the tallest in the ladder sa mga sakit, ang epidemic is local, pandemic is worldwide, lahat nagsa-suffer. They are fighting a war against an enemy na hindi natin nakikita. Give them --- give them an enough elbow room to move. At saka 'yang sabi ninyong documentation, alam ninyo 'pag pandemic skeletal force lahat. Inyong opisina, lahat kayo sa gobyerno, alam ninyo 'yan. Ang COA alam ninyo 'yan. Hindi lahat ng empleyado ninyo nagre-report. So ang documentation, hindi mo naman kaagad-agad kasi i-validate mo pa, bili ito at magkuha ka pa ng validation. Iyan ang --- tapos papasok ka in the middle of the battle. Patapusin mo man lang at least at the end of the year bago kayo pumasok.

Suggestion ko lang 'yan. Huwag kang pumasok ngayon kasi ongoing ang barilan between the virus and the government's vaccine. There is a war there. Huwag ka masyado --- basta bigla ka na lang pumasok, mag-conduct ka ng ano. I-timing ninyo at ire --- you have to make a --- makeover 'yung sa report ninyo na ganoon. It has to be --- sa una, this is not an accusation, there is no money involved here. Wala --- ang money...

Ang Congress is complaining na hindi ginamit. Hindi nga basta-basta ma-implement ang program, you know, walang tao. Walang opisina dito na --- that employs thousands of personnel

who will go out to implement a program of government. Tapos... Try to validate, sino ngayon? Galing sa opisina? Eh skeletal force lang. Iyan ang mahirap.

Ang experience ko sa inyo is tatlong beses, tatlong beses ko kayo na-refute. Tapos magkano ang gastos ko? And the humiliation. You go there, appear before the court and you read the information, tapos you are guilty or not. Bayaran mo abugado mo, at least 'yung gastos niya.

Alam mo kung magkano ibayad mo sa...? Bayaran mo lang ng P1,000? Ang iniisip ko lang 'yung mga empleyado na kagaya ng --- maraming beses ito, mayroon dito nag-suicide. Alam mo 'yung mga treasurer pati auditor, magpirma lang 'yan sila kung wala naman silang nakita na masama, may contract --- pagdating sa demandahan kasali sila.

Kaya ako, kasi ako mayor nakita ko, hindi taga-Davao City pero kilala ko kasi pulitiko tatay ko. Sabi ko, "Bakit ka nandito?" Iyong barong pa niya na butas-butas. Sabi niya, "Alam mo, Mayor, ganito eh..." Nakakaawa, nag-utang pa pamasaha. You do not appear when the case is called, the court will order your arrest. Kailangan nandiyan ka. Iyan ang mahirap diyan.

Iyon 'yun ang masakit, 'yun ang hindi nakikita ng publiko, pati 'yung those unnecessarily making a hay, you know, out of --- basta na lang maka-criticize, those --- binabayaran naman. Lalo na 'yang mga virulent na ano, wala dit --- walang tao dito magmura ng kapwa niya tao, pera 'yan. Maski sinong pinakatorpe dito na Pilipino, he would not unnecessarily go out even if he is a commentator, reporter, tapos magsulat ng ganoon, bayad 'yan.

Walang tao na magmura na --- one who will paint another human being, you know, maybe he is white, all you have to do, I said, to make it appear na ang kalaban mo sirain mo, paint him black. He is white, paint him black. Pinturahan mo lang ng itim. Ganoon 'yan.

Iyan ang experience ko sa almost mag-40 years ako sa politics, pang-gobyerno ko, as a fiscal, vice mayor, mayor then President. Ganoon, ito ngayon nangyayari. Kaya mabuti na sabi, "Why are you defending...?" I am not defending DOH. Trabaho nila 'yan and we are governed by the rules. Hindi ako --- I am not defending because they are not being accused of anything. I'm just sharing my opinion. Iyon kasi kaagad, "Duterte is defending DOH from anomalies." P***** i**, anong anomalies diyan? Sabi ko nga, eh hindi naman sila ang nagbabayad, ang DBM man. Iyan ang problema.

Eh 'yan ang masakit sa kapwa ko taga-gobyerno, all government officials. Ang Congress hindi masyado, hindi naman puwede pakialaman nila ang Congress ng COA. I am sure takot kayo sa Congress kasi pagdating ng budget, bigyan ka lang ng piso, tapos ka na.

Pero dito kayo, you --- bugbugin talaga ninyo ng ano, ng... Well, I said, it is not... Alam mo, alam ko walang malisya. You are just doing your duty. But in making the report, kindly reconfigure everything and sabihin sa una, at the first instance 'pag may interview ka, sabihin mo na kaagad, "There is no corruption here because there is no money involved." Ang pera nga hindi naka --- hindi nau-utilize.

Gusto man ni Duque na gastusin ‘yan lahat isang araw, wala siyang programa na sufficient tao, 1,000 doktor, 10,000 nurses. Wala siya niyan. So anong gawain niya? Eh ‘di kung ano lang ang kaya ng manpower ng opisina niya.

Just like the military, kung papasukin mo sa isang lugar alam mo na mayroon diyan 50 o 100 NPA, papasukin mo lang ng isang... Eh alam mo itong NPA, they can choose the time and place of where to attack; itong military, hindi nila alam. They have to rely on intelligence and... Ganoon ‘yan sa... Same sa trabaho.

Magsabi, “Bakit unspent?” Ba’t hindi niyo... T***... Ito si Duque oh, ‘yan na ang naiwan, bakit hindi niya ginastos? Maraming prog --- maraming programa. Alam ko, eh Presidente ako eh. Ngayon, can he implement it? He can. But at what cost? Inadequate and unsatisfactory performance kasi wala ngang tao. Pero bigyan mo si Duque ng 1,000 doktor, wala na tayong problema diyan.

Wala akong ano sa COA pero ma --- sabi ko maglakad ka... I repeat, just to analogy ba. Maglakad ka, maski sino --- hindi lang tao, kaibigan mong --- magkape kayo, “Adre, anong masasabi mo sa...?” Sabihin kaagad. “Eh alam mo, basta gobyerno gano’n talaga eh, hindi mo mawala ‘yung corruption.” P***** i**.

Kaawa naman ‘yung mama. Gusto nila --- do you want me to fire Duque --- Secretary? Gusto mo paalisin ko? Give me a reason bakit ko paalisin. Eh kinuha ko ‘yung tao, nakiusap eh. Hindi naman ‘yan nag-apply. Nakiusap na --- hindi naman nakiusap na “kunin mo ako”. Ako ang kumuha.

So kung anong pagkakamali niya, sa akin ‘yan. Pero ang nakita ko you are to oust him, for what? Ano ba ang nagawa niya na kasamaan? May dalawang asawa siya? Wala tayong pakialam niyan. Dagdagan mo pang isa, Secretary, para tatlo. Wala... Ang alam dito is just corruption and dereliction of duty. Iyan. Failure to perform a task required by law.

