Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE (PART I)

[28 February 2022]

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: So anybody who would like to take the floor to say some… Art? Secretary Tugade, you have something to say?

DOTR SECRETARY ARTHUR TUGADE: Magandang gabi ho, Mayor. I've been requested to make a submission on the de-escalation from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1 in this COVID-19 situation.

At the very outset, let me make it very clear that the DOTr, the Department of Transportation, accepts and supports the downgrading of COVID-19 alert status from Level 2 to Level 1. Number one, same, is scientifically-based and health-dictated. It is also needed to help grow the present economy.

DOTr accepts and supports the mandates of the IATF in relation to the transportation in Alert Level 1.

The following are the mandates of the IATF:

1. Public transportation shall be at 100 percent capacity. DOTr agree and it will implement.

2. Strict health protocols will still be enforced particularly the mandatory use of face mask and regular disinfection. DOTr accept and will enforce and comply.

3. For interzonal and intrazonal travels: passenger capacity shall be the lower capacity rate between the point of origin and the point of destination. We will comply with this, Mr. Mayor- President.

The issue beforehand is how does the Department of Transportation --- how it will address the so-called increase in capacity considering that now we will go to 100 percent capacity. Allow me, Mayor-President, to go a little bit in

detail because of the peculiarities and uniqueness of the various sectors in the Department of Transportation.

Iba ho ‘yung sa aviation, iba ‘yung rails, iba sa maritime, iba ‘yung road. Kaya nga po kung papayagan iisa-isahin ho natin at mag-umpisa tayo sa aviation.

Ngayon ho ‘yung cap sa aviation is 5,000 passenger inbound. Two days ago, we hit 7,800 and we are expecting that in the next couple of days it will be 10,000.

Are we ready to address the situation of increase from 5,000 to 10,000 as it gradually increase and as the need arise in the future? The answer, Mr. President-Mayor, sir, is yes.

There are two approaches being done by the Department of Transportation insofar as aviation is concerned. Number one is structural and number two is procedural solutions.

Let us go to structural, noong Sabado ho --- ah noong Biyernes, February 25, nag-inaugurate ho ‘yung NAIA kasama namin si Secretary Lorenzana, in-inaugurate ho namin ‘yung Expanded NAIA Taxiway Charlie. Ang ibig hong sabihin nito ‘yung taxiway ikinabit ho namin ‘yan sa runway sa apron. Ang effect ho niyan mapaparami ho ‘yung slots natin at mapapabilis ‘yung take-off and landing. Ito ho’y makakatulong sa paglago at pagtanggap ng maraming pasahero papunta sa NAIA.

Pangalawa ho, Mr. President, fina-facilitate ho namin ‘yung pag-rehabilitate ng airport facilities lalo’t higit ‘yung mga nasalanta noong Bagyong Odette, I’m referring to Surigao Airport and Siargao Airport. Promise ho, Mr. President, by end of March 202[2], lahat ho ito commercially operational na. ‘Pag ito nangyari, makakadagdag ho ito sa pag-address ng kinakailangan nating increase in capacity.

Iyong NAIA Terminal 4, dito ho sa NAIA, for the last two years during the pandemic at hindi ginagamit, on March 28 we will open the Terminal 4. Ito ho makakadagdag ng pasilidad upang tanggapin at paliparin ang mga dumadating na pasahero. Ito ho’y makakatulong sa objective natin na solusyonan ‘yung 10,000 passengers coming in.

We are also improving the processes with the help of Philippine Coast Guard, the Bureau of Immigration, BOQ, OWWA, to accommodate more passengers. Nagdagdag ho ng booth at nagdagdag ng proseso upang sa ganoon ‘yung time and motion na nangyayari ngayong pandemic na one hour and a half,

mababawasan ho namin ‘yan to 45 to one hour. Kung mapapabilis ho ‘yung proseso, naturalmente maa-address ho natin ‘yung pangangailangan ng increase in capacity from 5,000 cap as of today to 10,000 in the coming days.

Sa railways ho, talaga naman hong ia-address namin ‘yung 100 percent capacity sa railways. Sabihin ko lang ho muna, sa pag-address ng 100 capacity of all operating railways, itutuloy ho namin Dr. --- ah Secretary Duque, ‘yung antigen test at quarantine. Libre ho ‘yun. Mayroon sa LRT-1, LRT-2, MRT-3, and PNR lines. Lahat ho ng gusto, boluntaryo ho ito na gustong mag-antigen, magpa-vaccine, maupo doon at gagawin ‘yung antigen at vaccination tulong ho natin sa objective natin universal vaccination.

Ngayon, ano ho ‘yung ginagawa natin sa railways ng sa ganoon ma-address ‘yung pangangailangan increase in capacity. Sabihin ko lang po, Mr. Mayor-President, sir, tapos na ho ‘yung MRT-3 rehabilitation. We have done this in two months in advance. Puwede na hong in-inaugurate-in ito. Ang ibig hong sabihin nito, Mr. President, iyong train na tumatakbo na noon anim hanggang siyam, ngayon minimum 22 puwede pa akong mag-26. Ang ibig hong sabihin nito, ‘yung operating speed natin ngayong na-rehabilitate ‘yun from 25 kilometers to 60 kilometers per hour. Ang ibig hong sabihin nito ‘yung reduce headway from 9 minutes to 11 minutes, reduced na ho ‘yan sa 3 minutes up to 3.5 minutes

In other words, Mr. President, translated in terms of ridership sa MRT-3 na kung saan ang average ho natin daily pandemic days is 200,000 per day with the rehabilitation for rehabilitation of MRT-3 na puwede na ho nating inaugurate anytime now, ang capacity ho 600,000 per day. So imagine the increase in terms of passenger capacity.

Ngayon ho tingnan ho natin ‘yung sa probinsiya. Noong isang linggo ho pinasyal ko at binaybay ko ‘yung Lucena-San Pablo-Candelaria na kung saan ‘yung train system ho doon hindi ho gumalaw ‘yan ng mahigit four years. Noong pinuntahan ko ho last week, makikita niyo ho na umaandar na totoo ho ‘yan talagang umaandar na ‘yung Lucena-San Pablo-Candelaria. Ito ho for four years hindi nagamit. Anytime, Mr. President, inaugurate-in ko ‘yan maging operational.

Ano ‘yung kahalagahan nito? Ito hong portion ng Lucena-San Pablo lines Candelaria will form an integral part of the Bicol Express. Ibig sabihin ito na ho ‘yung magco-connect papuntang Naga. In other words, in less than two years operational na ‘yung Bicol Express at then maa-address ho natin ‘yung tinatawag na passenger capacity.

Bumalik ho tayo sa Kamaynilaan, ‘yung LRT-2 na kung saan reklamo ng mga tao sira lahat ‘yung escalator at elevator, in January 2022, the LRTA was able to repair 34 elevators and 26 escalators, including Claro M. Recto, Sampaloc and Sta. Mesa stations na kung saan matagal din hong hindi nag-operate.

Kung titingnan ho natin ‘yung nangyayari sa LRT-2, mayroon din hong nangyayari sa LRT-1. Sir, Mayor-President, sir, completed na ho ‘yung last span for phase 1 of LRT-1 Cavite Extension on February 7.

By second quarter of 2022, ‘yung four generation (4G) LRVs or trains will operate now, sir, Mayor, from Baclaran to Roosevelt Station. In other words, mapapabilis ‘yung takbo, mapapa-assure ‘yung kombinyente, makikita nung mga tao hindi na kailangan magpasagasa ng tren pagkat ‘yung LRT-2 --- ah ‘yung LRT-1 will be operational.

Ngayon ho, pumunta tayo sa Common Station. Iyong Common Station ho, kaunting announcement, target completion of actual construction is end of March 2022.

Makikita niyo ho sa screen iyong building sa kanan, ayan ho 'yung Common Station. Iyong paloob ho niyan, makikita niyo 'yung atrium tapos na. Makikita niyo sa kaliwa, iyan ho 'yung dadaanan ng mga tren ng ano ‘yun? LRT-1, MRT-3, at gagawin din ho diyan 'yung Subway. Iyan ho 'yung Common Station. By March of this year, tapos na 'yung physical construction. Handa na ho tayong inaugurate-in 'yan.

Paano naman 'yung road sector? Iyong road sector, bugbog sarado ho tayo lagi diyan. Kung itataas natin 'yung 100 percent capacity, ano 'yung gagawin ng road sector para ng ganoon iyong 100 capacity mapalago at mapalaki pa?

