

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6815

Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Stella Luz Quimbo, Sharon Garin, Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Bernadette Herrera-Dy, Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Edcel C. Lagman, Luis Raymund "Lray" F. Villafuerte Jr., Eric Go Yap, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Evelina G. Escudero, Loren Legarda, Conrado M. Estrella III, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Roberto V. Puno, Eduardo C. Villanueva, Aurelio D. Gonzales Jr., Johnny Ty Pimentel, Raneo E. Abu, Dan S. Fernandez, Rosemarie "Baby" J. Arenas, Rodante D. Marcoleta, Henry S. Oaminal, Pablo John F. Garcia, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano, Vilma Santos-Recto, Mujiv S. Hataman, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Bienvenido M. Abante Jr., Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo, Lianda B. Bolilia, Cristal L. Bagatsing, Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, Christopher V.P. de Venecia, Marlyn "Len" B. Alonte, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Josephine Veronique R. Lacson-Noel, Wilter "Sharky" Wee Palma II, Ma. Theresa V. Collantes, Ria Christina G. Fariñas, Janette L. Garin, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Sharee Ann T. Tan, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Bayani F. Fernando, Jose "Bonito" C. Singson, Abraham "Bambol" N. Tolentino, Eleandro Jesus F. Madrona, Eric L. Olivarez, Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos, Mario Vittorio "Marvey" A. Mariño, Edgar M. Chatto, Vincent Franco "Duke" D. Frasco, Sol Aragonés, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Carlos O. Cojuangco, Shernee A. Tan, Elenita Milagros "Eileen" Ermita-Buhain, Jocelyn F. Fortuno, Ramon "Mon-Mon" V. Guico III, Francis Gerald Aguinaldo Abaya, Elias C. Bulut Jr., Rogelio "Ruel" D. Pacquiao, Virgilio S. Lacson, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Mark O. Go, Weslie T. Gatchalian, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Roman T. Romulo, Erico A. Pineda, Joseph "Jojo" L. Lara, Noel L. Villanueva, Frederick W. Siao, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Victor A. Yap, Ann K. Hofer, Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, Aristotle C. Aumentado, Solomon R. Chungalao, Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Sabiniano S. Canama, Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr., Geraldine B. Roman, Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Maria Lourdes O. Acosta-Alba, Florida "Rida" P. Robes, Wilfredo "Willy" S. Caminero, Ma. Lourdes T. Arroyo, Francisco G.

Datol Jr., Raul "Boboy" C. Tupas, Narciso R. Bravo Jr., Gloria G. Labadlabad, Strike B. Revilla, Ma. Lucille L. Nava, Rosana "Ria" Vergara, Vicente "Ching" S.E. Veloso III, Franz "Chicoy" E. Alvarez, Michael T. Defensor, Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Jesus "Bong" C. Suntay, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Horacio P. Suansing Jr., Estrellita B. Suansing, Amihilda J. Sangcopan, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Ronnie L. Ong, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Kristine Singson-Meehan, Braeden John Q. Biron, Francisco "Kiko" B. Benitez, Michael B. Gorriceta, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Antonio "Tonypet" T. Albano, Erico Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Lorenz R. Defensor, Jose Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Manuel F. Zubiri, Michael Edgar Y. Aglipay, Jose Gay G. Padiernos, Presley C. de Jesus, Julianne "Jam" L. Baronda, Angelica Natasha Co, Genaro M. Alvarez Jr., Aleta C. Suarez, Jose "Jun" L. Ong Jr., Rolando M. Valeriano, Michaela S. Violago, Janice Z. Salimbangon, Juliette T. Uy, Alfel M. Bascug, Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Jose "Pingping" I. Tejada, Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisolago, Alan 1 B. Ecleo, Ramon C. Nolasco Jr., Wilton "Tonton" T. Kho, Jumel Anthony I. Espino, Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan, Michael John R. Duavit, Jake Vincent Villa, Arnie B. Fuentebella, Cesar "Jawo" L. Jimenez Jr., Faustino Michael Carlos T. Dy III, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Sonny "SL" L. Lagon, Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, Adriano A. Ebcas, Rico B. Geron, Allan U. Ty, Teodorico T. Haresco Jr., Alex "AA" L. Advincula, Lawrence "Law" H. Fortun, Sergio C. Dagooc, Alfred D. Vargas, Greg G. Gasataya, Romeo M. Jalosjos Jr., Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Matugas II, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Paul Ruiz Daza, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Peter John D. Calderon, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M. Dalipe, Luis N. Campos Jr., Ed Christopher S. Go, Sandro L. Gonzalez, Rudys Caesar I G. Fariñas, Romeo S. Momo Sr., Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Faustino "Inno" V.A. Dy, Lorna C. Silverio, Fernando T. Cabredo, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Maria Fe R. Abunda, Alan "Aldu" R. Dujali, John Reynald M. Tiangco, Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Gil "Kabarangay" A. Acosta Jr., Maricel Natividad-Nagaño, Emmarie "Lolypop" Ouano-Dizon, Josefina B. Tallado, Maximo Y. Dalog Jr., Angelo Marcos Barba, Arnold "Noli" D. Celeste, Kristine Alexie B. Tutor, Munir M. Arbison, Lolita T. Javier, Alfred C. delos Santos, Hector S. Sanchez, Tyrone D. Agabas, Ian Paul L. Dy, Pablo C. Ortega, Marissa Andaya, Yasser Alonto Balindong, Godofredo N. Guya, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, Rodrigo A. Abellanosa, Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar, Resurreccion M. Acop, Ansaruddin Abdul Malik A. Adiong, Naealla Bainto Aguinaldo, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Leonardo L. Babasa Jr., Shirlyn Bañas-Nograles, Claudine Diana D. Bautista, Emmanuel "Tawi" Billones, Mercedes "Didi" C. Cagas, Maria Laarni Cayetano, Elizaldy S. Co, Raul V. del Mar, Sandra Y. Eriguel, Jonathan Keith T. Flores, Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Vincent J. Garcia, Ciriaco B. Gato Jr., Carmelo "Jon" B. Lazatin II, Doy C. Leachon, Aloy Lim, Dahlia A. Loyola, Macnell M. Lusotan, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Carlito S. Marquez, John

Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Florencio G. Noel, Alberto “Bobby” D. Pacquiao, Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho, Marisol C. Panotes, Romulo “Kid” Peña Jr., Paz C. Radaza, Josephine Ramirez-Sato, Ma. Bernardita “Ditas” Ramos, Domingo C. Rivera, Rogelio Neil P. Roque, Princess Rihan M. Sakaluran, Ron P. Salo, Irene Gay F. Saulog, Rowena Niña O. Taduran, Samier A. Tan, Jose “Bong” J. Teves Jr., Jocelyn P. Tulfo, Alfonso V. Umali Jr., Ma. Victoria V. Umali, and Gerardo P. Valmayor Jr., Rudy S. Caoagdan, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Eduardo “Eddie” R. Gullas, Divina Grace C. Yu, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Ronaldo B. Zamora, Camille A. Villar, Neptali M. Gonzales, and Benjamin C. Agarao

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING AN ECONOMIC STIMULUS STRATEGY FOR THE COUNTRY'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF COVID-19, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

CHAPTER I: General Provisions

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Accelerated*
2 *Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy of the Philippines*” or ARISE
3 Philippines Act.

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State to protect Filipino
5 families and jobs, assist workers and business entities facing hardship due to the
6 2019 Novel Coronavirus disease, hereinafter referred to as COVID-19, and preserve
7 the country’s trajectory to economic prosperity. These resources shall also support
8 the whole-of-nation transition toward a low emissions and climate-resilient future.

9 Towards these ends, the State shall set aside resources for programs and
10 policies that support the country’s emergence from an economy adversely affected
11 by COVID-19 towards one of continued growth and sustainable development, taking
12 into consideration other emerging threats and our environment and resource base.

13 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act,

1 a. *Business entity* refers to sole proprietorship duly registered with the
2 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), a partnership duly registered with the
3 Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), a corporation duly organized and
4 existing under Philippine laws, a branch of a foreign corporation duly licensed to do
5 business in the Philippines, electric cooperatives registered under the National
6 Electrification Administration, or cooperatives governed by Republic Act No. 9520
7 otherwise known as the Cooperative Code of the Philippines, as amended; or
8 Microfinance Nongovernmental Organizations as governed by Republic Act No.
9 10693, otherwise known as the “Microfinance NGOS Act”;

10 b. *Community Quarantine (CQ)* refers to the enhanced community
11 quarantine imposed in the entire Luzon area under Presidential Proclamation No.
12 929 dated 16 March 2020, as may be extended or modified pursuant to such other
13 laws, presidential proclamations or executive orders that may be subsequently
14 issued or promulgated for the purpose of containing the spread of COVID-19;

15 c. *Critically impacted businesses* refer to non-essential businesses that
16 have been directly and adversely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak such that (i)
17 their liabilities have become more than their assets, or (ii) they have experienced at
18 least a fifty percent (50%) decline in gross receipts for at least one calendar quarter,
19 and in either instance, are generally unable to pay or perform their obligations as
20 they fall due in the ordinary course of business, as a result of the COVID-19
21 outbreak. For purposes of this Act, critically impacted business shall include the
22 transport industry, tourism industry, and globally-oriented manufacturing and
23 services firms that sell to the export market, local market, or both, but shall
24 exclude banks and other financial institutions under the supervision of the *Bangko*
25 *Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP);

26 d. *Fiscal stimulus* refers to any increase in government spending
27 undertaken to support economic growth, including temporary tax revenue losses
28 arising from regulatory forbearance adopted by the government;

1 e. *Freelancer* refers to a worker who is self-employed and is not
 2 necessarily committed to, or does not exclusively work for, a particular employer for
 3 a specific period;

4 f. *Mass testing* refers to testing of all individuals by methods registered
 5 with and authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) who are at high
 6 risk of contracting COVID-19 infection, more particularly, but not limited to (1)
 7 suspect cases, (2) individuals with relevant history of travel or exposure or contact,
 8 whether symptomatic or asymptomatic; (3) healthcare workers with possible
 9 exposure, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic; (4) workers who are returning to
 10 work or to their place of employment; and (5) individuals with co-morbidities like
 11 old age, diabetes, hypertension and cancer; and (6) other high-risk population
 12 group;

13 g. *Micro, small, and medium-scale enterprise (MSME+)* refers to any
 14 business activity or enterprise engaged in industry, agribusiness, and/or services,
 15 excluding banks and other financial institutions under the supervision of the BSP,
 16 whether self-employed professional, sole proprietorship, cooperative, microfinance
 17 nongovernmental organizations, partnership or corporation whose total assets,
 18 inclusive of those arising from loans but exclusive of the land in which the
 19 particular business entity's office, plant, and equipment are situated, must have a
 20 value falling under the following categories:

	At least	Not more than
Micro	-	P 999,000.00
Small	P 999,001.00	P 99,000,000.00
Medium	P 99,000,001.00	P1,499,000,000.00

21 *Provided, That, for purposes of this Act, a Startup shall be considered an MSME+:*
 22 *Provided, further, That in case information on value of assets is not available, then*
 23 *enterprise size will be determined by the number of employees, as follows:*

- 1 Micro 1 to 9 employees
- 2 Small 10 to 99 employees
- 3 Medium 100 to 199 employees.

