

**SENATE'S CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**  
**COMMENTS ON THE 4TH WEEKLY REPORT**  
**OF THE PRESIDENT DATED 20 APRIL 2020**

**I. PROVIDE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO ALL AFFECTED SECTORS**

**Social Amelioration Programs (SAPs) (p.1)**

- There is a slow progress in the actual distribution of emergency subsidy to the 4Ps families from last week's report. The DSWD has 17,956,093 beneficiaries but was only able to serve 4,054,360 beneficiaries. What is the timeline to serve the remaining more than 13M beneficiaries? And are there plans to distribute a second round of subsidies?<sup>1</sup>
- Please clarify the data on Table 1, there is a discrepancy on the total number of beneficiaries served as of 18 April 2020. The indicated total is 4,054,360 families; however, the breakdown indicated -- 3,721,833 4Ps + 617,141 non-Pantawid -- add up to 4,338,974 family beneficiaries served.<sup>2</sup>
- The DSWD and IATF should consider proposals to expedite the distribution of emergency subsidies such as: the optimum use of Listahanan, the cross-referencing with DOF's list of households eligible for TRAIN law refund, the adoption of "pay now, verify later scheme" complemented with the community audit of published lists of families, among others.<sup>3</sup>
- Remove the ID requirement to reach and serve 5 to 7.5 million Filipinos who do not have official birth certificates and who are likely unable to present "valid" IDs.<sup>4</sup>
- Provide updates on the commitment stated in the 3rd weekly report regarding raising more than P60 billion to cover lower-middle income families who should also receive emergency subsidy.<sup>5</sup>
- DSWD should provide information on the implementation of the SAPs in the 197 remaining LGUs which have not signed MOAs with DSWD and a progress report on the unified guidelines on DSWD's implementation of the AICS Program.<sup>6</sup>
- According to the Report, only 3.8% of the total applications for CAMP for OFWs has been approved. Thus, DOLE should also expedite its approval process and exercise leniency in documentation, if needed.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1), Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 7), Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p.1), Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 1), and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 1)

<sup>2</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 2)

<sup>3</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 1)

<sup>4</sup> Sen Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 3)

<sup>5</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 2)

<sup>6</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 6), and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 2)

<sup>7</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1), Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, pp. 6-7), and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 2)

- DOLE should launch its online monitoring system which provides real-time updates on the distribution of financial assistance to formal and informal workers and OFWs.<sup>8</sup>
- There have been reports that some government contractual workers whose contracts ended on 31 March were not renewed. Thus, the government should likewise extend assistance to them.<sup>9</sup>
- Of the 591,246 total farmer beneficiaries, cash subsidies have reached only 52,043 beneficiaries or 8.80%. Fund utilization is low at P645 million or 21.50% of the total P3 billion budget. What are the impediments in releasing the assistance to farmer beneficiaries?<sup>10</sup>
- We propose that the DA's zero-interest loan program for crop farmers and fisherfolk should be converted to direct cash subsidy because there appears to be very low availment of said program.<sup>11</sup>
- It is recommended that if the absorptive capacity of agencies concerned can no longer deal effectively and efficiently with the delivery of assistance, the help of the LGUs in the implementation must be sought.<sup>12</sup>
- The DILG should order all LGUs to distribute relief goods on a "door-to-door" basis, especially in highly-populated areas.<sup>13</sup>
- LGUs should submit report/s on the status of distribution of ESP to non-4Ps beneficiaries and should be published in the COVID-19 website and DILG website.<sup>14</sup>
- In the event of a continued ECQ, there must be a comprehensive report on the delivery of financial support from the agencies tasked to do so. It must include the following details: (1) scope of the assistance provided; (2) turnover time or average waiting time before the financial assistance reached the beneficiaries; (3) assessment as to the adequacy of the assistance; and (4) bottlenecks in the implementation and possible modifications to improve delivery.<sup>15</sup>

### SAPs for Small Businesses (p. 3)

- According to DTI's 2018 MSMEs Statistics, there are 5.714M jobs generated by MSMEs and the SBWS only covers 3.4M employees so it will not cover 2.3M employees. Will there be another round of SBWS or a similar program for the 2.3M employees not covered? Are there other programs that can cover

