

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

[03 May 2022]

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Good evening, my fellow Filipinos, my countrymen.

We are here again to make a report to you of what government has done and what government intends to do and what government wants to do including the citizens in the coming elections is just around the corner, about a week from now.

Still we are in the COVID-19. Complacency is really the — that would be the enemy of itong in the matter of preventing again or making — allowing the COVID-19 to come back. Sabagay not would be as serious as like before because bakunado na tayo at least tayong lahat.

Well, let me start with my — hindi ito it's I do not — this is not the purpose really of going there and making you be aware of what's happening but all of the things that we inaugurated the infrastructures of government because it has a special meaning to everybody. Last week, I went to Mactan sa Lapu-Lapu para well to celebrate the 501 Anniversary of the Battle of Mactan. Nanalo tayo doon o baka nakalimutan ninyo. It was a victory for and of the Filipino.

Then, pumunta ako sa isang lugar the Cordova Bridge that would link our — I mean not our but my home province Cebu with Mactan. And after that, the almost — a day after, I went to Pampanga sa San Fernando City to inaugurate the OFW Hospital. Itong hospital na ito para ito sa OFW to cater to the needs of the ating mga tinatawag na mga heroes. Hindi bago dati na 'yan silang heroes dati na 'yan nagtiis diyan magdu... Since two generations ago, marami na tayong Pilipino pumunta ng ibang bansa to work and to contribute to our national economy.

Iyong ano, eh 'yung binabayaran nila because they have to pay taxes also. And that's what keeping us afloat maybe just maybe na hanggang ngayon na ang ating mga kababayan nasa labas.

May ano ako doon may... You have the video clip of itong bridge pati itong OFW? It has a special meaning to the Filipinos. One is mobility and well that has been long coming. The second one is the hospital na pinaghirapan rin talaga ito ni Secretary Bello na maitayo for the OFWs kasi 'yun ang parang significance ng pagka-OFW niya dahil siya ang Secretary of Labor.

[Can we have the clip shown? Mayroon ba 'yan nakakasalita rin ako?]

Well, that's the Filipino flag. Iyong salute ko hindi daw tama kasi kalat 'yung... Iyan si Lapulapu tapos naglipad 'yung Air Force doon to honor Lapulapu, 501 years ago nag-ano sila ng ano sa Mactan si Magellan. Talo si Magellan doon, patay nga eh. Buti na lang walang

Spaniards doon, grabe ang yabang ko. Nandoon 'yung Spanish Ambassador? Ah wala na tayong magawa diyan, totoo 'man. Re-enactment. Kung ang mga kalaban mo ganoon kaganda matalo ka talaga. [*Di ba binigay sa akin 'yung --- ? Nadala ba 'yan sa Davao?*] That's the bridge that I inaugurated. It's a 9-kilometer, the longest bridge, mas maano pa ito — [*Ano bang tawag sa Tagalog diyan?*] — mas mahaba pa kaysa 'yung San Juanico. Ito 'yung sa — dito — ah 'yung gumawa ng si Pangilinan, 'yung gumawa ng bridge in consortium I think with the Spaniards, a Spanish company. Buti na lang hindi ko doon — doon sa isa, binira ko talaga sila. Iyan, [*applause*] that's a 9-kilometer... I congratulated heartily si Pangilinan. Nakita mo 'yung cross?

[*Technical, puwede ninyong i-rewind?*] Hindi nila napansin 'yung... I'm sure hindi napansin ng lahat 'yung... Dito sa OFW muna, eh tapusin muna natin ito. Ayan. That's when I signed the 'yung for the creation of a program to build a hospital. Ayan si Bebot. Interesado siya sa ospital. Marami siguro itong nakilala na OFW.

It's Governor Pineda; si Andrea sa PAGCOR. Ito 'yung sa Pampanga Provincial Hospital, again, breaking the ground. Hindi na tayo mabalik diyan, ilang ano na lang araw hindi na ako Presidente. Magbalik ako diyan pasyente na. [*laughter*] Si ma'am, nandoon si President Arroyo, she attended the ceremony.

Iyong sa ipinabalik ko kasi hindi mo makita sa araw 'yan, pero 'pag gabi may cross 'yan diyan, may cross 'yan diyan. It's about the time that Christianity was also planted in the Philippines.

We are --- from here we proceed to the --- with well, sandali lang, about the elections and the need to, you know, 'yung booster shots ninyo. It's still available at anybody can have it because it's election time. There will be a crowding again of people, congregating, and it would be good to have the booster shots before you go out and mix with the crowd.

Okay lang naman kasi 'pag mayroon ka na actually. Hindi naman sabihin --- it's not a 100 percent guarantee that there will be no re-infection but malayo. Kung mayroon man, talagang mahina 'yung ano mo, constitution mo, lalo na 'yung immune system mo. But if you are --- normal ka lang, hindi ka magsakit --- hindi ka masakitin, it can protect you and you can vote there without any --- sans the worry about getting an infection again.

This is because we will have our elections again, and I said, we will have an orderly, clean and honest election. I urge the government to be conscious of this because everybody would be working towards this end. I would emphasize that the military and the police focus on this event because we said we want an honest election.

My guarantee to the nation is that --- it's not really --- that it will happen or it can happen. But kaming nagtatrabaho sa gobyerno, sinasabi ko lang as President, I guarantee, kung guarantor ako, that we will do everything to ensure that the election is free from violence and that people are not intimidated in any way to exercise their right to vote and to choose whoever.

Towards this attaining the clean and honest election, the reason why I am not supporting any candidate, by inference or implied or a direct, wala ako. Huwag kayong maniwala diyan na kasi dahil ay nagpunta ako doon, that I raised the hand of some candidates, it does not include all because I do not know them.

The best guarantee is that hindi natin kilala, so that you --- tayo mismo, ako as President, it is my Constitutional duty also to see to it that everything, that the law, the rules are followed. Kaya ganoon.