Mr. President, ang total na ruta na nag-o-operate sa Metro Manila ngayon is 1,500. Iyong operational units, different PUV models sa Metro Manila ngayon is 118,000. Ngayon ho, ang sabi ng LTFRB, before March 13 of this year, magdadagdag pa ho tayo para madagdagan 'yung kapasidad ng 71 karagdagang ruta. Ito ho’y magdadagdag ng 800 --- 729 vehicles na gagamitin diyan. Ito ho ay magpapakita na talagang 'yung kapasidad parating na para 'yung pagbaba from Alert Level 1, Alert Level 2, to Alert Level 1 ay ma-address.

Announcement ho natin: for the first time, five inter-regional routes in Marawi City opened by LTFRB and the Ministry of Transportation and

Communication of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was inaugurated and started February 23, 2022.

Ano 'yung mga ruta ho nito? Laguindingan-Marawi City; Iligan City-Marawi City; Davao City-Marawi City (via Maramag, Bukidnon); General Santos-Dipolog City (via Cotabato); and Pagadian City papuntang Marawi City. Ito ho ang magpapakita nung mga karagdagang pasilidad na ginagawa natin. Hindi lang ho nali-limit sa Metro Manila kasama na ho 'yung Marawi.

Karagdagan ho dito 'yung road sector ho ay ipinagtutulakan 'yung Service Contracting. The program gets a total of P7 billion funding under 2022 GAA. Itong Service Contracting will allow continuous operation of Libreng Sakay and provide additional incentive to drivers and operators.

Ano ho 'yung Libreng Sakay? Ito ho 'yung mga bus, tatakbo 'yan. Sasakay ang tao, loading, bababa, walang bayad na pamasahe. Sinong magbabayad sa operator? LTFRB ho, babayaran 'yung operator at may-ari ng bus. Sila ho 'yung magbabayad ng buwanang sahod sa mga tsuper.

Ito ho will revolutionize the transport system in the Philippines. For the first time, this has happened and this has been accepted nationally, all over the Philippines. At saka sabihin ko lang ho, Mr. Mayor, ang dami na hong congressman at saka mga senador na nag-e-endorse nitong Libreng Sakay kasi nakita ho nila how the public accepts this Libreng Sakay. Target implementation, Mr. President, continue March 2022 hanggang December 2022. Tapos na ho 'yung term natin.

Iyong fuel subsidy: a total of P2.5 billion is allotted for the fuel subsidy under the 2020 GAA. Ang beneficiary: 377,000 expected to receive P6,500 worth of fuel subsidies.

Maalala ninyo, in addition to what we are doing, mayroon ho tayong tinatawag na active transport. Tinapos ho natin 500 kilometers of bicycle lane all over Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao. Itong bicycle lane na 'to it’s becoming a way of life. Dadagdagan pa rin ho natin 'yan kasi may provision ho at may budget ako sa GAA.

Iyong EDSA Busway has significantly reduced travel time between Monumento and Pasay from 2.3 hours --- ah 2 up to 3 hours just to 40 to 50

minutes. Ito ho 'yung mga bus nakikita niyo diyan bumabiyahe sa kaliwang parte. Noon ho rumble 'yan ha.

Ngayon, makikita mo na mas mabilis pang tumakbo 'yung dedicated bus lane kaysa sa mga pribado. Bakit? Kasi ho in transportation, we move people not transportation equipment.

Pumunta ho tayo sa maritime. Makikita niyo flashed on the screen, mayroon na naman ho tayong mga natapos na mga port projects. Total of 13. Handa na hong ma-inaugurate ito anytime. I'm formulating the schedule now.

Why is port important? Because the port --- ports are important because it provides the connectivity in the Philippines. Mas mura ho 'yan kaysa mga airport. Mas mabilis ho 'yan kaysa mga tulay. At higit sa lahat, tayo ho archipelago. Tayo ho is a maritime seafarers nation. Kaya iyong mga puwertong itinatayo karagdagan ho ito sa mga natapos ng more than 400 ports during your term, Mr. President. Kasama ho diyan 'yung Port of Currimao sa Ilocos Norte; Port of Bulan sa Sorsogon; Port of Legazpi, Albay; Port of Tabaco, Albay --- flashed on the screen you can just read at makikita ninyo spread out all over Visayas and Mindanao 'yung development.

Tapos na ho 'yung mga puwerto na 'yan. Mayroon hong dalawang puwerto na tatapusin kami sa buwan ng March. Ito ho 'yung Port of Batangas New Passenger Terminal Building, capacity - 3,600.

Ngayon ho, maalala niyo 'yung mga terminal na itinatayo natin ang capacity na hindi na one hundred-one hundred, thousand-thousand na. Mayroong 3,000, mayroong 4,000.

Itong Port of Batangas Passenger Terminal is also 3,600. At pati 'yung Calapan Port New Passenger Terminal, capacity - 3,500. Nakikita niyo ho diyan, matatapos 'yan March of this year.

Bigyan niyo po ako ng isang minuto na talakayin 'yung Matnog - Allen, Samar Route kasi sakit ng ulo ho natin ito. Ang queuing diyan ng mga buses, nagtatagal ho 'yan from 16 hours to two days.

Ngayon po, because of the system which we have organized in the maritime sector, kasama 'yung PPA, Philippine Coast Guard, 'yung MARINA, 'yung local government, 'yung PNP, 'yung DILG, ngayon ho 'yung queuing time ngayon is three to five hours na lang.

Hindi pa rin ho ako happy diyan. Gusto kong mabawasan 'yan. Nakikita niyo sa screen ho 'yung before, 'yung pila nung mga bus nakapila. Ngayon ho, sa ginawang sistema ng PPA, ng PCG, iyong one stop shop, 'yung MARINA, makikita niyo may kaluwagan. Hindi pa rin ho tayo happy diyan. Gusto ko 'yung five, six hours mabawasan pa.

Sir, sabihin ko na rin ho na mina-manage namin 'yung arrival ng mga barko. Kasi noon ho kontrola... Iyong --- 'yung departure ng mga barko depende 'yan sa mga operator. Eh ang gusto kong mangyari ngayon diyan, umalis ka at a given time, dumating ka at a given time. ‘Pag hindi ka dumating kagaya ng ginawa ko sa airport, eh maghintay ka sa dulo. Eh ngayon, napapabilis ho 'yan.

Ah... Ito ho 'yung maritime. Sabihin ko na rin ho. Iyong MARINA ho will issue an additional 20 travel permits for roll-on/roll-off for the months of March and April. Ibig sabihin, kung mayroon kang mga additional RoRo --- *[Secretary Mon Lopez]* --- ‘yung takbo ng pasahero at iyong kargamento is mapapabilis. Sa dalawang buwan, March-April, para ma-address 'yung capacity issue, mag-i-issue ho 'yung MARINA ng 20 roll-on/roll-off permits.

Gamitin ko na rin ho, Mr. President, itong pagkakataon na ‘to to flash on the screen 'yung BRP Teresa Magbanua (MRRV-9701). Ito ho 'yung pinakabagong barko ng Philippine Coast Guard na dumating kahapon. Ito ho 'yung kauna-unahang 97 meters long na pasilidad ng Coast Guard.

Dalawa po 'yan, Mr. President. Galing ho ito sa Japan. Loan sa JICA. Dalawa ho 'yan. Iyong pangalawa, dadating sa Mayo. You will finish your term, Mr. President, na 97-meter long na pasilidad na ganito dalawa. Mayroon pa hong kasamang mga 400 ba 'yun o 40 shorter boats na na-acquire ng Coast Guard?

Ito ho pasilidad ng Coast Guard. Sabihin ko na rin ho, Coast Guard is all over the place. Mr. Secretary, Sec. Sonny, sir, noong nag-umpisa ho tayo, ang Coast Guard natin, 6,200. As I speak, ang total population ng Coast Guard,

regular, is 22,200. Add to that, mayroon ho akong auxiliary, kasi may programa ako na ini-expand ko ‘yung auxiliary, 33,000 na iyong auxiliary ng Coast Guard na ginagamit ko sa coastal operations, relief and rescue, at tumutulong ho ‘yan.

Ganyan ho ‘yung mga kapasidad na ginagawa natin. In addition to that, I will not repeat, just flashed on the screen are various vaccination centers na DOTr ho. Hindi ho kami kasama sa DOH but the calling to achieve universal vaccination, nandidiyan ho sa Department of Transportation.

