

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

[15 June 2020]

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

We have a meeting [inaudible] not all would require the presence of the Cabinet members. Iyon lang munang ma-ano natin but later on as we ramble on probably tomorrow or day after, after I shall have talked to the businessmen, then we can decide whether or not we can still modify the modified lockdown that we have imposed.

Sige, I would like to turn over the floor to the Secretary of Health.

DOH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III: Thank you, Mr. President and thank you members of the Cabinet and the IATF.

Mr. President --- good evening, Mr. Senator, the Chair on Committee on Health. Allow me, Mr. President, to read the Resolution 46-A that will highlight the different geographic areas under the recommended community quarantine status, Mr. President. Babasahin ko na lang po, Mr. President.

“WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, to prevent the sharp rise of COVID-19 cases in the country, the President placed the entirety of Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine until April 14, 2020;

WHEREAS, on March 30, 2020, to develop a science-based approach in determining the risk-based classification of areas in the country, the Inter-Agency Task Force convened a sub-Technical Working Group tasked to develop the LGU Epidemic Response Framework and to define parameters in assessing recent developments in the Philippine COVID-19 situation;

WHEREAS, on April 03, 2020, the IATF finalized the parameters for deciding on the lifting or extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in Luzon, which include trends on the COVID-19 epidemiological curve, the health capacity of the country, the social factors, the economic factors as well as the security factors;

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2020, the Office of the Executive Secretary issued Executive Order No. 112 Imposing an Enhanced Community Quarantine in High-Risk Geographic Areas of the Philippines and a General Community Quarantine in the Rest of the Country from May 01 to May 15, 2020, Adopting the Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation Thereof, and For Other Purposes;

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, the IATF released an updated risk classification in all Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities in the country, placing localities under different classifications of community quarantine with the goal of balancing economic activity and public health;

WHEREAS, as of June 14, there is a total of Twenty-five Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty (25,930) confirmed cases in the Philippines;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the IATF approves the following:

A. The recommendations of the IATF Screening and Validation Committee as amended are approved. Beginning 16th of June 2020, the community quarantine classification of Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), and Independent Component Cities (ICCs) based on epidemic risk level, economic, social and security considerations, and the appeals and commitment of local government units (LGUs) shall be adopted:

Therefore, the following provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities shall be placed under Modified General Community Quarantine or MGCQ until June 30, 2020:

- a. For Luzon:
 - i. Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) – Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Mountain Province and Baguio City;
 - ii. Region I – Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan and Dagupan City;
 - iii. Batanes;

- iv. Region III – Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Zambales, Angeles City, Lucena City;
 - v. Region IV-B – Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Palawan, Puerto Princesa City, and
 - vi. Region V – Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Legazpi City, and Naga City.
- b. For Visayas:
- i. Region VI – Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Iloilo City, Bacolod City, and
 - ii. Region VIII – Biliran, Eastern Samar, Leyte, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Southern Leyte, Ormoc City, and Tacloban City.
- c. For Mindanao:
- i. Region IX – Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Isabela City;
 - ii. Region X – Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Cagayan de Oro City;
 - iii. Region XI – Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Occidental, and Davao Oriental;
 - iv. Region XII – North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, General Santos City;
 - v. Region XIII (Caraga) – Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Butuan City; and
 - vi. Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) – Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Cotabato City.

The following Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities shall be placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) until June 30, 2020:

- a. For Luzon:
 - i. Region II – Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and Santiago City;
 - ii. Region III – Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Tarlac, Olongapo City;

iii. Region IV-A – Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon and Occidental Mindoro;

b. For Visayas:

i. Region VII – Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City

c. For Mindanao:

i. Zamboanga City; and

ii. Davao City

All Highly Urbanized Cities of the National Capital Region (NCR) and the Municipality of Pateros shall be placed under GCQ until 30 June 2020. The NCR Regional Task Force (RTF) is hereby directed to monitor health system capacity and utilization rates across health facilities and ensure strict compliance to surveillance, isolation, treatment and minimum health system standards.

Due to the increasing number of new cases and widespread community transmission in majority of barangays in the city as well as the consistent case doubling time of less than seven days and significant increase in critical care utilization against critical care capacity, Cebu City shall be placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine. This is the recommendation, Mr. President, for Cebu City to be placed --- to be escalated back to ECQ. For the same reasons, Talisay City, a component city under the Province of Cebu, shall be placed under Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine or MECQ until June 30, 2020.

