



MAP 2020 ANNUAL REPORT
As of January 11, 2020

MAP THEME FOR 2020

“LEAD for a Competitive Tomorrow”

PRIORITY PROGRAMS FOR 2020

In pursuing its mission of promoting management excellence for nation-building, MAP focused this year on the following 4-point agenda:

Level up by enhancing ease of doing business,
Embrace ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) for sustainability,
Accelerate best management practices, and
Deepen the bench for future business leaders.

Level up by enhancing ease of doing business

1. Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI)

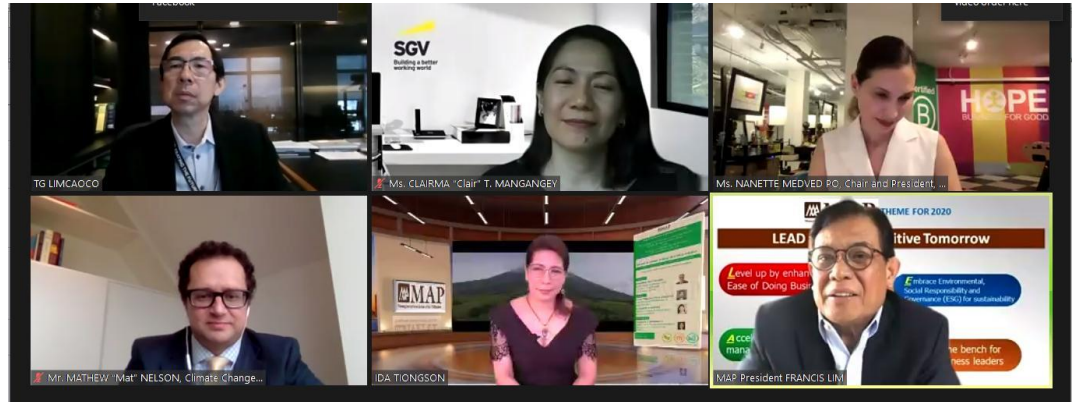
MAP partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on the Cities and Municipalities Competitiveness Index (CMCI) to promote and enhance Ease of Doing Business in the Philippines, and improve the competitiveness of the country through more efficient and competitive LGUs.

MAP also partnered with PASIA in an effort to help the government in Supply Chain Management, an area that needs vast improvement to help ensure the timely supply of goods and services at the lowest possible cost to our businesses and our people.

On the national front, MAP sent, together with the Philippine Business Groups and Joint Foreign Chambers, a letter to the Senate supporting the creation of a Department of Water Resources (DWR) and a Water Regulatory Commission (WRC).

Embrace ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) for sustainability

2. MAP devoted the October 13, 2020 MAP GMM on “ESG and its Linkage to Long-Term Value Creation” with Mr. MATHEW “Mat” NELSON, Climate Change and Sustainability Services - Global Leader of the Ernst & Young Australia, as speaker.



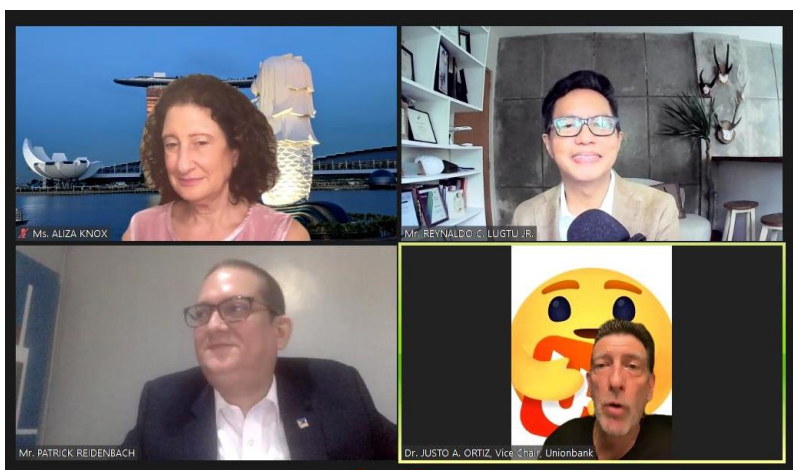
Reactors were:

- 2.1 Mr. JOSE TEODORO “TG” K. LIMCAOCO, Senior Managing Director and CFO of Ayala Corporation and
- 2.2 Ms. NANETTE MEDVED PO, Chair and President of Friends of Hope and CEO of Generation Hope.

Q&A Moderator was Ms. CLAIR MANGANGEY, Climate Change and Sustainability and the Head for Learning and Development of SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co.

Accelerate best management practices

3. MAP devoted its August 18, 2020 GMM on “The Urgent Need for a Future-Ready Board” with the followog speakers:



1. Ms. ALIZA KNOX , Non-Executive Director of Grant Thornton International Ltd and Head of APAC Cloudflare, Inc.,
2. Dr. JUSTO “Tito” A. ORTIZ, Vice Chair of UnionBank of the Philippines, and
3. Mr. REY LUGTU, Founder and CEO of Hungry Workhorse.

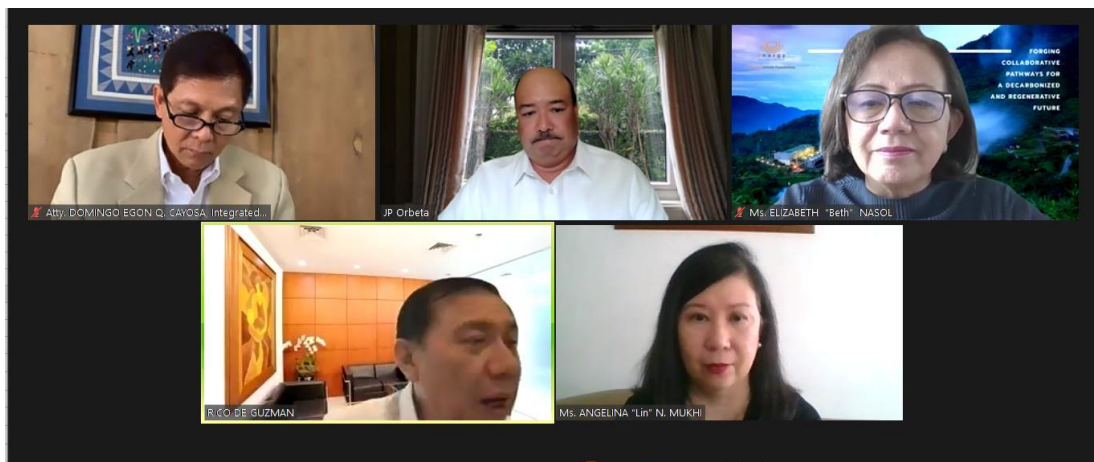
Q&A Moderator was Mr. PATRICK RICHARD D. REIDENBACH, Chair of MAP ICT Committee and President and General Manager of Ubaldo Reidenbach Solutions, Inc. (UR Solutions).

Deepen the bench for future business leaders

4. As institutionalized in September 2018, we continued having a Joint General Membership Meeting with PMAP on “Deepening the Bench for Future Business Leaders” which is one of the 4 pillars of our LEAD agenda for this year.

Speakers were:

- 4.1 Ms. ANGELINA “Lin” N. MUKHI, Vice President for Human Resources of PHINMA, Inc. and also the Vice President of the PMAP,
- 4.2 Ms. ELIZABETH “Beth” NASOL, Senior Vice President for Human Resources Management Group of Energy Development Corporation, and
- 4.3 Mr. JOHN PHILIP “JP” S. ORBETA, Managing Director, Chief HR Officer and Group Head for Corporate Resources of the Ayala Corporation.



Moderator was Atty. EMERICO O. DE GUZMAN, Chair of MAP Management Development and Human Capital Committee and Managing Partner of Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz (ACCRALAW).

Relevance and Prominence

We endeavoured to make MAP more relevant and prominent on the national front.

We issued and co-signed 52 statements (*see Annex B*) and letters on various national issues, replied to media queries and accepted media interviews to make the world know about our activities and position on national issues affecting business.