That everybody is --- nagtatrabaho niya --- 'yung trabahuin niya, lalo na 'yang military pati pulis, because you know how elections always --- sometimes result. Well, you can choose your --- kung sino 'yung kandidato ninyo. Ulitin ko, eh may haka-haka palagi na ganito kasi -- - just because I've seen in the company of them, it's not that. As President, I have to go to where my duty mandates me to.

Pero ulitin ko, you better disabuse your minds about getting into guesses and assumptions. Wala. Wala akong kandidato pagka-presidente ngayon hanggang Disyembre para maano ninyo na wala kami, and even the Cabinet. Hindi ko naman sila pinagbabawalan but I requested the Cabinet at the start of --- 'yung itong Cabinet meetings natin na sinabi ko kung maaari lang kayo mag-remain neutral na lang rin. Kung may kandidato ka, just keep it to yourself and vote. But let us avoid endorsing any candidates so that there will be no second-guesses or implications that we are supporting this candidate or that candidate.

Kaya nga tayo dito inaasahan ng mga tao na tayo ang mag-guarantee ng peaceful election at towards that end, importante that you are freed of the suspicion that you are for this or for that. Kasi alam mo ang presidente is president and you know... Iyong mga senador mayroon ako and the local candidates, of course. Pero sa ibang ano, wala na. Maybe sa senador kasi may...

Alam mo sinasabi ko na sa inyo 'yung matagal na diyan at 'yung may nagdispalko ng pera sa gobyerno, hanggang ngayon hindi pa na... I am referring to Gordon. Kung hindi ang Presidente nag-ano ng --- hinukay 'yung ano niya, kaso niya, he would never pay the government of the 86 million that he malversed.

Walang... Tapos ngayon, siya pa 'yung holier than thou. Siya na 'yung may kasalanan, siya na ang may utang, tapos pati ako dadamayin niya. Hoy, Gordon, kung gusto ko talagang magyaman, matagal na. A thousand times over the opportunities for me to go to corruption and make money. Wala ako niyan kaya ako walang talo. Kaya nga ako ang na-Presidente, ikaw hindi eh. Tigas ng ulo mo.

You want the best evidence. Why? Eh ako na-Presidente, ikaw? Hanggang sige ka lang ng reelection nang reelection. Ganda pa ng cemetery mo. You really have prepared a good garden para...

Pwera 'yung ano sa pamilya mo, 'yung namatay na, patawad na lang. But you know, you have a descendant here who's stupid and... Sila 'yung may pera may - umutang ng pera sa gobyerno. Hindi utang, nag-ano sila, naghiram government funds and no - sa kanya walang accounting. Eh may nag - sa accounting niya hindi naman tinanggap ng COA, dinisallow (disallow).

Kung dinisallow ng COA, ibig sabihin niyan hindi mo ginastos sa tamang paraan 'yung pera. That is why when the notice of disallowance is - you are supposed to pay back government. But you, nag-appeal ka hanggang Supreme Court. The COA was sustained - the findings of the COA was sustained and so you were ordered by the Supreme Court. Kaya nakita mo pati Supreme Court hindi mo... You don't follow even the - ikaw, abugado ka and you are

supposed to honor the whatever decisions of the Supreme Court may decide even against yourself.

Gordon, pay the P86 million. Otherwise, sabihan ko ang Pilipino ngayon P86 million ng pera ninyo dinispalko ni Gordon four years ago. Hindi ito pampulitika. I am just telling the people, Filipino people that huwag ninyong botohan 'yang... Sus 'yang corruption, Diyos ko po.

Sabi ko nga kung pumasok ako diyan, katabi na sana tayo ng bahay. Saan ka ba nakatira? Forbes Park o — ? Magaganda 'yung bahay ninyo, magaganda 'yung subdivisions ninyo. Kung may pera lang sana ako, 'di mayroon rin akong bahay dito. G*** ka. 'Di ko nga mapagawa-gawa 'yung bahay ko doon sa... Well anyway, 'pag nanalo ako sa sweeps – ah ano 'yun, lotto.

In connection with lotto, ganito ang nangyari. Lotto is good until now because there is not much of any objections or maybe things that would come up that would create a problem for government and for the ordinary Filipino.

But itong e-sabong, I will sign the papers which would consist one, actually, pero it was not – it was just a verbal order given by me to Secretary Año to conduct a survey kung ano talaga the impact, the social impact of e-sabong upon the Filipino people.

So ginawa ni sekretaryo ang trabaho niya and he reported and validated 'yung naririnig ko. Iyong amin lang man sana buwis lang ang hinahabol namin dito. Sinabi ko na sa inyo 640 million is 640 million.

But may naririnig na ako loud enough, loud and very clear to me that it was working against the – our values, and 'yung impact sa pamilya pati sa tao. Eh ang labas na hindi na natutulog 'yung mga sabungero 24 hours. That was the first objection that I've heard from somebody. I think it was coming from a congressman na sobra ito sa... Sabi ko, *"Well, para may pera ako, paano ko maaabot 'yung bilyon-bilyon kung hindi ko ganunin?"* Tapos sabi niya, *"Eh problema 24 oras."*

Iyon nga pinag-aralan ni Secretary Año and he conducted a survey through his office. Ang DILG is malawak eh. Hanggang doon sa baryo may DILG na ano so cellphone-cellphone lang naman 'yan.

It's not might be a sophisticated survey but still it is a survey. And the recommendation of Secretary Año is to do away with e-sabong and he cited the validation report of – coming from all sources. So it's his recommendation and I agree with it and it is good. So e-sabong will end by tonight o bukas. Lalabas ito bukas.

Now, there are two events also that's being awaited by almost all of the government units and particularly 'yung – the whole of the nation actually about the next PNP chief kasi magre-retire na si Carlos, kung sinong papalit.

Mayroon akong listahan binigay niya, pero sabi niya kung maaari lang sabay na lang doon sa signing na ano, not here. But it will be made public tomorrow. I will review the whole iyong recommendation pati 'yung ano ang nagawa nila, iyong the whole of the mga biodata ng mga contenders and their previous – the history of their previous na trabaho nila sa gobyerno. So iyon 'yan bukas.