4 h. *Negosyo Centers* refer to one-stop shop centers established in
5 provinces, cities, and municipalities that are mandated to promote ease of doing
6 business and access to services for MSME+, among others, pursuant to Republic
7 Act No. 10644 or the “Go *Negosyo Act*”;

8 i. *Non-essential businesses* (NEB) refer to business entities engaged in
9 businesses which are not allowed to operate during the CQ under applicable laws,
10 presidential proclamations, or executive orders issued or promulgated for the
11 purpose of containing the spread of COVID-19. The term excludes business entities
12 allowed to operate during CQ such as those related to: (i) the production and sale of
13 goods, or provision of services related to food, medicine, health supplies, such as
14 public markets, supermarkets, groceries, convenience stores, hospitals, medical
15 clinics, pharmacies, and drug stores, (ii) food preparation and delivery services,
16 water refilling stations, manufacturing and processing plants of basic food products
17 and medicines, (iii) banks and financial institutions under the supervision of the
18 BSP, and (iv) utility services involving power, energy, water and
19 telecommunications;

20 j. *Overseas Filipino Worker* refers to a person who is engaged or has
21 been engaged in a remunerated activity in a state where the person is not a citizen,
22 or on board a vessel navigating the foreign seas other than a government ship used
23 for military or noncommercial purposes, or on an installation located offshore or on
24 the high seas;

25 k. *Self-Employed* refers to workers who render services or sell goods as a
26 means of livelihood outside of an employer-employee relationship or as a career;

27 l. *Startup* refers to any person or registered entity in the Philippines
28 which aims to develop an innovative product, process, or business model, as defined
29 under Republic Act No. 11337, otherwise known as “Innovative Startup Act”;

1 m. *Tourism enterprises* refer to facilities, services and attractions involved
2 in tourism, such as, but not limited to: travel and tour services; tourist transport
3 services, whether for land, sea or air transportation; tour guides; adventure sports
4 services involving such sports as mountaineering, spelunking, scuba diving, and
5 similar sports activities of significant tourism potential; organizers of conventions
6 and other similar live events subject to accreditation of the Department of Tourism;
7 accommodation establishments, including, but not limited to, hotels, resorts,
8 apartelles, tourist inns, motels, pension houses, and home stay operators; tourism
9 estate management services, restaurants, shops and department stores, sports and
10 recreational centers, spas, museums and galleries, theme parks, convention centers
11 and zoos; and

12 n. *Transportation Industry* refers to the business sector engaged in
13 transporting paying passengers and freight by air, land and sea, and includes the
14 domestic airline companies registered with the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB), and
15 such business entities engaged in the business of trucking, shipping, and railroad.

16 SEC. 4. *General Principles of Economic Interventions.* - The economic
17 interventions provided for in this Act shall provide immediate relief to critically
18 impacted businesses and non-essential businesses. The economic interventions
19 aim to reduce permanent damage to the economy, maintain employment levels and
20 have a demonstrable capacity to support economic output and preserve the
21 country's productive capacity.

22 These interventions shall be guided by the following principles:

23 a. Continuity: Relief to non-essential businesses shall be for purposes of
24 preventing business closure, restoring business confidence, and reinstating
25 operations of business entities to similar levels prior to CQ;

26 b. Compensatory: non-essential businesses shall be reasonably and
27 comparably recompensed for business expenses incurred, including wages and
28 salaries, which would have been otherwise borne by the government during the CQ;

29 c. Capacity-building: Assistance to business entities, local government
30 units (LGUs), and the workforce which includes the freelancers and members of the

1 informal sectors, shall be for the purpose of building the capacity of these entities to
2 adjust to post CQ business environment and achieving national resilience to future
3 economic shocks or recession; and

4 d. Proportionality: The individual and aggregate amounts of the economic
5 stimulus shall be proportionate to the corresponding industry economic objectives
6 and the national economic target.

7 SEC. 5. Types of Economic Interventions. - The economic interventions shall
8 be classified as follows:

9 a. Transitional: Transitional interventions are economic relief that shall be
10 implemented to mitigate the permanent damage by the Covid-19 crisis to the
11 economy and maintain employment levels of the corresponding sector or industry.
12 Transitional interventions shall be immediate and limited to a specific period.

13 b. Financial: Financial interventions are economic relief that are intended to
14 accelerate recovery and improve economic performance of business entities by
15 broadening and increasing financial and credit access. Such intervention may be in
16 the form of loans and loan guarantees.

17 c. Sectoral: Sectoral interventions are economic relief intended for specific
18 sectors or industries, such as MSME+, tourism, agriculture and any other critically
19 impacted businesses. Such interventions may or may not be limited to a specific
20 period.

21 d. Structural: Structural interventions are measures designed to
22 accommodate, close gaps in, or improve any sector or industry through an
23 institutionalized mechanism or entity. A structural intervention aims to reinforce
24 resilience of the economy as well as the business entities in the event of future
25 crisis or recession. Structural interventions shall not be limited to any specific
26 period, unless otherwise provided in this Act.

27 CHAPTER II: General Intervention

28 SEC. 6. *Mass COVID-19 Testing*. - To facilitate faster economic recovery and
29 ensure safe working environment, mass testing for COVID-19 shall be conducted

1 immediately in areas in the country where higher possibility of transmission of
2 COVID-19 may occur or have occurred.

3 The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in joint coordination
4 with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall prescribe a COVID-19
5 disease surveillance protocol that shall define minimum health standards for
6 workplaces and business activities which shall include COVID-19 testing and
7 contact tracing. Such disease surveillance protocol shall consider, and be consistent
8 with, the protocols and guidelines prescribed by the Department of Health (DOH).
9 The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall procure and
10 distribute the test kits for COVID-19, including facilities, equipment and the
11 necessary supplies, and shall hire the required medical personnel for the proper
12 implementation of the disease surveillance protocols in testing centers and areas.
13 For this purpose, procurement by the DILG shall be done in the most expeditious
14 manner and shall be exempted from the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184,
15 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and other relevant
16 laws. Distribution of the test kits, facilities, equipment, and the necessary supplies
17 shall be supervised and monitored by the Economic Stimulus Board.

18 The DILG shall identify and prioritize the areas and business activities
19 critically impacted and severely affected by the COVID-19 and with high probability
20 of COVID-19 transmission, and coordinate with the relevant LGUs and government
21 agencies for the implementation of the COVID-19 surveillance protocol. Testing kits
22 shall be made available to LGUs and government agencies for distribution to public
23 and private institutions and enterprises. The LGUs and other government agencies,
24 under the guidance and supervision of the DTI, DOLE, and the DILG, shall adopt
25 the disease surveillance protocol, conduct area-based and workplace testing, and
26 monitor compliance with the minimum health standards prescribed to protect the
27 continued health of the general public, and ensure that there will be safe
28 resumption of work in the private and government sectors, delivery of government
29 functions and services, and economic activity in all the industries in the country.

1 Mass Covid-19 testing shall be conducted no later than thirty (30) days from
2 the effectivity of this Act.

3 The amount of Ten billion pesos (Php10,000,000,000.00) is hereby
4 appropriated for this Section for Fiscal Year 2020 and another Ten billion pesos
5 (Php10,000,000,000.00) for Fiscal Year 2021.

6 The DILG, in consultation with the DOLE and DTI, shall issue the
7 implementing rules and regulations for this Section, within (ten) 10 days after the
8 effectivity of this Act.

9 CHAPTER III: Transitional Interventions

10 SEC. 7. *Wage subsidies.* - Wage subsidies shall be provided to non-essential
11 businesses, free-lancers, the self-employed, and repatriated OFWs.

12 a. The DOLE shall offer wage subsidies amounting to at least fifty
13 percent (50%) but not more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the basic salary costs
14 of a non-essential business subject to the following conditions:

15 i. The wage subsidy shall cover the basic salary or compensation of the
16 rank and file personnel regardless of employment status and shall
17 exclude the senior and executive officers of the relevant business entities;

18 ii. In determining the basic salary cost of a non-essential business, the
19 maximum monthly salary of an employee shall not exceed Fifteen
20 thousand pesos (PhP15,000);

21 iii. The wage subsidy shall be based on the number of rank and file
22 employees at the time of the imposition of the CQ;

23 iv. The wage subsidy shall only be provided for a period of two (2) months;

24 v. For the duration of the wage subsidy, a non-essential business entity
25 must retain such number of employees or workers in proportion to the
26 percentage of wage subsidy to basic salary cost as offered under this
27 Section, excluding those employees whose employment are terminated for
28 just causes provided under Presidential Decree No. 442, as amended,
29 otherwise known as the "Labor Code of the Philippines", and those
30 employees who voluntarily terminated their employment and taking into

1 account the limitations on work arrangements prescribed under the
2 COVID-19 health and social distancing standards.

3 The maximum wage subsidy shall be offered to critically impacted businesses
4 and those that support priority government undertakings such as the Build, Build,
5 Build program.

6 b. The DOLE shall provide wage amelioration directly to freelancers,
7 professionals, domestic seafarers, and the self-employed through an open-
8 application window system: *Provided*, That the amount of wage amelioration
9 shall not be more than seventy-five percent (75%) of the applicable minimum
10 wage and only for a maximum period of two (2) months.

11 c. The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) is mandated to use
12 its available funds to extend livelihood support to repatriated and displaced
13 OFWS.

14 d. The DOLE shall provide unemployment benefits to OFWs who were
15 repatriated, whether voluntarily or mandatorily, including those whose
16 deployment to other countries were prevented, as a result of COVID-19, to aid such
17 OFWs in job search: *Provided*, That the maximum amount for such OFW
18 unemployment benefits shall be equivalent to Fifteen thousand pesos
19 (Php15,000.00) every month until the recipient OFW finds gainful employment but
20 only for a period not exceeding two (2) months.

21 The Social Security System (SSS), Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the
22 DOLE shall establish a central database to avoid duplication of application for and
23 to track distribution of wage subsidies, and for other purposes.

24 The amount of One hundred ten billion pesos (Php 110,000,000,000.00) is
25 appropriated for this purpose.

26 The DOLE shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this
27 Section, within (ten) 10 days after the effectivity of this Act.

28 *SEC. 8. Assistance to Displaced Workers, Technical and Vocational Learners -*
29 *To provide temporary employment to displaced workers, the DOLE shall expand the*
30 *Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD), its*

1 community-based disinfection and sanitation program, by including workers from
2 the informal sector who have lost their livelihood or whose earnings were affected
3 due to the CQ. Under the enhanced TUPAD, displaced workers shall be required to
4 work as may be prescribed under the guidelines of TUPAD, and may likewise
5 include work of disinfecting and sanitizing their houses, the immediate vicinity, and
6 the common areas in their communities and any other COVID-19 related work.
7 Such workers shall be paid wages equivalent to the prevailing minimum wage in
8 the region. The amount of Twenty-five billion pesos (Php 25,000,000,000.00) is
9 appropriated for the implementation of the TUPAD program.

10 The technical and vocational learners shall also be provided assistance. The
11 amount of Five billion pesos (Php 5,000,000,000.00) is appropriated for the
12 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the program.

13 SEC. 9. *Educational Subsidy to Students.* – The following subsidies shall be
14 granted to students who are currently not grantees and recipients of existing
15 government subsidies under various laws, but are nonetheless facing financial
16 difficulties due to work stoppage or closure of establishments:

17 A. *Emergency Subsidy to COVID-19-impacted Tertiary Students in Private*
18 *Higher Education Institutions.* -

19 Pursuant to the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all
20 students to quality tertiary education, the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES)
21 provided under Section 7 of Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as “Universal
22 Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act”, shall be expanded to cover students
23 whose families are not listed in the *Listahanan* of the Department of Social Welfare
24 and Development, but which are now facing financial difficulties brought about by
25 work stoppage and closure of establishments due to the CQ: *Provided, That,*
26 *priority shall be granted to children of displaced OFWs: Provided, further,* That the
27 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) shall suspend the geographic
28 prioritization in areas where there are no state universities and colleges to enable
29 all students of higher education institutions (HEIs) to become qualified recipients of
30 TES. The HEIs are mandated to comply with the guidelines of the CHED on

1 inclusive flexible learning and alternative modalities of instruction and ensure that
2 students are not disadvantaged, marginalized, or discriminated against due to lack
3 of access to online modalities.