<sup>8</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 6)

<sup>9</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1)

<sup>10</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 3)

<sup>11</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 2)

<sup>12</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 3)

<sup>13</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 2)

<sup>14</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 2), Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1), Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 3), and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 1)

<sup>15</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 6)

the MSME employees who will not receive assistance from the SBWS program?<sup>16</sup>

- As the SBWS will replace CAMP, the DOLE and the DOF must ensure that pending CAMP applicants are prioritized in the first payout. There should also be an assurance that no MSME under CAMP will be excluded in the list of eligible firms and industries.<sup>17</sup>
- The DOF shall also consider expanding the coverage of SBWS program to eligible freelancers who are compliant with BIR and SSS obligations.<sup>18</sup>
- We wish to get a clarification on the list of qualified small businesses in Category A and B. Using these categories, is a private educational institution qualified to apply to the SBWS?<sup>19</sup>
- There have been reports that the SSS online system has not been working properly and employers feel that due to this technical difficulty, they will not be able to meet the April 30 deadline. Thus, SSS should immediately address this problem and provide alternative means of submitting the applications.<sup>20</sup>
- Concerned agencies are requested to extend the deadline to avail of the SBWS program as the application period mentioned in the report is short: April 16-30, 2020.<sup>21</sup>
- There should also be a status report on the number of establishments that have applied and the actions taken thereof.<sup>22</sup>

*Transportation, Repatriation, and Mobility Assistance to Health Workers, Frontliners, OFWs, Stranded Passengers, Foreign Nationals in the Country and Other Entities or Individuals (p. 3)*

- We must assess the impact on social distancing before we allow transportation services to operate, especially during rush hours.<sup>23</sup>
- Emergency pathways or bike lanes should be created for people who need to walk or bike during the pandemic, in preparation for the “new normal”. Given the limited availability of public transport, many people have resorted to walking or biking since it is free and accessible, while also promoting good physical and mental health. Social distancing is also easier to maintain while on bike or on foot. A network of emergency pathways will provide an immediate way for medical staff, grocery attendants, security, and others to commute to work.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1) and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 4)

<sup>17</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1) and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 5)

<sup>18</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1)

<sup>19</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 5) and Sen. Cayetano

<sup>20</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 5)

<sup>21</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 2)

<sup>22</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 5)

<sup>23</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 1), Sen. Cayetano and Sen. Villar

<sup>24</sup> Sen. Cayetano

#### Benefit Packages for COVID-19 Patients (p. 4)

- PhilHealth should submit its plans on how to cover the medical expenses of those who were infected after 14 April 2020. Those infected are similarly situated and should be uniformly aided and protected. The period of coverage is not a sufficient justification to create a distinction between those infected. PhilHealth can study the possibility of giving smaller packages to COVID-19 patients, rather than pulling out financial support altogether.<sup>25</sup>
- On the other hand, how does Philhealth justify the higher case rate for COVID-19 as compared with other life threatening diseases? As it is, the case rate for COVID-19 is already higher than the others. What is the basis for this?<sup>26</sup>
- PhilHealth stated that it has released Php 8.318B to Philhealth accredited hospitals. A report should be submitted on the release of funds to various hospitals, which include an update on where and when the funds were given as well as the target date for the full release of the funds.<sup>27</sup>

#### Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) (p. 4)

- Given the recent news that there are 9 inmates, 9 BJMP personnel in Quezon City Jail and 18 inmates and 1 jail worker in Women's Correctional contracted COVID-19, what is the protocol for such cases and what is the plan of correctional facilities to slow down the further transmission of the virus?<sup>28</sup>
- We reiterate the following suggestions: (1) to formulate policies aimed to protect PDLs under the jurisdiction of the BJMP for those under police lockups and other detention facilities; (2) separate facilities for new and detainees with COVID-19 concerns; (3) temporary release of bailable, non-violent and first-time offenders; and (4) conduct of e-trial for criminal cases during the pandemic.<sup>29</sup>
  - The DOJ, DILG, BuCor and BJMP are urged to formally state their position on the issue of releasing low-risk inmates, particularly those who are old or sickly<sup>30</sup>
  - In light of the recent order of the Supreme Court for lower courts to consider releasing on bail some overstaying detainees, and to provisionally dismiss cases where there is failure to prosecute, DOJ and PAO are urged to report on the steps being taken regarding the matter.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 3) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 10)