All Provinces, Highly Urbanized Cities and Independent Component Cities are directed to observe the strict enforcement of the following measures:

- a. Minimum public health standards especially uniform implementation in high-risk areas such as healthcare settings, wet markets, supermarkets, government and workplaces, among others.
- b. Localized community quarantine in priority critical areas with community transmission with concurrence of the RIATF.
- c. Immediate facility-based isolation of all returning citizens, suspect and probable cases.
- d. Scaling up of local health system capacity especially for community isolation and critical care including dedicated mechanical ventilators, ICU, isolation and ward beds for COVID-19 cases.

e. Last but not least, submission of complete and accurate data through COVID KAYA and DOH DataCollect.

The regional COVID special teams in cooperation with the Regional Task Force are directed to: a) oversee and assist surveillance, monitoring and contact tracing of suspect and probable cases with full mobilization of composite teams in areas with continuous transmission; develop a ground operations plan to urgently execute control in public health measures in the next two weeks.

Sir, Mr. President, this IATF has been approved during the 46th Inter-Agency Task Force meeting today as reflected in the minutes of the meeting held this 15th of June 2020 via videoconference. So these are signed by the Chair of IATF and the Co-Chair, Secretary Karlo Alexei B. Nograles.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: We will talk about education. But the most pressing problem or the most question --- the question most asked is why is it that there is only a small drop in the tuition fees even with this new learning setup? You can answer that later and you can have your own order of talking, ma'am.

DEPED SECRETARY LEONOR BRIONES: Good evening, Mr. President; good evening, Senator Bong; and good evening to my colleagues in the Cabinet.

Mr. President, I am truly --- we in DepEd are truly appreciative of this opportunity to brief you on the latest developments in education because education is everyone's business, from the parents, to the business people and all --- and of course, our learners and our teachers.

I would like to take up three items with you in my presentation. One is we'd like to share with you the latest enrollment data. Mr. President, we started enrollment June 1 --- enrollment period June 1 to 30 online --- online. And as of --- in our presentation we had a brief battle of quotes from you with media.

Some parts of media would say, "The President says that you are like this, you are like that." And then I answer back with an exact quote of what you said during our last briefing with you last May 28.

But thankfully, that issue has now been resolved because media is now busy with other concerns especially court cases. Sagutan. Parang religious debate, Mr. President, na sagutan about the same source, "sabi ni President ganon," tapos kami naman, "sabi ni President ganyan." But we took your exact words.

Anyway, insofar as enrollment, Mr. President, are concerned, our enrollment numbers, we started enrollment June 1. And right now, supposedly the 15th day of the month but it's actually mga 12 days lang ito including the holidays, 11 days, it's already 10, 654, 795 learners.

Ten point six million enrolling online with their parents because we are not allowing any physical enrollment. The highest of course is ang --- ang highest is Region IV-A and then you have Region III and Region IV.

At the same time also those who are most vocal and about their concerns on the opening of school, Mr. President, are of course the LGUs because education takes place in their territory.

So now, LGU support has been coming in and every day we get messages of support from local government units because we have been aggressively informing them of what our Learning Continuity Program is about.

Many assume, Mr. President, `pag sabi mong opening ng school year, therefore it is face-to-face. And we have been saying that since May 8 pero it takes time for the idea to sink in because usually, `pag opening ng school, we always think face-to-face or in-person enrollment. So we have an increasing number of local government support already.

And also with the approval, the consent of DILG Secretary, we met with 10 associations or leagues of our local governments in the Philippines including

League of Provinces, League of Cities, League of Municipalities, Liga ng Barangay, League of Vice Governors, Board Members, et cetera. And we met with them for five hours, Mr. President, and answered their concerns about what this enrollment is all about.

Mr. President, we also have... Since May we have --- April --- we already started our roadmap because we had to select or identify a date, Mr. President, because we cannot keep people hanging. We have to have a target, we have to have a goal in view of all these developments.

So as early as several months ago, we already consulted --- we consulted nearly 800,000 respondents as to what is the appropriate date and what they would prefer. And August consistently came out because it's the closest to what the law says. So right now, mayroon na kaming roadmap, Mr. President, which we started May and June, remote enrollment, et cetera.