4 For the purpose of COVID-19 response, a maximum of Seven thousand five
5 hundred pesos (Php7,500.00) subsidy per student in payment of second semester
6 tuition and other fees shall be paid directly to schools which shall be primarily
7 utilized by such schools for the salaries of teachers and non-teaching staff, based on
8 CHED determination: *Provided*, That HEIs shall ensure the use of flexible learning
9 platforms that are inclusive and that no student shall be marginalized or
10 discriminated upon due to lack of internet capabilities.

11 For this purpose, the amount of Eighteen billion pesos (P18,000,000,000.00)
12 under RA No. 11465, otherwise known as the "General Appropriations Act", for FY
13 2020 and the amount of Nine billion pesos (P9,000,000,000) under Republic Act No.
14 11260, otherwise known as the "General Appropriations Act" for FY 2019 allocated
15 for TES and other subsidies to students in private HEIs under Republic Act No.
16 10931 shall be immediately released by the Department of Budget and
17 Management (DBM).

18 *B. Expansion of government subsidies to students in basic education under*
19 *Republic Act No. 8545 otherwise known as the "Government Assistance to*
20 *Students and Teachers in Private Education" or GASTPE Act, and Republic*
21 *Act No. 10533, otherwise known as "K to 12 Law"-*

22 Students in private elementary and junior high schools who are currently not
23 recipients of Education Service Contracting (ESC) under Republic Act No. 8545; and
24 students in private Senior High Schools who are currently not recipients of the
25 Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS VP) under Republic Act No. 10533, shall
26 receive a tuition subsidy in the amount of Four thousand pesos (Php 4,000.00) each.

27 The subsidies shall be released directly to private higher education
28 institutions and private basic education schools, respectively, for the purpose of
29 applying the subsidy for unpaid tuition in SY 2019-2020: *Provided*, That the subsidy
30 shall be released prior to the opening of school year 2020-2021 or within a

1 reasonable period after school opening but before September 1, 2020: *Provided,*
2 *further,* That in order to expedite the processing and disbursement of the subsidy,
3 the CHED and the Department of Education shall engage the services of the
4 Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC) for the disbursement and co-
5 management of the expanded TES; and the expanded subsidies under Republic Act
6 No. 8545 and Republic Act No. 10931, respectively.

7 The amount of Fifteen billion pesos (Php 15,000,000,000.00) is appropriated
8 for the implementation this Sub-Section.

9 SEC. 10. *Economic Relief to Overseas Filipino Workers.* - Pursuant to Section
10 4 (z) of the Republic Act No. 11469, otherwise known as the "*Bayanihan* to Heal as
11 One Act", and to provide relief to OFWs who are uniquely burdened by the impacts
12 of Covid-19 on the global economy, OFWs shall be charged by the Philippine Health
13 Insurance Corporation (PHIC) no more than three hundred pesos (P300.00) per
14 month for premium contributions in 2020, no more than three hundred and seventy-
15 five pesos (P375.00) per month in 2021, and no more than four hundred fifty pesos
16 (P450.00) in 2022: *Provided,* That, unpaid premium contributions due from March
17 15 to December 31, 2020 shall not be charged interest and penalties.

18 For this purpose, Section 10, on premium contributions, of the Republic Act
19 No. 11223, otherwise known as the "Universal Health Care Act", is hereby amended
20 accordingly.

21 SEC. 11. *Extension of Principal Loan Payments.* – Banks, other non-bank
22 financial institutions (NBFIs) under the supervision of the BSP, and lending and
23 financing companies under the supervision of the SEC, including government
24 financial institutions, except microfinance nongovernmental organizations, are
25 encouraged to extend the term of or agree to the restructuring of existing (i)
26 consumer loans of employees of non-essential businesses, and (ii) commercial loans
27 of or for non-essential businesses, or to fund activities or investments therein, and
28 (iii) local government loans under any or all of the following conditions:

1 a. The payment dates of the consumer loans, commercial loans and LGU
2 loans referred herein, or any part thereof, are due anytime between March
3 16, 2020 and December 31, 2020;

4 b. The loan term may be extended for a period of up to one (1) year, and
5 may be further extended for a maximum period of another one (1) year; and

6 c. Only the principal payments may be suspended in case of a
7 moratorium.

8 The banks and other NBFIs that agree to loan term extension or
9 restructuring pursuant to this Section shall be entitled to regulatory reliefs, as may
10 be determined by the BSP, which may include, but not limited to, (i) non-inclusion
11 in the bank's or NBFIs reporting on non-performing loans, (ii) staggered booking of
12 allowances credit losses, (iii) exemption, when applicable, from the limits on real
13 estate loans, and (iv) exemption from related party transaction restrictions.

14 SEC. 12. *Regulatory Relief for Business Entities.* - The Anti-Red Tape
15 Authority (ARTA), together with the DTI, DILG, and specialized regulatory
16 agencies, shall prepare a list of non-tax and non-duty fees and charges imposed on
17 enterprises that may be waived: *Provided*, That the waiver of non-tax and non-duty
18 fees and charges shall only extend to critically impacted businesses.

19 The President of the Philippines shall have the power, through the issuance
20 of an executive order, to suspend, reduce or waive the imposition of fees and charges
21 in the said list for a period of one (1) year. The DTI and the ARTA may recommend
22 the extension of such executive order to a period not more than one (1) year.

23 The BIR, Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Transportation (DOTR),
24 SEC, Philippine Competition Commission (PCC), and other relevant regulatory
25 agencies shall suspend deadlines for all the filings and payments due during the CQ
26 period and extend the due dates accordingly without interests, fines, or penalties.

27 The BIR, PCC, SEC and other relevant regulatory agencies are likewise
28 directed to desist from imposing fines and other monetary penalties for non-filing,
29 late filing, failure to comply with compulsory notification and other reportorial

1 requirements relating to business activities and transactions that promote
2 continuity and capacity-building in all sectors of the economy.

3 For a period of six (6) months from the lifting of the CQ, the PCC, SEC and
4 other relevant regulatory agencies shall review all pending matters before them or
5 those subject of any ongoing review, fact-finding or preliminary inquiry or
6 investigation, in order that business activities and transactions that promote
7 continuity and capacity-building in all sectors of the economy shall be promptly
8 resolved or otherwise allowed to proceed unimpeded.

9 The PCC, during the same period which may be extended for an additional
10 period of six (6) months thereafter, shall desist from requiring any submission by
11 parties to any proceedings before it, including fact-finding or preliminary inquiries,
12 and from issuing any show cause order, cease and desist order, subpoena, statement
13 of concern or similar statement and other similar issuances: *Provided*, That nothing
14 herein shall prohibit the PCC from issuing decisions approving any transaction or
15 transactions, confirmation of non-coverage, commitment decisions and similar
16 orders relating to business activities and transactions that it shall have determined
17 to promote continuity and capacity-building as well as orders and decisions relating
18 to the enforcement of Chapter III of the Philippine Competition Act (PCA):
19 *Provided, further*, That all mergers and acquisitions involving enterprises engaged
20 in essential businesses entered into thirty (30) days prior to or during the CQ and
21 for a period of one year thereafter shall be deemed to promote continuity and
22 capacity-building, and are hereby declared exempt from the compulsory notification
23 and related requirements under the PCA.

24 Government agencies, including LGUs, shall simplify, shorten and
25 rationalize new business registration, closure, licensing, and permitting processes,
26 as well as renewal thereof after the approval of this Act. One (1) year after the
27 implementation thereof, upon recommendation of the DTI and ARTA, the new
28 business registration, licensing and permitting processes may be permanently
29 implemented by the corresponding government agency and LGU. Approval of the

1 applications for permit, license, clearance, certification, resolution or authorization,
2 whether it is a first-time application, renewal or extension shall be released
3 expeditiously. In case of simple transactions, within the inextendible period of five
4 (5) working days from receipt of the application; in case of complex transactions,
5 within the inextendible period of fifteen (15) working days from receipt of the
6 application: *Provided*, That, for complex transactions, if public consultations, public
7 hearings or publications are required before the government agency or LGU could
8 act on the application, the conduct of a hearing or public consultation, or publication
9 of at least once in a newspaper of general circulation, shall be deemed sufficient
10 compliance: *Provided, further*, That if sessions, meetings or hearings are required to
11 be held among the members of the board or committee of the concerned government
12 agency, or Sanggunian of the LGU, such sessions, meetings or hearings shall be
13 completed within the herein prescribed period: *Provided, finally*, That if a
14 government agency or LGU fails to act within the period herein provided, the
15 application shall be deemed approved and the government agency or LGU
16 concerned shall issue the permit, license, clearance, certification, resolution or
17 authorization applied for, whichever is applicable, within two (2) working days
18 counted from the last day when it should have rendered its action or decision on the
19 application.

20 In addition, the BIR shall permanently simplify requirements during the life
21 cycle of a business beginning with registration until the closure of such business.
22 This includes, but is not limited to, allowing and recognizing electronic receipts as
23 proof of payment and removing the limitation to filing and payment of taxes in
24 specific revenue district offices or venue.

25 Furthermore, the Commissioners of the BIR and BOC, in coordination with
26 the ARTA, shall install an ARTA Taxpayer's Advocate Offices within the premises
27 of the Bureaus, who shall be in charge of safeguarding taxpayer rights.

28 Finally, LGUs shall be encouraged to reduce the number of fees, charges,
29 and taxes charged where the actual revenues generated are greater than the cost of
30 compliance and administration of these fees, charges, and taxes.

1 allot a maximum of five percent (5%) of the appropriated funds for the program
2 being implemented under its Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE)
3 and Personnel Services (PS).

4 c. LGUs shall adopt measures that will facilitate dissemination of
5 information and assist and enable their respective constituents to avail of the relief
6 provided under this Act. Implementing agencies may enter into partnerships or
7 agreements with public and private entities to ensure the timely and efficient
8 delivery of services and fulfillment of duties under this Act, including but not
9 limited to, (1) private lending institutions participating as conduits for government
10 financial institutions tasked to implement programs under this Act, and (2)
11 financial technology firms to ensure and improve access and delivery of
12 interventions to the recipients, especially MSME+, freelancers, self-employed and
13 those in the informal sector.

14 d. The government, as procuring entity, shall give preference to products,
15 materials and supplies, made or manufactured in the Philippines offered by a
16 domestic bidder vis-à-vis foreign bidders. Towards this end, the award shall be
17 made to the lowest domestic bidder provided his bid is not more than twenty
18 percent (20%) in excess of the lowest foreign bid; *Provided*, That, the lowest
19 domestic bidder secures a certification from the DTI stating that the articles,
20 products, materials, or supplies are grown, produced, made or manufactured in the
21 Philippines: *Provided, further*, That, in case of infrastructure projects as defined in
22 Section 5 (K) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government
23 Procurement Reform Act", the procuring entity shall require bidders to determine
24 the location and availability of construction aggregates and other materials and
25 source them locally with due consideration to the structural integrity of the entire
26 project. For this purpose, the bidder shall secure a certification from the DTI that
27 the construction materials, or supplies are produced, made or manufactured in the
28 Philippines.