In some cases, other business organizations joined us in our statements. At one time, there were 44 organizations in signing the statement initiated by MAP. Quite recently, we led 19 business organizations in calling attention to the disaster preparedness and response of our country.

While we stayed apolitical, we boldly spoke up when we had to. We called a spade a spade. But even as we did this, we did not hesitate to praise the government where appropriate and worked closely with it - at times quietly - on various national concerns affecting business.

Definitely, our Association has not only enhanced its national relevance and prominence but more importantly, has helped influence and shape national policy.

MAP CEO Conference

MAP take special pride for this year’s International CEO Web Conference whose theme was “A WHOLE NEW WORLD: Reigniting the Stalled Global Economy” held last September 15, 2020.



The Conference featured global thought leaders as speakers in the persons of:

- 1.1 Dr. THIERRY APOTEKER (France), Chair and Chief Economist of TAC ECONOMICS

Reactor was MAP Governor AMANDO “Say” M. TETANGCO, JR.



- 1.2 Atty. AMAL ALAMUDDIN CLOONEY (Los Angeles), Barrister, Special Envoy, Global Media Freedom, British Foreign and Commonwealth Office



- 1.3 H.E. DATO PADUKA LIM JOCK HOI (Indonesia), Secretary-General, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)



- 1.4 Dr. JEFFREY D. SACHS (New York), Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network



1.5 Mr. BLAIR H. SHEPPARD (London), Global Leader, Strategy and Leadership, PwC UK.

Reactor was Ms. MARY JADE "Jade" T. ROXAS-DIVINAGRACIA, Managing Partner for Deals and Corporate Finance, Isla Lipana & Co./ PwC Philippines



The WebCon had the highest-ever attendance with 2,300 participants (660 from ZOOM and 1,640 from Facebook) and benefited over 1,000 teachers and students through the free access given to 16 universities and colleges as beneficiary schools. This was the first time we did it for the MAP CEO International Conference.

Despite making the attendance free to our members and the public, the Conference generated a net income of P8.8 Million, an all-time and about 80% more than the highest recorded income of P4.9M fifteen (15) years ago.

We have involved the following Philippine Business Organizations and Foreign Chambers to be our COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS for the Conference:

1. ALYANSA AGRIKULTURA
2. BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BAP)
3. CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CANCHAM)
4. EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECCP)
5. FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
6. FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM (FEF)
7. INSTITUTE FOR SOLIDARITY IN ASIA, INC. (ISA)
8. INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)
9. INVESTMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IHAP)
10. JUDICIAL REFORM INITIATIVE (JRI)
11. MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)
12. ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (OSHDP)
13. PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)
14. PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (GO NEGOSYO)
15. PHILIPPINE INVESTMENTS FUNDS ASSOCIATION (PIFA)
16. PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC NETWORK (PHILWEN)
17. PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY INSTITUTE OF ASIA (PASIA)
18. SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (SEIPI)
19. SHAREHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)
20. TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TMAP)
21. WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL PHILIPPINES (WomenBizPh)

Other organizations

22. ASEAN Society Philippines
23. EASTERN VISAYAS TOURISM ASSOCIATION (EVTA)
24. PHILTOA

The following universities and colleges participated as BENEFICIARY SCHOOLS for the Conference:

NCR

1. Ateneo de Manila University
2. Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
3. De La Salle University
4. De La Salle - College of St. Benilde
5. Far Eastern University (FEU)
6. Miriam College
7. Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
8. Philippine Women's University
9. Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)
10. STI Services Group
11. University of the East (UE)
12. University of the Philippines

LUZON

1. Holy Angel University
2. St. Paul University Philippines
3. UP Diliman Extension Program in Pampanga and Olongapo

VISAYAS

UP Visayas

MINDANAO

1. Misamis University
2. University of Mindanao

Last but not least, we invited the members of the Asian Association of Management Organizations or AAMO representing the following countries:

1. All India Management Association (AIMA)
2. Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA)
3. Malaysia Institute of Management (MIM)
4. Management Association of Nepal (MAN)
5. Macau Management Association (MMA)
6. Management Association of Pakistan
7. Asia Society

MAP NextGen Conference

The MAP NextGen Committee successfully staged the first-ever MAP NextGen Web Conference on November 20, 2020. This is to respond to the needs of our younger members for a venue to share experiences and insights and learn from each other.

Featured were the following five (5) young highly successful business leaders as plenary speakers:

1. Sec. KARLO A. B. NOGRALES, Cabinet Secretary of the Office of the President and the Co-Chair of Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases, for the Opening Keynote,



2. Mr. LANCE Y. GOKONGWEI, President and CEO of JG Summit Holdings, Inc. on “NextGen Leadership in a Conglomerate”,



3. Ms. TAN HOOI LING, Co-Founder and COO of GRAB on “NextGen Leadership: Lessons from a Pandemic”,



- Australia-based Mr. IAIN BURNET, Managing Partner and Asia-Pac Consulting Leader of Ernst & Young on “NextGen CEOs: Creating Long-term Value through Transformative Leadership”, and



- Ms. ANGELINE THAM, CEO of Angkas for the Closing Keynote on “NextGen Leadership for Women in the Philippines”.



There were two (2) Batches of Breakout Sessions with the following as speakers:

Batch 1

- Breakout Session 1 - ECommerce: Empowering Businesses to Embrace Digital Transformation by Mr. RAYMOND ALIMURUNG, CEO, Lazada
- Breakout Session 2 - Crashing into Daddy’s Shoes by Ms. MICHELLE TIU LIM CHAN, COO, Mega Global Corporation
- Breakout Session 3 - Technology & Business Continuity by Atty. MARK S. GORRICETA, Managing Partner, Gorriceta Africa Cauton & Saavedra
- Breakout Session 4 - MOVING FORWARD FROM COVID-19: Management Stories of Challenges and the Business Pivot by Mr. JOSE P. MAGSAYSAY JR., Co-Founder and CEO, Potato Corner
- Breakout Session 5 - Crash In or Crash Out: Resto Guide to New Normal by Ms. ABBA NAPA, Co-Founder, The Moment Group
- Breakout Session 6 - The Digital Shifts brought about by COVID-19 by Mr. NICO JOSE NOLLEDO, Co-Founder, Xurpas
- Breakout Session 7 - Changing Filipino Consumer by Ms. GARA SANTOS-ONTIVEROS, Industry Head for CPG, Google Philippines
- Breakout Session 8 - Understanding the New Filipino Consumer by Mr. MICHAEL G. TAN, President and COO, LT Group, Inc.

Batch 2

1. Breakout Session 1 by Mr. GREGORY H. BANZON, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, Century Pacific Food, Inc.
2. Breakout Session 2 by Mr. PAOLO ANTONIO BARBA BEDIONES, President and CEO, Ei2 Tech, Inc.
3. Breakout Session 3 by Mr. CHRIS BUONO, Managing Director, UPS Philippines and Indonesia
4. Breakout Session 4 by Mr. ILLAC ANGELO A. DIAZ, Founder and Executive Director, Liter of Light, MyShelter Foundation
5. Breakout Session 5 by Mr. JOHN ERIC T. FRANCIA, President and CEO, AC Energy
6. Breakout Session 6 by Ms. SHEREE ROXAS-CHUA GOTUACO, Founder and CEO, Stylist in Pocket Technologies
7. Breakout Session 7 by Ms. REESE FERNANDEZ-RUIZ, President and Founding Partner, Rags2Riches, Inc., and
8. Breakout Session 8 by Ms. CAMILLE ERIKA S. YAO, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Pet Warehouse Philippines

The following were the seven (7) Unconference room speakers where the participants freely shared insights and their experiences with one another:

1. Mr. RAYMOND “*Mon*” A. ABREA, Founding Chairman and Senior Tax Advisor, Asian Consulting Group
2. Prof. PAOLO ANTONIO “*Paolo*” L. AZURIN, Country Head and CEO, CIMB Bancom Capital Corporation
3. Ms. MARIA GEORGIANNA “*George*” E. CARLOS, Founder and Pack Leader, Fetch! Naturals
4. Mr. JOHN CLIFFORD “*Cliff*” M. EALA, President and CEO, Synerbyte Limited
5. Mr. JOHN PHILIP “*JP*” S. ORBETA, Managing Director, CHRO and Group Head for Corporate Resources, Ayala Corporation
6. Mr. REUBEN “*Beng*” SAN JOSE PANGAN, Chief Commercial Officer, Lina Group of Companies
7. Ms. DELIZA GOZE RIDOLOSO, President, Pacific Sun Solutions, Inc.