Last time I was with you, Mr. President, I briefed you on the what a blended enrollment --- ah blended curriculum is all about. First, it can be through a ICT platform.

By the way, questions were raised as to why did we not use the UNICEF platform? Because UNICEF developed platform for other countries. The reason, Mr. President, is we already have a platform and when we had a talk with UNICEF, sabi nila we have a platform and there is no need for them to do it for us. And they are also giving us assistance especially in the operation of this platform. Pero hindi na nila tayo --- hindi na nila ipinilit `yung kanilang platform which they are doing for Ukraine and other countries.

Now sinabi na natin, Mr. President, kung hindi puwede sa online, kung puwede sa cellphone. There are 179 million cellphones --- more humans than cellphones in the country. And I see a lot of Cabinet members, hindi ko lang kaya, hindi ko sila ma-match, attending IATF meetings from their -- - from their smartphones and... So mas marami `yung cellphones kaysa tao so kung hindi puwede `yung platform, eh puwede sa cellphone.

The other which is attracting a lot of attention from other countries is the use of television. Right now, there are many programs already on television because the law requires that 15% of airtime for television should be devoted for children. Sisingilin natin ito. So all these possibilities...

Pero talagang kung walang-wala talaga, Mr. President, walang --- walang ano Internet, walang cellphone, walang TV, walang radio, `yun sinasabi nating "IBM", that it's better manual. So we are producing also learning modules, but the children should --- should not be going out to get the learning modules.

This is why, Mr. President, kaya we are going to work very closely with the local government units kasi `yung mga barangay sa kanilang kiosks, sa kanilang --- where their offices are, doon ide-deposit `yung learning modules. Pi-pickup-in ng parents maybe --- kasi usually we allow one member of the family to go out, pickup-in ng parents.

And then in the afternoon, kung ano ang homework nila, ang teachers naman ang mag-pickup, i-correct. So it will be a relay of materials kung talagang hanggang manual lang ang makayanan ng isang local government or isang school.

So ito, Mr. President, what is new? Everybody talks "new normal, new normal." But what we are suggesting, Mr. President, is not really new because it has been there since the 1800s like the radio.

What we are --- what is new is that we are placing the emphasis that we are placing on these alternative technologies because we agree with you that we should not be allowing our children to go to school or our teachers to go to school at this time until it is absolutely safe for them but they can continue learning, Mr. President. So `yon na ang mga ibang mga ginagawa namin, `yung pag-upscale ng teachers as well as the students themselves.

So the next and the last, of course, is the financing parties as well would really be seeking your support in matters where we need to --- we need equipment or we have to... We are negotiating with the two telcos, Mr. President, na ililibre nila `yung paggamit ng kanilang facilities.

I just talked with one of them. And at the regional level, the regional directors are also negotiating with the local radio stations na --- so that we can reduce the cost.

So we hope and what we are asking, Mr. President, is ang appeal namin to allow us to continue our preparations based on the roadmap kasi target namin August 24 --- no face-to-face on August 24 opening --- to allow us to continue our preparations kasi nakabuwelo na kami, Mr. President. If suddenly we pull to a stop, then baka madapa kami kasi we are moving very, very fast at the... And I'm checking with the regional directors every other day and we will be providing you with readiness updates.

And lastly, Mr. President, I'd like to end my brief kasi nandito naman ang details which your staff can study in detail, ang sabi ni John Michael Greer: "The future is under no obligation to wait patiently while we get ready." The future will not wait and we don't want our children to wait and be left behind.

Thank you, Mr. President, for all the years of support, unstinting, unquestioning, full support. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you, ma'am. It was an excellent report actually. You just reiterated the things that --- you made it clear this time. That is what we always meant when you said all these things in the past.

I'd like to call on General Galvez to do his report.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON PEACE PROCESS AND NTF COVID-19 CHIEF IMPLEMENTER CARLITO GALVEZ JR.: Sir, we go around --- around the Philippines and we were able to visit Cebu. And also we looked around on the different hospitals.