Mr. President, converting from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1, masasabi ko ho sa mga nagawa na at gagawin pa namin at gagawin pa, handa na ho ‘yung Department of Transportation and we support the move to lower the Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1 following the guidance and mandates of IATF.

Iyon lang po, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Look, I was awed actually looking at the --- ano ‘yan slides? And the way you… You have not changed. Your passion for achievement has always been there. I said I’m awed actually. Maligaya ako sa para sa bayan na kinuha kita. Salamat sa --- for your tireless toil, and I am ready to pass you on to the next administration as a gift. *[laughter]*

As a gift. Kasi kung magkaron sila ng ganoon sa iyo, sa totoo lang mahirap ng mag-project pero sayang kung hindi ka makapagpatuloy ng sa gobyerno. Alam mo limitado lang kasi tayo ng six years, but I’d be happy to hand you over to the --- kung sinong ano. Pero alam ko na gusto mo nang mag-retire. Sabay-sabay na tayo lahat, puro naman ng… Ang hindi lang retirable dito si Secretary Briones. *[laughter]*

SEC. TUGADE: Project niyo ho ito, Mr. President. Sana ho ‘yung mga Gabinete pati na ho kayo, Mr. President, will attend --- can attend some of the activities this March, ano ho. Dalawin ninyo ‘yung barko ng Coast Guard. You will be impressed with the capacity and capability of this facility of the Philippine Coast Guard. Dalawa ho yan darating ‘yung pang-Mayo.

Pangalawa ho, ‘yung Bicol Express, ‘yung tren. Alam niyo ho, in-open na ho natin ‘yung Bicol International Airport. Kakasahan natin ng tren ngayon ‘yan at nag-umpisa na. Nakita ko ho, sinakyan ko last week ‘yung Lucena-San Pablo- Candelaria. Kasama ho ‘yan sa Bicol Express. Tatapusin ‘yan in one and a half years hanggang Naga.

Sana ho samahan niyo kami dito sa MRT-3 mat --- nag-assume tayo dito puro kabuwisitan ‘yung inabot natin sa MRT-3. Ilang panawagan na mag-resign ako? Hindi ko naman ginawa ‘yung problema. Dumating tayo dito para solve-in ‘yung problema. Na-solve na, Mr. President.

Sana ho, I’m inviting all the Cabinet members, come inaugurate with us MRT-3.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, pati ako.

SEC. TUGADE: Imagine… Sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Pati ako, because iyan lang ang maipakita ko rin sa tao.

SEC. TUGADE: Opo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Na through you, we were able to deliver all of these things that you see now.

SEC. TUGADE: Opo, sir. Iyong sa Ilocos, ‘yung Currimao Port, naku *(laughter)* ‘pag nakita niyo ho ‘yun talagang you will be proud. You will be proud.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Saan ‘yan?

SEC. TUGADE: Currimao Port, ito ho --- kasi bago magpandemya ho ginamit na namin 'to para sa dock ng mga cruise vessels. Nakadalawa kaya ni-repair, inayos namin 'yan. Kasama ho 'yan sa Norte ng dalawang cruise ports, 'yung Salomague Port at saka Currimao Port.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Saan nga 'yan banda? Ilocos?

SEC. TUGADE: Ilocos Norte at saka Ilocos Sur.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sige, punta tayo.

SEC. TUGADE: Sana makita niyo po. Nakita niyo na 'yung sa Palawan, sa Visayas, tingnan niyo naman 'yung Norte.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sige, iyan lang 'yung ---

SEC. TUGADE: Talaga hong you will be happy. Iwanan --- iwanan niyo 'yang mga project na 'yan, Mr. President, sa mga tao. Alam niyo ho ba, bumalik ako sa Lucena. Noong tinest (test) run namin 'yung tren --- nandidito ho si Mr. Lopez saka TJ Batan --- pinapara nung mga tao na gusto nilang subukan ring sumakay. Ang ginawa ho namin, Mr. President, maski hindi pa for commercial kuwan, pinatigil ko 'yung tren, pinasakay ko 'yung mga tao. Happing-happy sila. Walang tren doon for four years.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah mala --- at least may iniwan ka, on your own may iniwan kang legacy sa…

SEC. TUGADE: Sir, mandate niyo ho 'yan. Ang sabi niyo sa amin, make the Filipino life convenient and comfortable. Wala naman ho kaming ginagawa kung hindi making the Filipino life convenient and comfortable in accordance with your mandate 'yung first meeting natin. Ayun 'yung marching order niyo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, iyon ang --- iyon ang trabaho ko pero hindi ko maabot 'to kung wala talaga kayo, sa totoo lang. Kung bugok rin ako na Presidente? Mabuti't na lang…

SEC. TUGADE: May meeting ho ako kay Sec. Lorenzana sa Wednesday, finalize-in ko 'yung fixed wing. Maalala ninyo noong pumasyal ho kayo, sabi mo, *"Bakit isa lang ang fixed wing? Gawin mong tatlo. Kumuha ka pa ng dalawa."*

With the help of the Department of Finance, nagkaroon ng budget na ho 'yan. Mag-uusap kami ni Sec. Del para matuloy-tuloy 'yun --- tuloy-tuloy ho 'yan. So in addition sa Coast Guard, magkakaroon 'yan ng tatlong fixed wing. Noon ho salbabida lang ang gamit nila eh.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yeah. Oo, nakita ko lahat 'yan, and I said, nagpapasalamat ako sa iyo and in behalf of the people of the Philippines for your industry. Salamat masyado. At 'yan lagi ang sinabi ko, that was the advice that I --- that I would give sa mga…

Kung ikaw ay ordinaryo ka lang, 75, kunin mo 'yung mga valedictorian para utusan mo. Baliktarin mo. Usually kasi sa ibang ano ang mga valedictorian man ang mag-utos doon sa mga 75, 74, pero baliktarin ko. Sabi ko, I got the best minds of --- really, kinuha ko 'yung pinaka ano na… May palpak lang ako ng iilang Cabinet members but…

SEC. TUGADE: Maraming nang nagawa, sir, 'yang administrasyon niyo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Wala mang akong ano. Now, we are running late but I'd like to ask si Secretary Galvez, the updates of the National Vaccination Program.

NTF COVID-19 CHIEF IMPLEMENTER AND VACCINE CZAR CARLITO GALVEZ JR.: Mr. President; Senator Bong Go; ES Medialdea; fellow Cabinet members; mga kababayan, magandang gabi po.

Kung makikita po natin, talaga na, Mr. President, ito po ‘yung time na February 28 ito pong gabi pong ganito pong oras halos sinalubong po natin ‘yung unang bakuna na galing po sa China na donation po. And then the following morning, nagpabakuna na po tayo. At napakagandang historic event, after one year, magde-declare na po tayo ng Alert Level 1.

So, Mr. President, finally nakaraos na rin po tayo sa ating mahigpit na pagsubok sa --- na dala ng Omicron. NCR together with 38 areas will begin the roadmap to the new normal starting tomorrow, exactly one year after we started the vaccination program. However, kailangan pa rin po natin na maging vigilant at gabayan natin ang buong sambayanan, ang ating LGUs at lahat ng institusyon to self-regulate and manage and live with the virus.

Kailangan obserbahan pa rin po nating mabuti, katulad ng sinasabi po ni Sec. Duque at saka ni Sec. Vince at saka po ni Sec. Lorenzana, Sec. Año, na mabuti pong tingnan po muna natin sa isang linggo na pag-implement po natin ng new normal na sunod-sunod na sa araw ng linggo at hanggang patuloy na maipatupad ang agresibo nating pagbabakuna.

Kailangan po nating hanapin ang mga seniors at panatilihing maingat ang pagtupad ang pediatric vaccination.

Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa ating mga partners, mga private sector na tumulong po sa atin; sa mga LGUs; sa DOH, na talaga pong namuno at nagpatupad ng ating vaccination program; sa National Task Force, lalo na po ang DILG at saka ang AFP at PNP at ang National Vaccination Operation Center for all the leadership and support; and also to our foreign partners, ‘yung COVAX, ang ating mga bilateral allies na nag-donate po ng mga vaccines at saka ‘yung mga cold storage.

[Next slide, please.]

But we need to remain focused in improving and providing boosters, providing protection to our children and seniors, and achieving a resilient “Wall of Protection.” Kaya po kanina po nag-meeting ulit ang NVOC sa pamumuno po ni Sec. Vince dahil po ‘yun po ang inano po namin na talagang maging mataas po ang ating pagbo-booster dahil sa hanggang ngayon ay 10 milyon pa lang po ang na-booster natin since we started it last October 2021.