So I have to make some suggestions, but I’ll go straight to what I intend to communicate to our people about the recent issues of COA’s audit reports on DOH and other agencies under the executive department, as well as my earlier reactions.

I know it has a drawn --- it has drawn so many criticisms and tonight I would like to set the record straight once and for all.

I am not prepared to... I --- I would be doing a great injustice. Alam mo kung bakit? Ako ang kumuha and he is performing. ‘Pag pinaalis ko ‘yan si Duque, lifetime sabihin niyan, “Alam mo pinaalis ‘yan dahil ‘nung may corruption sa ano”. You just imagine the injustice that you inflict on your another fellow human being. Hindi ako gano’n. Kung mag-perform ka... Eh ngayon kung magnakaw ka diyan, puwede pa kitang ipapatay para tapos ang problema ko. Pagkatapos niyan, pakulong ako. Okay lang man ‘yan. Matagal na man rin akong sanay dito sa labas, baka sa loob --- “oblo” ang tawag diyan. Mga preso when they say Muntinlupa pasok ka sa loob or magsabi oblo. Baliktarin nila, oblo.

You can spend your time... Me, 76. Gusto ninyong magpreso ng 82? Eh 'di okay. Kayo maghugas ng arinola ko. But that really... Tsk.

An audit report by COA is made on an agency's financial statement observations and recommendations. If you will carefully read through their audit, you will see that after every observation, it is followed by a recommendation that provides for compliance and allows the audited agency to rectify. Anong i-rectify? Deficiencies. This means that the agencies concerned are given not only time but also the opportunity to comply --- gawain niyo kung anong pagkukulang.

Even COA has clarified that an official statement dated August 16, which says that the report itself does not mention any findings by the auditors of funds lost to corruption.

Hindi man alam ito ng tao. Alam natin --- kami sa gobyerno, ako, kasi Cabinet member eh. Alam ng tao 'yan na mayroon nito? Wala 'yan, hindi 'yan nilalagay. You know what? Mayroon akong gustong sabihin, nakakalimutan ko lang. Pero something like nakakaawa ang... Ang lahat naman nagfa-flag na eh, flagger. So at the outset, sabihin na ninyo kaagad. And kung may tanong kayo, I know that it is --- it is not a sub rosa thing, but you are not also allowed to make your comments in public. But somehow you can maybe just make the republic --- i-public na lang ninyo mas mabuti pa. Then under --- i-underline ninyo, "the report itself does not mention any findings by the auditors of funds lost to corruption". Maski 'yan na lang ang unang sentence ninyo.

Pero ngayon, 'yung magnanakaw talaga totoo, eh upakan ninyo eh. Go ahead. Go for his neck. He deserves it. Perong ito naman ganito na klase na wala talaga... Alam mo paglabas nito, sabihin... Kaya nga kung --- if I will dismiss or oust or whatever you want, whatever adjective that you'd want to --- anong, anong gawain ko sa tao?

Sabi nila against all. Okay. Ako, maski buong Pilipinas plus kayo, ako minus, mag-isa ako, I can go down but with my values and my principles intact. Prinsipyo 'yan eh. Hindi 'yan... Wala si Duque, he's not --- he's not even a campaigner. He was not even there during the elections na sumasama. But, you know, fairness is kailangan mo, at ako ang tao na hindi...

Ngayon kung talaga --- sabi ko nga sa military pati pulis, ito ang order ko: "Go for the criminals. Destroy their apparatus, then I go public."

You know guys, sa itong droga, you will destroy my country. You will render my country inutile. If you do that, I will kill you. If you destroy the young --- ang mga anak namin inaasahan namin kasi puro tayo mahirap dito. Walang --- ang totoo lang, ang milyonaryong nakaupo dito, si Duque. He's the only millionaire dito na alam ko, wala ng iba.

Iyan ang ano. So, I'm sorry but I said maski mag-isa na lang ako, I will stand for Duque even if it will bring me down. Sabi na pagkatapos na ito hindi na popular si Duterte, 'yung mga rating-rating niya mag-down. Look, I am --- tapos na ako. The rating does not really matter to me. Ang gusto ko lang magtrabaho nang matino and whatever judgment you have for me, I don't give a s***.

Basta ako, I will stand by my values. Hindi ako mag-ano ng tao na walang... You know, for all times na ‘yan si Duque na sabihin, “Ah dating ano ‘yan oh, pinaalis sa gobyerno dahil ng anomalya.” You can just imagine. Kung gawain ko sa inyo ‘yan or if it is done to you by --- by, in other times and other places, maligayahan kayo?

Iyong mga critics ganoon, what have you really gained from destroying the reputation of a person? Alam mo, ang reputasyon mahalaga ‘yan. But at the end of the day, ako sabi ko may mga values, may mga prinsipyo sa buhay na I hold strongly in my heart. Maski na ako ang isa na lang at lahat na gusto na kay --- gusto na kalaban ninyo si Duque, tatayo ako para sa kanya.

Sabihin ninyo ang rating ko magbaba? Eh ‘di ibaba ninyo ngayon. Wala akong problema. I can go as 10. What do I really care? Basta magtrabaho lang ako nang matino, at the end of the day when I face my family over dinner tapos makadasal ako, ang dasal ko maiksi lang, “Please guide me, Lord, and protect my country. Give us the things that we need.” Hindi na ako nagdadasal ng sarili ko. Presidente na ang binigay nga sa akin ng Diyos. Sabihin ng Diyos, “T*** i** mo, karami mong daldal. Binigay ko na sa inyo, marami ka pang ungol diyan.”

I just say that help me in my quest for --- not perfection --- in my quest sa pagsisilbi na ito nga. Kagaya ng bakuna, sige noon ang bakuna nang bakuna, walang bakuna. Eh walang supply eh hanggang ngayon. Mabuti’t na lang binigyan tayo ng... [Was it 1 million?] I’d like to thank China. Binigyan na naman tayo ng 1 million doses.

Kita mo? Now ngayon itong mga g***** --- itong Cuisia, si Albert, t*** i**, Trillanes. Kung sinabi tama sila tapos sumunod ako sa kanila. Ang unang bakuna wala tayo. Sinong nagbigay? China.

Talagang pagputok ng pandemya, wala tayo, zero, alam ko. Kaya ulitin ko itong story na ‘to. Tinawagan ko si President Xi Jinping. Sinabi ko, “Mr. President, my country is poor. We have not had the technology or the expertise to make our own vaccines. We cannot make it on time. Can you help me? Please remember my country.” Sabi ni Xi Jinping, “Do not worry. We will help you.” Hanggang ngayon, maski isang boteng Coke walang hiningi ang China.

Iyong geopolitics, ‘yung away nila sa America, kanila ‘yan eh. What have we to gamble dito? Makipag-away ka? Target tayo kasi nandito sila. Paalisin mo ‘yang Amerikano, ‘di wala tayong problema. Wala --- walang bomba dadating dito pero kung nandiyan sila, pagka nagkaputukan ito, ah sinong unang matutunaw? Sundalo nila? Lahat naka full protective gear. Tayong Pilipino, tayo ang mawalan.