Pero 'yung e-sabong umpisahan ninyo ngayon but leave it to Secretary Año kung kailan niya – it might be tomorrow or at least by tomorrow night or tomorrow in the afternoon 'pag na ano na 'yan because it is immediate, immediately. Siya 'yung gumawa ng survey. He gave me the recommendation and siya 'yung mag- ano, mag-announce because the PNP is under him. Lyon lang siguro ang mabalita ko. But ang tao takot kung sino ang – hindi takot sa ano. He must be a – one with a track record of performance.

Balikan ko lang uli kasi, you know, ang Pilipinas kasi we have a history of medyo magulo talaga para ang election. So binabantayan nila kung sino 'yung maging PNP chief.

I assure you that I will act upon the recommendation of ni ano rin ni – this time kay Año pa rin, kay Secretary Año. Kung ano ang recommendation niya, 'yun ang masusunod.

I do not sign the – at sa dito sa taas I seldom, very seldom – you can count into the fingers of your hands the number of times that I acted on my own without the recommendation of the respective departments kung saan 'yung problema nakadikit. Lyon lang siguro.

Then we have a... Let's go to kay – *[Okay ka pa, sir? May binabasa ka 'no sa...? Akala ko may binabasa ka pa sa...]* Let's go to Secretary Duque. Updates lang, sir.

DOH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III: Quickly na lang, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Overview lang —

SEC. DUQUE: Overview lang.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: — kasi sitwa-sitwasyon lang eh.

SEC. DUQUE: Yes, sir. So 'yung – *[Can we have the first slide?]*

Magandang gabi po, Mr. President, Senator Bong Go, ES Medialdea, and fellow Cabinet members.

For this week, ito po ang akin report covering April 26 to May 2, mayroon po tayong naidagdag na 1,373 cases down from 1,509 from previous week. Ang atin pong naitala ngayong araw is 188 cases and the daily average cases about 196. At sa 1,373 na ito, ang atin pong karagdagang kaso, 573 ay mula sa NCR, 180 naman po sa Region IV-A, 110 sa Region III, and 510 sa natitirang mga rehiyon.

At sa araw na ito wala naman naidagdag na severe and critical case sa talaan habang 216 ang bilang ng mga verified deaths para sa linggong ito. Ang current cumulative case fatality rate ay nasa 1.64, and ang atin pong community recovery rate ay umabot na po sa 98.2 percent at ang atin pong positivity rate bumaba ng bahagya to 1.2 percent and our po --- 7-day moving average daily test, 20,448.

At ganoon din po, Mr. President, ang non-ICU bed natin sa 16.3 percent. Samantalang ang ICU bed utilization, 16.1 percent. So ang halos less than 20 percent ang atin pong

okupadong mga kama at ang atin pong severe, critical admissions ay nasa 723 out of the 5,386 total admissions equivalent to 13.4 percent severe, critical admissions.

Ito naman po 'yung atin updates on the emerging Omicron sub-variants in Asia, Europe, and Africa. Ito pong nakitaan sa atin 'yung BA.2.12 ay nakita po ito sa India noong Enero at nandito na po na-detect na po ito. Marami na rin po sa mga ibang bansa ang mayroon nitong BA.2.12 na Omicron sub-variant.

Ang BA.2.3 previously tagged as BA.2, mayroon din pong nakitaan sa Pilipinas niyan pero unang nakita po ito sa January 2021 sa Slovakia at ganoon din ay nakita rin sa maraming mga bansa. At 'yung mga iba naman ang XE, ang BA.4, BA.5, and BA.2.12.1, wala pa ho tayong nakikita sa Pilipinas. Pero tuloy-tuloy ho ang bio genomic sequencing ng Philippine Genome Center or PGC at sila po ang gumagabay sa atin kung ano na ba ang mga pagbabago or mutations na nagaganap sa Omicron.

At iyon na nga po gaya ng nasabi ko kanina, mayroon na tayong BA.2.12 at saka 'yung BA.2.3. Pero wala naman pong conclusive evidence to show na mayroon pong naging mas malubha, pagpapakita o ebidensiya na mas malubha itong mga natukoy na sub-variants ng Omicron. Ngunit kinikilala na mayroon pong mga 20 percent more or less --- 10 to 20 percent na more transmissible.

But in terms of immune escape o 'yung kakayanan na makalusot doon sa proteksiyong taglay ng mga bakuna ay hindi rin po ito sapat ang datos kaya patuloy po na ang mga scientists and researchers ay pinag-aaralan po ito based on those three parameters of transmissibility, severity, and immune escape.

So hinihikayat namin ang lahat na kumpletuhin ang atin pong primary series at magpa-booster na kung eligible. Ang mga bakuna po ang magproprotekta sa atin laban sa mga sub-variants ng Omicron at ang mga bahagyang pagtaas ng kaso na atin pong nakikita sa iba't ibang lugar.

Higit sa lahat, samantalahin natin ang libreng mga bakuna. Pumunta na po sa mga vaccination centers sa lalong madaling panahon. Huwag mag-aantay na magkaroon ng surge bago magpabakuna dahil kapagka ganoon ang nangyari, mahaba na naman ang pila, puno na naman po ang mga vax sites. Ang mga doktor at mga nurses at mga vaccinators po natin ay puntahan din naman ng mga hospital dahil kung may surge ang mga tao ay takbuhan nila ang mga ospital. So kakaunti na naman ang ating mga vaccinators, so mas hahaba ang pila, mas pupuno ang mga vaccination sites.

Samantalang ngayon, napaka maluwa --- ang luwag-luwag ngayon, Mr. President. Wala halos --- walang --- kakaunti lang ang nagpabakuna.

So ngayon po... Next slide po natin ay ang mga paalala during the Eid'l Fitr and ito pong parating na halalan sa Mayo a-nwebe. At gusto namin batiin, sa ngalan po ninyo, Mr. President, Eid Mubarak ang atin pong mga kababayang Muslim sa pagtatapos ng Ramadan.

Habang tayo po ay nagdiriwang, atin din pakatandaan ang minimum public health standards upang tayo'y magkaroon ng ligtas na pagdiriwang ang ating mga pamilya, kaibigan, at iba pang mga mahal sa buhay.