[Next slide, please.]

This will be my last slide dahil marami pong magpe-present pa po. So ito po 'yung trifecta ng supply, demand and throughput. As a summary, we have enough supply, we still have 90 million in stock, and we are still awaiting for our procured pediatric vaccine.

We are now receiving our Pfizer vaccines for our boosters and pediatric demand at sa ngayon nga po mayroon pong darating na another delivery from the US donation and we are able to breach hesitancy and improve vaccine willingness.

But our great challenge right now, 'yung vaccine preferences na nangyayari po sa baba, and we have remaining 3 million seniors and 3 million children ages 12 to 17 who are still unvaccinated.

So 'yun po ang gagawin po natin ngayon at tayo po ay nagkakaroon ng tinatawag nating collaboration with the different agencies at saka private sector para mapataas po ang ating vaccination program sa boostering at ating mapalaganap ang ating tinatawag na Alert Level 1 at ang face-to-face schooling po natin. Nandito po si Ma'am Liling at nandito po si CHED at 'yun po ang amin pong gagawin sa susunod na mga araw.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. President at mabuhay po tayong lahat. At congratulations po sa lahat po ng member ng IATF dahil tutungo na po tayo sa Alert Level 1 tomorrow.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You know, Secretary Galvez, so far so good ka. *[applause]* From Day 1 talagang any, any --- palagay na natin, any superior would be very happy to have you pero lahat naman kayo eh. Ipamana na rin kita para… *[laughter]* Not because --- maybe, eh siyempre nandiyan… They are elected by the people, we are bound to honor it, but para rin sa bayan na magkaroon ng smooth ano, kung maregalo ko kayo, Tugade, ikaw, Delfin Lorenzana 'di ayos ang Pilipinas.

Sabihin ko, *"Huwag ka na lang kumuha. Retain Dominguez because he will produce money even using printing machines." [laughter]*

SEC. GALVEZ: Sir, Mr. President, ako po sir, emotional po sir ako, sir, nag-serbisyo lang po ko dahil sa napakabait niyo po na Presidente. At talagang kami pong mga Gabinete sumusunod sa inyo dahil 'yung inspirational leadership niyo po at saka 'yung kabaitan niyo sa aming lahat hindi po mapantayan. *[applause]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I could have not chosen better men actually. I've read a book somewhere, "Of Mice and Men". Have you read that book? Maganda 'yan. I think it's --- it was --- ang title, "Of Mice and Men". Matagal ko na, AB pa ako noon niyan, but it's a --- magandang ano sa tao.

Mon? Secretary Lopez would be…

DTI SECRETARY RAMON LOPEZ: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Mayroon akong kaunting charts.

So I was asked to report on the impact of the de-escalation to Alert Level 1 on the business sector and the changes in guidelines and protocol dito sa Alert Level 1. So again, same observation, tomorrow, exactly two years after COVID-19 dominated the world, 'yung --- our country will be de-escalating to Alert Level 1, moving to the "new normal".

Moving to the Alert Level 1 will lessen the remaining economic restrictions and allow a full economic recovery. With Alert Level 1, we expect full momentum on our economic growth resulting from the following, so ito po 'yung mga pagluluwag:

Ginawa ng 100 percent operating capacity ang mga businesses. Iyong mga remaining po kasi 'yung other businesses, mga manufacturing, dati na, 'yung export industry, 'yung BPO, dati na pong 100 percent. Pero 'yung mga 3Cs na tinatawag, 'yung mga crowded, closed, o kaya may close contact tulad nung sa mga restaurants, mga personal care services, lahat 'yun may min --- ano pa 'yan eh mga naka-50 percent to 70 percent operating capacity. So lahat po ito ngayon ia-allow na up to 100 percent.

'Pag in-allow na 100 percent, kailangan tanggalin na rin muna 'yung physical distancing kasi puwedeng magtabi-tabi na. Dati kasi sinusukatan pa natin 'yan. So even in mga restaurants, 'yung mga personal care outlets and the like, wala na hong physical distancing para ho sa kaalaman nung ating business establishments.

Magkakaroon din ng ease of mobility restrictions. Tulad nga nung nabanggit ni Sec. Art kanina allowing 100 percent na rin 'yung capacity sa transportation. So 'yung mga sakayan na public talagang 100 percent na para ho mas madaming makabiyahe.

We will encourage more on-site presence. Dati ho kasi and ine-encourage natin work-from- home. Ngayon, physical presence na. Ang ibig sabihin nito, mas maraming papasok sa opisina, resumption of many events that will

stimulate also ‘yung spending. Kasi ‘pag lumalabas ‘yung mga tao, mas marami pang puwedeng gastusan papunta at pauwi.

So nabubuhay ‘yung mga businesses around the area. Maraming nakaka --- natutulungan dito na mga SMEs, ‘yung mga nagne-negosyo sa malapit sa opisina nabubuhay. Ngayon, kaunti ang tao sa kanila kasi kaunti ‘yung pumapasok sa mga opisina. So ‘yun ho ‘yung maganda pang benefit dito.

Allowed pa rin ang work-from-home, sa mga gustong magtanong, allowed pa rin ‘yan pero optional. Hindi po ‘yan ine-encourage ngayon now that we are moving to Alert Level 1 and we want to stimulate more economic activities.

Ang isang sektor na talagang matagal nakasara at ngayon lang magbubukas, ito hong tourism, under kay Sec. Berna. So masayang-masaya si Sec. Berna dahil ‘yung tourism recently noong February 10, kahit hindi pa tayo nag-Alert Level 1, dahil sa bumababang cases at maraming vaccinated na, lahat ng vaccinated international travelers coming from non-visa countries, in-allow na natin no quarantine, ‘pag pumasok hindi na sila magkukulong pa sa mga quarantine facilities.

Sa ganoon maraming puwedeng pumasok. In fact, kanina, Mr. President, mula noong binuksan itong no quarantine, ‘yung mga investors ang bilis mag-decide ngayon, nagpuntahan na dito. Kanina may mineeting (meeting) kami, pagpasok daw niya dito --- kaya siya nagbiyahe na dahil alam niya wala ng quarantine. Iyong hindi --- kasi kung hindi, masasayang ang five days or seven days nila na hindi pa kaagad makakapunta sa mga, let’s say, gusto nilang bisitahin na planta or location ng kanilang mga investments.

So malaking bagay ‘yung tinanggal na natin ‘yung quarantine requirements. And of course, sa tourism, ay mga --- ‘yung mga gustong bumiyahe alangan namang mag-spend sila ng five days sa quarantine facility imbes na nasa Boracay na sila or nandoon sa gusto nilang puntahan. So ang talagang makakaangat po na sektor ngayon ay nakikita natin itong tourism.

Aside from international travelers, ‘yung mga domestic travelers, less requirement na, wala na ‘yung RT-PCR --- basta vaccinated, wala ng RT-PCR, wala ng PNP clearance, wala ng barangay clearance. Lahat ‘yun mayroon noon eh. So ito po luluwag na. So with tourism, malaking mabubuhay, mga SMEs nakapaligid sa tourism eh. Iyong van na magdadala sa iyo, ‘yung restaurant, ‘yung gift shops, lahat po ay SME ang mga nasa tourism sector.

No age restriction, ibig sabihin ‘yung mga dati bukas --- allowed ‘yung operating capacity, mataas, pero walang customer kasi ho noon may age restriction pa tayo. Bawal ‘yung bata, bawal ‘yung 17 years old and below, at sunod in-adjust natin ‘yung age. For some time, pinag-usapan din natin sa Cabinet meeting po ‘yan. Pero ngayon ho no age restriction.

So that will bring out greater confidence sa mga tao. Mas maraming lalabas ngayon. In fact, ang report kasama din diyan ‘yung medyo magta-traffic na. Ngayon masaya tayong nakikita ‘yung traffic, ibig sabihin may economic activity talaga, naglalabas ‘yung --- lumalabas ‘yung mga tao.

As we ease also restriction in services, dadami itong mga face-to-face operations of services tulad ng nabanggit natin: food and beverage services, mga restaurants, creative arts, entertainments, ‘yung mga live events, mga --- even museums, cultural activities, amusement and other recreation activities. Lahat ito economic activities eh. Noon, namili pa tayo ano ‘yung essential, ano ‘yung hindi essential noong talagang nagpipigil tayo nang paglabas ng tao. But now, everything is open. Dagdag lahat ito sa economic activities.