The Plenary session moderators and Breakout session moderators were:

1. Mr. RENE D. ALMENDRAS, President and CEO, Manila Water Co., Inc.
2. Ms. ROSSANA A. FAJARDO, Consulting Leader, SGV & Co. and ASEAN Business Consulting Leader, EY
3. Mr. RJ LEDESMA, Co-Founder, Mercato Centrale Philippines
4. Dr. DONALD LIM, Chief Innovation Officer, Udenna Group
5. Mr. RAYMOND “*Mon*” A. ABREA, Founding Chairman and Senior Tax Advisor, Asian Consulting Group
6. Prof. PAOLO ANTONIO “*Paolo*” L. AZURIN, Country Head and CEO, CIMB Bancom Capital Corporation
7. Ms. MARIA GEORGIANNA “*George*” E. CARLOS, Founder and Pack Leader, Fetch! Naturals
8. Mr. JOHN CLIFFORD “*Cliff*” M. EALA, President and CEO, Synerbyte Limited

9. Ms. DONNA MAY “Donna” LINA, President, UBE Media, Inc.
10. Mr. REUBEN “Beng” SAN JOSE PANGAN, Chief Commercial Officer, Lina Group of Companies
11. Ms. DELIZA GOZE RIDOLOSO, President, Pacific Sun Solutions, Inc.
12. Mr. J. ANTON “Anton” YAP, EVP, Benita & Catalino Yap Foundation

The whole-day event generated a net income of P1.5 Million for our Association.

So happy were our young members about the Conference that shortly thereafter, I received the following Manifesto from their Chairman, Donald Lim, which I would like to read:

NextGen Manifesto

“We are Daring,
and we will always be first.
We will choose the road less travelled so the world
can learn new things from us.

We are Non-Conformist.
We will Challenge Authority,
not out of disrespect, but because
we will attempt to offer new ideas
to do things better.

We are Rebels.
We will push the Boundaries of Tradition.
We might fail, but we will create new benchmarks
for the world to follow.

We are Dreamers,
not because we are younger,
but because we want to collaborate
with those who have come before us
to change the world.

We will Make a Difference,
because just as those before us had made their mark,
we will also in our own way write our own story
in making this world a better place.”

MAP Cares

We have shown society that MAP *Cares*. We have made so far cash donations of about P6.82 Million, principally to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the wake of COVID 19 and disasters.

To show, on a more permanent basis, that MAP truly *Cares*, MAP launched “THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS COMMUNITY’S COVENANT FOR SHARED PROSPERITY” which was co-signed by 26 business organizations last November 5, 2020.

MAP cancelled its usual Christmas party and donated part of the budget to the victims of the recent disasters (e.g., super-typhoon Rolly, typhoon Ulysses) and to the poor who were made poorer by the pandemic.

THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND ITS IMPACT ON BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS: A Study on Business Challenges and Strategic Approaches

MAP commissioned a study aimed at correctly understanding the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on business and identify strategic actions by both policymakers and private sector to deal with the pandemic’s after-shocks on business.

The Study included an online survey of pre-selected thirty-three (33) representatives from key priority sectors of the economy based on their employment generation and output impacts. Stakeholder interviews were also conducted as part of the Study.

The Study recommends that the effort to resuscitate the economy is not solely the responsibility of the government. It also requires solidarity and coordinated response from the private sector.

MAP shared the Study with MAP members and conducted online forum to discuss the results and recommendations with the general membership.

MAP also shared the results of the Study with the government in the hope that it will help in coming up with the appropriate policy response.

Membership

MAP inducted a total of 107 new members and are ending the year with the highest-ever total membership of 1,060, despite the death of eight (8) members and resignations of seventy seven (77) members due mainly to financial considerations.

New Members Inducted - 107

1. Atty. WALTER L. ABELA, JR., Partner and Head, Tax and Corporate Services, Navarro Amper & Co./Deloitte
2. Mr. JOSE ROBERTO, ALAMPAY, CEO, PumaPublic Productions

3. Mr. TIMOTHY PAUL ALDROW, Managing Director, MOOG Controls Corporation - Philippine Branch
4. Atty. PILAR NENUCA P. ALMIRA, President and CEO, Makati Medical Center
5. Mr. MARK DAVID C. ALVAREZ, Managing Director Philippines, ABN Impact | InSites Consulting (Philippines)
6. Mr. DOM FREDRICK ANDAYA, Director and Head of Office Services, Colliers International
7. Mr. KELVIN ANG, CEO, The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philam Life)
8. Ms. LOURDES C. ANGELES, Managing Director, CHAMP Cargosystems Philippines, Inc.
9. Mr. JOSE CARLO R. ANTONIO, Managing Director, Century Properties Group, Inc.
10. Mr. JOSE MARCO R. ANTONIO, President and CEO, Century Properties Group, Inc.
11. Atty. EMILIO B. AQUINO, Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
12. Ms. RUBY BAIRAN, President, EstateMart Dev't. Inc. Mr. ROBERTO D. BALTAZAR, EVP, Philippine National Bank (PNB)
13. Ms. ELENITA P. BANTILING, Vice President - Business Development and Corporate Communications, Trends and Concepts Total Interior Solutions, Inc.
14. Mr. JOSE P. BANTILING, CEO, Trends and Concepts Total Interior Solutions, Inc.
15. Ms. JANE J. BASAS, SVP, SMART
16. Mr. ABELARDO P. BASILIO, COO for Manila Water Operations, Manila Water Company, Inc.
17. Mr. RICHARD ALLAN BATES, President and CEO, Manulife Philippines
18. Mr. RICO T. BAUTISTA, President and CEO, Etiqa Life and General Assurance Philippines, Inc.
19. Ms. MARIE KIMBERLY S. BENEDICTO, COO, CLB Engineering and Supply, Inc.
20. Mr. SERGIO BERNAL JR., VP for External and Government Relations, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation
21. Atty. ANTONIO M. BERNARDO, ExCom Chair and Senior Partner, Bernardo Placido Chan & Lasam Law (BPCL Law)
22. Ms. RACHELLE C. BLANCH, VP and Head - Market Operations Division, The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc.
23. Ms. MARICRIS MEDINA CAMPIT, President and CEO, Airfreight 2100 Inc. (AIR21)
24. Engr. CARLOS B. CARLOS, EVP, Eton Properties Philippines, Inc.
25. Atty. ENGELBERT C. CARONAN JR., President and CEO, Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP)
26. Mr. ANDRES ESTEBAN ORTOLA CASTRO, Country General Manager, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.
27. Atty. DOMINGO Q. CAYOSA, National President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)
28. Ms. MICHELLE CHAN, VP for Finance, VP for Support Operations and VP for Export, Mega Fishing Corporation
29. Mr. VIRGILIO O. CHUA, President, SB Capital Investment Corporation
30. Mr. ALEJANDRO G. COGOLLOS, Strategic Planning VP, Cemex Holdings Philippines
31. Atty. ELAINE MARIE M. COLLADO, Country Director (Philippines) and Executive Committee (Singapore), Vriens & Partners Pte Ltd