So reminder ulit, 'yung ating bida, magsuot ng well-fitted na mask, maghugas at mag-sanitize ng mga kamay or hand hygiene, siguraduhing maayos ang ventilation or adequate airflow, at siyempre and magpabakuna at magpa-booster. So huwag po natin kalimutan ito.

[Next slide. Last two slides.]

Iyong --- nagpapasalamat po sa ngalan po ng ating mga public health emergen --- public health workers dahil po nilagdaan ninyo, Mr. President, 'yung Health Emergency Allowance or Benefits for the Health Care Workers ang RA No. 11712. At ito pong mga rates na ito ng ating health emergency allowance, nakabase po sa risk exposure classification kung saan naka-assign ang healthcare workers at kung nasa high risk exposure ay makakatanggap po ng 9,000; 6,000 para sa medium risk; at 3,000 naman po para sa nasa low risk.

At maliban sa health emergency allowance, may matatanggap din na sickness and death compensation ang atin pong healthcare workers and non-healthcare workers katulad din ng compensation na natatanggap ng mga atin pong mga frontliners. Ang kanilang beneficiary, mayroon pong matatanggap kung namatayan ang pamilya nang matatanggap po na 1 million para po doon sa namatayan na pamilya para po doon sa healthcare worker; samantalang P100,000 naman sa mga magkakaroon ng severe or critical case; at 15,000 para sa mild or moderate case. Ito ay dapat matanggap sa loob ng hindi lalagpas sa tatlong buwan mula sa petsa ng confinement o pagkamatay upon submission of complete and compliant documentary requirements.

Ito po, Mr. President, ang pagkilala sa mga walang --- hindi matumbasan na sakripisyo ng atin pong mga health... Ang DOH po, Mr. President, nanalo na naman ng ating World Health Organization Western Pacific Innovation Challenge. At ito po ay isang behavioral design sa mga naitampok na panalo para sa kauna-unahang Innovation Challenge ng WHO Western Pacific Region. At mahigit- kumulang 400 public health innovators ang sumali sa kauna-unahan pong WHO Western Pacific Innovation Challenge. At isa ang programa ng DOH na Mission Wellness at sa mga napiling nanalo, ang programang ito ay naglalayong matulungan ang ating mga healthcare workers na mas maging mentally healthy sa tulong ng ating mga wellness tools.

And finally, bilang pagbubuod. Una, ang Regions IV-B, V, and VIII, although nasa positive two-week growth rate and moderate risk, ang kasalukuyan naman kapag ka ibinangga ang two-week growth rate sa kanyang average daily attack rate, ang katumbas po ay low risk pa rin ang kanyang classification.

At ang naitalang bahagyang pagtaas ng mga kaso ay hindi pa nakakaapekto. Malayo pa po ito sa ating healthcare utilization rate ng bansa maging sa mga rehiyon na nananatiling low risk or low healthcare utilization rate.

Pangalawa, hinihikayat namin ang lahat na palaging sumunod sa ating minimum public health standards, magpabakuna, magpa-booster, lalo na sa atin pong pagdiriwang ng Eid'l Fitr at pagdalo ng darating na eleksyon.

So iyon na lamang po ang huling bahagi ng akin pong pag-uulat at handa na po akong sumagot sa inyo pong mga katanungan.

Salamat po, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Salamat, Secretary Duque.

Now, we go to the updates on face-to-face classes, and vaccination and others. I'd call on Mrs. --- Secretary Leonor Briones to do the reporting.

DEPED SECRETARY LEONOR BRIONES: Mr. President, a while ago, some of us who were waiting here had a small discussion also on the issues and so I will limit myself in the interest of time to just one slide, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, ma'am.

SEC. BRIONES: So I would like to show the third slide, the one after.

[Next. Next. That one. Update, no, back to the... That one.]

Updates on the face-to-face classes. Right now, Mr. President, we have 25,668 public schools which are already conducting face-to-face classes. This is 56.89 percent of the total number of public schools. So more than one half na tayo.

On the other hand, this is a challenge to us, Mr. President, is that there are 676 private schools ang nag-open ng face-to-face. It is ironic that at the height of the debates on face-to-face schooling, there were many crowd demands for face-to-face.

But now that you have approved it, ang private schools have only 676 private schools opening face-to-face. So ngayon, on na 'yung face-to-face. More than one half --- 50 percent sa public schools pero sa private schools, 5.47 percent lamang. So ito 'yung challenge. All in all, that makes 26,344 schools.

Ngayon, in terms of learners naman, mga estudyante, ang nai-involve sa public schools, Mr. President, na face-to-face na kumbaga as I always joke, "fes-to-fes" na sila, ay 5,948,640 learners na. More than five million na.

And sa private schools naman ang nanggagaling ay 226,991 learners. So at present, Mr. President, we have 6,175,631 learners na nagfi-face-to-face. More than one half na. And at the rate that learners are enrolling, especially in the private school, we are confident, and we are targeting, and this is a suggested target of Secretary Duque, if we can reach 75 percent, that would already be acceptable. The challenge, Mr. President, is iyong private schools kasi makita natin na out of about 16,000 private schools, we only have 676 private schools which are now on face-to-face in spite of the fact that they were quite active in demanding face-to-face.

Secretary Vince a while ago, talked to the private schools and he can share with you the possible reasons why they are not actively opening their schools together with Secretary Duque, and perhaps, this is the challenge right now.

Walang problema sa public schools kasi the minute ma-assess ang isang region or isang place na Level 1 or 2, automatic 'yan face-to-face kaagad. Pero ang sa private schools, of course, decisions nila 'yun.

And so we are now aggressively endeavoring to convince them to open at this time because 16,000 sila. This is only five percent, Mr. President, compared to sa public, 56 percent.

Tapos all in all, Mr. President, lahat-lahat na, lahat na teachers natin na 947,000, ang ating staff, et cetera, 93 percent na ang level ng full vaccination. So halos lahat ng staff natin sa DepEd ay fully vaccinated na with this kind of numbers.