Sa mga nagbi-business din, mababawasan na sila nung mga expense items kasi ‘yung mga physical barrier, ‘yung mga acrylic barriers na ni-require natin sa mga restaurant wala na rin ‘yun. Iyong mga paper-based contact tracing, ‘yung mga contact tracing, tatanggalin na rin ‘yung mga manual. Iyong digital optional, hindi rin required ‘yung digital contact tracing. Iyong ‘pag pumasok sa restaurant ay may QR code ka, babarilin iyon, ‘yung mga ganoong requirement. Isa pang tinanggal na requirement ‘yung mga isolation places na ni-require natin sa mga business establishments. So ‘yun hindi na rin nire-require.

So dito sa pagpunta natin from Alert Level 2 to Alert Level 1, this will really lessen ‘yung unemployment level natin. Ibig sabihin, mas dadami ang employment sa pag-maximize ng operational capacity. At ‘yung unemployment rate po natin bago nagkaroon ng pandemic nasa mga 5 percent unemployment rate.

Iyan ay --- if you will remember ho, Mr. President, noong nag-umpisa ‘yung lockdown, sumipa ‘yung unemployment rate to 17.7 percent. But over time, dahil nagre-reopen tayo ng economy, nagbabawas ng lockdown, eh ‘yung 17.7 percent bumababa na uli. Iyong huli nating record ay 6.6 percent. So

ang ambisyon natin ngayon mapababa sa five percent kung nasaan tayo noong pre-pandemic.

Para maabot din natin ‘yun, ibig sabihin din po from where we stand right now sa unemployment rate, may mga 800,000 na mga dati --- nawalan ng trabaho na ngayon ay makakabalik sa trabaho through increased economic activities at saka ‘yun nga, increased investments at makaka-encourage ng mga economic activities.

Dito ho sa pagbaba na to Alert Level 1, ano po ang dinecide (decide) natin doon muna sa NCR plus 38 provinces. Hindi po nationwide pa dahil ito ‘yung pumasa sa criteria. Estimate natin mga 400,[000] to 500,000 jobs ang --- over time, hindi naman bukas kaagad --- ay makakabalik sa trabaho.

Kasi kunwari ito hong ‘yung mga restaurant kausap natin sila, dati ho ang nangyayari ho kasi dahil madalang ang tao at saka hindi pa rin sila 100 percent bukas, ‘yung tao, ‘yung mga empleyado, ‘yung mga waiters hindi everyday pinapapasok. Para lang sila ma --- hindi mawalan ng trabaho, *"Sige pumasok ka kahit three days a week imbes na seven days a week."*

So ‘yung tao hindi nila tinanggal para may trabaho kasi ‘pag tinanggal, mas malaki ang tama eh. Pero in-allow po sila. Of course, kasama sa policy natin in the adjustment, in-allow sila nung parang temporary ‘yung adjustment doon sa work time para lang may income ‘yung trabaho --- ‘yung tao na ‘yun kahit three days a week. Ngayon, lumalaki na ‘yan. Puwedeng sabihin, *"Oh, huwag ka ng three days a week, mag-report ka na five days a week or seven days a week."* So that will mean mas marami siyang puwedeng kitain ulit. Balik siya sa dating suweldo niya noong bago nagpandemya, okay.

According to NEDA, kino-quote ko si NEDA po dito sila Sec. Karl, ang additional business --- ang GDP, contribution to GDP is mga P9.4 billion per week. Ie-explain po ni Secretary Karl mamaya ‘yun.

Again, ire-remind lang din po natin sa ating mga kababayan na hindi lang naman tayo ngayon nagbukas. Actually mula noong nag-pandemic noong

2020, again, over time every month tina-try natin i-open kaagad ano ‘yung puwede nang i-open, ‘yung mga hindi delikado sa safety and health protocol.

Kaya dahil doon, noong 2021, a year after the pandemic, mabilis naka --- nag-grow back, nag-bounce back ‘yung economy natin from -9.5 noong 2020, last year po on the third quarter, fourth quarter nag-seven --- over seven percent tayo, 7.1 percent growth nung third quarter; 7.7 percent growth nung fourth quarter. Eh talagang one of the highest in Southeast Asia. So ‘yung full year natin, we closed the year 5.5 per --- 5.6 percent growth rate ng GDP. So talagang bounce back tayo, but it is still below ‘yung 2019 level.

So ‘yun po ang benefit nitong Alert Level 1. It will now allow us this year to not only to hit back ‘yung 2019 level pre-pandemic, kung hindi lalagpasan pa natin ‘yun with the six to seven percent. Pero sila Sec. Karl sinasabi it can be even higher than seven percent. Of course, barring outside forces tulad ng Ukraine issue ‘no, Ukraine-Russia issue.

Iyan ‘yung --- kung wala ‘yung mga ganoong dynamics, geopolitics, puwede nating ma-hit talaga itong, at the least, six to seven percent at lalagpasan natin ‘yung 2019 level na. So parang in summary, para siyang in two years, nakabawi na kaagad tayo. So hindi tumagal na --- ‘yung dati, maraming detractors nagsasabi, *“five years pa bago makabawi or matagal pa.”* Ngayon, in two years.

So again, so --- pero, again, reminders sa ating mga kababayan ‘yung may mga business establishments, mayroon --- kahit nagluluwag tayo, mayroon tayong sinabing gagawin pa rin natin: mask wearing; ‘yung regular disinfection, ‘yung mask, hugas, okay; ventilation babantayan din natin, stricter implementation para maganda ‘yung ventilation or hangin sa mga loob nung establisyemento na ‘yun.

And number four, ‘yung vaccination is still a requirement. Requirement po ito lalo na doon sa indoor at ‘yung mga 3Cs na sinasabi natin, ‘yung mga restaurants, indoor cinemas, gyms, personal care services, ‘yung mga large indoor activities, ire-require po na ‘yung papasok doon vaccinated pa din.

Parang talaga ang malaking nakasalalay dito sa protocols natin ‘yung vaccinated na requirement and to strictly require ‘yung proof of vaccination for 18 years old and above kasi doon sa guidelines natin, ‘yung mga 17 years old and below hindi kailangang magpakita ng vaccination card.

Isa pang requirement natin sa mga nakikinig na business establishments, kailangan mag-assign talaga ng safety and health officer per establishment to ensure compliance doon sa health protocol. So parang tao-tao, bantayan talaga ‘yung store, may ia-assign ‘yung tao. So we are basically decentralizing ‘yung pag-implement natin nung mga protocols.

Mayroon tayong isang promotional item noon, ‘yung Safety Seal, it’s a seal na nagsasabi na itong tindahan na ‘to, itong store na ‘to safe dito, it follows minimum public health standard or protocol. It will still be considered voluntary, hindi ‘yan ire-require but it will be an effective marketing tool pang-attract ng customer na safe dito, pumasok kayo. So ‘yun po.

So there’s still a need to isolate when sick, ito kasama sa guidelines ng DOH. Kailangan pa ring mag-quarantine ‘yung mga unvaccinated na mga na-close contact, ‘yung mga may exposure. So what we are seeing now, we will see more self-regulation rather than --- and less of government-imposed restriction. The basic principle is moving towards an endemic state.

Ibig sabihin nandiyan lang ‘yung virus, it’s still with us, but because of high vaccinated rate natin there is now high immunity and cases generally not getting severe and critical. So it will not overwhelm the healthcare system just like what happened in the recent Omicron surge. So the virus will still be with us but it will just be like common colds and flu. And if vaccinated, talagang ang probability it will not get severe and critical.

So we still encourage the general population to get, of course, fully vaccinated defined as two doses or even get --- or must get booster shots, ‘yun pampadagdag immunity talaga ‘yun. And as we remove the restrictions, we expect our economy to fully recover, surpassing the 2019 pre-pandemic GDP in this year 2022.

So may overall assessment lang po tayo na in summary, we have journeyed through this very difficult but ra --- through the very difficult but rational management of the pandemic. The primacy given to saving lives and minimizing deaths while allowing the economy to reopen much earlier in a safer and gradual and purposive manner had allowed the economy to grow starting in 2021.

We have managed the delicate balance of saving lives and livelihood. The move to Alert Level 1 will lessen the remaining economic restrictions that will allow the country to continue to be fully back on track to pre-pandemic level and even surpass the 2019 level.

