

LIST: Duterte's first report to Congress on Philippines' fight vs coronavirus

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President Rodrigo Duterte in his recent televised report to the nation.

MANILA - President Rodrigo Duterte submitted to Congress a report Tuesday midnight, detailing executive agencies' programs to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

While the Department of Health (DOH) is at the forefront of efforts to curb the spread of the disease, the 16-page document also gave details about how other government agencies plan to insulate the economy, especially the marginalized sector, from the month-long work stoppage in Luzon.

Here's a breakdown of how some executive offices acted after Congress granted added powers to help the President solve the coronavirus crisis:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA)

- Formulated the Food Resiliency Action Plan which includes the hauling and shipment of food produce from provinces to markets in Metro Manila
- Implemented a financial and loan assistance for rice farmers
- Implemented a campaign that encourages planting to ensure food security
- Coordinating with ASEAN rice trading partners to ensure continuous trading transactions

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM)

- Coordinates with all government agencies to utilize and release all allotments to support COVID-response plans
- Preparing masterlist of unreleased appropriations that may be used to source additional funds for COVID-related activities

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd)

- Issued guidelines to ensure local governments will follow proper standards in the use of schools as special quarantine areas and other purposes

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR)

- Issued 90 special permits to transport pathological and infectious wastes to augment the capacity of 32 treatment, storage and disposal facilities nationwide
- Ordered all water utility providers to refrain from disconnecting water supply to individual households
- Initiated cloud seeding operations in the Angat Water Reservoir
- Ordered the automatic extension of existing registration certificates which may expire during quarantine period
- Issued guidelines on alternative learning delivery platforms, completion of school requirements, final grades, graduation

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF)

- In talks with government-owned and controlled corporations on the dividends to be collected to boost the country's budget in the fight against COVID-19
- Formulated guidelines for the transfer of excess and unauthorized balances of government agencies and GOCCs to finance social amelioration program
- Added P300 billion to the Bureau of Treasury's cash reserves
- Authorized Bureau of Internal Revenue to extend tax deadlines until May 2020

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA)

- Assisted in the repatriation of 1,806 filipinos
- Set to help 4,600 other OFWs to come home in the next 2 weeks
- Assisted in the facilitation of in-kind donations from 4 foreign governments, 1 international organization and 12 private companies, individuals and civil society organizations

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT)

- Gave DOH LTE push to talk over cellular radios, centralized emergency radio dispatch
- Assisted in the design and implementation of internal executive information dashboards which would assist DOH decision makers in the performance of their functions
- Provided technical assistance for DOH call center expansion
- Augmented DOH Epidemiology Bureau's data gathering and disease surveillance and response functions
- Mounted a "Laging Handa" website to provide reliable government information regarding COVID-19 and facilitate effective education to the public
- Creating a website which shall contain information on International Humanitarian Assistance related to COVID-19 pandemic to promote transparency

- Working on the creation of RapidPass.PH a platform where communities can request for access pass for cargos, authorized persons

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE)

- Urged the private sector to implement work from home schemes with 3,082 companies adhering to request, while 6,060 others opted to temporarily close businesses

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH)

- Assisted in disinfection and sanitation services for vehicles traversing national highways, public establishments and places through installed sanitation tents and gantry facilities
- Mounted 336 decontamination tents, 76 gantries
- Disinfected 415 convergence areas like checkpoints, government facilities, schools, hospitals, markets
- Donated 18,000 surgical masks to 3 hospitals
- Facilitated the conversion and utilization of nearly 145 different public school buildings and evacuation centers as health facilities and emergency operations centers or food hubs
- Looking into the conversion of public buildings and open spaces to establish treatment facilities and isolation centers.
- Preparing an inventory of privately-owned properties to be recommended as temporary facility to be used as isolation and treatment centers
- Deployed 402 vehicles nationwide to serve as transportation services of frontliners and health workers
- Provided logistical assistance in transporting and mobilizing manpower, equipment and goods for repacking and distribution

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST)

- Launched a public information drive on proper nutrition during enhanced community quarantine and how to fake news about COVID-19
- Allocated P53.2 million funding for the development of the COVID testing kits being locally developed by the University of the Philippines
- Developing an application for visualizing the spread of diseases and outbreaks using data from Philippine Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response system, electronic medical records and sms-based reports of primary care facilities
- Conducted a study on the transmission patterns of COVID-19
- Conducted a study on the efficacy of lauric acid against SARS-CoV-2 to test whether certain coconut oil components can diminish or prevent the infectivity of COVID virus
- Conducted a feasibility analysis for early detection of diseases in partnership with the Ateneo de Manila University
- Contributed to the production of 500,000 re-usable, washable and re-wearable facial masks as protective facewear

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD)

- Finalizing database for recipients of coronavirus cash aid from government
- Utilized at least P22.31 million to procure and distribute 69,200 food packs

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI)

- Issued joint memorandum on automatic price control until May 15, 2020, with provisions against hoarding, panic buying and profiteering
- Conducted market inspections to ensure compliance with the mandatory price freeze on all basic necessities
- Arrested 59 persons who violated policies against hoarding, panic buying and profiteering
- Preparing for the implementation of P1-billion enterprise rehabilitation financing to help restart/restock of businesses to avoid foreclosure

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr)

- Studying the deployment of floating quarantine hospitals on ships fitted with the required medical equipment
- Established the DOTr Emergency Operations Center, a call center that caters to questions about transportation policies during the Luzon-wide quarantine
- Remitted P10 billion from earnings of Philippine Ports Authority, Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and Manila International Airport Authority to fortify government spending to address COVID emergency

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/04/01/20/duterte-cabinet-report-special-powers-government-response-covid19-coronavirus-disease>