<sup>26</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>27</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 4)

<sup>28</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Angara (Annex B, p.10) and Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 3)

<sup>29</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2) and Sen. Pimentel

<sup>30</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 3)

<sup>31</sup> Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 3)

- Provide temporary shelter and accommodation to personnel of penal institutions who have direct contact with PDLs to reduce probability of transmission of COVID-19.<sup>32</sup>

Assistance to Women, Children, and Other Vulnerable Groups (p. 4)

- DOH should conduct a nationwide influenza immunization program since the flu will complicate the management of any respiratory infection. We cannot afford a breakout in the midst of this pandemic.<sup>33</sup>
- Are there ongoing discussions between DOH and medical societies on how the health needs of vulnerable groups, who have health issues to begin with, will be addressed in the future?<sup>34</sup>

Assistance to Students, Educators, and Educational Institutions (p.5)

- CHED should clarify the guidelines if there will be no mass promotion of students. Do the students need to repeat the affected semester and pay the corresponding tuition fees?<sup>35</sup>
- DepEd needs to disseminate information on the availability of online learning platforms such as DepEd Commons. It may need to look into adjusting the basic education curriculum to be more suitable for blended learning, which utilizes different modalities of instruction.<sup>36</sup>
- DepEd should start exploring the possibility of a program that provides limited access to school premises in the future, wherein a safe number of students can go to school for interaction with their teachers, and in order to access school computers while maintaining the necessary precautions.<sup>37</sup>
- The government can seek the assistance of the University of the Philippines in the further development of distance education. As provided for in the Open Distance Learning Act (RA 10650), the UP Open University shall assist and provide expertise to CHED and TESDA in the implementation of distance learning, which includes curriculum development and capacity building of teachers, among others. Information campaigns targeting parents are also necessary to define their roles in this new learning environment.<sup>38</sup>
- Direct the DICT and NTC to formulate action plans for the possibility of distance education in coordination with CHED and DepEd and work-from-home arrangements.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 1)

<sup>33</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 10)

<sup>34</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>35</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 5)

<sup>36</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>37</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>38</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>39</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 1)

### Protection of Consumers (p. 5)

- There are growing concerns with respect to fraudulent text messages and e-mails purportedly coming from banks that are intended to mislead the public into giving sensitive information. The NBI, NPC, and BSP should provide their action plan against online scammers using COVID-19 scare to exploit and steal money and personal information as well as unauthorized access to online banking accounts.<sup>40</sup>

### Ensuring Uninterrupted Supply Chain (p.6)

- Given that markets are often a hotbed for possible transmission, we recommend that the DA, DILG, DOTr, and other agencies consider adopting a farm-to-household model to reduce, if not eliminate, the need to go to markets.<sup>41</sup>
- For areas that have zero to low COVID-19 cases, relevant agencies should start exploring a partial opening of markets and work with the LGUs and market associations to use a system similar to odd-even traffic schemes, i.e., only allow 1/4 or 1/3 of the vendors each day. Though these will not yield the same income for the vendors, it is still better than nothing.<sup>42</sup>
- Provide transport permits and identification cards to employees of rice millers to ensure unhampered deliveries of rice to the NCR and other areas in the country.<sup>43</sup>

### Assistance to Other Sectors and Partnership with LGUs - on Cremation (p.7)

- What they were able to accomplish was a more affordable rate for the cremation of indigent mortalities, however, there still remains no answer as to the capacity of hospitals to store the remains of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 deaths and the possible need for the government to provide refrigeration facilities.<sup>44</sup>
- Mandate the LGUs to establish crematoriums in their area of jurisdiction to facilitate the cremation of COVID-19 patients.<sup>45</sup>
- The DILG may want to explore requiring LGUs to impose a price freeze or a price cap on burial and cremation services. Should the DILG make price freezes/price caps mandatory, LGUs who do not do so may be penalized under Section 6 (a) of the Bayanihan Act.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 2) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 13)

<sup>41</sup> Sen. Villanueva, (Annex C, p. 4)

<sup>42</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>43</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 1)