Based on the report of Secretary Vince Dizon, we had a meeting this afternoon, we are all okay in terms of hospital --- hospital occupancy. We are 30 percent in Metro Manila. But we have --- I would like to report to the President na medyo mayroon po tayong mga new cases sa Region VIII. Mayroon po tayong 66 na new cases.

It brought about by the LSIs, 'yung mga locally stranded individuals. Pagdating po doon ay tinst (test) po sila, dahil po 'yung Region VIII mayroon na po tayong dalawang testing center doon, tinst (test) po sila ng PCR at mayroon po silang nakuha na 66. Ganoon din po ang nangyayari po sa Lanao, dahil din po sa LSIs ay nagkaroon po sila ng new cases na 30.

Ayon po ang report ko po ngayon. And then noong pagbisita po namin sa ano --- sa Cebu po, sir, dalawang araw po kami doon, nakita po namin talaga na medyo tumataas po `yung mga severe cases. Meaning `yung ano po `yung mga hospital marami pong naa-admit na nai-intubate. So karamihan po sa kanila, kahapon po may nareport po sila na sa ER mayroon po na for waiting for intubation, walo.

And then bukas po magpapadala po kami ng ano ng mga ventilators. Ito po ay dinonate (donate) po ni ano ni Mr. Ramon Ang ng San Miguel Corporation. Tinanggap po namin ni SND. More than 53 --- 55 high-flow nasal cannula. Ito po ay ginagamit po para sa oxygenation at ito po ay isa sa mga magagandang protocol na ginawa po ng PGH.

So magpapadala po tayo sa Cebu ng 20 bukas po kasama po ang more or less mga 6,000 na PPE para po makatulong po doon sa ano... Nag-usap po kami ni Sec. Mike Dino at kami po ay nagtutulungan para po maagapan `yung sitwasyon po doon sa Cebu.

Kasi po sa napag-alaman po namin sa 15 na matataas na cases, cases po sa buong bansa, 11 po `yung sa Cebu City. Masyadong mataas po at ito po `yung listahan na... Iyon nga po, `yung Cebu, Mambaling, mahigit na 680 po sa isang barangay. And then sa Luz mayroon pong active case pa rin na 216.

So talaga pong ano tumataas po `yung sitwasyon doon at saka po sa Talisay, tumaas na rin po, mayroon pong mga additional cases. So 140 na po `yung cases sa Talisay.

So kaya po nag-usap po kami ni Secretary Duque na magkaroon po ng under observe --- close observation po `yung Cebu City kasi nagkakaroon po tayo ng tinatawag nating spike. Kaya po nag-usap po kami na magpapadala rin po siya ng surveillance team this coming Wednesday at in-approve na po ng ating Secretary `yung ano po ng C295.

So ganoon po ang gagawin po natin. Ang ano po --- ang --- mayroon din po tayong inaabangan po na repatriation galing po sa Malaysia at nagkaroon na po ng meeting po kanina. At `yung ano po natin mayroon po tayong more or less 5,000 po na inaayos po. Nakikiusap po ang ating DFA na magkaroon po ng kaunting delay para at least ma-prepare po natin `yung ating tinatawag na Zamboanga One-Stop Shop.

Pero naka-prepare na po si Usec. Yano at ang kaniyang ano po sa --- si Usec. Dodo Dulay --- nag-usap-usap na po sila kanina at `yon pong ating

mga tinatawag nating locally stranded doon po sa Malaysia ay ibabalik po natin ngayong ano po, mga last week po ng June at saka July po.

Iyon lang po mahal na Presidente ang aking maire --- maire-report po sa inyo ngayon. At ako po'y pupunta rin po sa Region IV-A. Dahil ang Region IV-A po medyo nakita po natin hindi pa ho gaanong nagi-improve 'yung kanilang mga --- mga sitwasyon.

At noong last time po nanggaling rin po ako sa Region III. Maganda na po ang sitwasyon sa Region III. Mukhang nagi-improve po 'yung sitwasyon po ng mga different --- different provinces. Iyong Bulacan lang po ang medyo tumataas pa rin po 'yung --- 'yung sitwasyon.

Pero sa lahat po ng ano sa Luzon, maganda po ang sitwasyon sa Luzon kaya po mga karamihan po nag --- nag-MGCQ na po lahat. At bago po ako matapos happy birthday po Senator Bong Go.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you for the narrative. May I go to General Año? It's your time.