Hindi ko inaano ang Amerika. It’s a geopolitics ‘yan eh, pulitika ng mundo. Gusto dito, dito-dito sila kasi ano, o dito sila, dito ako. Pagpunta mo dito sa isang bayan, dito ako. Ganyan sila, parang... Hindi naman --- talaga namang ganoon ang ginagawa nila.

It is the constitutional mandate of COA with all government agencies likewise to uphold transparency, accountability, and integrity at all times.

Wala akong issue diyan. As a matter of fact, I encourage. Ang sinasabi ko lang ito si ano 'yung Heidi Mendoza, nandiyan naman 'yan siya noon noong nademanda ako many times over. Ngayon, sabihin ninyo na huwag naman ninyong siraan 'yung nademanda na --- nademanda dahil sa report ninyo. No one would like to appear a hero here. You want to be a hero at the expense of another soul?

Buti na lang tama ang ginawa ko. Ang inyo, tama ba ang inyo? Sinabi ko na nga eh, abugado ako. Hindi naniwala ang COA. So they made the report, eventually, naging issue, ginamit sa akin, umabot ng Supreme Court --- teachers' meal. Lahat dito sa Davao alam maski tanungin mo maski sino. Nagpa-party ako sa lahat ng tao, sa mga tribo, indigenous people, lahat, pari pati noon, pari pati mga evangelists, lahat. May party 'yan gabi-gabi. Magkano? Milyon. Milyon ang naubos nyan, pagkain lang.

Eh 'yung iba naman, 'yung mga disabled, binibigyan ko ng isang libo kasi hindi ma... Iyong mga commercial sex workers kasi hindi makapaghanapbuhay. Eh nagpa-party eh. So tinawag mo, "Halika rito." Mga street workers, ika nga. Pardon the discussion. Kaya pag-uwi nila, mga singer, 'yung mga comedian sa Manila, 'yan.

Hindi naman kami ano, but pumunta kami ng Mindanao because 'pag nag-migrate ka, ibig sabihin naghahanap ka ng greener pasture. So alam ko ang buhay. Hindi kayo maniwala, sabi ko sa inyo na-demolish pa kami noon.

You know Sta. Ana? Itong Sta. Ana ngayon was just a wetland, pagatpatan sa Bisaya. So over time, na-develop, tinatambakan 'yun, that is what Davao is today. We came here mga 1949. Wala kaming ano, nothing at all.

Kaya alam ko noong na-mayor ako, I can... Mag-usap pa lang kayo, alam ko kung rip-off 'yan. Naghingi ng tulong na ano... So alam ko 'yung iba 'yung... Isip ko mahirap lang man, mag-ano sakit-sakit, so kailangan ko mag... "Magkano kailangan mo?" "500." O bigyan ko 200, iyo na 'yan. Reserve your bola. Huwag mo na akong bolahin ha. Magbalik ka dito, bigyan kita pero hindi na 'yan.

Kagaya nang magnakawnakaw, ako fiscal ako noon. Alam mo na --- alam mo 'yung magnanakaw damit pati pagkain? Pagdating sa opisina, sabihin ko na lalo na kung ano, "Anong negosyo mo? Mayaman ka? Kalimutan mo na 'yan, tutal pagkain 'yan eh, damit."

Kung ayaw, "Oh sige bayaran ko, ako magbayad, magkano 'yan?" Sabihin mo 100, "Oh, ito 50." Okay na, i-dismiss ko 'yung kaso. Dini-dismiss ko talaga pagka 'yung mga lalo na mahirap magnakaw, ako nanakawan ako ng damit. Nakita ko pa suot-suot ng g***.

Mayroong --- mayroong ano noon. Tatay ko punta ng Maynila, there was a popular department store noon, Soriente Santos --- mayroon ba 'yun? --- Soriente Santos department store. Ibigay kay --- hindi sa mahal kung hindi doon binili. Kaya 'yung ninakaw ng buang, alam ko na kaagad akin 'yun. Tinignan ko na lang. Eh nagsha-shine ng sapatos diyan sa... Pakialaman mo pa 'yon? P***** i**. Tsk.

Government should not be affected or swayed by the noise of the few. Conundrum ‘yung... We should perform our sworn duties to the people including transparency and accountability.

If you think that these events surrounding the other reports on various agencies under the executive department will distract us from our mission to save our people, then you are wrong.

I am committed to leading our nation out of this pandemic with the help of our frontline institutions so that we can be victorious and ready for a bigger future.

Unahan na lang kita. May pera man, sabi nga ng ano, pera ‘yung obligated na. Iyon naka --- naka ano na. Sabihin ko kung mayroong --- ipabayaran lahat. Iyong nagrereklamong --- ‘yung frontliners about their allowances, about whatever, pati itong mga --- pasensya na matanda na ‘yung Presidente niyo eh nagkuha sana kayo ng bata --- itong volunteers na magbakuna.

Sabi ko kay --- I am now ordering, this is an order, Secretary Duque, bayaran mo. Use whatever money there is. Bayaran mo ‘yung hinihingi ng mga nurses both in government and those outside of government, the volunteers, ‘yung itong mga... Bayaran mo. Kung wala kang pera, gastusin mo lahat ‘yung ano diyan pagka... I’m ordering you to use every money there.

May naano ako left out sa notes ko. Several personalities have reacted to my statement about protecting Duque and the DOH. To all of them, I have to say: You are just adding more noise to the already difficult situation. I want our agencies to rather focus on our response against the pandemic. Government should not be affected by --- lahat kayong nasa gobyerno, huwag na kayong makinig.

Alam mo sa totoo lang, at the start of the pandemic --- if you know what the word is, it’s a worldwide contamination --- ang order ko sa COA --- ah sa DOH, sabi ko magbili kayo ng ano kung bilhin ninyo, dispense with the bidding. Iyan nga ang order ko noon eh. Hindi nga nila sinunod, nag-bidding nga eh.

Ang order ko talaga because... Eh pandemic eh. Ang hawaan mabilis na. It was spreading like a wildfire. So my order to Duque is still --- is still there. Sabi ko kung ano ang bibilhin mo, bilhin mo na. Huwag mo na i-bidding, diretso na. Sabihin mo upon my orders pero hindi niya sinunod, nag-bidding. Hindi ko alam nag-bidding pala talaga sila. Ang order ko kasi may pan --- do you know what the word pandemic is? And do you know how many people are now --- are sick or dying? Tayo nga hindi na makaalis nitong ano eh. This is first time sa ating --- namatay pa ang ano --- generation na ang holdupper pati tayo magkapareho na, ka-level. Pare, ka-level na tayo.

Ang naka --- this will not, you know, I’d like to tell just a... This will not --- this pandemic will not disappear overnight. It will be with us for a long time. Nandiyan na ‘yan sa hangin eh so kung mahawaan ka, patay ka na. So how long? This is going to be a long journey.