29 SEC. 15. *Credit Mediation and Restructuring Service*. - To ensure that
30 MSME+ are able to fulfill obligations under more favorable terms of credit,

1 strengthen liquidity and financial position thereof, and to expedite the country's
2 economic recovery, there shall be created a Credit Mediation and Restructuring
3 Service (CMRS), through the *Negosyo* Centers or any other business assistance
4 office of the LGU, to act as credit advisers and mediators between MSME+ and the
5 banks and lending institutions, and assist MSME+ in obtaining favorable credit
6 and loan terms from the banks and lending institutions.

7 The CMRS shall: (i) ensure that an MSME+ is given sound financial advice
8 on, among others, the proposed borrowing, the risks involved, and the financial
9 position and operation of the relevant MSME+; (ii) assist in evaluation of the
10 financing options; (iii) oversee the negotiation process until terms of financing are
11 agreed upon; and (iv) ensure that an MSME+ is given better access to financing
12 and to a fair and transparent borrowing and appeals process.

13 The *Negosyo* Centers shall coordinate with LGUs, financial institutions and
14 government agencies to ensure the widest dissemination of information and
15 benefits under this program.

16 The Secretary of Trade and Industry, together with the head of private sector
17 associations representing MSME+ and financial institutions, shall jointly issue the
18 implementing rules and regulations of this Section within ten (10) days from the
19 effectivity of this Act.

20 SEC. 16. *Loans to MSME+*. - The Small Business Corporation (SBCorp) shall
21 expand its existing loan programs for MSME+ by any or a combination of the
22 following:

- 23 (a) Increasing the availability of loanable funds;
- 24 (b) Reducing eligibility requirements such as waiver of collateral;
- 25 (c) Increasing the maximum loan amounts per borrower;
- 26 (d) Reducing the interest rates;
- 27 (e) Extending the loan terms;
- 28 (f) Utilizing financial technologies to expand reach and increase access;
- 29 and
- 30 (g) Committing a faster turnaround time of loan processing.

1 In addition to the allowable uses of loans under the regular loan programs of
2 SBCorp, the proceeds of any loan granted under this Section may be used for the
3 following:

- 4 i. Payroll costs;
- 5 ii. Materials and supplies;
- 6 iii. Mortgage payments;
- 7 iv. Rent;
- 8 v. Utilities, including fuel and storage;
- 9 vi. Creation of new supportive businesses;
- 10 vii. Re-purposing of existing business capital;
- 11 viii. Acquisition of new technologies and systems to adjust business
12 processes; or
- 13 ix. Any other business debt obligations incurred before the covered period.

14 SBCorp shall prioritize startups and micro and small enterprises, including
15 those in the informal sector. SBCorp shall also prefer establishments that support
16 the initiatives of the DOH towards ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of
17 health care services.

18 For the implementation of this Section, the amount of Five billion pesos
19 (PhP5,000,000,000.00) is appropriated as additional paid-up capital of SBCorp. The
20 Special Program Fund of SBCorp for its COVID-19 loan programs is hereby
21 established with an initial appropriated amount of Forty-five billion pesos
22 (Php45,000,000,000.00) for 2020 and another Twenty-five billion pesos (Php
23 25,000,000,000.00) for 2021.

24 The SBCorp shall provide a loan-forgiveness program for borrowers who pay
25 their installments on time. The maximum amount that SBCorp may waive through
26 the loan-forgiveness program is fifteen percent (15%) of the loan amount.

27 Measures aimed at digitization of loan application, approval, and
28 disbursement process shall be implemented. The SBCorp shall coordinate with the
29 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), the BSP, and
30 the private sector to accomplish digitization.

1 The SBCorp shall issue the rules and regulations implementing this Section
2 within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act.

3 Sec. 17. *Interest Free Loans.* - The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and
4 the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) shall introduce an interest-free
5 loan program available to non-essential businesses to assist and encourage them to
6 continue investing in their businesses. The interest-free loans may be granted in
7 accordance with the following guidelines and such other conditions as may be
8 imposed under the implementing rules and regulations issued by the DOF and the
9 BSP:

10 a. The maximum loanable amount is equivalent to one hundred percent
11 (100%) of the borrower's direct labor costs for a period of three (3) months; and

12 b. The loan is payable within three (3) to five (5) years:

13 The LBP and the DBP shall prioritize agri-fishery businesses, and non-
14 essential businesses that are small and medium enterprises, including startups.
15 The LBP and DBP shall also prefer MSME+ that supports the initiatives of the
16 DOH towards ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of health care services.

17 The LBP and the DBP may rediscount loans granted by BSP-supervised
18 financial institutions and the SBCorp and provide other credit accommodations for
19 non-essential businesses, particularly to MSME+. The LBP and DBP may
20 undertake similar activities consistent with the objectives of this Act.

21 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the President of the Philippines shall have
22 the power to: (i) declare moratorium on the payment of loans of MSME+; (ii) make
23 available emergency loans to MSME+ in critically impacted businesses for
24 additional capital outlay; and (iii) ease regulations to ensure that MSME+ have
25 access to the loan facility provided herein.

26 The Special Interest-Free Fund for the implementation of this Section is
27 hereby established with an appropriated amount of Fifty billion pesos
28 (P50,000,000,000.00). The fund shall be allocated to LBP and DBP in proportion to
29 the current loan portfolio of the said banks at the time of effectivity of this Act. The
30 Secretary of Finance and the Governor of BSP shall jointly issue the rules and

1 regulations implementing this Section, within fifteen (15) days upon the effectivity
2 of this Act.

3 SEC. 18. *Loan Guarantee by Philippine Guarantee Corporation.* - To ensure
4 that non-essential businesses are able to fulfill their loan obligations, whether
5 existing, outstanding or new loans, to banks, lending, or financing institutions, and
6 to help strengthen the liquidity and financial position of these non-essential
7 businesses towards expediting the country's economic recovery, the Philippine
8 Guarantee Corporation (PGC) shall:

9 a. Issue an expanded government guarantee program for non-essential
10 businesses by increasing the maximum loan guarantee coverage per
11 borrower, decreasing the capital adequacy ratio from seven percent (7%) to
12 five percent (5%), widening the coverage of guarantees to loans provided by
13 non-bank financial institutions, lending and financing companies supervised
14 by the SEC, reducing eligibility requirements and guarantee fees, waiving
15 the right of excussion under the guarantee, relaxing the guidelines on claims
16 by allowing lenders to call on the guarantee when there is an occurrence of
17 payment default, and other measures necessary to give non-essential
18 businesses and MSME+ access to better terms of credit.

19 b. Ease its current rules and regulations and give preference to critically
20 impacted businesses and small and medium enterprises, including start-ups, in
21 issuing government guarantees to help achieve the policy objectives of this Act.

22 c. Implement a loan portfolio guarantee scheme that guarantee a
23 specified loan portfolio of partner financial institutions covering eligible loans of
24 MSME+ loans, subject to the implementing rules and regulations, which includes
25 the criteria for accrediting partner financial institutions.

26 d. Prefer business entities that support the initiatives of the DOH
27 towards ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of health care services.

28 For the efficient and faster implementation of the Section, the PGC may
29 require assistance, from other government financial institutions, including facilities
30 and personnel resources. Measures aimed at digitization of guarantee application

1 and enrollment processes shall be implemented. The PGC shall coordinate with the
2 DICT, the BSP, and the private sector to accomplish digitization.

3 For purposes of this Section, the amount of Twenty billion pesos
4 (Php20,000,000,000.00) is appropriated as additional paid-up capital of PGC. The
5 Special Guarantee Fund is hereby created with an initial appropriated amount of
6 Twenty billion pesos (Php 20,000,000,000.00) for 2020 and another Twenty billion
7 pesos (Php 20,000,000,000.00) for 2021. The PGC shall set up a sinking fund as a
8 percentage of the total allocated amount to immediately cover losses from defaults.

9 Within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
10 Finance shall issue the rules and regulations implementing this Section, with the
11 end-in-view of achieving the policy objectives of this Act.

12 CHAPTER V: Sectoral Interventions

13 SEC. 19. *Assistance to MSME+*. - The DTI shall provide technical assistance
14 or offer grants for the education, training, and consultancy services for MSME+ on:

15 a. Innovation in business practices to include product research and
16 development, digital transformation of business management, production,
17 distribution, retail, and other business areas to ensure resilience to future
18 disruptions including managing the risk of cyber threats;

19 b. Upskilling and re-skilling of workers to adapt to the new nature of
20 work;

21 c. Market assistance in identifying new market trends to allow
22 enterprises to pivot to high-value and high-necessity products, including any
23 activity that supports the initiatives of the DOH towards ensuring an adequate and
24 responsive supply of health care services;

25 d. Utilizing online platforms to facilitate product distribution or delivery
26 channels, including application or website development, and the set-up of logistics
27 to support online sales platforms;

28 e. The management and practice of tele-work, online consultancy, tele-
29 consulting of professional services, and customer service, including managing the
30 risk of cyber threats; and

1 f. Other relevant business practices that may be introduced for purposes
2 of mitigating the economic effects of COVID-19.

3 The DTI shall prefer MSME+ that supports the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong*
4 *Pag-asa* Program under Executive Order No. 114, Series of 2020.

5 The amount of Ten billion pesos (Php10,000,000,000.00) is hereby
6 appropriated for the implementation of this Section.

7 The DTI shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Section
8 within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act.

9 SEC. 20. *Assistance to the Tourism Industry.* - The Department of Tourism
10 (DOT) and its instrumentalities shall assist critically impacted businesses that are
11 tourism enterprises, in any of the following programs:

- 12 a. Interest-free loans or issuance of loan guarantees with terms of up to
13 five (5) years for maintenance and operating expenses;
- 14 b. Credit facilities for upgrading, rehabilitation, or modernization of
15 current establishments or facilities to be compliant with new health
16 and safety standards;
- 17 c. Marketing and product development promotions and programs;
- 18 d. Grants for education, training, and advising of tourism stakeholder for
19 the new normal alternative livelihood programs;
- 20 e. Utilization of information technology for the improvement of tourism
21 services, development of a tourist tracking system for emergency
22 response, and establishment of spatial database to improve planning
23 capacity; and
- 24 f. Any other relevant programs, including infrastructure, necessary to
25 mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 on the tourism industry.

26 For purposes of items (a) and (b) herein, government financial institutions
27 such as the LBP and DBP shall administer the loans for DOT but subject to
28 guidelines from the DOT that shall be prepared for these purposes: *Provided*, That
29 the loan interventions implemented under this Section are exclusively for accredited
30 tourism enterprises only.

1 Availment of grants, loans or loan guarantees through other provisions of
2 this Act is not a disqualification for any tourism enterprise to avail of any economic
3 relief measures in this Section.

4 The DOT shall prefer establishments that support the (1) *Balik Probinsya*,
5 *Bagong Pag-asa* Program under Executive Order No. 114, Series of 2020, and (2)
6 initiatives of the DOH towards ensuring an adequate and responsive supply of
7 health care services.

8 The amount of Fifty-eight billion pesos (Php58,000,000,000.00) is hereby
9 appropriated for the implementation of this Section.

10 The Secretary of Tourism shall issue the implementing rules and regulations
11 of this Section within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act.