DILG SECRETARY EDUARDO AÑO: Magandang gabi po, Mr. President. Ang ating mga local government units, ang ating DILG field officers, Philippine National Police, BJMP at Bureau of Fire Protection ay handang-handa na muli sa bagong classification na inaprubahan ng ating Pangulo.

Noong Sabado ng gabi ay nagkaroon kami ng pagpupulong sa mga mayors ng National Capital Region kasama rin ang ibang miyembro ng IATF, kasama si Secretary Lorenzana, Secretary Duque, Secretary Galvez, Secretary Dizon. At dito ay napagkasunduan natin na ang ating National Capital Region na ngayon ay under GCQ pa rin ay magiging agrisibo sa pagpapatupad ng barangay lockdown kasi kahit na napapaliit natin 'yung mga namamatay, pero marami pa ring positive cases, mga bagong cases sa National Capital Region. Kaya ito ang pagkakataon hanggang June 30 na ma-implement mabuti ang general community quarantine.

At ang ating atensyon na binibigyan ngayon ay ang Cebu City, ang Talisay, sapagkat nagkaroon talaga ng spike. At iniisip ko na magdagdag pa ng mga additional na kapulisan dito sa Cebu City para siguradong maipatupad ang ECQ.

Sa mga cases naman po na iniulat natin, ito 'yung mga barangay officials at mga LGU officials na nagkaroon ng mga anomalies sa ating pagpapatupad ng Social Amelioration Program.

Nakatanggap tayo ng mga complaints mula sa 452 complainants. At mula dito ay 649 suspects ang ating naimbestigahan. At out of this investigation, nakabuo tayo ng 250 cases at ito ay hinandle (handle) ng CIDG, 139 cases ay nai-file na po sa fiscal office at ang iba ay susunod na rin.

Ito ay tuloy-tuloy sapagkat sa --- ayon po sa inyong pag-uutos, kailangang managot ang mga local government officials na nag-corrupt, nag-aksaya at nag-abuso sa pagdi-distribute ng SAP.

Mayroon din pong 885 na private persons ang ating naaresto sa iba't ibang mga krimen katulad ng hoarding, profiteering, manipulation of prices. So ito po'y masasabi nating economic sabotage habang mayroon tayong pandemic.

Iyong atin pong second tranche naman sa Social Amelioration Program na pinangungunahan po ng DSWD ay nagsisimula na po tayo ng ating rolling out ng second --- nung second tranche.

At ang maganda po rito ay pinagsama natin ang direct cash payment at saka electronic distribution. Bank-to-bank transfer, money transfer, digital wallet card so mas mapapabilis po. At tutulong din po 'yung AFP at PNP sa pagdi-distribute.

Doon po sa mga na-left out, nakapag-account na tayo ng 4,269,458 families. So iyon lang po ang ulat na maibibigay ko, Mr. President. Salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Salamat, General Año. General Lorenzana will give his...

DND SECRETARY DELFIN LORENZANA: Magandang gabi, Ginoong Presidente. Kaunti lang po itong report ko, parang update lang po ito ng mga --- ating mga campaign against COVID.

Iyong ating sitwasyon ngayon ay mayroon tayong 25,930 total cases. Mula rito mayroon na tayong recovery na 5,054. Ang natitirang active cases ay 18,888. Dito ay 18,412 'yung mild or 97.4%; asymptomatic, 398; 'yung critical ay 17 lang ho, Mr. President.

Ang ating mga namatay ay 1,088. Itong nakaraang labing apat na araw ng Hunyo ay sampu lang kada araw ang namamatay. So maganda po 'yung ating --- ang ating data.

Dito naman po sa mga returning overseas Filipinos ay mula noong... Ito po ang total --- total of 50,105 na 'yung ating nai-repatriate sa kanilang mga probinsya.

Mula 25 May hanggang June 14 ay mayroon tayong 41,000 na nai --- naibalik sa mga probinsya nila. Noong May 15 to 24 ay 8,922.

So tuloy-tuloy pa rin po, Mr. President, iyong ating pag-repatriate at pagtanggap na ng mga --- mga OFWs na galing sa ibang bansa. At ang target natin ay hindi dapat magtagal ng limang araw at sila'y mai-repatriate na.