So wala na ‘yung mga happy-happy natin sa gabi, makalabas tayo ng pamilya natin. Naka-mask ka. Talagang you have to... Somebody wrote something parang --- I will borrow the --- I will borrow the phrase, “You just have to learn to live with it.” Ngayon pa lang matuto ka na na ganito na talaga ang buhay natin. Otherwise, if you are reckless, then...

So, Secretary Duque, ipagbili mo ‘yung departamento mo. Marami ang magbili niyan. You can sell the Department of DOH para ‘yung pera... Bayaran mo lahat para wala ng ano. I am ordering you, that’s an order. Bayaran mo lahat ‘yung ano nila, ‘yung ‘pag --- I cannot express it in Tagalog --- ‘yung pag --- nireklamo nila kasi totoo naman eh. So I know that ---bayaran mo, it is upon your request to the DBM. Hindi ikaw ang magkuha diyan sa bulsa mo para ibayad mo, correct? Oh so...

DOH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I would like now itong naghawak ng pera or authority for us to spend, DBM, I’m giving you 10 days. Wala kayong personnel? Borrow from other agencies or from kung saan. Magkuha kayo ng --- ng mga empleyado o hiraan ninyo ‘yung taga-COA para... Ibigay mo ‘yung pera kay Secretary Duque tapos bayaran niya. Walang hinahawakan ‘yan si Secretary Duque na pera.

Sige, ikaw na. Ikaw na, sir.

SEC. DUQUE: Magandang gabi po, Mr. President at mga kasama ko po sa Gabinete; Senator Bong Go; at higit po sa lahat ang atin pong mga kababayan. Ipapakiusap ko lang po sa Secretariat kung puwedeng ilabas lang po ‘yung updates on health workers’ benefits under Republic Act No. 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act. [Can we have the slide, please, for my presentation?]

Mr. President, ‘yung RA 11494 or the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, ito po ay ang mga benepisyo na ibinibigay po ng ating gobyerno sa mga healthcare workers.

At dito po sa first column, ang mga iba’t ibang klaseng mga benepisyo. Iyong Actual/Active Hazard Duty Pay or AHDP para po sa mga public healthcare workers. Iyon naman pong COVID-19 Special Risk Allowance or SRA, para naman po ito sa public and private healthcare workers.

Iyong pangatlo pong benefit item, accommodation, transportation, meals para din po sa public and private healthcare workers. Mayroon pa pong kasama, batay po sa inyong kautusan, na magbigay ng life insurance para din naman po sa public and private healthcare workers.

At ang COVID-19 sickness and death compensation na kung saan ang mga healthcare workers natin na mayroon pong mild or moderate binibigyan po natin ng 15,000 piso. At doon naman sa nagkaroon ng severe or critical ay binibigyan po ng 100,000 pesos. Samantala ‘yun naman pong may pumanaw, ‘yung pamilya po ang makakatanggap ng 1 milyon piso.

So ibalik ko lang po doon sa actual hazard duty pay. Ang particulars po nito ay ang binabayad 3,000 per month covering the period of September 15 to December 19, 2020. Samantalang ‘yun pong SRA, ang formula po rito, ang bayad nila 5,000 per month at ang period covered September 15 to December 19, 2020. Ngunit ito po ay na-extend natin until June 30, 2021.

Iyon naman pong mga related issuances are in support of the implementation of this Republic Act No. 11494. Mayroon po tayong mga issuances, OP administrative order para sa actual hazard duty pay; ang DBM-DOH joint circular; ang --- ganoon din po makikita ninyo, hindi ko na po iisa-isahin. Ang ibig sabihin lang po nito, malinaw po ang atin pong mga panuntunan para po maibigay ang kanila pong mga benefits.

[Next slide.]

For the provision of the actual hazard duty pay, ito pong frontline healthcare workers shall refer to medical, allied medical, and other personnel in the public sector who are involved in the national healthcare response to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and prevent further loss of lives as in AO No. 35.

Doon naman po sa provision ng SRA, public and private healthcare workers, shall refer to medical, allied medical, and other personnel who directly provide treatment and support care to COVID-19 patients as reflected in AO No. 36.

[Next slide, please.]

Dito naman po makikita ang pondo na atin pong ibinayad para po masakupan ito pong mga benepisyong aking natanggap. So dito po sa first column, makikita 'yung benefit tapos 'yung period covered: September 15 to December 19.

AHDP, Mr. President, ang atin pong nabayaran, we obligated 3,357,053,616, at ang benepisyaryo po nito ay 384,159 healthcare workers. So halo-halo na po 'yan: nurses, doctors, midw --- ah mga med techs, lab techs, et cetera.

Dito naman po sa... Pero ito pong sa actual hazard duty pay, ang malinaw po dito 'yung actual na talagang na-expose po sila ano dito po sa patient care. At ito namang special risk allowance na 3,210,833,000 thereabouts ay ang nakatanggap na po rito, Mr. President, 306,314 healthcare workers.

On top of this, mayroon po tayong provision of accommodation, meals, and transportation na nagkakahalagang 1.26 billion thereabouts. Ang benepisyaryo po nito ay umabot sa 103,096 healthcare workers. At mayroon pa nga po 'yung life insurance na umaabot ng --- ang binayaran po ng ating gobyerno ay 16,269,000 thereabouts at ang nakatanggap ng insurance na ito ay 32,281.

Iyon naman pong pangalawang benefit period covering December 19, 2020 hanggang June 30, 2021, mayroon po tayong special risk allowance at dito po ang naibigay po natin ay 7.12 billion thereabouts. At ang nakatanggap po naman dito ay ang mga healthcare workers na 379,117.

Ibig ko lang pong bigyang-diin na ang pagbibigay po ng special risk allowance ay qualified po ito under the law. At ang sinasabi po doon iyon lang pong makakatanggap ay 'yung mayroon pong direct patient care 'no, direct care of COVID cases 'no. So hindi po --- batay sa batas ay hindi po lahat nabibigyan. At dito po ang nagiging problema kasi marami pong mga healthcare

workers na nagreklamo at sinasabi nila sa isang hospital halos pare-pareho na ang exposure namin diyan dahil may mga COVID diyan.

At dahil ho rito, Mr. President, ay minabuti po namin na kung hangga't sa maaari at noong nagkaroon po ng hearing sa Senado at ang Chairman Mike Aguinaldo ng COA ay pag-uusapan po kung papaanong magkaroon ng liberal interpretation na parang hindi lamang po 'yung mga patients who are directly caring for COVID cases kundi pati na rin 'yung mga iba ay dapat makatanggap dahil mahirap nga naman pong patunayan sino nga ba 'yung directly na nangangalaga. Halimbawa, janitor, pumunta sa loob ng isang kuwarto ng pasyente, naglinis, iyan ba ay patient --- mayroon bang direct exposure 'yan ano doon sa COVID case?

So napakamasalimuot, napakamahirap. Kaya ang gusto nga po ng Senado sa hearing po namin noong isang araw at saka si Chairman Aguinaldo, at sinang-ayunan ko naman po ay sana makagawa rin sila ng amyenda sa batas para mas liberal ang interpretation at lahat hangga't sa maaari ay makatatanggap.