Thank you, Mr. President, and perhaps Vince and Secretary Duque can join the conversation.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE VIVENCIO “VINCE” DIZON:

With the permission of Secretary Briones and Secretary Duque, Mr. President, Secretary Briones is correct.

Right now, the challenge is really to convince the public --- private schools to already engage in face-to-face. However, as articulated by the Secretary of Education, there is some resistance from the private schools 'no.

And upon some consultation conducted earlier this evening, it seems that it is a mix of various reasons and the most compelling of which is that some parents in the private schools seemed to --- are still quite apprehensive about getting their children go back to face-to-face classes 'no, which of course is the right of every parent, Mr. President.

However, I think government, in service of the greater public good, I think we discussed that maybe it is good for the IATF, of which DepEd is a member, to issue a resolution strongly encouraging private schools to go back to face-to-face as soon as possible.

Although there are — we acknowledge that there are various modes right now being employed such as blended learning or complete online learning, we feel and the Department of Education feels that — supported by the Department of Health — that it is time to already go back to face-to-face classes.

And the IATF I think in its next meeting, most likely as guided by our chairman, will issue such a strong endorsement or a strong encouragement for private schools in particular to go back to face-to-face classes.

Sa public school naman po kasi, Mr. President, as clearly we are already on track to reach — we are already at 60 percent nationwide and this will just keep on growing in the next few months.

Anyway, Mr. President, the school year is about to end in a month, if I am not mistaken. And the new school year will start in August 'no for most schools. So siguro po we can push that and obviously the next administration will take over in about two months' time, and hopefully, will continue with that push for face-to-face classes upon the resumption of the new school year in August.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SEC. DUQUE: Mr. President, if I may also manifest.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, go ahead.

SEC. DUQUE: Remember in our last “Talk to the People” meeting in Davao last week, you very clearly stated that you would like that the students already begin to attend school or face-to-face classes but with the condition that you said during that time, magpaineaksiyon na doon ng kanilang vaccine which is a very, very good suggestion, Mr. President. And so we have already articulated this to Secretary Briones so that we can ramp up the relatively low vaccine coverage for the students in the basic education sector.

So iyon po gagawin natin, sir. Pagka um-attend sila, parang ‘yung dati noong mga bata tayo, ineksiyunan na tayo nung mga kanilang infirmery ng mga iba’t ibang bakuna like measles, ‘yung sa polio. So gagawin din natin ‘to for COVID for the basic learners from five to 11 years of age, Mr. President. Iyon lang po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you.

SEC. DIZON: Mr. President, just to add lang po very quickly. Secretary Galvez, in fact, has already given the instruction to make the vaccines available for all the schools ‘no. Meaning, we can immediate --- we have the supply, we have about 15 million doses for the vaccines for pediatrics, for five to 11, are already in country. We have about remaining --- about 10 million doses in stock. So we have the vaccines po and this can be easily deployed to all our schools for our children.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You know, iyong OCTA Research, in a survey nila 83 percent of the entire Filipino people gave us a whooping 83 percent of them believed in the soundness of the vaccine program. And to get that number is good enough to make us happy. Eighty-three percent is a high percentage.

Well, may itanong lang ako sa iyo. Why do these broadsheets — mga newspaper ba, the broadsheets, itong national — bakit mayroong isa doon nagba — ? I had a late breakfast kanina and nabasa ko hindi agad ko nakinig sa balita eh, nagdiretso ako sa newspaper. Bakit naka-banner pa rin ‘yung headline na surge, surge somewhere?

May isang newspaper ngayon, I forgot, mayroon --- mayroon pa rin ‘yan silang --- why do they have to really come up with something that is not alarming but almost a source of irritation for all of us? When as a matter of fact, we have the --- well, at least, the accurate. Bakit hindi sila magtanong sa...? I --- I will --- I’ll give you a call tomorrow, I will review the newspaper. May isa naka-banner talaga about surge.

SEC. DUQUE: Sir, nakita ko rin ‘yun, sir. Sabi magkakaroon ng surge possibly after election.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Oo, ganoon.

SEC. DUQUE: Qualified naman, sir, if the minimum public health standards are violated, are not complied with, they project that there will be a surge. Although in the qualifying subsequent statement, it’s very clear ‘no na hindi naman ‘yan absolute na talagang magkaka-surge. But kung hindi susunod ang tao, in fact, the faster modeling group has projected that if the reduction in the minimum compliance to the minimum public health

standards, 'yung 30 percent reduction will be equivalent to 300,000 active cases by the end of May this month.

So it is also a good reminder. Although it is sometimes a source of irritation for us but it is also good because people are told that if you are careless, if you are reckless with your compliance with wearing of the mask, you're gonna get sick, you're gonna be hit by this evolving or emerging sub-variants of Omicron. Eh ang problema natin dito, the biggest challenge here, Mr. President, is the virus is so unpredictable. You do not know which bend it's going to turn. So iyon po ang problema.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ang importante a stronger one.

SEC. DUQUE: Hopefully hindi naman sana stronger.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Mutants eh.

SEC DUQUE: Oo, nagmu-mutate po siya but the WHO has not recognized them as variants of interest nor as variants of concern. They still are treated as Omicron variant. And luckily, we have had the surge with BA.2. --- BA.2.2 in January, predominantly that was the variant that caused our spike in January. And hopefully that with our increasing vaccination coverage, we have a much higher level of protection, Mr. President. So that we hope that these low numbers are sustained and we will not see any overwhelming of our health systems capacity. Which at the end of the day, Mr. President, kahit na tumaas, 'wag po tayong masyadong magwo-worry kahit na sumipa ang mga kaso basta 'yung hospitalization rate mababa, sir, okay tayo, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. Now, we go to now to the house-to-house vaccination. The obedience to the minimum public health standards and illegal drugs. Secretary Año would give us the report.

DILG SECRETARY EDUARDO AÑO: Magandang gabi po, Mr. President; Executive Secretary Bingbong Medialdea; Senator Bong Go; fellow Cabinet secretaries; mga kababayan, magandang gabi po.