32. Mr. ROLAND ENRIC L. DELA CRUZ, Chair, Alternative Network Resources Unlimited (ANR Unlimited MPC)
33. Ms. MARIVIC H. DEL PILAR, Vice President, Victory Liner, Inc.
34. Atty. DARREN M. DE JESUS, President and CEO, UCPB General Insurance Company
35. Mr. ROMEO A. DE JESUS JR., Managing Partner, R. S. Bernaldo & Associates
36. Mr. GARY C. DE OCAMPO, President and CEO, Kantar Philippines, Inc.
37. Mr. ILLAC ANGELO A. DIAZ, Founder and Executive Director, Liter of Light, MyShelter Foundation
38. Mr. NISHANT D'SOUZA, Managing Director, DIY Philippines
39. Ms. HAIDEE C. ENRIQUEZ, Chief People Officer, Sitel Philippines Corporation
40. Ms. AURELIA PAULINE G. FERMIN, Managing Director, Acumen Strategic Consulting Inc.
41. Mr. PAULINO B. FERNANDEZ, JR., CEO, Global CoMRCI
42. Mr. LAWRENCE Y. FERRER, President and CEO, CIS Bayad Center
43. Ms. MARIA CECILIA O. FRANCISCO, Founder and CEO, CREDITBPO TECH INC.
44. Mr. DENNIS B. FUNA, Insurance Commissioner, Insurance Commission
45. Mr. ALDIE P. GARCIA, Assurance Partner, Isla Lipana & Co./ PwC Philippines
46. Mr. PAUL JOSEPH M. GARCIA, Managing Director and Co-Founder, Grow Capital Partners
47. Mr. JOSE EMMANUEL P. GUILLERMO, President and CEO, JPGlobal Ventures Corporation
48. Mr. RAMON RICARDO V. GUTIERREZ, Chair and CEO, 1771 Group of Restaurants
49. Mr. LOUIE BENEDICT C. HERNANDEZ, Managing Director, Accenture Inc.
50. Mr. RAHUL HORA, President and CEO, AXA Philippines
51. Engr. ENRICO IBANA, Managing Director and CEO, Infobuilder Technologies, Inc.
52. Mr. JOSE EMMANUEL H. JALANDONI, SVP, Ayala Land, Inc.
53. Mr. ZDENEK JANKOVSKY, Executive Director and Corporate Treasurer, HC Consumer Finance Philippines, Inc. - Home Credit
54. Ms. MARIA LUZ E. JAVIER, President and COO, Avanza, Inc.
55. Mr. EDUARDO C. JIMENEZ, President, Kabalikat para sa Maunlad na Buhay Inc. (A Microfinance NGO)
56. Mr. OLIVER DEREJA JIMENO, President and CEO, CTBC Bank Philippines
57. Mr. RAMON L. JOCSON, EVP, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)
58. Ms. ELAINE KUNKLE, President and General Manager, Henkel Asia Pacific Service Center, Inc.
59. Ms. ELIZABETH H. LEE, CEO, eMotors, Inc.
60. Mr. ROBERT C. MEILY LEHMANN, President and CEO, Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation
61. Mr. EMILIANO LIBREA III, Partner, Punongbayan & Araullo
62. Atty. MARIE-ROSE BARRAMEDA LIM, President, Citicorp Capital Philippines, Inc.
63. Ms. MA. BELEN B. LIM, General Manager, Golden Press
64. Mr. NICASIO LIM, SVP for Corporate Resources Group, JG Summit Holdings, Inc.
65. Mr. ELMER M. MALOLOS, President and CEO, JG Digital Equity Ventures Inc.
66. Dr. SIEGFRED L. MANAOIS, Chief, Piers Inspection Division - MICP, Bureau of Customs
67. Atty. PEDRO H. MANIEGO JR., Chair, Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines
68. Mr. VLADIMIR M. MANUEL, Consultant, AIM Research and Advisory Corporation

69. Ms. EDELWISA M. MAPAGU, CEO, ASEA Metrics HR Solutions, Inc.
70. Mr. GARETH PAUL MCGEOWN, President and CEO, Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc.
71. Atty. RAYMUND JOSEPH IAN O. MENDOZA, Managing Partner, Mendoza Calnea Mangundayao and Associates
72. Mr. ATSUSHI NAJIMA, President and Managing Director, Nissan Philippines, Inc.
73. Mr. LORENZO T. OCAMPO, President and CEO, City Savings Bank, Inc.
74. Mr. MUTSUHIRO OSHIKIRI, President and CEO, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC)
75. Ms. IRENE V. PALATTAO, Head of Consulting, Development Dimensions International (DDI) Philippines, Inc.
76. Ms. GENEROSA PIO DE RODA, President and CEO, FPG Insurance Co., Inc.
77. Ms. SOCORRO ALICIA R. QUIRINO, President and National Director, Mutya ng Pilipinas
78. Mr. JOEY RADOVAN, Vice Chair, JLL Philippines
79. Ms. KAREN REMO, President and CEO, New Perspective Marketing International Inc.
80. Sr. ZETA R. RIVERO, SPC, CEO, Perpetual Succour Hospital of Cebu, Inc.
81. Dr. LIZA JEANETTE A. ROBLES, President, Manila Hearing Aid
82. Mr. JESUS C. ROMERO, COO, Converge ICT Solutions Inc.
83. Mr. GERARDO A. ROSARIO, President and General Manager, RMG Hospital Supply, Inc.
84. Mr. ROLANDO PAULINO R. RUIZ, Managing Director, Development Dimensions International Philippines Inc.
85. Ms. VICKY LEE SALAS, Partner, Financial Services Organization Leader, SyCip Gorres Velayo & Company (SGV & Co.)
86. Mr. ROGELIO G. SALAZAR JR., President, Health Information Management Association of the Philippines (HIMAP)
87. Atty. GIANCARLO B. SAMBALIDO, Registered Foreign Lawyer (New York) Allen & Overy
88. Ms. GLADYS JILL A. SANTOS, Jill, CEO, JSC & Co.
89. Mr. JOSE MARI SAULO, COO, Global CoMRCI
90. Mr. WARREN S. SO, President, ADP Design Group
91. Mr. JOSE FRANCO B. SOBERANO, EVP and COO, Cebu Landmasters, Inc.
92. Ms. FAY ANGELICA SUPREMO, General Manager, Computrade Technology Philippines, Inc.
93. Mr. CONSTANCIO B. TAN, President, Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corporation
94. Ms. CHRISTINA CHUA TAN, President, Suy Sing Commercial Corporation
95. Mr. STEVEN TAN, President and CEO, Bermaz Auto Philippines, Inc.
96. Mr. STEVEN T. TAN, President, Shopping Center Management Corporation
97. Ms. VICKY C. L. TAN, Principal Director, Department of Communications Asian Development Bank
98. Mr. RICHARD RAYMOND B. TANTOCO, President and COO, Energy Development Corporation
99. Mr. JOAQUIN M. TEOTICO, Group Managing Director, The Galerie Joaquin Group
100. Ms. ANNBEL C. TIERRO, Senior Managing Director, Accenture, Inc. (Philippines)
101. Ms. MICHELLE UNGCO, SVP, Unicapital Inc.
102. Mr. DENNIS ANTHONY H. UY, CEO, Converge ICT Solutions, Inc.
103. Mr. ANGELITO VILLANUEVA, EVP and Chief Innovation and Inclusion Officer, RCBC
104. Mr. SANJIV VOHRA, President and CEO, Security Bank Corporation

105. Ms. ANFENG WAN, VP - Business Development, Philippine Oppo Mobile Technology Inc.
106. Mr. DELFIN ANGELO C. WENCESLAO, CEO, D. M. Wenceslao & Associates, Inc.
107. Mr. BENJIE YAP, Chair and CEO, Unilever Philippines