<sup>44</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 13)

<sup>45</sup> Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 1)

<sup>46</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, pp. 6-7)

Continuing Efforts on Information Dissemination (p.8)

- As previously recommended, the DOH should maximise its online COVID Tracker and include information on: (1) geographic and socio-demographic profiles of persons tested for COVID-19; (2) details of contacts traced; (3) estimated probable and suspected cases; (3) number of COVID-19 patients admitted; (4) number of PUIs admitted; (5) number of deaths (confirmed or suspected; and (5) total bed space available.<sup>47</sup>
- We would like to be clarified as to the discrepancies between the reports of the DOH and the LGUs with respect to the number of cases, deaths, and recoveries. How can we reconcile the differences?<sup>48</sup>
- Aside from the DOH COVID tracker (doh.gov.ph/covid19tracker), there are other trackers such as UP's endcov.ph where outbreak probabilities are presented. How does DOH plan to reconcile these different trackers for better information dissemination to the public?<sup>49</sup>
- For LGUs that conduct mass testing, how does the DOH appreciate the positive results yielded? Will the same be automatically included in the statistics or will the patient be subjected to confirmatory testing before inclusion in the list of confirmed cases?<sup>50</sup>
- We must be clarified as to the reason for changing the present classification under DOH Administrative Order No. 2020-0013. Due to the modification, we take away from the equation those previously considered PUMs but have travel history to areas with issued travel restriction or a history of exposure to persons with COVID-19. Why do we have to limit the classification when our outlook should be towards suspecting even the slightest window of probability? Wouldn't the Valenzuela City incident provide enough context to reconsider the re-classification?<sup>51</sup>
- A transparency and monitoring system should be integrated in the recommended unified COVID-19 website. Related guidelines on same or related subject matters issued by various departments or agencies should be synchronized to avoid confusion among the people and those tasked to implement the rules.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 1) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, pp. 8-9)

<sup>48</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 9)

<sup>49</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>50</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 9)

<sup>51</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 4)

<sup>52</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 10) and Sen. Dela Rosa (Annex D, p. 1)

## II. SECURE FACILITIES AND RESOURCES FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR AND OTHER FRONTLINERS (p.8)

### Human Resources for Health (p.8)

- From the 17,757 personnel that will be hired for the COVID-19 response, only 743 HRH were deployed. What is the timeline for the hiring and deployment of the remaining personnel?<sup>53</sup>
- Can DOH provide estimates on the “adequate” number of health care workers (doctors, nurses, other hospital staff)?<sup>54</sup>

### Referral Hospitals. COVID-19 Bed Capacity and Equipment (p.8)

- Given that our current patient to bed ratio is far from the ideal, what is the target now that we have COVID-19?<sup>55</sup>

### Quarantine Facilities (p.9)

- What are the guidelines for setting up quarantine facilities in areas that have zero or very low incidents of COVID-19? Even if there are low or no incidents, what are the preparations that must be in place should there be an outbreak?<sup>56</sup>

### Updates on Test Kits, Testing Centers, and Expanded Testing (p. 11)

- With the latest report on the successful opening of PCR laboratories by Red Cross, please continue to give updates on the average number of tests that can be done per day? What is the average turnaround time for the test results? Is there a national or local testing capacity target, expressed in the number of tests over population? How close are we to this target if any?<sup>57</sup>
- How many individuals were tested since the start of targeted expanded testing on 14 April 2020?<sup>58</sup>
- Given the DOH guidelines that rapid tests should be validated by PCR tests, how is DOH ensuring that companies and LGUs who have purchased their own rapid tests, are using this with full knowledge of their limitations and the need for PCR confirmatory tests?<sup>59</sup>
- Does the DOH have a list of private groups or individuals who are conducting rapid tests on their own? Are these tests being validated with PCR tests? What are the results from these tests?<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>54</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 5)

<sup>55</sup> Sen. Cayetano and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 9)

<sup>56</sup> Sen. Cayetano and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 8)

<sup>57</sup> Sen. Cayetano and Sen. Angara (Annex B. p. 3), Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 5), and Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p.3)

<sup>58</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 5)

<sup>59</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>60</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 5)