12 SEC. 21. *Assistance to the Transportation Industry.* - The Department of
13 Transportation (DOTr) and other authorized agencies or instrumentalities, shall
14 extend the following assistance to critically impacted businesses in the
15 transportation industry:

- 16 a. Grant emergency credit lines for purposes of funding operations;
- 17 b. Grant interest-free loans or long-term credit facility to allow the
18 restructuring of existing debts and assist in rehabilitation;
- 19 c. Provide credit guarantee schemes to guarantee bank loans and credit
20 lines;
- 21 d. Provide grants for applicable regulatory fees;
- 22 e. Allow substitution of refund option to travel vouchers;
- 23 f. Provide fuel subsidy to public utility vehicles (PUVs) for the period when
24 prescribed social distancing measures are enforced such as the required
25 fifty percent (50%) passenger capacity limit;
- 26 g. Provide grants for training, equipment, facilities, test kits and necessary
27 personnel, to cope with any health risks arising from infectious diseases;
28 and
- 29 h. Allow contracting of buses and other PUVs by national and local
30 authorities to provide public transportation services in the National

1 Capital Region, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao, and in other cities in the
2 Philippines subject to the approval of the DOTr.

3 Within fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOTr or any of its
4 instrumentalities shall prescribe the eligibility requirements and other terms and
5 conditions for any of the above-mentioned assistance, subject to the guidelines
6 issued under this Section.

7 For purposes of item (d) herein, the grants may include reductions in (i) rates
8 through the removal of local taxes as may be applicable, and (ii) fees and charges
9 imposed by any regulatory agency and LGU. Such grants are payable, respectively,
10 to the relevant regulatory agencies and LGUs: *Provided*, That, the grant shall be
11 chargeable against the fund created for the purpose of implementing this Section.
12 Any critically impacted business may avail of the grant for a period of not more
13 than six (6) months.

14 For purposes of items (b) and (c) herein, the DOTr or any of its
15 instrumentalities may also utilize the loan and loan guarantee programs and other
16 loan related measures provided under this Act, subject to the rules, regulations and
17 guidelines issued under the corresponding intervention. However, the loan
18 interventions implemented under this Section may only be used for critically
19 impacted business in the transportation industry.

20 For purposes of item (f), the DOTr, with the assistance of the Department of
21 Energy (DOE), shall prescribe the guidelines for the provision of fuel subsidy to
22 PUVs.

23 For purposes of item (h), the PUV operators contracted by the DOTr or LGUs
24 to provide public transportation services shall be issued the relevant permits by the
25 Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board. The DOTr shall prescribe
26 the minimum standards and level of service required to be complied with by the
27 contracted PUV operators.

28 The contractual arrangements entered into by (i) the DOTr and DOE with
29 the gasoline station owners under item (f), and (ii) the DOTr or the LGUs with the

1 PUV operators under item (h), shall be exempt from the provisions of Republic Act
2 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

3 Availment of any economic relief such as wage subsidy, loan, and loan
4 guarantees and other relief under the other provisions of this Act, is not a
5 disqualification for critically impacted businesses in the transportation industry to
6 avail of the economic relief provided under this Section.

7 The DOTr shall prefer business entities that supports the *Balik Probinsya*,
8 *Bagong Pag-asa* Program under Executive Order No. 114, Series of 2020.

9 The amount of Seventy billion pesos (Php 70,000,000,000.00) shall be
10 appropriated for the implementation of this Section.

11 The Secretary of Transportation shall issue the rules and regulations
12 implementing this Section within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act.

13 SEC. 22. *Assistance to Industry and Service Sectors.* - The DTI and its
14 attached agencies, particularly the Board of Investments (BOI), shall offer grants
15 and technical assistance to business entities engaged in the manufacture of
16 products and supply of services, including the export thereof and their respective
17 supply chains, to meet the needs of the domestic market and export commitments,
18 restore or expand to new global markets and market spaces and enhance
19 competitive advantage. The grants and technical assistance include:

20 (a) For the manufacture or supply of critical and essential goods and services
21 for the control of COVID-19 transmission, grants and other investment support
22 shall be provided, including subsidized or soft loans, subsidy for loan guaranty,
23 equity investments through the National Emergency Investment Vehicle as
24 provided under Section 25 of this Act, and preference for domestic sourcing as
25 provided under this Act, for the following purposes:

26 i. Research and development, prototyping, testing and certification, and
27 other necessary activities for developing local capability for the
28 manufacture of COVID-19 critical and essential products and services;
29 repurposing of manufacturing activities to produce the COVID-19
30 critical and essential products and services.

1 For this purpose, COVID-19 critical and essential products include
2 medicines, medical equipment and devices, personal protective
3 equipment (PPE), surgical equipment and supplies, laboratory
4 equipment and its reagents, medical supplies, tools, and consumables
5 such as alcohol, sanitizer, tissue, hand soap, detergent, sodium
6 hydrochloride, cleaning materials, and povidone iodine, including the
7 production or manufacture of raw materials, semi-finished or
8 intermediate goods, and machinery and equipment used in the
9 production or manufacture of the said products.

10 COVID-19 critical and essential services include crematoriums,
11 health waste treatment and disposal, laboratories, test facilities,
12 hospitals, and quarantine facilities.

13 The above notwithstanding, subject to the determination by the BOI, shall also
14 cover programs and projects of National Government, any of its agencies or
15 departments, or LGUs, including those concerning the adoption of low carbon
16 technologies and circular economy in the manufacture and disposal of COVID-19
17 critical and essential products.

18 (b) For exporters of goods, the grants are for purposes of market retention,
19 identification, and expansion such as:

- 20 i. Participation in trade fairs, international business matching missions,
21 conferences and other promotion events, physically or through digital
22 means, to restore or identify new global markets for exports, or identify
23 new products and services to be bought or sold in global markets; and
- 24 ii. Research and development for purposes of introducing new products
25 and services, improving existing products and services, or discovering
26 any form of innovation in business processes, that may increase
27 competitive advantage in existing or new export markets, consistent
28 with low carbon development, circular economy, and ecological
29 integrity.

1 (c) For foreign companies and their support industries, subsidies
2 necessary to support and facilitate the relocation to the Philippines, such as option
3 to diversify risks, vary the range of products or field of operation, keep supply chain
4 integrity, and expand access to market opportunities.

5 (d) For BPOs, grants and other forms of assistance to set-up facilities and
6 equipment for the services sector to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19
7 pandemic and for the workforce to continue to work from home and ensure their
8 health and safety.

9 (e) For critically impacted manufacturing businesses, including those
10 serving domestic and export markets, the following shall be provided:

- 11 i. Grant or subsidy;
- 12 ii. Education, training, and counseling; and
- 13 iii. Interest-free loans with terms of up to five (5) years through loan
14 programs and other loan-related measures granted under this Act:
15 *Provided*, That availment of grants and loans or loan guarantees
16 under other provisions of this Act does not disqualify a business
17 entity from availing of any other form of economic relief measures in
18 this Section.

19 The support for education, training, and counseling shall include:

- 20 i. Improving business resiliency;
- 21 ii. Coping with global supply chain disruptions caused by COVID-19
22 and such other similar causes in the future, including changes in
23 quantity and lead time, quality, and technology;
- 24 iii. Using online platforms as an alternative or supplementary means to
25 facilitate product distribution channels and delivery of services;
- 26 iv. Establishing the management and practice of tele-work, online
27 consultancy, online professional services, freelancers, and customer
28 service, including risk management of cyber threats; and

- 1 v. Introducing relevant new business models and business practices
2 introduced for purposes of mitigating the economic effects of COVID-
3 19 on trade relations.

4 The grant or subsidy shall cover the following:

- 5 i. Innovation in business practices, such as product research and
6 development anchored on low carbon technologies and circular
7 economy and digital transformation of business management,
8 production, distribution retail, and other business areas, to ensure
9 resilience to future disruptions including managing the risk of cyber
10 threats;
- 11 ii. Upskilling and reskilling of workers consistent with Republic Act No.
12 10771 or the "Philippine Green Jobs Act"; and
- 13 iii. Market assistance in identifying new market trends to allow
14 enterprises to pivot to high-value and high-necessity products
15 through the use of low carbon technologies, adhering to circular
16 economy, and promoting ecological integrity, as applicable.

17 For the interventions provided herein, priority shall be granted to business
18 entities requiring assistance for any activity, including new business investments
19 and operations, that supports the initiatives of the DOH towards ensuring an
20 adequate and responsive supply of health care products and services.

21 To ensure adequate and responsive supply of critical products and supplies,
22 the government as the procuring entity shall purchase domestically-produced and
23 manufactured goods, supplies and materials in the interest of availability, efficiency
24 and timely delivery thereof, in as much as the specified or desired quality and
25 standards are complied with.

26 Materials and supplies produced, made or manufactured in the Philippines
27 offered by a domestic bidder as defined under Republic Act No. 9184 or the
28 Government Procurement Reform Act shall be given preference over those offered
29 by foreign bidders: *Provided, however,* That the specified or desired quality and
30 standards are complied with.

1 The award shall be made to the lowest domestic bidder provided that the bid
2 is not more than twenty percent (20%) in excess of the lowest foreign bid, provided
3 further that it has secured from the DTI a certification that the articles, materials,
4 or supplies are grown, produced, made or manufactured in the Philippines.

5 The procuring entity shall award the contract to the domestic bidder,

6 The DTI shall prefer MSME+ that supports the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong*
7 *Pag-asa* Program under Executive Order No.114, Series of 2020.

8 The amount of Forty-Four Billion Pesos (Php 44,000,000,000.00) is hereby
9 appropriated for the implementation of this Section.

10 The Secretary of Trade and Industry, together with the Board of Governors of
11 BOI, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Section within
12 fifteen (15) days from the effectivity of this Act.

13 *SEC. 23. Assistance to the Agri-Fishery Sector*

14 The Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached agencies, bureaus and
15 corporations shall extend the following assistance to the agri-fishery sector:

- 16 a. Provision of additional budget to the National Food Authority to maintain
17 rice buffer stocks through procurement of locally produced palay to be used
18 for emergency situations and sustain the disaster relief programs of the
19 government during natural or man-made calamities;
- 20 b. Establishment of additional market for small farmers and fisherfolks and
21 provision of seed capital to barangay-based entrepreneurs and organizations
22 for direct selling of basic necessities and prime commodities through the
23 Upscaling of *KADIWA ni Ani* and *Kita* Program. The Food Logistics/Food
24 Markets Project shall connect the regional and provincial trading post in
25 rural areas to urban food terminals and large scale farm markets provided
26 with automated warehouses, complete with modern cold storage facilities,
27 inter-connected transport network and logistics support systems;
- 28 c. Provision of various technical and production and infrastructure support for
29 the following projects: Rice Resiliency Project, Integrated Livestock and Corn

1 Resiliency Project, Enhanced Small Ruminants and Poultry Project,
2 Enhanced White Corn Production for Food Resiliency, Coconut-based
3 Diversification Project, Fisheries Resiliency Project, Urban Agriculture
4 Project, Revitalized *Gulayan* Project, and Expanding Agri-extension support
5 to the provincial LGUs;

6 d) Provision of insurance, loans, and cash assistance to farmers and fisherfolk
7 through the implementation of the following projects: Expanded Agriculture
8 Insurance Project, Expanded Survival and Recovery or SURE Aid Project,
9 and Social Amelioration Program for Farmers and Fisherfolks;

10 e) Establishment of the following information and communications technology
11 systems on agri-fishery market: Price monitoring and enforcement system,
12 Multi-platform Communication and Information Exchange Support System,
13 Agricultural and Fisheries Commodity Exchange System and Digital
14 Agriculture System.