Resignations - 77

1. Engr. JEREMY JACOB Y. ABAÑO, President and CEO, Howden Insurance & Reinsurance Brokers (Phils.), Inc.
2. Mr. GERARDO DEL ROSARIO ABELLO, Head of Digital, Entertainment Media, Telecoms and Technology Group and Director, ZMG Ward Howell, Inc.
3. Mr. MANUEL JOEY T. ADRIATICO, Avon Products Manufacturing, Inc.
4. Mr. JOSE ARANETA ALBERT, President and CEO, GS1 Philippines, Inc.
5. Atty. MARILYN A. VICTORIO AQUINO, Former President and CEO, MetroPac Movers, Inc.
6. Mr. MOHAMMED NOUREDDINE AYED, TAT - Tunisian Asia Travel Philippines
7. Mr. ROBERTO F. BATUNGBACAL, President, Dow Chemical Pacific Limited
8. Mr. JAIME J. BAUTISTA, President, Philippine Airlines (PAL)
9. Mr. STEVE D. BENITEZ, CEO, AG and Rock, Inc.
10. Mr. ANGELITO D. BERMUDO, President and CEO, Meralco Industrial Engineering Services Corporation (MIESCOR)
11. Mr. SAMUDRA BHATTACHARYA, Former President, Pepsi-Cola Products Philippines, Inc. (PCPPI)
12. Mr. MARIO A. BISCOCHO, SVP and Managing Director, John Clements Consultants, Inc.
13. Atty. RICARDO R. BLANCAFLOR, Of Counsel, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & de los Angeles
14. Mr. ALEX V. BUENAVENTURA, Former President and CEO, Land Bank of the Philippines
15. Mr. GIL A. BUENAVENTURA, Former President and CEO, RCBC
16. Mr. GIL BUENSUCESO, Former President, Healthway Medical Clinic
17. Ms. REMEDIOS M. CAMERINO, Founder and President, Solutions Exchange, Inc.
18. Mr. RIZALDY T. CAPULONG, EVP for Investments Sector, Social Security System
19. Mr. RAY CHAN, Former Executive Director, Credit Suisse HK
20. Prof. RUBEN CHAUMONT, Founder and CEO, Intentional Work Communities
21. Mr. ANTONIO L. CO, President and CEO, Carrascal Nickel Corporation
22. Ms. MARIA CRISTINA H. CONCEPCION, President and CEO, Business Process Outsourcing International Inc.
23. Mr. DAMIEN DAMPERON, Former Managing Director, MOOG Controls Corporation (Philippines Branch)
24. Ms. LEIGH CECILIA DE ARMAS, President and CEO, BrandSpeakAsia, Inc.
25. Ms. JACQUELINE T. DE GUZMAN, Co-Founder, VP and Business Development Head, Solaric Corporation
26. Dr. MA. LEONORA V. DE JESUS, Former President, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)
27. Mr. PATRICK DAVID R. DE LEON, COO, IP Converge Data Services, Inc.
28. Mr. FERDINAND M. DELA CRUZ, President and CEO, Manila Water Co., Inc.
29. Mr. RENATO V. DIAZ, Chair and President, RVDIAZ Consultancy & Management Corporation

30. Ms. SUSAN L. DIMACALI, CEO, ASPAC Creative Communications, Inc.
31. Ms. ELENA MARI GINIA ROXAS DOMINGO, Managing Director, Ferrari - Autostrada Motore, Inc.
32. Atty. EMMANUEL F. DOOC, former President and CEO, Social Security System (SSS)
33. Gen. ALEJANDRO TEVES ESCAÑO, Chair and President, Chicano Development Inc.
34. Mr. MARIO JORDAN F. FETALINO III, Founder and CEO, Acudeen Technologies, Inc.
35. Mr. NICHEL MERL MICHAEL O. GABA, CEO, Fyntegrate Inc.
36. Dr. GUILLERMINA TAPIA GABOR, Chair and President, AAP Travel
37. Mr. ALEXANDER E. GASMENA, Country Managing Director, Pearson Management Services Philippines, Inc.
38. Mr. JERICO P. GO, Former SVP, Megaworld Corporation
39. Mr. PETER GRIMES, President and CEO, FWD Life Insurance
40. Dr. BEN PAUL B. GUTIERREZ, Former Dean - Cesar E. A. Virata School of Business, University of the Philippines (UP)
41. Mr. GAUDENCIO S. HERNANDEZ JR., Asian Development Bank
42. Dr. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, Chair and CEO, Splash Corporation
43. Dr. ROSALINDA ANG HORTALEZA, Chair and CEO, HBC, Inc.
44. Ms. LUCIA JANE P. LINA, President and CEO, Air21 Global Inc.
45. Mr. JEROME L. LORENZO, President and CEO, Franklin Baker Group
46. Mr. RUBEN Y. LUGTU JR., President, Asia Link Finance Corporation
47. Mr. EDMUNDO MIGUEL D. MACASO, Head, Operations and Information Technology, Paxys, Inc.
48. Atty. ERNESTO S. MASCENON, SVP and Head of Corporate Affairs of Nestle Philippines, Inc.
49. Ms. SUZIE MAREE MITCHELL, Former Country Managing Director, DHL Supply Chain Philippines, Inc.
50. Ms. SALLY C. MONTEIRO, Trustee, Alliance for Family, Inc.
51. Ms. MARIA CELESTE S. NARCISO, Country Manager, PepsiCo, Inc. - Philippine Branch
52. Ms. MA. LOURDES DE VERA NAVARRO, President and CEO, Kings Group of Companies
53. Atty. FERDINAND M. NEGRE, Partner, Bengzon Negre Untalan Intellectual Property Attorneys
54. Ms. ELIZABETH V. PARDO-ORBETA, Chair, Wenphil Corporation
55. Mr. JULIUS ORDOÑEZ, President, Benchmark Consulting
56. Mr. DEXTER E. QUINTANA, President, Jolliville Holdings Corporation (JOH)
57. Ms. KRISTEN S. QUINTOS, Former President and CEO, Maybank ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners, Inc.
58. Ms. SOCORRO ALICIA R. QUIRINO, President and National Director, Mutya ng Pilipinas
59. Mr. RICHARD RAYMUNDO, Managing Director, Colliers International
60. Amb. ANDREA REICHLIN, Ambassador, Embassy of Switzerland
61. Mr. CRAIG REINES, Former COO - APAC, SITEL Philippines
62. Mr. RENE REINOSO, Former COO, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
63. Mr. ANTHONY T. ROBLES, Former EVP and Head of Branch Banking, DBP
64. Mr. RAFAEL JAVIER ROXAS, President, Hidden Valley Springs
65. Mr. ALFONSO L. SALCEDO JR., Former President and CEO, Security Bank Corporation

66. Atty. JULITO R. SARMIENTO, Former President, CEO and Co-Founder, WeGen Distributed Energy Philippines, Inc.
67. Mr. KINGSON U. SIAN, President and CEO, Travellers International Hotel Group, Inc.
68. Ms. EVELYN GRACE C. SORONGON, SVP and Managing Director, John Clements Consultants, Inc.
69. Mr. RAUL B. TAN, President and CEO, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance and Reinsurance Brokers, Inc.
70. Mr. ELEK CHRISTOPHER TOTH, Country Leader and Senior VP, Concentrix Services Corp.
71. Ms. CATHERINE BRILLANTES TURVILL, President, CP Treasures of the Orient; Spa and Wellness Professionals
72. Atty. WILFREDO U. VILLANUEVA, Principal and General Counsel, SGV & Co.
73. Dr. FRANCISCO L. VIRAY, President and CEO, PHINMA Energy Corporation
74. Ms. MARIA LUISA D. VITALES, Director of Human Resource, Monde Nissin Corporation
75. Mr. HERNANDO M. VITAS, Chair and CEO, Alta Vitas Land and Holdings, Inc.
76. Mr. ERH-CHANG WEI, CTBC Bank (Philippines) Corp.
77. Ms. MYRNA T. YAO, President and CEO Richprime Global, Inc.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDEES FOR 2020

The awarding of Life Membership Certificates for the following was held during the MAP Economic Briefing and GMM:

1. Ms. RIZALINA “Riza” G. MANTARING, Board Director Sun Life Grepa Financial Inc.
2. Mr. FLORIDO “Doy” P. CASUELA, Director of Philippine National Bank or PNB
3. Engr. RODOLFO “Rod” N. FERRER, Chair of RN Ferrer and Associates, Inc.
4. Mr. ANTHONY “Anton” T. HUANG, President of Stores Specialists, Inc.
5. Mr. KASIGOD “Kas” V. JAMIAS, President and CEO of The Zuellig Corporation
6. Mr. JOSE “Joe” E. MADDATU, Managing Director of ENZI Corporation
7. Dr. CYNTHIA R. MAMON, COO of Enchanted Kingdom, Inc.
8. Ms. ANNA IRMINA “Minette” B. NAVARRETE, former Head, New Business of Globe Telecom, Inc.
9. Mr. MANUEL “Manny” V. PANGILINAN, Chair of PLDT Group
10. Mr. FERNANDO “Fern” O. PEÑA, President of MOF Company (Subic), Inc.
11. Mr. FREDRICK “Rick” M. SANTOS, Chair and CEO of Santos Knight Frank Inc.
12. Mr. JOSELITO “Lito” H. SIBAYAN, President of Mabuhay Capital Corporation
13. Mr. REMY “Rem” T. TIGULO, Chair of Chemitron Enterprises, Inc.

More importantly, we were able to increase the number of women members from 219 (21%) to 236 (22%). Likewise, the number of members below 50 years old increased from 158 (15%) to 170 (16%).

Most importantly, we quickly pivoted our services at the onset of Covid 19 to continue serving our members. We created Viber groups, Google Drive and Facebook page to keep us informed during the pandemic.

We conducted the following eight (8) online membership meetings:

1. Apr 14 - “Leading through COVID-19”
2. May 20 - “Ensuring a Level Playing Field For Business”
3. June 9 - “MAYORS ENVISION A POST-COVID FUTURE”
4. July 14 - “Landscape and Control Mechanisms for Business Crimes and Fraud”
5. Aug 18 - “The Urgent Need for a Future-Ready Board”
6. Sept 8 - MAP - PMAP Joint GMM on “Deepening the bench for future business leaders”
7. Oct 13 - “ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and its linkage to long-term value creation”
8. Nov 23 - Annual General Membership Meeting and Awarding Ceremony for “MAP Management Man of the Year 2020”

and more than 60 Webinars from the time the ECQ was declared in March 2020.

On top of the MAP-organized Webinars, MAP partnered with other organizations (like BusinessWorld, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, FINEX, FintechAlliance, Integrity Initiative, John Clements, Manila Times, MBC, MERALCO, PASIA, PayMaya, PDRF, PMAP, SharePHIL, PCCI, Viventis and Wallace Business Forum) on topics of interest to our members.

Election of MAP Governors

For the nomination period, we were able to improve the nomination turnout from 22% last year to 25% this year.

There were 420 members who participated in the 2020 election. This was the highest number of MAP members who voted in a particular year. This year’s turnout is 40% of the total MAP membership of 1,050 and it is higher than the 30.6% posted last year. This turnout is double the 20% quorum required by our by-laws.

Due to the pandemic, the members were requested to vote only via email.

We have recommended to the 2021 Board that MAP should explore the use of other voting platforms like the viber app, in addition to email; and explore the use of direct e-voting.

We had the highest turnout at 40% (420) of total membership who participated in this year’s election for the members of the MAP Board of Governors. This turnout is double the 20% quorum required by our By-laws.

The following have been elected MAP Governors for 2021 - 2022:

1. Mr. ROMEO “Romy” L. BERNARDO, Managing Director, Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates
2. Ms. MARIANNE “Maan” B. HONTIVEROS, Managing Director, CEO Advisors, Inc.
3. Mr. ALFREDO “Fred” E. PASCUAL, Lead Independent Director, SM Investments Corporation

4. Sec. ROGELIO “*Babes*” L. SINGSON, President and CEO, Meralco Powergen Corporation
5. Mr. WILSON P. TAN, Chair and Country Managing Partner, SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV & Co.)

They will join the following holdover Governors on the 2021 MAP Board:

1. Atty. EMMANUEL “*Noel*” P. BONOAN, Vice Chair and COO, KPMG R.G. Manabat Co.
2. Atty. DANILO “*Danicon*” L. CONCEPCION, President, University of the Philippines (UP)
3. Ms. MARIA VICTORIA “*Marivic*” C. ESPAÑO, Chair and CEO, P&A Grant Thornton
4. Mr. AURELIO “*Gigi*” R. MONTINOLA III, Chair, FEU Group of Companies

Finance

Despite the cancellation of some of our income-generating activities, like the annual golf cup, due to the pandemic and the cash donations of about P6.82 Million, we have the following projected figures for this year:

1. Net income before tax of about P6.0 Million, or 306% higher than last year;
2. All-time high cash position at about P59 Million, and
3. All-time high of Assets of about P66 Million.

In short, we have kept MAP financially stable and healthy amidst the pandemic.

Recommendations to the Incoming Board

We have made several recommendations to the incoming Board, such as the following:

1. Operationalize the Covenant for Shared Prosperity;
2. Institutionalize the MAP NextGen Conference;
3. Put in place a mentoring program for young and future CEOs through the MAP CEO Academy;
4. Pursue the partnership with DTI on Ease of Doing Business;
5. Pursue the Supply Chain Management Project with PASIA; and
6. Secure PCNC accreditation to make MAP a qualified done institution.

MAP Festival of Fabulous Concerts

To usher in the Christmas season MAP conducted the first ever Festival of Concerts. This Festival presented a 3-part concert as follow:

1. A Flavor of Vienna Concert, a first ever tribute to 50 years of Management Man of the Year awards, reprised on 26 November 2020
2. Adeste Fideles Christmas Concert at Santuario de San Antonio streamed on December 16, 2020.
3. Adeste Fideles Christmas Concert at the Plenary Hall of PICC streamed on 22 December 2020

Amendments to MAP Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

The MAP Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee - - - chaired by Atty. Perry Pe with Atty. Ebot Tan as Vice Chair and Atty. Dick Du-Baladad as Governor-in-Charge - - - for leading the work and being able to reach the required approval of two-thirds of all MAP members on the Amendments to the MAP Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws in order to comply with SEC and BIR Requirements.

The MAP Secretariat generated the ballots and proxy forms of about 730 members or 72% of the total MAP membership of 1,037.

The SEC approved the amendments to our by-laws, which are needed for our application for tax exemption with the BIR.

Special thanks to SEC Chairman Emil Aquino for SEC's quick approval of the amendments.

MAP's Certificate of Tax Exemption from BIR dated September 9, 2020

The MAP has been granted the Certificate of Tax Exemption from BIR dated September 9, 2020. Thanks to MAP Treasurer DICK DU-BALADAD for her assistance in facilitating the issuance by the BIR of the MAP's Certificate of Tax Exemption.

"MAP Management Man of the Year 2020"

Mr. FEDERICO "Piki" R. LOPEZ, Chair and CEO of First Philippine Holdings Corporation, is the recipient of the "MAP Management Man of the Year 2020" award.



Mr. Lopez was chosen:

1. for passionately pushing for the country's transition to a low-carbon economy through his various advocacies to proactively address the irreparable damage of climate change;
2. for championing the power industry's deregulation for the benefit of the country;
3. for steering the Lopez Group to being in the forefront of energy security and sustainability, and clean technologies for renewable energy and natural gas;

4. for developing a deep bench of Filipino technical and managerial talent who are globally competitive;
5. for his leadership role in the substantial contributions of the Lopez Group to national development in terms of production, value added, income generation and job creation;
6. for his contribution to long-term positive development of society through his undertakings on technical-vocational education, youth development, community-based livelihood programs, scholarship opportunities for musicians, and research projects on environmental protection; and
7. for setting an example for Filipino managers through a track record of integrity, entrepreneurial excellence, professional competence and great leadership in his management career.