- When will the 918,000 SARS-Cov-2RT-PCR test kits arrive? How will these be distributed? Why are we procuring these tests only now? How many RT-PCR tests do we actually have on hand?<sup>61</sup>
- We continue to request the DOH to expedite the accreditation of the testing laboratories/hospitals in the country, particularly in Visayas and Mindanao and those with a high number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. The DOH should provide a timeline as to when the remaining 40 laboratories applying for COVID-19 testing accreditation will be able to do tests.<sup>62</sup>

### Strengthening Contact Tracing Measures (p.12)

- The IATF, DILG, DOST, and DICT should use a singular, nationwide contact tracing app and online platforms for consolidation and proper management of private data being collected.<sup>63</sup>
- What has our success rate been on contact tracing?<sup>64</sup>
- The next report should provide the number of contacts traced per week.<sup>65</sup>
- DILG should ensure that all LGUs are complying with its order to form Contact Tracing Teams (CCTs). Corollarily, the LGUs, with assistance from DOH and DILG, should provide CCTs appropriate PPEs.<sup>66</sup>
- The DILG, PNP, and BFP should conduct massive hiring, training, and deployment of “tracer teams” to effectively track contacts of infected persons.<sup>67</sup>
- The OCD, DOJ, and DICT should introduce safeguards against any violation to the right to privacy by the government as private data is bound to be collected and stored. Only pertinent data should be collected and should not be permanently stored.<sup>68</sup>

### Protection for Healthworkers (p.12)

- Hospitals and government should work together in order to provide health workers a place to stay.<sup>69</sup>
- The government must spearhead efforts on establishing facilities where health workers can stay while on duty considering that there have been reports that frontliners are being discriminated against and are forced to remain near the hospitals.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>61</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 5)

<sup>62</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2) and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 3)

<sup>63</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 3)

<sup>64</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>65</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 1)

<sup>66</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 12)

<sup>67</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 3)

<sup>68</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 3)

<sup>69</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>70</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2)

- PhilHealth is urged to include in the coverage, temporary health workers and volunteer frontliners who are likewise handling various aspects of response to the pandemic.<sup>71</sup>

*Provision of Healthcare Resources, Supplies, and Equipment (p.12)*

- The government should coordinate with OCD Regional Offices and local DRRMO, LGUs, or other agencies to improve the delivery and distribution of PPEs.<sup>72</sup>
- As of April 16, DOH has received the following PPEs sourced by DBM: 254,590 goggles, 58,910 KN95, 600,000 surgical masks and 149,750 gloves. There has to be a proper accounting of 1) PPEs procured from China; 2) PPEs procured by the OCD and other agencies; and 3) donations received from the private sector and other entities. This and the breakdown of distribution to various hospitals should be made public and included in the President's succeeding Reports to Congress.<sup>73</sup>
- Does the DOH monitor how hospitals differentiate between donated and purchased PPEs? Concerned citizens have pointed out that patients are still being charged with the health workers' use of PPE when a large number of PPEs have been donated to hospitals?<sup>74</sup>
- Will the cargoes arriving on 25 April contain all remaining PPEs from China? When is the target date of distribution of the remaining PPEs from China? Can we expect these to be distributed by next week?<sup>75</sup>
- There have been reports that some donors are being scammed by those posing as suppliers or distributors of PPEs. What recourse can be given to them? What measures are being implemented to prevent this from further happening?<sup>76</sup>
- The BOC and DTI should further intensify their efforts to monitor the entry into the country and sale of these substandard PPEs and immediately file the appropriate charges against them.<sup>77</sup>
- The concerned agency should expedite the issuance of the joint circular on disposition of seized goods, and thereafter, ensure the expedient distribution of seized medical supplies to hospitals/facilities used for COVID-19.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>71</sup> Se. De Lima (Annex A, p. 3)

<sup>72</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 7), Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 2), and Sen. Cayetano

<sup>73</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 7), Sen. De Lima (Annex A, p. 2), and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 2),

<sup>74</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>75</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 7)

<sup>76</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Zubiri, and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 2)

<sup>77</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 2-3)

<sup>78</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 3)