So 'yung Clark noong isang linggo --- nitong nakaraang linggo ay nakapag-repatriate sila ng mga OFWs na galing sa ibang bansa sa loob lamang po ng tatlong araw.

Iyon lang po, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: We will call now the Press Secretary to sum up all his report.

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON HARRY ROQUE: Yes, sir. Maraming salamat, Mr. President. Ngayon po ay naaprubahan niyo na po ang recommended na mga klasipikasyon ng iba't ibang mga rehiyon at siyudad dito po sa ating Pilipinas.

Ang pinakamataas pong classification na ECQ ay mai-impose po sa siyudad ng [Cebu] City. Ang modified ECQ po ay mai-impose sa Talisay City. Ang Metro Manila po kasama po ang karamihan ng --- karamihan ng mga lugar po sa --- sa Central Luzon ay map --- ay mapapabahagi po sa GCQ. Ito po ang Metro Manila, sa Region II, Region III at IV-A. sa Visayas po ang mga nasa GCQ pa rin ay ang Region VII, kasama ang Bohol, Province of Cebu, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, Mandaue City, Lapu-Lapu City.

At sa Mindanao po ay ang Zamboanga City and Davao City. So ang pinagbasehan po ng ating IATF ay 'yung tinatawag na case doubling rate at saka 'yung critical care capacity po.

At as ex --- as explained po by our Secretary of Health, `yung mga lugar po na binalik sa ECQ at sa MECQ ay masyado pa pong mataas ang case doubling rate at nasa danger zone din po ang kanilang critical care capacity.

Ang ibig sabihin po nito, wala ho masyadong magbabago dito po sa Metro Manila at sa iba pang parte ng Luzon na nasa GCQ. Bagama't karamihan po ng probinsya natin ngayon sa buong Pilipinas ay nasa modified GCQ na.

Ganunpaman din, Mr. President, mayroon pa rin po tayong mga community quarantine sa buong Pilipinas. Hindi pa po tapos ang banta ng COVID-19 dahil wala pa pong bakuna at wala pa pong sakit.

At pinaalalahanan po natin ang ating mga kababayan na habang wala pa pong bakuna at wala pang gamot, kinakailangan manatiling malusog, social distancing, wearing of masks, paghuhugas po ng kamay.

Salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: There, to wind up our meeting for tonight, I suppose everything has been taken up. Everybody has had his chance to air his opinion and, of course, the corresponding rules that they had enforced.

Mga kababayan ko, mayroon tayong isang tanong na gustong malaman ng halos lahat. Ito `yung --- on why there is only a small drop in tuition fees despite there being no face-to-face classes.

Nasagot na ni ano `yan and they may --- they may come up with the expanded explanation to the press para malaman ng lahat. As announced, schools will open on August 24 but there is still no face-to-face sessions until we get a vaccine because ang ipusta mo diyan in your desire to resume classes, you --- ang kapalit niyan is really...

The COVID is still here. Nandiyan pa `yung --- hindi --- hindi lang pa umabot pa sa iyo. Instead, we will follow a blended learning approach. Part of this learning strategy is distance and online learning using communications technology and digital devices.

Now for the far-flung areas, mayroon siyang ano --- iyon nga ang kawawa diyan is `yung wala --- `yung wala --- may radyo sana, walang TV, walang cellphone, wala lahat. Ito `yung mga mahirap, na kung mayroon na lang sana silang radyo puwede ng...

[Mabuti't na pumat --- namatay 'yung ingay na 'yon. Saan ba 'yon? Ito? Ah ito 'yung umiingay. Na 'yung air freshener para hindi kami magka-COVID. Ang problema nito baka pag-uwi namin mag-chill na kami.]

Iyong... Well, that is not a problem of the Department of Education. But 'yung --- the lack of communications or how to get through the students, maski radyo lang.

Ang radyo ngayon is hindi naman mahal. We will buy 300 sabi ni Secretary Briones. Baka kung magtagal ito talaga, sayang ang panahon, we might buy the radio at 300 maibigay sa lahat ng --- sa lahat ng barangay na maabot ng radio para naman 'yung mga mahirap may communication sila sa teacher nila.