The search for “**MAP Management Man of the Year**” is one of the MAP’s vehicles in promoting management excellence for nation-building.

For almost five decades since 1967, the MAP has been conducting an annual search for “MAP Management Man of the Year” to recognize a person of exceptional distinction in the practice of management over a significant period of time.

The “**MAP Management Man of the Year**” is a prestigious award that MAP bestows on individuals in the business community or government for attaining unquestioned distinction in the practice of management and for contributing to the country’s progress. The conferment of the award follows a thorough, stringent selection process. The distinction of “**MAP Management Man of the Year**” has only been conferred 40 times in the five decades history of the award.

The criteria for the award include integrity, leadership, and management qualities; contribution to nation building and values formation; effective stewardship within the confines of the highest standard of business and management practice; among others.

The roster of “**MAP Management Man of the Year**” awardees include: Washington Z. SyCip (1967), Geronimo Z. Velasco (1977), Henry A. Brimo (1978), Jose M. Soriano (1979), Cesar E.A. Virata (1981), Jaime V. Ongpin and Vicente T. Paterno (1982), Dante G. Santos (1983), Cesar A. Buenaventura and Roberto T. Villanueva (1985), Jaime Zobel de Ayala (1987), Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. (1988), Jose B. Fernandez, Jr. (1989), Raul T. Concepcion (1990), Oscar J. Hilado (1991), Alfonso T. Yuchengco (1992), Juan B. Santos (1994), David M. Consunji and Rizalino S. Navarro (1996), Gabriel C. Singson (1998), Delfin L. Lazaro and Henry Sy, Sr. (1999), Oscar M. Lopez (2000), Tony Tan Caktiong (2002), Jesus P. Tambunting (2003), Rafael B. Buenaventura (2004), Manuel V. Pangilinan (2005), George S. K. Ty and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (2006), Jose L. Cuisia Jr. (2007), Antonino T. Aquino and Jesus P. Estanislao (2009), Lilia B. de Lima and Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr. (2010), Erramon Aboitiz (2011), Aurelio R. Montinola III (2012), Edgar O. Chua (2013), Albert F. del Rosario (2014), Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. (2015), Teresita Sy Coson (2016), John Gokongwei, Jr. (2017), Fernando Zobel de Ayala (2018), Nestor V. Tan (2019) and Federico R. Lopez (2020).

Covenant for Shared Prosperity

The MAP led the November 5, 2020 launch of “THE PHILIPPINE BUSINESS COMMUNITY’S COVENANT FOR SHARED PROSPERITY” which was co-signed by 26 business organizations.

By signing the Covenant, the signatories confirmed the primacy of the stakeholders and committed to take positive steps to operationalize the Covenant in their respective organizations and their respective members or member-companies.

The Covenant is our collective response to the revitalization of the economy while we are still grappling with the COVID crisis. The “new normal” cannot go back to business as usual. Moving forward, we need to address the serious global problem of Inequality and we should really prioritize the needs of the stakeholders (including the shareholders).

For the next 12 months, we in the MAP should pursue the operationalization of the Covenant for Shared Prosperity.

Guidelines for MAP Viber Groups

We created a “MAP Community for COVID-19” Viber Group. We already have 570 MAP members on board. We are impressed by the response and we hope that our members will use that platform in sharing their recommendations.

In order to make the MAP Community more useful and avoid unnecessary inconvenience to our members, we would like to urge all MAP members to please abide by the following guidelines:

1. Share only **FACTUAL AND UP-TO-DATE** information from **REPUTABLE** publications, media organizations and authors.
2. **LIMIT** your comments to strictly MAP matters (those which impact business, the economy and Philippine competitiveness) and **REFRAIN** from making sexually, racially and politically sensitive comments and from advertising food and other items for sale.
3. **AVOID REPOSTING** messages within the same Viber group.
4. Any member who will be found in violation of the foregoing guidelines will be sent a **FRIENDLY REMINDER**. If he/she still persists after the reminder, he/she will be **REMOVED** immediately from the MAP Viber groups concerned **WITHOUT** prior notice.

This is not to prohibit MAP members from forming chat groups among themselves for matters of common interest to them (such as Political Views and Advertising groups) but the views or matters in such chat groups shall remain to be the sole personal responsibility of the concerned member(s).

PHILSYS Project

MAP has contributed Five Hundred Thousand Pesos to the “Private Sector PhilSys Support Project” to help implement the long-delayed National ID system.

The importance of a good national ID system cannot be under-estimated, especially at this time where we badly need a transparent and efficient delivery of government services.

MAP believe that this project will help ensure the successful implementation of PhilSys or the Philippine ID System to improve the transparency and efficiency in the delivery of government services.

Judicial Reform Initiative

The MAP continued supporting the Judicial Reform Initiative or JRI.

Led by four major business organizations in the Philippines - - - the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, the Institute of Corporate Directors, the Makati Business Club, and the MAP - - - the principles and objectives of JRI were first envisioned in September 2012 to push for reforms in the administration of justice and serve as the voice of business in identifying problem areas and solutions in the systems and processes of the judicial and prosecutorial agencies of government

Japan’s “Young Leaders Program (YLP) 2021”

The MAP continues to be a Recommending Authority for the Philippines for the “***Young Leaders Program (YLP)***” of the Japan Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the Japan Information and Culture Center.

The YLP offers promising young business and government leaders from Asian and other countries the opportunity to study in Japan at a Master’s level at Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of International Corporate Strategy.

The primary objectives of the YLP are to:

1. Foster future national leaders in the countries of Asia and other regions
2. Create comprehensive human networks among the leaders of nations
3. Establish friendly relationships among the countries involved, including Japan
4. Improve the quality of policy planning in the participating countries

MAP’S Membership in the AAMO

1. The AAMO is a partnership of National Management Organizations (NMOs) in the Asian Region whose purpose is to share and actively leverage resources to enhance the achievement of their respective missions. AAMO is an independent, non-political and not-for-profit Association of NMOs, which promotes, facilitates and supports the development of professional management in the Asia Pacific Region.

2. The present AAMO members are:

	<i>Countries</i>		<i>NMOs</i>
2.1	Australia	-	Institute of Managers and Leaders (IML)
2.2	Hong Kong	-	Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA)
2.3	India	-	All India Management Association (AIMA)
2.4	Macau	-	Macau Management Association (MMA)
2.5	Malaysia	-	Malaysian Institute of Management (MIM)
2.6	Nepal	-	Management Association of Nepal (MAN)
2.7	New Zealand	-	Institute of Management of New Zealand (IMNZ)
2.8	Pakistan	-	Management Association of Pakistan (MAP)
2.9	Philippines	-	Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
2.10	Sri Lanka	-	Institute of Management of Sri Lanka (IMSL)

9th FORUM OF ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES ON “Foreign Investment in the Post-Pandemic Philippines”

1. MAP co-sponsored the December 1 to 3 ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES ONLINE FORUM 2020 which the MAP has been supporting for the past eight consecutive years.
2. The theme this year was “Foreign Investment in the Post-Pandemic Philippines”.
3. The ARANGKADA is the major advocacy—launched in 2010—of the Joint Foreign Chambers (JFC) to increase investment and employment in the Philippines.

PwC - MAP 2020 Philippine CEO Survey

As the Knowledge Partner of this year’s MAP International CEO Conference, PwC Philippines conducted the 2020 Philippine CEO Survey Report. The survey reflects the conference’s theme “A Whole New World: Reigniting the Stalled Global Economy”.

The Survey showed that eighty-three percent (83%) of the CEOs expect the Philippine economy to recover within one to three years from the impact of COVID-19. 78% of the respondents expect losses of up to 50% of their estimated 2020 revenues as a result of the pandemic.

MAP GOVERNORS FOR 2021 - 2022

The following were the elected MAP Governors for 2021 - 2022:

President

Mr. AURELIO "*Gigi*" R. MONTINOLA III
Chair, Far Eastern University (FEU) Group of Companies

Vice President

Atty. EMMANUEL "*Noel*" P. BONOAN
Vice Chair and COO, KPMG R.G. Manabat & Co.