Because of this, Mr. President, ay ibig ko rin pong idagdag na iyon pong mga ibang healthcare workers na nagreklamo mula po sa mga private hospitals dahil nga sa diumano hindi sila nakatanggap ng kanilang special risk allowance. At nagkaroon po ng budget request ang Department of Health sa DBM at matapos pong mag-expire ang Bayanihan 2 funds ay ang DOH po ay patuloy na tumatanggap ng mga listahan ng mga eligible healthcare workers para po makatanggap ng SRA. Ito po ay galing sa mga iba't ibang ospital. Mga private po na mga healthcare workers ang karamihan po dito.

Noon pong last August 13, ang DOH po ay sumulat sa DBM at maigi, maganda naman po, nandiyen si Usec. Tina Canda, at kami po ay humiling, we requested for additional 311 million thereabouts --- 311 million pesos to cover payment of additional SRA that would benefit more or less about 20,156 additional healthcare workers. At noong Agosto --- ika-19 ng Agosto, ang DBM naman po ay tumugon doon sa amin pong kahilingan. At sabi niya, o sige, mag-submit kayo ng additional documents para kanila pong ma-evaluate 'yung request.

At matapos nga po kaming nagkaroon ng hearing sa Senado at sa House of Representatives ay nag-submit na ang DOH to DBM iyong mga karagdagang submissions, 'yung mga listahan galing po sa mga facilities para po masama at sakasakaling mabigyan kami ng DBM o magabayan kami ng DBM kung saan kukunin 'yung pondo ay makatanggap po sila ng kanilang SRA.

Iyong pangalawang issue po, Mr. President, ay iyon namang extension of mga contract of vaccinators. Tama po kayo, binanggit ninyo kanina, kailangan po talaga natin ng mga bakunador at ng sa ganoon ay matulungan, masuportahan ang ating mga pamahalaang lokal na mas mabilis mapalawig nila ang vaccination coverage.

Noon pong July 9, ang DOH ay humiling, nag-request po kami ng 3.6 billion thereabouts additional funding support to cover renewal of contracts of human resource for health personnel under emergency hiring at kasama po rito 'yung request ng 4,800 health workers para po sa vaccination program ng atin pong gobyerno at ang katumbas po nito ay about 1.03 billion pesos.

Iyon pong last July 21, ang DBM naman po ay tumugon sa amin at binalik 'yung aming request. Ang sabi 'yung pending DOH submission of documents at 'yun naman po ay aming sinunod, as of July 26, pinadala po namin sa DBM. At nag-follow up letter po kami noong August 5 para po mapagpatuloy ang serbisyo nitong mga healthcare workers from September to December 2021.

Ang panghuli na lang po na isa ring matunog na issue patungkol sa mga COA observations 'no ay 'yung 59 billion na sinasabi nilang "unutilized DOH funds." Ibig ko lang pong ipaliwanag, Mr. President, na iyong naiulat na 59-billion peso unused DOH funds ay consists of 24.6 billion na unobligated funds 'no na ito'y dinagdag doon sa obligated at undisbursed --- hindi po na-disburse na funds na 34.5 billion pesos.

At ito naman po ang funding sources ay 2019 CONAP at saka 'yun pong 2020 GOP. Doon po sa 24.6 billion unobligated funds, 17.8 billion naman po ay kasalukuyang available po siya para gamitin ngayong taon. In fact, of this, ang nagamit na po ng inyong DOH ay 12.56 billion pesos. Katumbas po nito ay 72 porsyento nung 17.8 billion. As of June 2021, gamit po ito.

Bahagi din po nito ay inilaan para po sa procurement ng medicines at ang pagbayad ng mga suweldo at benepisyo ng ating mga healthcare workers. Doon naman po sa natitirang 7.19 billion, kami po ay humiling or we requested for reissuance from DBM of SARO for 4.7 billion under the foreign-assisted projects or COVID response.

Samantalang 'yung 2.4 billion, ito po 'yung napaso --- lapse funds from the G --- from the 2019 GAA and from Bayanihan I and some other loss. By operation of law, nag-lapse po itong mga ito.

Ngayon, mapunta naman tayo, panghuli na lang po doon sa 34.38 billion unpaid obligations. These funds were obligated before the end of 2020. At ito po ay gagamitin pambayad po sa mga goods and commodities at pending deliveries 'no. Hinahantay pa ho 'yan, iyong mga deliveries niyan, at bayad din po 'yan doon sa mga infrastructure projects for completion all for this year.

So hindi po ito parang nasayang na hindi nagamit. Ginagamit po ito. Ang mayorya, ang malaking bahagi ng budget na ito ay magagamit pa rin po dahil hanggang 2021 naman po ang kanyang application.

So iyon na lamang po, Mr. President, ang ibig kong i-ulat sa inyo at kung may katanungan po kayo diyan ay puwedeng masagot ko po 'yan at nandiyan din po si Usec. Leopoldo "Bong" Vega, Usec. for Administration and Finance.

So maraming salamat po, Mr. President, sa pagkakataon.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Salamat po, okay.

May I make some statements for the public? This is in connection or a clarification of the alleged high-priced masks and face shields and the DOH transferred funds to the procurement service PS-DBM.

Mayroon ho tayong taga-DBM, the acting kasi nag --- wala si ano masakitin na. Si Avisado ay may --- nag-quadruple ng ano niya ng operation pati 'yung ano 'yung... Tinamaan talaga siya sa COVID sa totoo lang. Almost hospitalized for 10 days and 30 days na immobilized. Sa tingin ko pagka 'yung volume ng trabaho nito, sa DBM, iyon ang papatay sa kanya.

But in the Senate hearing, the procurement of the alleged overpriced face masks and shields, including the transfer of 42 billion from DOH to PS-DBM was brought up, kasali ito sa imbestigasyon.

According to PS-DBM, these items were procured last March to April 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak when the prices of the medical supplies including face mask and face shield skyrocketed due to the scarcity of the supply and the abrupt increase in demand. As for the transfer of funds without memorandum of agreement (MOA), face masks and shields are included in the common-use supplies and equipment in the list of the PS-DBM.

Under the Administrative Order No. 7, Series of 2011 in relation to Section 53 of RA No. 9184 of the Procurement Reform Act, government agencies are required to procure CSEs directly from PS-DBM. Moreover, under Government Procurement Policy Board Resolution No. 20-2019 dated October of 2018, government agencies are required to deposit cash funds with the PS-DBM for their CSE requirement --- CSE requirement without the need of a MOA.

Now, let me just... I... I think I remember nag-ano tayo, nag-Cabinet meeting tayo pagka iyong right after na I constituted the Task Force. I remember distinctly sinabi ko kay Secretary Duque "bumili ka ng kailangan ng face mask or whatever is needed equipment." Sabi ko, "Huwag ka ng mag-bidding. Matagal 'yan." Sabihin ko "Do it upon..." Sabihin mo, "Make it of record na ginawa ko, utos ko."