15 To contribute to the efforts of the *Balik Probinsya* Program, Fifteen billion
16 pesos (Php 15,000,000,000.00) is earmarked for the Cash for Work (C4W) Program
17 in Agriculture. This effort shall employ displaced workers affected by the COVID-19
18 pandemic for the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of irrigation canals,
19 processing facilities, and other agricultural facilities, as well as the planting and
20 production of long gestating crops.

21 Availment of grants, loans or loan guarantees through other provisions of
22 this Act does not disqualify any agri-fishery enterprise from availing of any other
23 form of economic relief measures in this Section.

24 The DA shall also give preference to establishments requiring assistance to
25 any activity that supports the *Balik Probinsya*, *Bagong Pag-asa* Program under
26 Executive Order No. 114 series of 2020.

27 The development and implementation of the foregoing programs and
28 services of the DA shall, as far as practicable, be pursued consistent with climate-
29 adaptive, ecologically-sound, and low-carbon value systems and technologies,

1 including post-harvest services to align with the objectives of sustainable
2 development and green economy.

3 The amount of Sixty-six billion pesos (Php66,000,000,000.00) shall be
4 appropriated for the implementation of this Section.

5 The DA shall work with the Department of Environment and Natural
6 Resources (DENR) to ensure that expanded agriculture production does not
7 compromise natural ecosystems and the services they provide and shall target idle
8 private lands for maximization and diversification of crop output prioritizing in the
9 selection of crops those that ensure food and water security as well as promote
10 health and well-being.

11

12 The DA shall issue the implementing rules and regulations for this Section
13 within fifteen (15) days after the effectivity of this Act.

14 *SEC. 24. Condonation of Loans of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries for Land*
15 *Acquisition under Government Land Redistribution Programs.* To provide agrarian
16 reform beneficiaries the opportunity to enhance access to credit facilities after the
17 disruption of the food supply chain by the Covid-19 pandemic, the payment of
18 unpaid principal, interests, penalties, and surcharges of loans used for land
19 acquisition to any and all government agencies and government-owned
20 corporations including the LBP shall be condoned: *Provided*, That the condonation
21 of unpaid principal, interests, penalties, and surcharges from these loans shall be in
22 conformity with the applicable general banking laws and regulations of the BSP:
23 *Provided, further*, That the LBP shall issue the appropriate certification to the
24 agrarian reform beneficiary, after the write-off of the principal, unpaid interest,
25 penalties and surcharges condoned to facilitate the immediate issuance of a
26 certificate of land title ownership to the concerned agrarian reform beneficiaries:
27 *Provided, finally*, that condonation as provided herein shall lift all liens and
28 encumbrances attached to the land acquired.

1 The Secretary of Finance and the Secretary of Agrarian Reform, in
2 consultation with the President of the LBP, shall promulgate the rules and
3 regulations to implement this Section.

4 SEC. 25. Creation of the National Emergency Investment Vehicle. – To
5 enable faster recovery of certain critically impacted businesses vital to the economy
6 but have been severely and adversely affected by the COVID-19, the National
7 Emergency Investment Vehicle (NEIV) is hereby created. The NEIV Board shall be
8 headed by the Secretary of Finance and shall be composed of eight (8) members, as
9 follows:

- 10 a. The President of LBP;
- 11 b. The President of DBP;
- 12 c. A director to be appointed by the BSP;
- 13 d. Two (2) independent directors; and
- 14 e. Three (3) directors that shall be appointed by LBP, DBP, and the private
15 equity investor, if any, in proportion to the voting shares held in the
16 NEIV.

17 The NEIV is mandated to perform the following functions:

- 18 a. Identify critically impacted businesses which are vital to the economy, such
19 as those belonging to the agriculture, infrastructure, service, transport,
20 tourism, and manufacturing industries but excluding banks and financial
21 institutions under the supervision of the BSP, that would otherwise have
22 continued operations but are at risk of bankruptcy of insolvency due to
23 COVID-19;
- 24 b. Extend loans and other forms of financial accommodation to, or make equity
25 investments in such identified critically impacted businesses;
- 26 c. Assume, in exchange for equity of the same value, the financial obligations of
27 such identified critically impacted businesses;
- 28 d. Invest in the form of limited equity participation by subscription or
29 acquisition of shares, execution of convertible loans or purchase of convertible

1 bonds, and such other securities as may be issued by the investee
2 corporations;

3 e. Merge or consolidate the identified critically impacted businesses in
4 consultation with the relevant regulators;

5 f. Evaluate the performance and ensure good corporate governance in the
6 business entities where the NEIV invested;

7 g. Perform due diligence activities inherent in its nature as a capital allocation
8 firm of the Government and devise mechanisms to protect the government's
9 investments by issuing a special class or series of shares or entering into
10 shareholders' or voting share agreements;

11 h. Create subsidiaries as necessary, where equity participation may also be
12 offered to and held by private sector investors, including multilateral
13 companies and lending institutions';

14 i. Establish and adopt accounting and auditing systems and standards in
15 accordance with the guidelines of the Commission on Audit (COA): *Provided,*
16 That, the audit of the NEIV by the COA shall not preclude the NEIV from
17 engaging the services of private auditing firms.

18 j. Perform such other functions as may be inherent or necessary to dispense of
19 its role as a capital allocation firm from whom reasonable returns are
20 expected; and

21 k. Exercise the foregoing functions and powers during national emergencies of
22 similar nature and magnitude like COVID-19.

23 The LBP and DBP are hereby authorized to invest in or enter into a joint
24 venture agreement with the NEIV and offer equal opportunity for equity
25 participation in the NEIV to all qualified private sector investors, including
26 multilateral and lending institutions.

27 When private shareholdings in the NEIV reaches fifty percent (50%) of the
28 total outstanding capital stock, the stockholders shall cause the adoption and
29 registration with the SEC of the amended articles of incorporation within three (3)
30 months from such transfer of ownership.

1 To implement this Section, the authorized capital stock of the NEIV is set at
2 One hundred billion pesos (Php 100,000,000,000.00). The amount of Twenty-five
3 billion pesos (Php 25,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated as equity of the
4 National Government in NEIV. An additional equity of Twenty-five billion pesos
5 (Php 25,000,000,000.00 shall be appropriated in the 2021 General Appropriations
6 Act.

7 CHAPTER VI: Structural Interventions

8 SEC. 26. *Enhanced "Build, Build, Build" Program* – As enhancements to the
9 programmed infrastructure spending, there shall be "Build, Build, Build" projects in
10 universal health care, housing, education, agri-fishery, transportation, security and
11 information communication technology. In addition to the portfolio of the
12 Presidential Adviser for Flagship Projects, the following projects shall be integrated
13 in the National Expenditure Programs in FY 2021, 2022, and 2023:

14 (a) The construction and development of modern health facilities that will
15 complement the Universal Health Care Law and national preparedness for
16 surges in demand for pandemics, as well as climate smart technologies and
17 solutions such as circular economy and low carbon technologies in the design of
18 facilities and procurement of supplies and materials, including adoption of solar-
19 powered lighting system, ecologically sensitive disposal of health care wastes,
20 installation of cooling system with low global warming potential, provision of
21 water catchment and treatment facilities, establishment of wellness facilities
22 promoting preventive care against diseases and illnesses, and capacity-building
23 of personnel concerned to adopt, manage, and sustain the foregoing innovative
24 interventions, among others.

25 (b) The construction and improvement of public school clinics and all other
26 facilities, and provision of efficient internet connectivity to all public schools and
27 state universities and colleges, with the aim of creating "Schools for the Future,"
28 or schools geared towards competitiveness in the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

29 (c) The construction, improvement, and renovation of infrastructure
30 supportive of creative industries;

1 (d) The construction, improvement, and renovation of infrastructure for
2 the agri-fishery industry geared towards food security and agricultural
3 resilience:

4 (e) The construction and upgrading of transportation passenger ports and
5 terminals including related facilities, such as, but not limited to, airports,
6 seaports, land transport terminals and railway stations, in accordance to with
7 social distancing and health standards, for the accelerated recovery of tourism
8 and travel activities;

9 (f) The construction, improvement and renovation of police stations and
10 military barracks to provide more facilities, spaces, and amenities complying
11 with social distancing and health standards;

12 (g) The construction, improvement and renovation of prison infrastructure
13 to decongest existing jails and provide humane accommodations complying with
14 social distancing and health standards for persons deprived of liberty (PDL);

15 (h) The construction, improvement and renovation of social housing
16 projects and resettlement areas that adhere to climate change adaptation and
17 disaster risk reduction standards to ensure human, environmental, and
18 ecological safety and security, as well as access to basic social services, which
19 include communal facility for solar-powered electricity, efficient potable water
20 and drainage and waste management system and services, among others;

21 (i) The construction, improvement, and renovation of digital
22 infrastructure to complement the national broadband plan, geared towards
23 increasing internet access in unserved and underserved areas. For any public-
24 private partnerships entered into for purposes of rolling out infrastructure under
25 this Sub-Section, disbursement of payment shall be based on compliance with
26 clear service targets, to be determined by the DICT;

27 (j) The construction, improvement and renovation of infrastructure
28 supporting the objectives of Executive Order No. 226 series of 1987, otherwise
29 known as "The Omnibus Investments Code of the Philippines", as amended,

1 including the relocation of manufacturing and service facilities from other
2 countries to the Philippines; and

3 (k) The construction of climate-smart and resilient infrastructure, such as
4 but not limited to, flexible smart power grids that can accommodate renewable
5 energy sources, early warning systems for natural hazards, sustainable
6 transportation systems that enable public transit, walking, and biking as
7 primary modes of travel, greenescapes and safety promoting roadway designs
8 that integrate wastewater management when possible, rainwater harvesting
9 systems in all barangays as mandated under Republic Act No. 6716, otherwise
10 known as the "Rainwater Collector and Springs Development Act of 1989",
11 nature-based solutions to floods, droughts, and typhoons, and green
12 infrastructure in public parks and spaces such as greenways and community
13 food gardens.

14 For ongoing infrastructure contracts, the implementing agencies are authorized
15 to allow contract variation orders and time extensions, to cover the additional or
16 modified scope of work, methodology, and schedule, in order to comply with the
17 health and safety protocols under the COVID-19 situation, on top of the limit of
18 ordinary variation orders allowed under the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184,
19 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Act. For new infrastructure
20 contracts, the implementing agencies shall include the additional or modified
21 COVID-19 related requirements in the bidding and contract documents.

22 To expedite the execution of infrastructure projects, the implementing agencies
23 are hereby authorized to engage Independent Property Appraisers (IPAs), provided
24 that they are duly licensed by the appropriate regulatory agencies. Accreditation
25 by the BSP or a professional association recognized by BSP is no longer needed as
26 previously required under Republic Act No. 10752, or the "Right of Way Act".

27 In the appraisal of land to be acquired as right-of-way for the projects, when
28 there is a difference in the market value of the land as determined by the BIR, on
29 one hand, and the market value determined by the Government Financing
30 Institution/Independent Property Appraiser (GFI/ IPA), on the other, the

1 implementing agency concerned shall adopt whichever is higher of the two
2 estimated market values – that is, (a) the market value as determined by GFI/IPA,
3 and (b) the market value as reflected in the BIR Zonal Value – as the appropriate
4 price offer to the land owner under the mode of negotiated sale.

5 Implementing Agencies, including LGUs, are hereby tasked to prioritize the
6 provision of bicycle and walk lanes as part of their respective infrastructure
7 development programs as a tool for facilitating social distancing measures and
8 promoting exercise as means to strengthen the immunity of people.