### III. ESTABLISH SOUND FISCAL AND MONETARY ACTIONS THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS (p. 14)

#### Moratoriums and other Relief Measures (p.14)

- The government should also provide aid to our local airlines and study ACAP's appeal to provide the following reliefs: (1) working capital credit lines; (2) emergency line of credit for 6 months; (3) a longer-term facility that would let airlines restructure their debt; and (4) a waiver on all navigational and airport charges for the rest of the year.<sup>79</sup>
- DTI should conduct a study on the possible applicability of the grace period to all business establishments ordered closed by the government during the ECQ and if possible, the grace period should begin on the last day of the ECQ.<sup>80</sup>

#### Budgetary Measures to Fund COVID-19 Effort (p.15)

- Provide a detailed budget of expenditures and sources of financing (BESF) tables for the COVID-19 Response in the President's next report.<sup>81</sup>
- IATF, through the DBM must provide the details of pooled savings from discontinued Programs/Activities/Projects (PAPs) and abandoned Special Purpose Funds to provide a full picture of the funds available. It is recommended that a breakdown of the total amount identified should be included in the next report.<sup>82</sup>
- The government should come up with economic measures to lessen, if not totally eliminate unnecessary expenses.<sup>83</sup>
- If the government will pursue the President's pronouncement that the government is inclined to sell some of its assets, the DOF should also include in the report, the list of assets to be sold, the proposed manner of disposal, and the amount expected to be realized from the sale.<sup>84</sup>
- Has the DOF initiated any discussion with the country's lenders about securing a moratorium on our loans due within the ECQ period?<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>79</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 4)

<sup>80</sup> Sen. Lapid

<sup>81</sup> Sen. Pangilinan (Annex E, p. 1) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 3)

<sup>82</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 4) and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 12)

<sup>83</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 4)

<sup>84</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 4)

<sup>85</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 5)

#### IV. RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY PLAN (p. 16)

##### Recovery Plan

- A clear and concrete plan on the next steps after the ECQ is of paramount importance because in any crisis situation, the most critical phase is the recovery.<sup>86</sup>
- The role of LGUs in the recovery phase cannot be overemphasized. If the LGUs will be left out in the planning stage, the success of the plan will be next to impossible. It must be noted that this pandemic will not end when either the ECQ or State of National Emergency is lifted but only after we have successfully implemented a recovery plan.<sup>87</sup>
- NEDA should begin preparations for this by conducting various scenario and foresight planning exercises. This should involve multiple stakeholders, including experts and development partners. After this is the need to engage the whole-of-government in crafting the policies and programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) that are relevant under the new normal scenario, where social distancing is continuously practiced. The more important phase is communicating these to the public and building a constituency for the new policies and PAPs.<sup>88</sup>
- The recovery plan must be both adaptive and resilient, which will involve a bottom-up approach to create a convergence with the national policies. We can start by identifying which businesses can begin gradual operations, when they can reopen, and how those reopening will be managed to protect public health. We can also take the following factors into consideration: (1) risk of contributing to the spread of the virus and (2) their relative value contribution to rebooting the economy.<sup>89</sup>
- The government should simultaneously provide an Economic Risk Assessment Plan that would tackle the consequences or effects to the economy and recovery measures to address this.<sup>90</sup>
- The DTI and the DOT should look into the future of crowd management in public spaces and come up with measures to assist the industries that will be badly hit.<sup>91</sup>

##### Interventions on reopening of businesses and other institutions

- The government must define preconditions that are required for businesses to start operating again as well as the protocols to be followed to remain open. We must consider all affected supply disruption and its effect to the national

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<sup>86</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>87</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, pp. 12-13)

<sup>88</sup> Sen. Cayetano and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 5)

<sup>89</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 7) and Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 10)

<sup>90</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 7)

<sup>91</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2)

economy while prioritizing essential goods. As such, there is a need for NEDA to give an update on the national supply chain for essential medical supplies, food commodities, and other critical goods.<sup>92</sup>