But despite of the order ko na huwag ka na lang mag-bidding, it's pandemic, it's an emergency. Nevertheless, I, well, knew later on that pina --- dumaan pa rin sa bidding si Secretary Duque. So he was just being careful.

Alam mo sa totoo lang noong pagputok nitong pandemic, walang mga face mask, walang face shields. Kaya sabi ko maghanap ka, huwag ka ng magpa-bidding. Sabi ko direktso na kasi emergency eh.

So at that time, it's always the law of supply and demand. Kung maraming supply, mura. Kung walang supply, less demand --- supply and demand. Is there a demand? 'Pag greater, oh supply. Ganito.

So ang sabi ko sa kanya, "Huwag ka na magpa-bidding-bidding, direktso na." So I want to make it of record to the public and everybody that I and the Cabinet knew about it of my order, sabi ko, "Go ahead and buy the things that you need to fight the pan..." Pandemic nga eh.

So ang sabi ko emergency ito. Emergency hanggang ngayon. So just to disabuse the minds of some people about corruption. It ain't here at this time, and I suppose that you are barking at the wrong person.

Then, the next that we would be interested to hear is Secretary Ramon Lopez of the DTI. He might want to help us explain the pricing of the mask and the face shields at that time at any other --- well, at one time, at another time it became more expensive. Then there is --- then why it became cheaper and eventually cheapest. Why was the...? Parang ikaw 'yung alam mo 'yung mga presyo na 'yun at that time, so can you kindly explain to the public why that was the case?

DTI SECRETARY RAMON LOPEZ: Ah okay. Thank you po, Mr. President. Good evening sa lahat, Senator Bong Go, Mr. President, at sa ating mga kasama.

Naalala po natin noon, noong nag-uumpisa na pong lumala ang pandemya noong March of 2020, prior to that we started to get more COVID cases pero noong March 2020 po the President will recall that iyon po 'yung series of Cabinet meetings and the time that you also declared a lockdown. I think it was sometime March 15 of 2020, last year.

Being in lockdown, isa po sa mga eventually nire-require ng government at that time was ang pag-umpisa na noong pagsuot ng face mask. So eventually po this was --- this has been required to the public. So we can imagine na from practically zero demand, wala namang gumagamit ng face mask noong araw, to something like millions of users of face mask. Noong mga panahon po na 'yan ng March of 2020 onwards until --- of course, until now po 'no.

But given the huge increase in the demand, we all remember that 'yung demand na 'to and imagine po wala pong local manufacturer niyan. Mayroon po isang local manufacturer sa Bataan but it is an exporter and all its products practically were exported. So we don't have a regular supply of face mask. If at all, all drug stores are just maintaining minimum inventory of face mask because it is not a regular requirement.

So with the limited supply, as the President also explained earlier, and super increase --- drastic increase in demand, nagkaroon po talaga ng scarcity at 'yung presyo po talaga nagtaasan. It was really uncontrollable because simply because of the scarcity.

Even us in the Department of Trade and Industry, and I know the Department of Health, the Department of Budget and Management, we are trying to source also from imports at that time I remember because wala po tayong local supply. And even other countries are not even supplying us. Wala na ring makuha either from imports during those time of March, April, because they also needed the mask. Lumalala rin 'yung COVID doon sa mga iba-ibang countries na 'yun. So there was really a huge shortage ng mask at nag-canvass ho tayo sa iba't ibang bansa at that time.

So... At dahil po doon ay sumobrang taas ng mask to the point na I remember may --- may ipapakita ho akong mga charts na during the time of mga March and April, the price of mask, imagine po 'yung dati pong siguro wala pang limang piso ay naging around 28 or more, about 30 pesos per piece --- per piece of a mask 'no.

[So, may I request the Secretariat to flash the chart?]

Habang fina-flash po 'yan, even noong nag-try po tayong mag-introduce at mag-umpisa ng local manufacturing, nagkaubusan din nitong tela mismo, trying to source the material. Because of the

huge demand worldwide, may scarcity value rin, nagtaasan din ang presyo mismo nung materyales. So kung locally magagawa na natin, mataas ang presyo, kung bibilhin din abroad, mataas na rin ang presyo because it was really a big demand po na worldwide.

Just to show po some chart --- some slides, just to help us recall even the prices at that time and I remembered the DOH, together with the DTI, nagtulong po kami na mag-set ng SRP (suggested retail price) at para ho ma-monitor natin 'yung presyo po nito because para ma-control natin 'yung pagtaas ng presyo even sa market.

And I --- we distinctly remember and we reviewed the documents, mga even mga news reports if we can flash po the --- the Secretariat can flash the charts --- it showed po that at around March, we declared an SRP of 28 pesos per piece because the prices then were really going up even beyond 28 pesos.

So at that point, 28 pesos was parang a suggested retail price or in effect a price cap at that time. [So, Secretariat, I hope we can flash the chart para lang maipakita natin 'yung the memo in those dates.] And also some newspaper reports that reported na itong mga presyo na ito were happening during those days towards March and April na covered by different news media.

Nevertheless, anyway, kung wala pa 'yung slides... After that po at that point in time, hindi pa required din 'yung face shield. So wala pa sa picture 'yung face shield. But eventually with the advice from health experts that are helping and advising the IATF, eventually ni-re --- eventually --- [Hindi, iyong isang chart, 'yung isang set of slides.] --- eventually ni-require na rin ang face shield, ginawa po siyang requirement. Ang una pong nag-require po nun --- [The other set of slides po, Secretariat, hindi 'yan.] --- ang una pong nag-require nung face shield sa transportation. There was a memorandum from the Department of Transportation, I remember, at nasa slides po natin 'yun. Dineclare po niyang required na ng mga tao aside from face mask to wear face shield para double protection and the protection can... Kung ang face mask ay about 80 percent protection, with the face shield magiging 90 --- over 90 percent --- 98 percent protection.

[Sandali, maliit 'yung slides.] So ito po, I think this was an article going back to the face mask, it was a SunStar article in Cebu at about that date --- maliit lang 'yung chart dito, hindi ko makita -- - March, certain day in March na ang presyo po ay sinasabi dito 28 pesos.

So maganda rin na nabalita 'yan. It shows us during those date, 'yan talaga ang presyuhan noon kaya nilagyan ng SRP. The earlier chart would show a memo also from the --- issued by the Department of Health Secretary, Secretary Duque, na we set the SRP at that time at 28 pesos. Ito po 'yung memo na 'yun, okay. Followed by the news article in SunStar and another article in I think this is an ABS-CBN, TV Patrol type of article, setting again reporting that the SRP at that time, March, middle of March, was 28 pesos. [Next chart.]

Okay, and then ito na po pumasok na po 'yung requirement, the need for face shield, the --- August, this is sometime August, Mr. President, this was sometime August --- and we set the price of the face shield... [I will just open my chart po dito dahil maliit 'yung chart diyan.]