Ang una ko pong iuulat, Mr. President, ay 'yung ginawang house-to-house campaign vaccination ng ating mga local government units. Sa nakaraang report po ay aking iniulat na mayroon pong 792 na cities and municipalities ang kasalukuyang nagpapatupad ng house-to-house vaccinations. At nakuha na po, sa tulong ng Department of Health ang datos na nagsasabing nakapagbakuna sila ng umabot ng 1,481,683 doses. Pinagsama-sama na po ito ang first, second, and first booster. Mayroon na ring umabot ng second booster.

Bigyan po natin ng commendation ang Region VII na nakapagbabakuna ng 407,019; ang Region XI naman ay 230,940; at ang Region VI naman ay umabot sa 125,429. Ito ay patunay na epektibo at malaking tulong sa ating kababayan na nakatira sa mga liblib na lugar na maka-avail ng ating bakuna. Atin pong ipagpapatuloy ang house-to-house vaccination para lalo pang maabot ang mga lugar na hindi pa nababakunahan.

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Dito naman po sa recorded violations ng community health protocols. Last week po ay labis tayong nabahala sa pagtaas ng recorded violation ng health protocols kaya muli tayong naghigpit at nanawagan sa lahat na sumunod sa minimum public health standard.

At nagpapasalamat naman tayo sa pagtugon ng publiko sapagkat muling bumaba ang violation ng hindi pagsusuot ng mask. Mula 84,969 ay bumaba na lamang ito sa 30,154. Gayundin naman sa mass gathering, from 724 ay bumaba na lang ng 220. At dito naman sa violation ng physical distancing, mula 9,057 ay naging 2,168. Ang atin pong depensa sa COVID surge ay ang tuloy-tuloy na pagbabakuna kasama ang pagbo-boost at ang pagsunod sa minimum public health standard or protocols.

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Sa atin naman pong kampanya laban sa iligal na droga, Mr. President. Sa nakaraang linggo po ay nakapag-conduct tayo ng 1,000 --- I mean, nakapag-conduct po tayo ng 44 operations at 797 po ang nag-appear. Nakapag-aresto po tayo ng 1,135 na iba't iba, mga drug pusher, at mayroon pong anim na nasawi sa naturang mga anti-illegal drug operation.

Sa kabuuan Mr. President, sa nakaraang linggo ay estimated value ng shabu at marijuana ay umaabot ng P158,867,117. Tuloy-tuloy lamang po ang ating kampanya sa anti-illegal drugs.

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Ito naman po ang talaan ng ating mga effort na ginagawa para po sa parating na halalan. Mayroon po tayong 500 --- I mean, 5,224 COMELEC checkpoints at nakapag-deploy ng 40,208.

Sa ngayon po ay umabot na ng 2,813 ang mga reported gun ban violations at nakapag-aresto ng 2,934, kasama na po ang pagkumpiska ng 2,241 firearms and 1,070 deadly weapons.

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Ito po ay importante para po sa ating mga kababayan na boboto sa Mayo 9. Nitong nakaraang linggo ay nagkasundo ang COMELEC, DepEd, DOH, DND at ang DILG na magtulungan sa pagtatayo ng mga isolation polling places sa araw ng eleksyon.

Ang IPP ay ilalaan para sa mga botanteng makakaramdam ng sintomas ng COVID-19 tulad ng lagnat, sipon, at ubo. Naniniwala ang pamahalaan na hindi dapat maging hadlang ang COVID-19 o ang mga indibidwal na nakararamdam ng tinatawag na COVID-like symptoms sa kanilang pakikiisa sa araw ng halalan.

At sa pinirmahang multilateral memorandum agreement ng limang ahensiya ng pamahalaan, sisiguraduhin ng pamahalaan na paiigtingin ang pagsunod sa minimum public health and safety protocols ayon sa direktiba ng IATF upang mapangalagaan ang karapatan ng bawat isa na makaboto ng ligtas sa COVID at anumang karamdaman na dulot ng mainit na panahon.

Bukod sa responsibilidad din ng DILG sa multilateral memorandum agreement, obligasyon din ng kagawaran na bantayan at tulungan ang lokal na pamahalaan upang maging maayos ang kanilang preparasyon sa darating na Lunes.

Inatasan natin ang bawat LGU na magbuo ng medical help desk sa bawat polling precinct na siyang tututok sa isolation polling places at siguraduhing operational ang mga barangay health emergency response teams or BHERTs. Dapat ay naka-standby ang mga BHERTs sakaling kailanganin ng COMELEC ng dagdag na manpower kapag hindi pa tapos --- habang hindi pa tapos ang botohan.

Kailangan din makipag-ugnayan ang mga LGUs sa mga ospital na malapit sa voting precincts para sa mabilis na koordinasyon sakaling kailanganin ang kanilang serbisyo para tugunan ang anumang medical emergencies at COVID-related admissions.

Ngunit paalala ng kagawaran sa lahat ng publiko na huwag sasamantalain ang mga libreng serbisyong medikal na handog ng gobyerno sa araw ng halalan. Ang IPP at ang medical help desk ay para sa mamamayan at hindi dapat maging bahagi ito ng pangangampanya.

Mr. President, naka-ready na po ang DILG at iba pang mga ahensiya para sa darating na halalan para siguraduhing magkakaroon tayo ng orderly, peaceful, and honest election. Iyan lamang po, Mr. President, magandang gabi po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Secretary Año, sir, may tanong lang po ako. I don't know if I'm --- talagang hanggang ngayon hindi ko pa alam, this is about some policemen and military men being arrested in checkpoints. Eh hinihingi pa ba nila ng --- 'yung clearance, the clearance are given by the Commission on Elections?

SEC. AÑO: Yes, Mr. President. Dapat po ang ating mga kasundaluan din ay mayroong tinatawag po na gun ban exemption. Ito naman po ay in-apply ng ating Armed Forces at PNP in bulk sa COMELEC at na-grant naman po. So isolated incident na lang naman po 'yung mga nahuhuli na mayroon pong dala-dalang armas na walang gun ban exemption.