With God's grace, while the pandemic in 2020 disrupted the six to seven percent growth in 2016, in 2019, noong nag-umpisa po 'yung inyong administration, ang taas ng growth na natin six to seven percent. We were enjoying that. Napababa 'yung poverty level, ang baba nung unemployment rate.

And right now, within one year of the pandemic, nakabawi sa 2021 pero mas makakabawi tayo ngayon sa 2022. So parang ang nakikita ko dito noong 2020, six to seven percent growth tayo prior to that. Pero exactly after two years in March, we are de-escalating to Alert Level 1 and that will allow us to hit six to seven percent again after two years itong 2022. So our growth rate momentum prior to the pandemic na six to seven percent mabawi natin ngayong 2022, mauulit natin.

After going through the challenges of the pandemic, the lives and livelihood lost, testing the resilience of the Filipinos, we saw the unity among the Filipinos under your leadership, Mr. President.

Through a whole-of-nation approach, 'yung strong collaboration natin from the very start, government, the private sector, the foreign community, the medical experts, the IATF na nandito, mga --- ang NTF, National Task Force, lahat na, on testing, treatment, 'pag --- isolation facilities and the vaccination campaign, we are now overcoming the pandemic.

Within your term, Mr. President, this unprecedented pandemic of our time started. And within your term, we are starting to see the end of the pandemic under your strong and wise leadership.

Kaya ko nasabing wise, Mr. President, naalala niyo noong March 2020, two years ago, also in this room, I think, lahat nagdedebate, iba-ibang views, I

think sa economic team, si Sec. Sonny, out of country pero naka-video naalala ko, we were talking about not imposing a lockdown; and 'yung grupo naman nila Sec. Año, sila Sec. Duque, no jina-justify nila, mag-umpisa na tayo ng lockdown.

So ang tagal ng usapan, maraming nagbigay ng opinyon. Pero kayo ang nag-decide, *"No, we start the lockdown."* March 15, tandang-tanda natin, 2020. And ako ang tingin ko doon wise leadership, siguro dala talaga ng experience niyo 'no. So talagang masasabi natin 'yun 'yung mga decisive calls that we really needed in this pandemic na --- na wala pang nakakaharap nito, I mean dito sa panahon na 'to.

So now, we are happy to say, after two years, we are now on the road to full economic recovery towards building back better. Maraming salamat, Mr. President. Sa mga kasama at mga kababayan natin, mabuhay po tayong lahat. *[applause]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you, Secretary Mon. I'm --- it's really heartening to know that we are recovering on all fronts, making --- there's a better today than yesterday. And I can only, well, say that nothing short of --- not really spectacular --- short of a very fulfilling, para sa akin, na we are doing fine and recovering from the --- 'yung pandemya. So maraming salamat sa pagod mo at again also, in behalf of the Filipino people, I'd like to thank you.

We'll go now to Secretary Briones. To be followed by Karl Chua. You're next after…

DEPED SECRETARY LEONOR BRIONES: Tatlong points lang ang i-share ko sa inyong developments sa pagsisilbi ko sa inyo. Sa lahat kong posisyon, Mr. President, alam naman ninyo hindi ako nag-a-apply. I never applied for any of the positions that were granted to me by the various presidents. So tatlong points lang na gusto kong sagutin hinggil sa effect nang pag-elevate sa atin to Alert Level 1, ano ang epekto nito sa edukasyon?

Ngayon, nagbilang na kami ng mga eskuwelahan na puwedeng mag-implement na ng face-to-face na ready na talaga sila according to our standards. This would be 6,213 schools, tapos ready silang mag-implement.

Pero as of February, pinayagan ninyo kaming mag-start February, at this month, naka-1,726 schools na ang ating binuksan na may face-to-face out of the 6,213. Ngayong mag-declare na tayo ng Level 1 assessment, siguradong dadami 'yan.

Ang tanong ninyo na pinaabot sa aming opisina ay ano ‘yung mga protocols na dapat sundin ng mga eskuwelahan na na-elevate to Alert Level 1? Sa tingin namin, and I’m sure Secretary Duque will not mind, ang Level 1 at Level 2, halos pareho sila, halos pareho. So ‘yung protocols ng Level 2, pareho din sa protocols ng Level 1.

Ang gusto lang namin, Mr. President, na ngayong Alert Level 1 na, na kakalat na talaga nang husto ang face-to-face ay kung puwede na i-reduce na ‘yung mga protocols kasi we have two pages of protocols na dapat susundin ng mga eskuwelahan. So puwede na sigurong i-reduce ‘yan.

This Friday, mag-usap ang Department of Health at saka ang DepEd para pag-usapan kung alin ang mga protocols na puwedeng i-relax kasi right now, 6,000 ang nag-qualify. Pero sa tingin namin, baka dadami pa ‘yan kasi Level 1 na tayo. Halos wala na tayong Level 3, Mr. President.

So ‘yung protocols, kung kami ang matatanong ay kung puwedeng i-loosen up natin ‘yung mga requirements pero agreement pa rin ‘yung dahil maliwanag ‘yung instruction ninyo, Mr. President, na kailangan magkasundo ang Department of Health at saka ang Department of Education. So this Friday magmi-meet kami.

So finally, ang sunod na tanong na pinasagot sa amin, kung ano ang implication nitong pag-improve natin sa Alert Level 1. So una, ang ating policy --- ang approach kasi natin, Mr. President, ay blended learning na depende sa sitwasyon ng isang eskuwelahan, puwedeng mag-ano tayo ng iba’t ibang paraan. And I explained that to you two years ago na puwedeng maggamit ng libro, puwedeng maggamit ng technology, puwedeng maggamit ng radyo, ng telebisyon, depende sa sitwasyon. So mase-strengthen ‘yung blended learning.

Mayroon ng batas na pino-propose sa Congress na gawing ligal ang blended learning na make it a legal requirement na depende sa sitwasyon kung anong approach ang gagamitin.

Kasi, Mr. President, importante, mahalaga ‘yung face-to-face, pero mahalaga din na matuto ang ating mga bata sa online at saka sa digital. Kasi paglabas nila sa mundo, pag-join nila sa business sector, maraming mga online activities, maraming technical ano, at hindi mo ‘yan --- kailangang up to date din sila, handa din sila sa pagtatrabaho.

So ayun ang tingin namin na lalakas 'yung blended learning. Iyong blended learning, ang magdedesisyon diyan ang school kasi may mga advanced, mayroong hindi advanced, and so on. Hindi na kagaya ng dati, Mr. President, na lahat na order, lahat na desisyon manggagaling sa taas. Ang Secretary of Education ang magsabi ganito ang gawin ninyo, made-delay tayo nang husto. At their level, magde-decide na ang mga eskuwelahan kasi alam nila ang sitwasyon nila 'no.

So sa tingin natin, itong Alert Level 1, will be aligned to 'yung sinasabi nating impending return to normalcy sa ating ekonomiya, sa ating society, sa ating pulitika dahil luluwag din ang mga requirements natin para sa edukasyon.

Now also, dito sa blended learning, halo ito, Mr. President. Nandiyan 'yung online, nandiyan 'yung paggamit ng mga modules, mga libro, TV, lahat-lahat na pamamaraan, depende sa sitwasyon, makikita natin kung ano 'yung mga kulang sa mga bata, kulang sa mga eskuwelahan.

Kasi one thing na hindi napapansin, Mr. President, halimbawa na ang daming nalulungkot sa performance natin sa international assessment, 'di ba? Pero itong mga batang ito, Mr. President, hindi ito sa iyong administrasyon.

These are 15- to 17-year-olds. So iyong mga bata na natuto sa inyong administrasyon ay mga Grade 4 pa 'yun. So ito, hindi atin itong mga batang ito na sinasabi nating mababa ang performance.

Pero mayroon tayong 20 na schools, Mr. President, public at private, na 'yung kanilang mga scores sa Mathematics, sa Science, sa English, halos pareho o kapantay o mas mataas pa kaysa scores ng ibang bansa sa Europa at saka sa Asia. Ma-match natin --- ma-eyeball-to-eyeball natin ang Singapore at saka ang Europe with these 20 schools.

Kaya gusto nating tignan kung ano ba ang sikreto nila bakit mahusay sila sa math, sa sciences, ano 'yung mga factors. So makikita natin now that we are expanding kung matuto tayo not from failure. Matuto tayo from success because we have kids who are able to perform just as well as those in other countries 'no.