9 For this purpose, the amount of Six Hundred and Fifty Billion Pesos (Php
10 650,000,000,000.00) shall be appropriated over three (3) years starting FY 2020,
11 chargeable against funds sourced through any of the methods authorized under
12 Chapter IX of this Act: *Provided*, That twenty percent (20%) shall be appropriated
13 and released in 2020, forty percent (40%) in 2021, and forty percent (40%) in 2022:
14 *Provided, further*, That the implementing agencies shall expedite settlement of
15 accounts payables as of December 2019 and prioritize the payment for the
16 outstanding progress billings/invoices of contractors with complete documentation
17 or the partial release of payments to contractors based on submission of
18 deliverables: *Provided, furthermore*, That the COA and DBM shall streamline
19 documentary requirements for processing payment across government: *Provided*,
20 *finally*, That the DOF shall establish a project finance relief facility for the
21 government financial institutions to monetize future receivables of the contractors.

22 **SEC. 27. *Coordination of Monetary and Fiscal Policies.*** - The BSP and the
23 SEC are hereby encouraged to adopt measures, including the relaxation of
24 regulatory and statutory restrictions and requirements for a period of not more than
25 ten (10) years from their date of effectivity to encourage the banking industry and
26 other financial institutions to extend loans and other forms of financial
27 accommodation to help businesses recover from the economic effects of COVID-19
28 crisis and to enable the banking industry to manage appropriately risks and
29 potential losses. The Monetary Board may exempt the PGC, DBP, LBP, and
30 SBCorp from such ratios, ceilings and limitations, provided under Republic Act No.

1 8791, otherwise known as the General Banking Law of 2000 for a period of five (5)
2 years from the effectivity of this Act, subject to extension of not more than five (5)
3 years as may be determined by the Monetary Board.

4 The BSP and the SEC are hereby authorized to grant reporting relief to its
5 supervised entities by allowing staggered booking of allowance for credit losses for
6 all types of credit accommodations extended to individuals and business entities
7 affected by COVID-19.

8 Until a similar law is enacted, Republic Act No. 9182, as amended, otherwise
9 known as "The Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) Act of 2002", is hereby revived for a
10 period of ten (10) years from the effectivity of this Act, subject to such extension as
11 may be determined by the BSP if it deems necessary to solve the non-performing
12 assets problem of the banking industry that may result from defaults occasioned by
13 the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 The SEC as the primary implementing agency for the SPV Act, upon request
15 of, and with prior consultation with the BSP, shall issue amendatory or
16 supplementary rules and regulations implementing the SPV Act, including
17 modification, relaxation and suspension of restrictions and requirements covering
18 periods, capitalization and other matters, excluding the tax incentives and fee
19 privileges under the SPV Act, to achieve its objectives and as well as of this Act and
20 which shall be effective for a period not exceeding ten (10) years from the effectivity
21 of this Act or the effectivity of the new law, whichever comes first.

22 CHAPTER VII: Other Socio-Economic Policy Measures

23 SEC. 28. *Socio-economic Policy Measures.* Socio-economic policies that
24 encourage the businesses, communities, and individuals to positively respond to the
25 economic effects of COVID-19 shall be pursued. These shall include the following:

26 (a) *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program*

27 All relevant agencies and departments are mandated to promote and
28 implement programs and policies for the immediate and effective
29 implementation of Executive Order No. 114 series of 2020, otherwise known
30 as the *Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa Program*, in view of the objectives

1 thereof, including (a) empowerment of local industries, (b) food security and
2 agricultural productivity, (c) social welfare, health and employment, and (d)
3 development of infrastructure.

4 (b) Trade:

- 5 i. All sector regulators with a price and fee regulation mandate shall review
6 existing pricing and payment policies, including tariff rates, and issue
7 temporary suspensions or revisions as needed, including export
8 percentage requirements for purposes of aiding regulated businesses cope
9 with economic losses arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 10 ii. The DTI, in consultation with the NEDA, Tariff Commission, and relevant
11 agencies, shall review existing tariff rates and recommend to the
12 President any necessary modification thereto. The President, at any time,
13 in the interest of national security, general welfare, and providing support
14 in the recovery of affected businesses and industries, may increase,
15 decrease, or modify tariff rates including necessary changes in tariff
16 classification.
- 17 iii. All relevant departments and agencies shall make it a policy to give
18 preference to all local suppliers and contractors for all Public-Private
19 Partnership projects, infrastructure projects, and all purchases for
20 relevant provisions and supplies from their respective MOOE.
- 21 iv. All relevant departments and agencies shall review and implement
22 policies and programs for logistics and supply chain management
23 involving the planning, transporting and handling of goods, services and
24 information from the point of origin to the point of consumption, most
25 especially for locally produced agri-fishery products.

26 (c) Technology

- 27 i. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the DICT, and DTI
28 shall encourage the culture of innovation, through research and
29 development, of business entities, especially in relation to the
30 development of information technology-based systems for the health

1 sector. The DTI, in coordination with DOST and DICT, shall review
2 incentives and grants for business entities, educational institutions as
3 well as individuals that develop COVID-19 or any pandemic-related
4 information technology products or services.

5 ii. The DOST, the DICT, and DTI shall support and promote scientific
6 research, the development of innovative technologies, and data analytics
7 to improve production efficiency and to inform government decision-
8 making. The DTI shall promote the commercialization of market-oriented
9 research and translation of research ideas into products and services.

10 iii. The DOST, the DICT, and DTI shall facilitate and encourage investments
11 for the development of ICT infrastructure to serve as backbone of digital
12 learning, telecommuting and low-contact business transactions.

13 iv. The DICT shall issue rules and regulations that would facilitate the
14 development of information and communication technology infrastructure
15 and shall, among others, provide open access approach in the regulation of
16 data transmission services sector, and mandate the interconnection
17 among data transmission participants to ensure efficient connectivity and
18 low cost to consumers. The DICT, in coordination with the National
19 Telecommunications Commission (NTC), shall review the capacity of
20 telecommunications and internet service providers and encourage
21 improvement of digital and network infrastructure to ensure better access
22 to, and affordability of, telecommunications and internet services.

23 (d) Health:

24 i. All departments and their respective attached agencies, in coordination
25 with the DOH and in consultation with the private sector, shall
26 formulate and implement protocols and guidelines to mitigate
27 transmission of COVID 19 and any other infectious diseases in the
28 industries and sectors they respectively regulate and supervise.

29 ii. All departments and their respective attached agencies shall formulate
30 plans, programs and policies with the objective to endeavor national

1 self-sufficiency in the supply of health-related goods and services,
2 especially COVID-19 and any other infectious disease related medical
3 supplies and equipment.

4 (e) Agriculture:

5 i. The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall facilitate the systematic
6 production and exchange of goods and services in agricultural supply
7 chains through institutional support services and logistics-based
8 solutions to strengthen market linkages and minimize transaction
9 costs.

10 ii. The DA shall ensure the full implementation of its existing programs in
11 agricultural modernization, including the enhancement of farm
12 mechanization, adoption of new technologies to improve farm
13 productivity, and the efficient and sustainable use of farm resources.

14 iii. The DA shall also expand its existing program on urban agriculture.
15 The DA shall identify and develop idle government and private lands
16 and open spaces, without prejudice to the rights of owners of private
17 lands, for full or partial conversion to community gardens or vertical
18 farms, utilizing geponic, hydroponic, or aeroponic growing methods.
19 The DA, in coordination with LGUs, shall establish barangay-level
20 community food gardens.

21 iv. The DA shall provide the necessary technical assistance and support
22 services, including, but not limited to, provision of seeds and seedlings,
23 and gardening tools, access to loans from government financial
24 institutions, and agricultural training, to ensure the full productivity of
25 community gardens and vertical farms.

26 (f) Regulatory:

27 i. The DTI, in consultation with the ARTA and LGUs, shall review
28 existing policies and recommend the removal or revision of rules and
29 regulations that do not support the goal of business continuity post

1 COVID-19. Any measure adopted under this Section shall be evaluated
2 every six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act.

- 3 ii. To enable LGUs to pump prime their respective local economies,
4 provide job opportunity particularly to those displaced by the COVID-
5 19 pandemic, and employ additional personnel to increase service
6 capacity the following measures are hereby authorized: (1) LGUs may
7 reprogram or realign unutilized funds under trust accounts, such as,
8 but not limited to, the special education fund and the gender and
9 development fund, to other priority programs included in their annual
10 investment plan; (2) The adjusted share of LGUs from national taxes
11 shall commence and shall be automatically released to them
12 immediately upon the effectivity of this Act (3) The allowable debt
13 service ceiling of LGUs is increased to thirty percent (30%) of their
14 annual regular income including their share in national taxes; (4)
15 LGUs may allocate not more than fifty percent (50%) of their share in
16 national taxes for debt servicing; (5) LGUs with outstanding loans
17 from government accredited banks and government financial
18 institutions shall be granted loan payment moratorium up to
19 December 31, 2021 and loan term extension of not more than ten (10)
20 years from the original due date; and (6) LGUs may contract new loans
21 from government-accredited banks and government financial
22 institutions at preferential interest rate of not more than one and a
23 half percent (1.5%) per annum. The loan proceeds shall be used
24 exclusively for development projects designed to enhance the resiliency
25 of LGUs to the effects of COVID-19.

- 26 iii. All relevant departments and agencies, including LGUs, shall
27 implement programs and policies for the digitalization and automation
28 of all transactions, including payments to and from the government.
29 All relevant departments and agencies, including LGUs, shall promote
30 financial inclusion of individuals and entities, especially beneficiaries

1 of government amelioration programs and beneficiaries of the
2 interventions in this Act. These shall include access to appropriate,
3 affordable and timely financial products and services, such as, but not
4 limited to, banking, loan, equity and insurance products.

5 CHAPTER VIII: Reporting and Monitoring

6 SEC. 29. *Long-term Plan for Economic and Ecological Resilience.* – The
7 NEDA shall submit to Congress a long-term plan for building economic and
8 ecological resilience, not later than six (6) months after the lifting of the CQ. The
9 Economic and ecological Resilience Plan (ERP) shall include a strategy for
10 measuring and monitoring economic and ecological resilience and identification of
11 structural reforms needed to increase the ability of the economy to withstand shocks
12 such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan shall include the institutionalization of
13 national measures that account for ecosystem services and natural capital
14 accounting and ensure that the totality of government medium term development
15 plans and projects are well within the capacities to produce materials or sinks as
16 may be determined by the EMB in coordination with NEDA. The ERP shall include
17 the following:

18 (a) The required investments in the health care sector in the next ten (10)
19 years to ensure its ability to respond to the health care needs of the population,
20 including emerging infectious diseases similar to COVID-19;

21 (b) The required investment in digital infrastructure to improve
22 connectivity and access to digital technology to enable Philippine businesses and
23 households to cope with crisis and shocks;

24 (c) The required database to ensure the responsiveness of social protection
25 programs of the government for vulnerable and displaced households during period
26 of external shocks such as the outbreak of COVID-19; and

27 (d) The required key climate change adaptation and mitigation
28 investments to operationalize a low emissions and climate-resilient development
29 pathway toward a green economy.