- Review the list of essential businesses which can be expanded to include telecommunications, food and agricultural production, hardware stores, office and school supplies retailers, health and wellness retailers, and service centers for computer/automobiles and machinery so as not to disrupt the supply chain.<sup>93</sup>
- Next level would be to consider businesses that have low risk of spreading the virus provided social distancing and other protocols are in place.<sup>94</sup>
- We must also assess construction and logistics operations vis-a-vis transportation, housing, and working arrangements of employees before they are allowed to operate again. Workers of public and private construction companies usually go home on a weekly or monthly basis because they live in construction sites. Their employers could arrange for their transportation in order to facilitate their return to work.<sup>95</sup>
- Considering the high risk of spreading the virus and less urgent role in rebooting the economy, among the last priorities for lifting the lockdown include schools and educational institutions, as well as theaters and resorts.<sup>96</sup>

#### Improvement in Broadband Infrastructure

- The government, through the DICT, should strengthen and upgrade the country's broadband capability, which includes investments in broadband infrastructure projects, in order to handle the demands of telemedicine, telecommuting, distance learning, and even streaming entertainment.<sup>97</sup>
- The government can also explore building and operating networks by subsidizing or incentivizing broadband infrastructure projects in cities and municipalities or through public-private partnerships.<sup>98</sup>

## **V. OTHER ISSUES/CONCERNS**

#### Lack of National Action Plan

- At the risk of sounding repetitive, we reiterate the need for the Executive to make public the National Action Plan for COVID-19 in order to (1) appease the public demand for transparency; (2) be used as reference in all policies

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<sup>92</sup> Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 9), and Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p.7)

<sup>93</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 10), Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2), and Sen. Villar

<sup>94</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 10) and Sen. Cayetano

<sup>95</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 2), Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 10), and Sen. Villar

<sup>96</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 10) and Sen. Villar

<sup>97</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>98</sup> Sen. Cayetano

and decisions to be implemented by agencies; and (3) as possible reference in any possible modification of the ECQ.<sup>99</sup>

- We need to put into motion a national plan that is sustainable and adaptive to living with COVID and other pandemics.<sup>100</sup>
- Health infrastructure must be part of the flagship projects. Senate Bill No. 63 also known as the *Priority Health Infrastructure* bill aims to establish a priority infrastructure plan for public health facilities to be determined by DOH. The said plan seeks to improve the quality of our healthcare system by carefully plotting the priority areas for building healthcare facilities.<sup>101</sup>

#### Modification of the ECQ

- There should be available data as to the estimated number of people who will be allowed to go out in the case of modified ECQ and its ratio with respect to the available PNP and AFP personnel in charge of regulating and ensuring compliance with the guidelines of any modified ECQ to be imposed.<sup>102</sup>
- How can we be assured that everything can be handled when at the present ECQ, reports have been made that there are people or communities violating the ECQ guidelines? Will it not be overwhelming for the PNP and the AFP to control and regulate an increased number of the population allowed to leave the premises of their homes?<sup>103</sup>
- Mass testing should still be the number one priority. We cannot allow the public to move around even on a modified ECQ setup. Thus, the DOH should establish the baseline data from where decisions should be based.<sup>104</sup>

#### Addressing problems in enforcing home quarantine and social distancing protocols

- It is given that people will act differently depending on different contextual factors, such as the presence of adequate spaces and efficient services, which are not present in densely populated areas. The solution should then take different contextual factors into consideration and must be driven by data, e.g. Population in the area vis-a-vis establishments catering to them.<sup>105</sup>
- By adopting innovative and contextual solutions in the enforcement of home quarantine, our security and police forces will be able to address more pressing matters and their deployment will not be stretched too thin.<sup>106</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 1)

<sup>100</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>101</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>102</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 5)

<sup>103</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 5)

<sup>104</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 5)

<sup>105</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 11)

<sup>106</sup> Sen. Lacson (Annex F, p. 11)

### Measures on Disposal and Related Wastes

- As previously commented, we are still awaiting the guidelines from DENR on the proper waste management and segregation for communities and households. This is crucial if we hope to educate the public on containment of the virus at the level of their households and communities.<sup>107</sup>
- Has the DENR taken or initiated measures to mitigate the impact of increased medical waste generation?<sup>108</sup>

### Plasma Donation

- Government should engage in research on plasma therapy and encourage survivors to donate plasma through extensive information campaigns, promotion, and post-recovery support.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> Sen. Cayetano

<sup>108</sup> Sen. Angara (Annex B, p. 5)

<sup>109</sup> Sen. Villanueva (Annex C, p. 8)