Pero sa pagtupad po ng tungkulin, kapag ang isang sundalo naman ay nakauniporme at siya ay nandito po sa kanyang area of operation or area of responsibility ay hindi naman po 'yan hinuhuli sapagkat mayroon po namang kaukulang mission order 'yan galing sa commander ng kanyang unit po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, kasi getting individually clearances from the COMELEC is really a bad idea. Kasi po some policemen are assigned in an area different from where he is attuned to there or he lives outside of the area of his jurisdiction or assignment, papauwi ng bahay.

Now, eh minsan itong mga ano hindi --- minsan nahuhuli. Iyong the travails that one has to go to secure a permit and everything... Alam mo dapat sa batas, I'm suggesting to everyone, pagka --- if you are a duly-appointed military man or if you are there in the roster of soldiers and the police, eh automatic na 'yan sana except members lalo na... Tatala wala namang sinali diyan na he's exempt from everything whether or not he does something stupid or unlawful. Eh kung miyembro ka ng military pati pulis, automatic na sana 'yan.

I'm just advising COMELEC through this program. Kasi it is my stand na mahirapan kasi ang isang pulis to secure whatever clearance is needed in the bringing of his handgun or rifle, for that matter, if he is a soldier or a policeman. Kasi there would be no time minsan --- sa pagkapulis mo pati pagka-military during elections that you are near the clearing authority na makahingi ka ng certificate of whatever.

This is a bad ano. Alam mo you have to concede to the organization and to the soldier and policeman himself na there's supposed a COMELEC clearance, it's a material. He's supposed to do what is right and what is his duty.

And this thing about travelling, and you have to get a permit that you live in one province or another city tapos wala kang panahon magkuha ng --- or the process becomes tedious, you have to go to a certain office in the organization just to get the proper... Dapat eh tanggalin na nila 'yan.

So there has to be a maturity even in our laws na ano. Dapat talaga automatic na sana 'yan. That's just my --- 'yung ano ko sa --- being --- having been mayor for many years. Iyon ang problema ko noon hinuhuli.

Kaya --- hindi naman ako nagagalit sa COMELEC but tinatawagan ko sila, sinasabi ko, doon sa Davao, 'pag ang pulis may maipakita 'yan na mission order or that he is a member of the PNP or with an --- whatever branch of service in the military, 'yun na 'yun. Huwag ka nang maghingi ng iba kasi ang trabaho talaga nila is to maintain law and order, whether it is election time or not.

Walang ano 'yan eh. At bakit lang sa panahon sa election? You know elections here are --- a hate game sa for some politicians. After the elections, there are still the possibility of violence before, during, and after a certain period. So it's not time to be imposing so many requirements.

I know for sure that it is not under the constitution because if that --- if it's included in this constitution, then that provision is stupid and should be removed from the books of our statutes. Paano...? Hindi maganda. It's just... Eh ang pulis talaga kung talagang manggulo 'yan, malasing, mag-inom 'yan maski ano 'pag -- eh 'yung nalasing na 'yan paputok na.

We have our last speaker for tonight. And I'd give you until four o'clock in the morning, it's still 2:30. It's too early for us to go home. Si Sir Galvez, sir.

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

Nagpapasalamat po kami kay Secretary Año sa pagtutulong po sa ating vaccination sa house-to-house. Kung makikita po natin – nakikita natin ‘yung DILG at saka mga DOH, tingnan po natin binabagtas po ‘yung mga ilog at ito po nagtutulak pa po hanggang sa gubat, and then ito po umaakyat pa po sa mga bangin. Nakita po natin talagang nagha-house-to-house po sila, and maraming salamat po, Secretary Año.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sir, palagay ko ang makakuha ng Yamashita treasure si Secretary Año. *[laughter]*

SEC. GALVEZ: Opo, opo. Maraming salamat po, Secretary Año. At ibabalita rin po natin ‘yung significant contributions ng ating private sector, Mr. President, dahil kasi malapit na pong matapos ang ating administrasyon. Gusto rin nating pasalamatan, sir, ‘yung mga private sector po na tumulong po sa atin.

[Next slide, please.]

Mr. President, we have already received a total of 245,234,160 doses of vaccines and we have already administered 146, 869,397 doses as of today. At present po, mayroon po tayong nasa stock na 98,364,763 doses that are still available to be administered.

In terms of individuals, there are 72,690, 959 individuals who have at least one dose of vaccine while there are 67,911, 464 individuals who are already fully vaccinated.

Mr. President, with these numbers, we are calling those who haven’t taken their vaccines or boosters to be vaccinated because we want the incoming elections on Monday not just an honest and orderly but also safe from COVID-19.

We are very competent and also ready, Mr. President, since 94 percent of the 18 to 59 years old are already vaccinated and for the 60 years old and above, we have already 80 percent fully vaccinated.

Mayroon pa po tayong isang linggo para manawagan sa ating mga kababayan na mga hindi pa nababakunahan, magpabakuna na po tayo at magpa-booster na po para sigurado ang ating eleksyon ay ligtas sa COVID.

Dahan-dahan na rin po nadadagdagan ang pagbu-booster shot. We have at least 13, 231, 64[3] doses that have already been administered. However, we are aiming to increase it further.

Since our rollout of the fourth dose last week, we have recorded 7,430 doses that have been administered as of today.

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It can be seen in this graph that our monthly vaccination output is continuously declining since December last year since our cases of COVID-19 begin to improve. So nagkakaroon po talaga ng complacency ang ating mga kababayan.

Initially, we had an issue on supply during the first and third quarter last year. But now, since February when the election period started and our cases continued to decline, we have an acute demand problem. So we really need to increase our demand.

But despite of the slowing down of vaccination output, but due to high vaccination coverage – *[next slide please]* – eight out of 17 provinces – 17 regions are now in Alert Level 1; and 42 provinces out of 81 are now also in Alert Level 1; and only two cities are in Alert Level 2. So ito po ‘yung ano po natin na almost 37 cities na po out of 39; and then we have 151 municipalities from those provinces that have not been deescalated under Alert Level 1.

[Next slide, please.]