Tapos makita din natin sa pag-elevate natin dito sa Level 1 kung ano 'yung mga challenges sa distance learning. Hindi natin ma-a-avoid ang distance learning kasi nandiyan na 'yun talaga in the same manner na kailangan din ang face-to-face. So ico-combine natin 'yan kasi sabi hahabulin natin kung ano ang nawala natin sa edukasyon.

At saka isa pa, Mr. President, sa aking tingin sa Department of Education, ang isa sa major contributions na nagawa namin is to strengthen the regional offices.

Ngayon, our regional units make their decisions. They solved the problems on their own. They don't wait for a memorandum or a circular or a whatever to tell them what to do with a principal to tell them what to do with a problem in the school. They solve them. And if it works, they let us know. And we try to do it in the other places.

Isang malaking contribution 'yan, the strengthening of the regional units because we have to decentralize dahil napakalaki ng Department of Education. One million ang teachers. Sabi nga namin ay ano ang aming mga teachers, ayaw ko lang ilagay on record ito: napaka-articulate. Maarte na, makulit pa.

So there are nearly one million of them and 27 million kids. And kung lahat ng desisyon gagawin ng isang 81-year-old woman, then ano na --- maghintay tayo ng siyam-siyam. So ang regional units natin are empowered. The superintendents are empowered. 'Pag magkamali sila, eh 'di they will do something. But that is our policy and I think it’s a major contribution of the department na we have very strong regional units.

Tapos finally, Mr. President, ang isang implikasyon na mag-Level 1 na tayo, ang mga parents kasi... Sa tingin ko, Mr. President, tayo lang ang bansa na humihingi ng permiso sa parents kung puwede bang mag-face-to-face, kung puwede bang mag-modular, puwede bang mag-learning.

Sa ibang bansa, basta’t sasabihin *"bukas ganito na."* Iyong mga bata pasok na bukas o 'yung mga bata hindi papasok, iyong mga bata *“uwi kayo, one half day lang kayo."* Eh tayo, humihingi tayo ng permiso sa parents.

And I think we are the only country doing that na may permiso sa parents, may consent sa local government units, at saka may go signal from the Department of Health. So that increases the confidence.

So iyon lang ang mga bagay na ire-report ko, Mr. President. We want and we are interested in reducing the two-pages of protocols na ganito, ganito, ganito, ganyan para dadami 'yung mga schools na makaumpisa na.

But we have been in coordination with the Department of Health, three were empowering the regional units, the supervisors. 'Pag magkamali sila, well, they'll bring along the consequences of what they do. But they're very, very careful, of course.

And also, in the light of the elections, kasi nagtatanong tayo ng impact sa nitong Alert Level 1, three --- two times na kami nag-issue, Mr. President, ng circular na sinasabi namin sa aming mga teachers na sundin ang guidelines ng COMELEC, sundin ang guidelines ng Executive Secretary tungkol sa partisan politics kasi may mga organisasyon na already nagde-declare na sinusuporta sila ng mga ganitong teacher, et cetera, et cetera.

So pinag-warning-an din namin sila. So lahat-lahat, ito 'yung mga nakikita namin. We will be marching along with the opening of the economy, with the opening of the schools, and also with the Department of Health, of course.

Hindi namin 'yan iiwanan 'yang instruction na 'yan dahil hindi naman kami eksperto sa health. And at the same time, makikita namin, dahil kino-combine namin 'yung iba't ibang paraan, makikita namin kung saan mahina.

Nakakagulat because people thought that there's nothing like face-to-face. Of course, face-to-face is very important. But outside, people are doing online things. They are doing online work and they are using technology. So we have to bring them up to par.

Kailangan i-strengthen ang Math and Sciences talaga. We cannot... But at the same, sinasabi namin, Mr. President, na we should never forget that we are Filipinos. Otherwise, we're just like the robots na lagyan lang ng implant sa utak and then gagalaw na.

Eh sa ibang bansa, Mr. President, pinag-usapan na nga kung mga robot teachers kasi kulang ng teachers. Mas madaling i-handle ang robot teachers kaysa human teachers. Pero para sa akin, dapat hindi natin kalimutan that we are humans, that we are not robots.

But most of all, that we are Filipinos, that we have a history. We might be good in Science and Mathematics, et cetera. But we are Filipinos, and we have gone through so much and we should stay as one.

Thank you, Mr. President. Ayun.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well taken, Secretary Briones.

Alam ko 'yung fervor mo sa edukasyon ng mga batang Pilipino and I have always relied on your wisdom to do what is next, kung anong gagawin. And so far, I said, that should be a splendid work done by you in the --- to further the cause of education.

Hindi talaga rin ako nagkamali pagkuha. I knew that you would be of great help. This is not to flatter you to the education of the Filipino young people. And again, I thank you also for your dedication and pati 'yung Pilipino. Marami pa.

We are nearing the end of our trip. So... But it's good for them for the public --- listening public to what were the sentiments that we poured in our work and what were the paradigms that we followed sa ating pagka-Pilipino pati 'yung anong gusto natin how to educate the Filipino people.

We may not be really be the best. Mayroon tayong a little of everything but not kasi puro sila technology so it's very hard to be in parity with the others simply because there's a long way to go in terms of finances and education.

But sana, what you have started... Ang ano ko lang ang dasal ko na tutal para man ito sa public good na iyong mga bagay na nagawa mo, hindi sana nila kalimutan. They may ano but they should not forget that --- those were the culled wisdoms of our lifetime in this planet na it will not go to waste. And I hope that you would see the light of the innovations that you introduced, and that they would adopt it, and not discard it just because it was the work of the other administration.

Sana ilagay nila sa isip that nothing is really personal here except that when it's your time to be there --- to be here, we work and we have no other agenda. We have no other purpose meeting here and working overtime, except that we want our country to be a better place than yesterday.

Salamat po, Secretary Briones. Now, we go to... Karl, you just go ahead ha. I'll just... You just continue. I'll catch up, I'll catch up.

NEDA DIRECTOR GENERAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY KARL KENDRICK CHUA: Okay po. Okay. Sige po. Magandang gabi po, Mr. President; Senator Go; at sa mga kapwa miyembro ng Gabinete.

Iyong iuulat ko po ngayon ay 'yung benepisyo ng Alert Level 1. At ito ay napapakita na we are really on the road to recovery. But we need to accelerate and sustain para mabawi po natin ang mga nawala sa atin dahil sa pandemic.

Simula po tayo sa recent economic developments. The Philippine economy grew by 5.6 percent in 2021. Ito ay mas mataas sa expectation kasi 'yung sinasabi ng mga analysts: 5 to 5.5 percent.

Nanggaling po tayo sa mataas na growth bago 'yung pandemic at ang average of more than 6 to 7 percent. Pero bigla itong bumaba dahil sa pagpasok ng COVID-19 sa 2020, -9.6 percent 'yung nawala sa atin at nakabawi po tayo ng 5.6 percent. At naniniwala kami, kaya po natin umabot ng 7 to 9 percent this year kung magtutulungan po tayo.

In terms of employment ay palapit na tayo sa pre-pandemic level natin. Iyong nakakulay na green, iyan ‘yung ating unemployment bago pumasok ‘yung COVID-19, ‘yung January 2020.

Bigla itong sumipa to 17.6 percent ‘yung nag-impose tayo ng strictest ECQ. Pero ‘yung nag-relax na tayo at nag-manage tayo ng risks at nagbukas po tayo ng iba’t ibang sektor ng ekonomiya, pababa ito nang pababa to 10 percent to 8.7 percent, at ‘yung latest ay 6.6 percent. Malapit na ito sa ating pre-pandemic na unemployment rate.

Ang ibig sabihin nito, mula sa simula nung pandemic, nakabawi o nakadagdag tayo ng 3.7 million more employed Filipinos at ito ay magandang pagkakataon para maramdaman ng mga Pilipino ‘yung ating recovery.

Ngunit as the economy bounces back, we now have to recover all the losses we experienced in the last two years. Iyong total amount na nawala sa atin ay 3.8 trillion pesos. If not for the pandemic, dapat tuloy-tuloy ‘yung ating growth, aabot tayo ng 25.3 billion --- trillion peso economy by 2022. Pero dahil sa pandemic, nag-slide po tayo to 17.9 trillion noong taong 2020, pero nakikita naman natin ‘yung dahan-dahan na pagtaas ng ating ekonomiya.

Pero ‘yung gap between before COVID and with COVID ay malaki, 3.8 trillion.