Even without face --- without a face there, as long as you are really interested to learn and ito 'yung mga mahirap, kaawa naman. We will try to come up with something in the next few days. Maybe before the end of the week, I would be able to look for the money. Wala na tayong pera ngayon. I would look for the money to buy transistor radios to be distributed all throughout the country.

We will try to do it. We might not be able to succeed to bring all of it to the barangay level but we will try.

I said just --- just give me until the end of the week. Ang --- the battle of sa COVID is not over. Sabi ko nandiyan pa 'yang germ na 'yan at hindi nawawala. Dependeng lang... Marami na, nandito na ang --- ang tinatamaan it's about 26. It's still...

You know I cannot say it's second wave because it is still increasing sa infected tapos ang namatay is 1,000. Although what is very heartening is the recovery which is about 6,252. It's a good record compared to the other countries.

I don't know if it has something to do with... Wala ang diperensiya sa atin is weather. Maybe it's not too cold or the germ is not really --- find no comfortable in hot places.

We are gradually easing restrictions to make way for our economic viability as individuals and as a nation. But it does not mean that we will forget our minimum health standards.

Ganito 'yan eh, hindi ko kayo mapigilan na lumabas. Hindi ko kayo mahuli lahat. Ang problema niyan pati 'yung mga bata kung samahin ninyo or you

allow your children to go out when the place is not yet ready for them to be outside at nagkasakit, huwag ninyo kaming sisihin. Do not forget that we warned you about the grave consequences.

Marami pang namamatay by the thousands sa Brazil. Ako sinabi ko na eh kasi napunta ako ng Brazil. Maraming tao talaga doon, dikit-dikit.

Sabi ko noon pag-umpisa pa lang, 'pag umabot ito ng South America, ang Brazil ang sinabi ko delikado 'to. Dumating nga. It was a prophetic statement but I know that I was there. Iyong slum areas nila kagaya rin sa atin.

Ang mabuti na siguro dito kasi naniniwala kayo sa inyong gobyerno. Well if not really sa personally ayaw ako ninyo, just listen to our advice because that is intended for everybody at para sa kapakanan ninyo 'yan.

Ngayon kung lumabas talaga kayo, you run the risk of getting infected, huwag ninyo kaming sisihin.

Let us continue to observe proper social distancing kung maglabas kayo. Iyong distance magpalayo ka lang.

Kung nandito ka sa Parañaque, iwasan mo iyong taga-Quezon City. Ganoon kalayo para wala talaga... *[laughter]* I'm joking. Nagpapatawa lang ako kasi inaantok na kami. Kanina pa kami dito eh.

Frequent handwashing. Kung wala, ito alcohol, mura lang man ito --- or you know, come to think of it really, maghugas ka lang ng kamay 'yung sabon.

Iyong ordinaryo lang na sabon. I do not have to mention the product but iyong sabon na panlaba ah 'yung --- just on the safe side. Magsabi ka, pagsabi niya, magsabi ka, "Kasing puti na ng damit ang kamay mo." *[laughter]*

Iyong --- 'yung may advertisement diyan. "Marie, masyadong maputi ang labada mo." "Hindi labada ho 'yan, kamay ko iyan." *[laughter]*

Bear in mind that you have a part in our collective effort to prevail against the pandemic. Magkaisa talaga tayo dito kay kung isa-isa tayo mag... Huwag tayong sumunod sa iba kasi iyong iba they are suffering especially those who declared na puwede nang lumabas when knowing all along na nandiyan pa ang COVID, hindi pa nawawala.

The only way to fight COVID is vaccine or iyong maybe 'yung miracle pill that would kill just as an antibiotic would kill a bacteria. But itong virus cannot be killed by antibiotic. Katawan mo talaga ang mag-produce ng antibodies. Now there is a pill, I hope it's true na parang lalaban and it can maybe sabi kill the...

Iyon ang maganda. 'Pag iyon ang dumating, 'pag available na, mag-order na ako ng --- then I will distribute it. I will personally supervise the distribution. Ako mismo. I will supervise the distribution of the --- or whatever there is para to guarantee that everybody gets a fair share of the medicines and the medical care.

With that, I would like to say, daghang salamat sa inyong tanan. Thank you. *[applause]*

--- END ---

SOURCE: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)