So 'yung face shield po nag --- DOH memorandum din po, this was August 14, and down below pinabilog po natin, sinet (set) po 'yung price ng face shield 26 pesos to 50 pesos. But the following charts will show us nagpa-price monitoring tayo at that time. Again, same reason po, from a zero demand to suddenly it is being required by almost the entire populace. Iyong going -- - [Let's go to the last chart.] The price monitoring that we were doing, you will see in the chart -- - on the last chart, that the price of --- price range of face shield, iyong eye frame --- 'yung ganito po 'no, iyong may eye frame nagre-range po at that time, 50 pesos to 120 pesos. Iyong mayroong foam, 30 pesos to 80 pesos, at 'yung helmet type ay 250 pesos to 350 pesos per piece.

And then that's the reason why we had to set an SRP at that time in August, as mentioned po, that that was required and set at 26 pesos to 50 pesos. Again, it's a memorandum signed by DOH dahil po DOH ang --- covered po ng DOH itong mga medical devices and DTI helps them in the monitoring and ensuring that the retail establishment would follow the suggested retail price.

But as we all know po, after that, Mr. President, nag-normalize na ang supply, nakahabol na ang --- sama na 'yung importation, we were also deve --- able to develop local manufacturers of face mask, even of face shield and that's the reason why we have already abundant supply of face mask until now, Mr. President.

So the prices now are really very, very low. You would say na it's less than even, I think, less than five pesos --- anywhere between two pesos to five pesos. But these are the prices now. After nag-adjust na po 'yung market, 'yung supplier, and the same demand continues kasi it continues to be required but at least po 'yung supply po natin nakahabol na.

So iyan po 'yung history na there were really days and months last year na nag-worsen talaga itong presyo. And it happens worldwide po, Mr. President, nagkaroon po talaga ng worldwide shortage.

That's all, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Secretary Lopez, thank you for the education of everybody, for the enlightenment. I would like to call on si Ms. Tina Rose Marie Canda, DBM.

DBM UNDERSECRETARY TINA ROSE MARIE CANDIA: Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sir, ah Ma'am, sorry. Ma'am, nagkamali ba dito ang DOH? Is there any mistake or is there any whatever damage to prejudice government interest sa...?

USEC. CANDIA: No, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, ma'am, go ahead.

USEC. CANDIA: There is no mistake on the part of DOH in terms of the amount they utilize. In fact, the findings of COA was under utilization of their allotment pero as explained earlier po, i-explain ko din further siguro, ang nangyari po in-add 'yung dalawang bagay na totally unrelated

eh. Iyong isa po ay tinatawag natin na obligation, 'yung unobligated at saka undisbursed, magkaiba po 'yun.

Ngayon, doon ho sa transfer naman ng pondo, at that point po, pandemic 'yun wala na hong pumapasok sa opisina at that time ng ECQ. So I think DOH had no recourse but to transfer the fund to PS-DBM at that time. And under the laws naman, talagang 'pag common-use equipment, talaga pong sa PS 'yun ipo-procure by ano by law kailangan doon sa Procurement Service 'yun.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Iyon lang ho. Kung may maidagdag ka, if you have some advice to the DOH or to us, we would be happy to hear you. Pagka wala naman, then sabihin mo lang na kung ano pang maidagdag mo, then we can excuse you.

USEC. CANDA: Yes. Mr. President, just two things that was raised by Secretary Duque earlier about 'yun pong mga vaccinator at saka po 'yung pondo para sa doon po sa SRA. Doon ho sa SRA, puwede po natin i-release 'yun mula sa Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund kasi allowance po 'yun.

Ang pangalawa naman po iyong sa vaccinator, part of that mayroon kaming nakitang 1.6 billion sa DOH, pertaining to 2020 na ano nila na hindi nila nagamit nandoon lang naman po 'yun puwede nilang gamitin po 'yun. Tapos iyong balanse po nung na kailangan kasi 3.6 yata ang kailangan nila, puwede po nating kunin sa contingent fund. In fact, parang pa-forward na po, papunta na po sa inyo para po sa approval and siguro po hindi naman aabot ng sampung araw 'yun para matanggap po ng ating mga health workers 'yun --- ah iyong kailangan na 'yun, iyon pong allowance ng vaccinator.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, mabuti na ---

USEC. CANDA: Iyon lang po, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: --- it's good that you mentioned about the sourcing of the funds.

USEC. CANDA: Yes po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Kasi itong contingent fund has always been being looked with suspicion, not only in Congress but with everybody kasi contingent is parang malawak na parang anong gastusin mo?

USEC. CANDA: Ah hindi puwede.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So these are the things that the public never really knew or know na ito is to meet the itong mga crises na ganito. Good that we have the contingent fund because we responded to the emergency, which is really an emergency, pandemic.

USEC. CANDA: Yes, yes.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Mga... Nasabi ko nga sana --- I'd like to say it again --- that my order even to Secretary Duque was to go ahead and buy without bidding. But to his ano niya, maybe thinking that it would create more problems, binidding (bidding) niya.

So, well and good and nandiyan 'yan. So, ito lang para just to clear up because the people have the right to know where the money is.

USEC. CANDA: Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ito na 'yung ano sabi ko nga because if we do not --- actually if I did not call you to appear in public, there will always be some --- hindi lang some, but many --- it will linger on the minds of the people that kinukurakot 'yung pera.

USEC. CANDA: Ah hindi.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: And at this time, pandemic pa, tapos malaman nila itong mga ganito na, I said, a conundrum of, you know, mas marunong. Mabuti marinig na nila.

So I am happy that you joined us tonight and you can be excused. Maraming salamat po.

USEC. CANDA: Thank you, Mr. President. Marami pong salamat, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sabi nila istrikta ka daw, ma'am, acting ka, sabi nila. Pero mas mabuti. The stricter you are, the better. Mas malayo tayo sa sakit ng ulo, mas malayo tayo sa kaso 'pag inistikto tayo.

USEC. CANDA: Opo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So continue being strict and continue being the protector of the people's interest. Thank you very much.

USEC. CANDA: Marami pong salamat. Opo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Si Usec. Leopoldo Vega. He used to be the director of Davao Medical Hospital. It's now a hospital for Southern Philippine something. But I --- up to this day, tawag ko diyan, Davao Medical Center, and it was during his time that, well, the enterprise improved tremendously, iyong hospital, it can compare with the private hospitals in the region.

But before magsalita ka, Dr. Vega, just give me one minute. May iano lang ako baka makalimutan ko.

We've been talking about corruption. Alam mo, may bago akong... The name is Edgardo Masongsong. He is the administrator of the National Electrification Administration. I dismissed him from public service. The Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission conducted the investigation and gave its recommendation to the Office of the President through the Office of

Executive Secretary, kay Medialdea ito, to dismiss Masongsong from the service. Well, PACC conducted the investigation and made the recommendation for his dismissal.

So I have a proof. This is the --- pinakabagong ano sa --- itong administrator mismo ng National Electrification Administration. I'm sorry but I said people are really skeptic and cynic about our desire to improve government service. We do not claim to maybe really totally, totally clean government at this time, not even with another president or endemic ang ano ang corruption. But from time to time, ito. So I am given the opportunity to show to the people again that we are not bragging about it but we are trying our best to cope with the situation regarding graft and corruption in our government.