Ang breakdown nito ‘yung mga households, mga pamilya nawalan sila ng 1.3 trillion na income, mga sahod, salary. Iyong corporate sector nawalan ng 2.2 trillion, at ‘yung gobyerno nawalan ng 300 billion in indirect taxes. So iyan ‘yung kailangan natin bawiin. At dahil sa pagsipa po ng Alert Level 1 ay mas mapapabilis ‘yung pagbawi natin.

Iyong susunod na chart ay nagpapakita ng daily COVID-19 cases. At nakikita natin sa dalawang pagkakataon ‘yung October 12, 2020, ‘yung nag-relax tayo from ECQ to GCQ at ‘yung nag-shift ‘yung NCR to Alert Level 2 last November 2021, hindi tumaas ‘yung kaso. In other words, nakayanan po natin i-control ‘yung cases, pababa nang pababa ‘yung cases.

Sumisipa lang ‘yung COVID cases ‘pag may pumapasok na Alpha variant, Delta variant, or Omicron. Pero without the spikes ay nakikita natin ‘yung pagluwang natin ng restrictions ay hindi nakakadagdag sa COVID cases kasi maganda ‘yung risk management natin. At dahil dito ay naisipan po natin na tumungo na sa Alert Level 1 at ipapakita ko ngayon ‘yung benepisyo ng Alert Level 1.

For March 1 to 15, 39 areas of the Philippines ay nasa Alert Level 1. Ito ‘yung kulay green sa mapa. At ‘yung ibang mga probinsiya at siyudad ay nasa Alert Level 2, ito ‘yung kulay yellow sa mapa.

Ang share nito sa total economy, under Alert Level 1 ay 62 percent. At ang share ng workers na nagbe-benefit sa Alert Level 1 ay 48 percent of total workers or 20.3 million workers. So more than one half na ng ating ekonomiya ay nasa Alert Level 1 at aabot na ng 50 percent ng workers ay nakatira sa Alert Level 1 areas. So maganda ‘yung developments.

At ‘yung mga benepisyo ng Alert Level 1 areas ay mga sumusunod gaya po inulat kanina ni CabSec at ni Sec. Mon, 9.4 billion pesos ang maidadagdag sa ekonomiya natin kada linggo. Of which, 3 billion are salaries. So iyan po ‘yung ibabalik natin sa bulsa ng bawat Pilipino na nawalan ng trabaho o nabawasan ang kita dahil sa Alert Level 2, 3, 4, or 5 sa nakaraan.

And in the next quarter ay makakabawi tayo ng 170,000 na less unemployed. Iyan po ‘yung benepisyo ng present Alert Level 1 system natin.

Pero tingnan naman natin kung ‘yung buong Pilipinas ay lumipat na sa Alert Level 1. Ang ibig sabihin nito, 16.5 billion peso mas mataas ang ibabalik natin sa ekonomiya kada linggo, at 5.2 billion kada linggo ang mababalik natin bilang sahod, wages or salary sa mga Pilipino. At we will have 297,000 less unemployed workers over the next quarter. Iyan po ‘yung benepisyo ng Alert Level 1. So sana hindi po masayang ‘yung pinaghirapan natin. Lahat po sana ay magtulungan, magsuot ng mask, at maghugas ng kamay and maintain social distancing.

Ang isa pang beneficiary ng Alert Level 1 ay ‘yung tourism sector. Iyong tourism economy fell by 1.5 trillion peso in 2020. Iyan ay napakalaking nawala sa tourism sector. Pero kalahati niyan or 750 billion ay kayang bawiin ‘pag nasa Alert Level 1 na ang Pilipinas at doon po tayo patungo.

At mino-monitor po natin ‘yung transport, hotel, malls and restaurants. Iyong capacity nila sa Alert Level 2 noong nakaraang November, December ay 40 to 85 percent na silang recovered.

At sa Alert Level 1 ay inaasahan natin na aakyat ito to 70 to 100 percent. So iyan po ay malaking tulong para sa tourism sector. At may gusto po kaming irekomenda, iyong benepisyo ng pagbukas ng face-to-face learning.

As vaccination rate of children increases, tulad ‘yung anak ko na six years old nag-second dose siya today, ay puwede na natin buksan ang lahat ng schools gradually ‘no. This will provide a big boost to the economy while improving learning and productivity of children.

As of February 7,304 ang nagpa-participate sa face-to-face school or 4.5 percent lamang ng 60,000 schools. Pero gaya po ng sinabi ni Secretary Briones ay may 6,000 schools na ‘yung candidate. So umakyat na ito sa 10 percent.

At marami pong benepisyo ang pagbukas ng face-to-face learning po, Mr. President. Una po, we will increase economic activity by 12 billion pesos per week kasi ‘yung mga serbisyo around the school like transport, dormitories, food stalls, school materials ay babalik at 40 percent po ng populasyon ay nag-aaral sa Pilipinas.

Pangalawa, we lost P11-trillion worth of productivity every year we do not have face-to-face schooling. So ‘pag two-full years ang walang face-to-face ay 22 trillion pesos ‘yung mawawala. Kaya po nating bawiin ‘yan ‘pag nagbukas na po tayo ng face-to-face schooling.

Pangatlo, ‘yung learning outcomes puwedeng mag-improve by 50 percent. Iyong aking anak na nasa Grade 1, ‘yung online class lang niya ay 2.5 hours per day pero ‘yung regular ay five hours. So iyan po ‘yung kayang ibalik ‘pag bumalik na ‘yung face-to-face schooling.

At ‘yung pang-apat, kahit po nag-Alert Level 1 tayo, one-fourth po ng ating mga magulang ay hindi nakakapasok full time kasi sila ay nakabantay sa tabi ng anak nila para mag-aral, tulad ko sa umaga.

So iyan po ‘yung benepisyo kung magbukas talaga ‘yung schools. At siyempre kailangan po natin ng kooperasyon ng schools, ng parents, at ng bawat isa sa atin.

Finally, Mr. President, may proposal po ang economic development cluster, ito po ‘yung 10-point policy para ma-accelerate and ma-sustain natin ‘yung economic growth.

We would like the Duterte Administration to end the term with strong --- stronger growth prospects at ‘yan po ‘yung puwede nating gamitin panlaban sa threats and risks na pumapasok sa atin dahil sa conflict sa Russia and Ukraine.

So ito pong 10-point policy agenda, nag-submit na po kami ng proposal to the Office of the President. It covers 10 areas para mapabilis at mapaganda po ‘yung takbo ng ekonomiya.

Iyong una po, ‘yung metrics, ‘yung pag-focus natin not on total cases kasi papunta na tayo sa more endemic paradigm, mag-focus tayo sa severe cases and deaths. Pangalawa, ‘yung tutok natin sa vaccination. Pangatlo, ‘yung siguraduhin natin ‘yng hospitals natin ay may kapasidad na mag-cater sa mga may sakit. Pang-apat, ‘yung economy and mobility, ginagawa na po natin, nasa Alert Level 1 na tayo.

Panlima po, ‘yung pagbukas ng face-to-face schooling. Pang-anim at pampito, ‘yung domestic and international travel malaki na ‘yung ginawa natin dito, kailangan lang natin palawakin, i-sustain at itaas ‘yung quota. Pangwalo po, ‘yung digital transformation. Ito po ay mahalaga dahil marami ng ginagawa online or digital. At pansiyam ay itong pandemic flexibility bill para kung sa susunod po may isa pang bagong pandemic ay handa tayo. Hindi tayo kakapusin ng pera at mayroon po tayong mga emergency supplies and nurses and health workers. At ‘yung pansampu, ‘yung medium term preparation for pandemic resilience. Parang itong itatrato nating calamity, parang bagyo o lindol o pagsabog ng bulkan na maaaring pabalik-balik ang virus. Pero kahit pabalik-balik ito ay handa po tayo.

So iyan po ‘yung proposal namin na 10-point policy agenda to accelerate and sustain growth. Para pagtapos po ng termino niyo, mahal na Pangulo, ay malakas na ekonomiya ang ipapamana natin sa susunod na administrasyon.

Iyan lang po. Maraming salamat.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you for the well-studied presentation. *[applause]*

SEC. CHUA: Salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Magaling, magaling talaga. And I’m sure that it is acceptable to everybody here not only ‘yang ordinaryong --- well, listening to a person in --- who knows his business but also because it’s really correct and naintindihan natin lahat kung anong nasabi mo.

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