So ito po ‘yung mga 42 province on Alert Level 1: four in Region CAR; four in Region I; five in Region II; seven in Region III; and then also four in Region IV-A; three in Region 4-B; two in Region 5; four in Region VI; one in Region VII; three in Region VIII; four in Region X; and one in CARAGA; and none in BARMM areas.

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Sir, kung titingnan po natin, ito po ‘yung 24 na provinces na hindi pa po nagkakaroon ng 70 percent coverage. So mayroon po tayong 18 provinces na above 50; and then mayroon po tayong six provinces na above 60; and then we also have six provinces below 50 percent. So ito po ang tinututukan po natin, ‘yung below 50 percent po.

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We will go now to the specific major contributions of our private sector because we believe that the national government cannot do it alone. With that, from the start of the pandemic, our testing capacity significantly increased from a single RITM test lab to more than 300 laboratories and most of them came from the private labs.

We have now more or less 179 private laboratories that have been operated by the private companies. And we would like to thank Sec. Vince who really – the testing czar – who really made it possible that from 1,000 tests, now we have more than able to have 76,000 tests.

Second is we have also the procurement and donation of million of sets of PPEs during the time that we are --- in dire need of the PPEs wherein more or less 37 healthcare workers and doctors have died from COVID-19. So the donation of millions of PPEs also increased the confidence of the healthcare workers to do their job and save more lives.

Another outstanding contribution of the private sector is the massive construction of the isolation facilities and mobilization of private hospitals, medical clinics, and treatment of COVID cases and vaccination. We also, again, thank Sec. Vince for his orchestration of this construction.

And then also we have the procurement of the high-flow cannula. And also, Mr. Ramon Ang have given the Cebu healthcare workers 1 million insurance package for the healthcare workers. Because during those times, we are very in dire need of the healthcare workers and no one is really applying for --- for ano --- for the job. So with that, the San Miguel Corporation offered 1 million insurance package for healthcare workers.

And then lastly, the weekly T3 Forum meeting provided us the broader perspective on the global and regional conflicts of COVID response and vaccination. That is why we were able to garner 83 percent for the government and the President Duterte's administration COVID response rating during the OCTA Research survey.

[Next slide, please.]

Just to highlight some of the private sector's laudable collective contribution, first, the T3-Boston Consulting Group Logistics Summit conducted year-end of 2020 was very beneficial and gave us the perspective on what we need to prepare in protecting and preserving our vaccines.

Second, the Tripartite Agreement is also one of its kind which gained confidence to our people that we have enough vaccines that will be procured.

Third, we have the Pepot Miñana's model which gave us an experience that nothing is impossible when we work together as a team. Pepot Miñana is a Jollibee supply chain expert that teaches us how to vaccinate more than 100,000 in NCR a day.

Fourth is Ma'am Margot's and other comms contribution with the "Ingat-Angat" --- Ingat Bakuna Lahat Series. It has greatly improved our public awareness of our vaccination programs and reduced hesitancy. Ma'am Margot is the McDonald's communication expert.

And then the isolation facilities and mega vax sites that were constructed and the most hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies that were converted into vaccination sites is one of the most significant contributions of the private sector. Most significant of which is the contribution also of SM Malls for accomplishing more that 10 million jabs administered.

Lastly, the OCTA survey which provides a very high rating of 91 percent willingness coming from the bottom 19 --- 16 percent uptake rating is also with the contribution of the private sector comms team.

[Next slide.]

So also, sir, this is also an award wherein the AC Health of Ayala Company was given the COVID Management Initiative of the Year-Philippines by the Healthcare Asia. This is an Asia-wide award. Meaning, the contribution of the private sector has been recognized by the international community that the Philippines is one of its kind, that the private sector and the government are helping together and mobilizing its resources in order to have a very relevant and effective response.

So to the private sector, maraming maraming salamat po. Maraming salamat po, mahal na Presidente.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you, sir. May idagdag lang ako dito sa bakuna, sa mga kababayan natin na --- for those who's still until now refuse or continue to refuse having the vaccines for one reason or another. Okay man 'yan, walang problema 'yan.

Pero kung hindi ka talaga magpabakuna and you want to still mix with the humanity lalo na 'yung election or itong mga rallies na dikit-dikit tayo, kung ikaw until now ayaw mo pa, okay lang. Pero 'yung pangalan mo, dadating 'yan doon sa Civil Registrar, pati kay Secretary Año. Iyan, maasahan ninyo, 'yung pangalan ninyo magdating 'yan sa Civil Registrar at doon sa kay Secretary --- well of course, reported in different offices.

Alam ninyo bakit? Kayong hindi magpabakuna, talagang mamatay man kayo, sigurado 'yan. Pa-attend-attend ka diyan ng mga rallies, dikit-dikit tapos election, if you are well-off, those people who are well-off and would not participate in the elections, may mga --- mga mayaman tamad 'yan, ayaw lumabas 'yan eh. More so if there is the danger of contaminations sa COVID.

Iyang sinasabi ko na ang pangalan mo magpunta doon sa Civil Registrar pati kay Secretary Duque, kasi ang Civil Registrar, tatlo lang ang lista diyan. Kailan ka manganak, kailangan ka nag-asawa, kailan ka mamatay. Doon 'yang pangalan mo pati 'yung isa i-report 'yan ng health authorities doon kay Secretary Duque, doon ka sa statistics ang pangalan mo would be part of the statistics of government 'yung sino 'yung namatay itong araw na ito.

Kung gusto ninyong umabot diyan, okay lang, walang problema. Basta 'yang pangalan mo dadating diyan at hindi naman ano kay Secretary Duque titignan lang niya 'yan kung ilan ang patay, 'yung mga Civil Registrar ilista lang naman niya 'yung kung sinong namatay.

With that, I'd like to thank the Cabinet members who are here for their participation in today's meeting. But as suggested by Secretary Puyat, she wants us to meet again. Imbitahin natin lahat and we will stick to what is true.

We will discuss only that has found relevance in the lives of our people for the years that we have been here discussing what is the good for the welfare of our country.

Thank you, maraming salamat po sa inyo. *[applause]*

— END —