1 **SEC. 30. *Economic Stimulus Board*** – The Economic Stimulus Board (ESB) is
2 hereby established to identify the components of the fiscal stimulus package, and
3 determine the realistic and measurable targets, timelines, and performance
4 indicators of the specific government programs of the implementing agency for the
5 delivery of each intervention. The ESB shall have as its chairperson the NEDA
6 Secretary and shall be composed of representatives from the DOF, DBM, DOLE,
7 DILG, SSS, GSIS, LBP, DBP, DTI, SBCorp, PGC, BOI, DA, DOT, BSP, SEC, NEIV
8 and the Department of Public Works and Highways. The Chairperson of the ESB
9 may designate additional members as may be deemed necessary for the proper
10 implementation of this Act. The President of the Philippines may appoint
11 representatives from the private sector as members of the ESB.

12 The ESB shall create a registry of assisted businesses, a centralized database
13 which all members of the ESB can access with ease, for purposes of monitoring the
14 availment of various forms of assistance authorized by this Act, to ensure that the
15 total amount of assistance received by any single business entity, is rational and
16 proportionate to the scale of response required to retain its workforce and maintain
17 its payroll costs.

18 The ESB shall also establish and facilitate a mechanism involving the
19 implementing agencies of this Act, particularly the DICT, for the timely, accurate,
20 comprehensive and centralized dissemination of information, including but not
21 limited to the various implementing rules and regulations mandated in this Act, for
22 the immediate knowledge and awareness of the public.

23 The ESB shall have the authority to coordinate and transact with, and avail
24 of, the services of private entities that could provide technical assistance or digital
25 infrastructure necessary for ESB to perform its functions and implement the
26 economic relief granted under this Act.

27 **SEC. 31. *Functions of the ESB.*** - The ESB shall perform the following
28 functions and powers:

- 1 a. Evaluate the costs and benefits of programs and projects provided for in
2 this Act, and recommend their modification, if necessary;
- 3 b. Study and recommend programs and projects that the government may
4 undertake to complement the implementation of programs and projects
5 provided for in this Act;
- 6 c. Oversee and spearhead the preparation of reports mandated under this
7 Act;
- 8 d. Recommend to Congress remedial legislation to expeditiously and
9 efficiently implement the programs and projects allowed or provided for
10 in this Act ; and
- 11 e. Perform such other functions inherent in its role as the coordinating
12 council for all programs and projects provided for in this Act and as may
13 be delegated by the President of the Philippines.

14 SEC. 32. *Monitoring of Implementation and Congressional Oversight.* – A
15 Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Economic Stimulus Program is hereby
16 created. The Oversight Committee shall be composed of four (4) members from the
17 House of Representatives to be designated by the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives, and four (4) Members from the Senate to be designated by the
19 Senate President. An additional member from the Majority and the Minority shall
20 be respectively designated by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives.

22 The Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Economic Stimulus
23 Program shall be tasked to monitor the implementation of the economic stimulus
24 response package and recommend remedial legislation, if necessary.

25 The ESB shall continue to estimate and monitor the impact of COVID-19 on
26 the economy. In order to ensure the proper use of funds, the ESB shall submit a
27 monthly report to Congress of all acts performed pursuant to this Act.

28 The NEDA and the implementing departments shall submit, either in
29 printed form or by way of electronic document, to the Oversight Committee, House
30 Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Finance and the

1 Commission on Audit, the quarterly accountability reports on the utilization of
2 funds. The NEDA shall be responsible for ensuring that the said quarterly reports
3 are likewise posted on the official website of the NEDA and the implementing
4 agencies.

5 Releases from the appropriations made herein shall be subject to the
6 submission of a special budget pursuant to Section 35, Chapter 5, Book VI of
7 Executive Order No. 292, series of 1987.

8 CHAPTER IX: FUNDING

9 SEC. 33. *Special Power to Reallocate and Realign Appropriations.* –
10 Notwithstanding any law or provision thereof to the contrary, to finance the
11 requirements of this Act, the President of the Philippines, with the concurrence of
12 the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, is hereby authorized to reallocate
13 and realign any appropriation as follows:

- 14 1. From programs, projects, and activities which cannot be utilized
15 effectively as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak under Republic Act
16 No. 11260 or the General Appropriations Act of 2019 and Republic Act
17 No. 11465 or the General Appropriations Act of 2020 except those
18 which are allocated for infrastructure projects;
- 19 2. From programs and activities as identified by the DBM which cannot
20 be utilized effectively as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak, including
21 items such as discretionary travel, representation and training
22 expenses, and declare allotments for such items as forced savings,
23 except those which are allocated for infrastructure projects. The DBM
24 shall make a detailed report to the President and Congress on forced
25 savings arising from COVID-19, not later than two (2) weeks after the
26 enactment of this Act;
- 27 3. From infrastructure projects suitable and/or viable for public-private
28 partnership (PPP) projects in the Executive Department, including
29 those implemented by the government-owned or -controlled
30 corporations (GOCCs), as identified by the ESB for which funds had

1 been appropriated but remain unobligated under RA No. 11260 and
2 RA No. 11465—and other special laws, and utilize any savings
3 generated therefrom to fund or augment the allocation for any item
4 mandated under this Act. These infrastructure projects can be
5 implemented under Republic Act No. 6957, as amended, otherwise
6 known as the “BOT Law” under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
7 projects of the government.

8 Notwithstanding, infrastructure projects appropriated under RA
9 No. 11260 and RA No 11465 that are in the final stages of the
10 procurement process, subject to award, shall be issued a corresponding
11 Special Allotment Release Order by the DBM, and be excluded from
12 the appropriated items to be reallocated or realigned for the purpose of
13 this Act.

14 Subject to applicable constitutional restrictions, the President of
15 the Philippines, upon recommendation of the ESB, is authorized to
16 ease, modify or suspend restrictions, requirements and other matters
17 under the BOT Law and such other laws governing PPP projects for a
18 period of not more than ten (10) years from the date of their effectivity;
19 and

20 4. From cash, funds, and investments held by any GOCC or any
21 national government agency.

22 Any law that reserves or earmarks any fund or collection by any national
23 government agency or GOCC is hereby expressly superseded by the foregoing
24 authorization, and the President of the Philippines, with the concurrence of the
25 Joint Congressional Oversight Committee, shall have authority and discretion to
26 reallocate and realign such fund or collection for whatever purpose the President
27 may deem necessary, beneficial, or desirable in order to address the public health
28 emergency as declared in Proclamation No. 929 series 2020.

29 This authority shall be valid for six (6) months: *Provided, however,* That the
30 President shall submit a quarterly report on the reallocation to Congress.

1 SEC. 34. *Standby Appropriations.* In addition to the amounts to be
2 generated from the realignment and reallocation of appropriations as provided in
3 Section 33, there shall be a standby appropriations of Seven hundred eight billion
4 pesos (Php 708,000,000,000) to implement the programs and projects under this Act
5 for the current year. The amount authorized herein shall only be used when the
6 proceeds from approved loans, bonds issuances and other indebtedness, for
7 programs and projects as stated in Section 35 of this Act are realized. The funding
8 requirements for FY 2021 shall be included in the FY 2021 General Appropriations
9 Act.

10 SEC. 35. *Financing.* - The Secretary of Finance is authorized to direct the
11 Treasurer of the Philippines to borrow, in the name and on behalf of the Republic of
12 the Philippines, such amounts and in such form including bonds, loans, and other
13 evidence of indebtedness to finance programs provided herein.

14 The borrowings shall be incurred in such amounts as will be needed at any
15 one time, taking into account the following:

- 16 a) Rate at which said borrowings may be absorbed by the buying public;
- 17 b) The fund requirements of projects ready for execution, and
- 18 c) The balance between productive and non-productive projects to hold
19 inflation at the minimum.

20 For domestic borrowings, the Secretary of Finance shall prescribe the form,
21 the rate of interest, the denomination, maturity, negotiability, convertibility, call
22 and redemption features, and all other terms and conditions governing the
23 issuance, placement, sale, servicing, redemption, and payment of bonds issued
24 under the authority of this Act: *Provided*, That consultation with the BSP will be
25 made on the probable effects of the proposed operation on monetary aggregates,
26 price level and balance of payments which shall be deemed in compliance with the
27 requirement under Section 123 of Republic Act No. 7653, as amended by Republic
28 Act No. 11211.

29 For foreign borrowings, the requirements under the Philippine Constitution
30 and applicable laws shall be complied with.

1 Bonds issued pursuant to this section as well as equity and quasi-equity
2 investments made, directly or indirectly, by banks in the agri-fishery enterprises
3 shall be eligible for purposes of meeting banks' statutory reserve requirements as
4 well as Agri-Agra Reform Credit Act (RA 10000) compliance for a period of ten (10)
5 years.

6 The principal and interest of the bonds issued under the authority of this
7 Section may be made payable in Philippine currency or any readily convertible
8 foreign currency. The Secretary of Finance shall cause to be paid out of any moneys
9 in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, or from any sinking funds
10 provided for the purpose by law, any interest falling due, or accruing, on any portion
11 of the public debt authorized by law. He shall also cause to be paid out of any such
12 money, or from any such sinking funds the principal amount of any obligations
13 which have matured, or which have been called for redemption or for which
14 redemption has been demanded in accordance with terms prescribed by him prior to
15 date of issue: *Provided, however,* That he may, if he so chooses and if the holder is
16 willing, exchange any such obligation with any other direct or guaranteed obligation
17 or obligations of the Philippine Government of equivalent value.

18 The Secretary of Finance is also authorized to access official development
19 assistance and such other financing facilities with rates comparable to or more
20 favorable than prevailing market rates, as may be necessary for programs, projects,
21 and activities to address the pandemic.

22 Likewise, government financial institutions and other government-owned or
23 controlled corporations are hereby authorized to issue bonds under such terms and
24 conditions as they may determine in their sound discretion to enable them help
25 finance the programs provided herein, and subject to approval by the Secretary of
26 Finance.

27 The BSP is hereby authorized to make direct provisional advances to the
28 National Government to finance the expenditures authorized in its annual
29 appropriations in accordance with and subject to the provisions of its charter:
30 *Provided, That,* for purposes of financing the programs under this Act and funding

1 the appropriations made to implement the same, any and all provisional advances
2 shall not, in their aggregate, exceed 30% of the average income of the National
3 Government for the last three (3) preceding fiscal years, amending Section 89 of
4 Republic Act No. 7653, as amended by Republic Act No. 11211, otherwise known as
5 the "New Central Bank Act".

6 SEC. 36. *Release of Funds.* – The DBM shall release the funds directly to the
7 appropriate implementing agency, subject to pertinent budgeting, accounting, and
8 auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

9 SEC. 37. *Availability of Appropriations.* – The appropriations authorized in
10 this Act sourced from new revenue sources and from the appropriations under
11 Republic Act No. 11260 and Republic Act No. 11465 shall be available for release
12 and disbursement for the purpose specified until December 31, 2021, unless
13 otherwise stated.

14 SEC. 38. *Penalty for Corrupt Practices.* – Any public official or employee and
15 any private individual in conspiracy with such official or employee who shall be
16 found guilty by the proper court of corrupt practices in the utilization and/or
17 disbursement of funds appropriated herein shall suffer the penalty of twelve (12)
18 years imprisonment and a fine treble the amount of the funds defrauded, malversed
19 and/or corrupted, and shall likewise be perpetually disqualified from holding public
20 office, either by appointment or election.

21 CHAPTER X: Final Provisions

22 SEC. 39. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Unless otherwise indicated,
23 the implementing rules and regulations necessary for this Act shall be issued by the
24 President of the Philippines within fifteen (15) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

25 SEC. 40. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or
26 provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts
27 or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
28 and effect.

1 SEC. 41. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of existing laws, orders, rules and
2 regulations or parts thereof which are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions
3 of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 42. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the
6 Philippines.

7 Approved,