Nasingit ko lang ito just to show to the people --- eh corruption kasi ang lumalabas nitong sa COA eh. So we have to correct that perception because it will destroy the faith of the people in government. That's one and it's very important. The people must be informed and they must realize that we are a working government and we --- I do not, I said, proclaim that it is graft-free. We are trying our very best to cope.

Certainly itong DOH, wala ito. As I have explained, I have the same experience sa COA. It's their job, I know. So nobody's to blame pero iyon lang sabi ko 'yung dadaanan ng isang... Buti na lang 'yung kung ano ang --- to recall 'yung mga nadedemanda ng mga municipal mayor tapos ang treasurer or auditor taga doon mahirap and they have to... They are reduced to to penury to defend their cases in Sandigan because they have to go there, and they explain. They have to sell their soul to the devil to raise the money just to be there. I said whenever the case is called and you are not there, you are ordered arrested.

Ang --- and it requires expense, hotel. Kaya kung hindi ka taga-Maynila, wala kang matirahan, then you go to the lodging houses. I'm not trying to --- pero they are reduced to... Nandiyan 'yung mga lodging houses sa Quiapo, sa ano, these are not really --- this is not to demean the situation sa ano tao but... Tsk.

Ngayon we have a last speaker, si --- ikaw na lang muna because, you know, apparently you have the --- you are the right person also to be asked about what has transpired and what are your recommendations, and after that, we go home. Go ahead, Dr. Vega.

DOH UNDERSECRETARY LEOPOLDO VEGA: Thank you, Mayor. Maayong gabii, Mr. President; Cabinet members; Senator Bong Go; it's a pleasure to be around all of you.

And, Mr. President, I just like to report to you that the Department of Health has been very steadfast and very consistent in trying to implement Bayanihan I and II provisions specifically for this pandemic, which is also good to note as mentioned by Secretary Duque, that for the Bayanihan II extension from January to June, we were already able to give 379,000 healthcare workers for the special risk benefits po.

So and for the compensation of the death and sickness benefits for Bayanihan II, we have already provided about 23,000 of our healthcare workers, 114 of these have been death and 114 million has been given to them.

So all in all, Mr. President, we have been trying to really to make sure that the services of the Department of Health will really be felt and will be felt by the people in terms of the frontline workers and, of course, in this pandemic.

For the COA report, we are --- we take this seriously their recommendations. We take this as a way of making sure na we can improve our services more because this will actually be better for our policy and reforms and fund management. And we all promise to COA that we will --- or commit to them that in 60 days, we will give them the necessary documents and the compliance that they need in terms of the implementation because some of the implementation needed some supporting documents because of this pandemic.

And also we are --- Secretary Duque has also mentioned it in this meeting that there is a need for 3.6 billion for the health workers augmentation and to continue the health workers that we hired from January to June so we must be able to provide them support again from July up to December.

And we would need 3.6 billion because 10,500 workers are already positioned across the country as nurses, doctors, med techs, and so forth, and we will be adding vaccinators and biosurveillance officers to our list. So that is the reason, Mr. President, that we have asking --- we are asking for these funds so that we will continue with our response for COVID.

And also, we have also --- the Secretary Duque has also asked and requested DBM for the SRA for --- specifically for those private healthcare workers who were not able to receive since some of the hospitals were not able to give their validated list to the regional office, because this is the basis for us to give the necessary allocation to the regions once they have the validated list of those healthcare workers tending to COVID patients.

So we are asking them again to provide us the list. We're trying to compile this and this would need about 300 --- I think 11 or 15 million to make sure that this number of health workers will be able to be provided with the SRA, as been given to their other coworkers in the health sector.

So that is all, Mr. President, and we are very happy that the DBM has been consistently also supporting us. And the different agencies are all supporting us in terms of our response because we do believe that our strategy of the PDITR, which is the prevention, detection, isolation, and treatment is really the one --- the only strategy for this COVID-19. There's no other strategy but to make sure that we are able to prevent this virus from transmission and definitely also increase our vaccination.

That's all, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Alam mo, before you go, kindly listen to me. This is why COA should be kind enough to understand the situation of the DOH and other departments of the executive department.

Alam mo it's not easy by the way you narrated just ngayon. We are willing to pay but you need to have the list and everything, at alam mo, you have to validate it. Ang validation niyan with so

many thousands, you cannot just come up with a list that's the final in one day or two days na ito na 'yun talaga kasi ang validation would take so... I really do not know how you do it, but I commiserate with your --- if you have the shortcomings, I can understand.

But ito lang ang tandaan mo, magka-letse-letse man sa buhay, we are just on track, serving the people at 'yung ano lang ang kaya natin. The --- kung ano lang ipakita natin sa tao na humanly possible.

So COA, kung if they refused to understand or they understand the situation, I said give us enough elbow room to move because it's not --- what you are asking is not easy really to come up with.

And secondly, iyong utos ko na bayaran lahat sa mga allowances and whatever, you can source it from everywhere you want but ito 'yung --- you can get it from my 'yung contingency ano ko fund. [USEC. VEGA: Thank you, Mr. President.] And that's the reason why again I have to explain to the people na bakit malaki 'yan. Others said that I was asking for it because I will use it as a campaign... Wala --- ako wala akong kandidato. Hindi ko nga alam kung sinong tatakbo. You know... Sabagay pulitika eh. But I pity them because they can never be president. If these politicians behave the way they are now, I can assure you, they can never be an administrator of a country. Kung sila 'yung tingin ko, they will govern miserably. Mamaya 'pag kinabukasan ang chief of staff ang presidente na. Eh totoo talaga 'yang...

Alam mo you are not the only one thinking about this country. These guys on the sides are watching you also. Now, you do not allow the country to go into a downhill turmoil. We have to borrow, beg, steal.

Basta maghanap ka ng pera and any deficiency, I will supply it with the contingency plan --- ah fund if may naiwan pa. Pero I'm willing to share the burden doon sa funds ko independently of what you have.

You just raise the money, tell me how much you would still need. And if I can provide it, pay immediately. Papel lang naman 'yan eh or a phone call, the letter follows kung ganoon. So mabayaran kaagad 'yung mga nurses pati 'yung --- anong tawag ninyo? Vaccinator? That's a ---

USEC. VEGA: Mga ano, sir, mga healthcare workers augmentation kasama na ho 'yung vaccinators po, healthcare workers augmentation.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Basta mabayaran ninyo lahat, that would be billions. But look for the money and, I said, I am willing to share the burden with you. With that we ---

USEC. VEGA: Salamat, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: --- end this meeting. And I would like to thank everybody, those guys there, thank you for sharing with us the time. At least I may not have given you the time to ano say something but it's getting late.

And you know, ang karamihan dito sa ano namin is they are past their retirement age. Kaya nga nag-retire eh, kaya nga nandito nagtatrabaho ulit. So sana maintindihan ninyo that this is mga matatandang magiting na mga lalaki.

Salamat, Dr. Vega at... [applause]

USEC. VEGA: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Good night to everybody.

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