Treasurer

Ms. MARIA VICTORIA "*Marivic*" C. ESPAÑO
Chair and CEO, P&A Grant Thornton

Asst. Treasurer

Mr. ROMEO "*Romy*" L. BERNARDO
Managing Director, Lazaro Bernardo Tiu & Associates

Secretary

Ms. MARIANNE "*Maan*" B. HONTIVEROS
Managing Director, CEO Advisors, Inc.

Governor

Atty. DANILO "*Danicon*" L. CONCEPCION
President, University of the Philippines (UP)

Governor

Mr. ALFREDO "*Fred*" E. PASCUAL
Lead Independent Director, SM Investments Corporation

Governor

Sec. ROGELIO "*Babes*" L. SINGSON
President and CEO, Meralco Powergen Corporation

Governor

Mr. WILSON P. TAN
Chair and Country Managing Partner, SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV & Co.)

THANKS

Thanks to the 2020 MAP Board of Governors, headed by MAP President FRANCISCO ED. LIM.



Thanks also to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the 2020 MAP Committees for helping implement the MAP's objective of promoting management excellence for nation-building.



MAP Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs for 2020
as of October 21, 2020

	Committees	Governor-in-Charge	Chairs	Vice Chairs
LEVEL UP BY ENHANCING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS				
1	EASE OF DOING BUSINESS	Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.	Tomasa H. Lipana	Alma Rita R. Jimenez
2	ICT	Justo A. Ortiz	Patrick D. Reidenbach	Reynaldo C. Lugtu, Jr. and Helen P. Macasaet
3	TAX	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Alexander B. Cabrera	Serafin U. Salvador, Jr.
4	TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Danilo L. Concepcion	Ruy Y. Moreno	Jorge Yulo
EMBRACE ESG (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE) FOR SUSTAINABILITY				
5	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE	Emmanuel P. Bonoan	Cesar L. Villanueva	Juan Jonathan DC. Moreno and Imelda Ceniza Tiongson
6	AGRIBUSINESS	Danilo L. Concepcion	Edgardo C. Amistad	Rolando T. Dy and Oscar A. Torralba
7	DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (formerly Women Committee)	Maria Victoria C. Españo	Manolito T. Tayag	Donna May Lina
8	ENERGY	Emmanuel P. Bonoan	Ernesto B. Pantangco	William S. Pamintuan and Sebastian C. Quiniones Jr.
9	SHARED PROSPERITY (formerly INCLUSIVE GROWTH)	Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.	Francisco F. del Rosario, Jr.	Alexander B. Cabrera
10	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Last year's Environment Committee and Sustainable Development Committee were merged.)	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Corazon PB. Claudio	
11	TRADE, INVESTMENTS AND TOURISM	Maria Victoria C. Españo	Charlie P. Villaseñor	Leoncio D. Paz
	11.1. Sub-Committee for PASIA-MAP Supply Chain Management Project		Charlie P. Villaseñor	
12	URBAN DEVELOPMENT	Danilo L. Concepcion	Felino A. Palafox Jr.	
13	WATER SECURITY	Aurelio R. Montinola III	Eduardo H. Yap	Ruy Y. Moreno
ACCELERATE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES				
DEEPEN THE BENCH FOR FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS				
14	MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN CAPITAL (Last year's Management Development Committee and Human Capital Committee were merged.)	John Philip S. Orbeta	Emerico O. de Guzman	Ramon B. Segismundo
	14.1. Sub-Committee for MAP CEO ACADEMY		Ma. Carolina V. Dominguez	Victor L. Magdaraog
	14.2. Sub-Committee for INNOVATIONS		Matthew George O. Escobido	Federico M. Macaranas
	14.3. Sub-Committee for TEACHERS TRAINING		Federico M. Macaranas	Matthew George O. Escobido
15	CEO CONFERENCE	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Alma Rita R. Jimenez	Junie S. del Mundo
16	MANAGEMENT MAN OF THE YEAR JUDGING	Francisco ED. Lim	Edgar O. Chua	Lilia B. de Lima
17	MANAGEMENT MAN OF THE YEAR SEARCH	Francisco ED. Lim	Rizalina G. Mantaring	Ramoncito S. Fernandez
18	NEXTGEN	John Philip S. Orbeta	Donald Patrick Lim	
LEAD Program				
19	NATIONAL ISSUES	Amando M. Tetangco, Jr.	Rizalina G. Mantaring	Romeo L. Bernardo
	19.1. Sub-Committee for JUDICIAL REFORM		Sherisa P. Nuesa	
	19.2. Sub-Committee for CORPORATE PENSION REFORM		Romeo L. Bernardo	
MEMBER BENEFITS				
20	COMMUNICATIONS	John Philip S. Orbeta	Ma. Carolina V. Dominguez	Michael T. Toledo
21	FINANCEWAYS AND MEANS	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Emmanuel P. Bonoan
22	MEMBERSHIP	Francisco ED. Lim	Rizalina G. Mantaring	Ramoncito S. Fernandez and Grace Palma Tiongco+
	22.1. Sub-Committee on MEMBERSHIP RETENTION AND INVOLVEMENT		Grace Palma Tiongco+	Maria Ronson
	22.2. Sub-Committee for REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION GUIDELINES		Romeo David	
23	NOMINATION AND ELECTION	Francisco ED. Lim	Medel T. Nera	Alfredo B. Parungao
24	SPORTS, FELLOWSHIP AND WELLNESS	Aurelio R. Montinola III	Racquel R. Cagurangan	Valerie N. Pama and Rafael R. Perez de Tagle, Jr.
	24.1. Sub-Committee for GOLF CUP		Rafael R. Perez de Tagle, Jr.	
	24.2. Sub-Committee for CHRISTMAS		Racquel R. Cagurangan	
SPECIAL GROUPS/TEAMS				
25	Constitutions and By-Laws Review	Benedicta Du-Baladad	Perry L. Pe	Eusebio V. Tan
26	Arts & Culture	Francisco ED. Lim	Eduardo H. Yap	



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As of January 4, 2021, 8:00 AM

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**MAP Statement on the IRR
of the Real Estate Investments Trust (REIT) Act**

January 20, 2020

“The Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) would like to extend its profound gratitude and appreciation to the DOF, SEC, BIR and PSE for working together to relax the rules and regulations implementing the Real Estate Investment Trust Act.

This is a concrete action of the Duterte Administration not only to further develop our equities market and real estate sector but more importantly, to boost infrastructure development and investor confidence in our economy.”

FRANCIS LIM, President of MAP

January 31, 2020

SEN. GRACE POE

Chairperson
Committee on Public Services
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City, Manila

Dear Senator Poe:

We wish to thank you for your invitation to the recent hearing on December 11, 2019 of the Committee on Public Services on pending Senate bills related to establishing a Department of Water Resources (DWR) and a Water Regulatory Commission (WRC).

Mr. Christopher A. Ilagan and Mr. Ramon B. Alikpala, co-authors of the *Arangkada* Philippines policy brief number 7 *Water* of November 2018, represented the 20 co-sponsors of the document at the hearing.

Philippine business groups and foreign chambers have staunchly advocated for many years the establishment of these two agencies to deal with the multitude of problems around our water insecurity. At the root of this insecurity is the fragmented nature of the sector's governance with over 30 agencies involved in managing various aspects of the country's water resources, while remaining highly siloed in carrying out their respective functions. For this reason the business community decided to publish the policy brief wherein establishment of these agencies is among the top recommendations. The policy brief also summarizes the key issues which provide the rationale for advocating such legislative intervention and is attached for your reference.

It is noteworthy that in recognition of persistent problems of the sector – made more obvious during last summer's water shortages in Metro Manila and other key cities and which have now led to serious public debate around the Metro Manila water concessions – the establishment of a DWR and WRC were again voted by Philippine business groups and foreign chambers as top legislative priorities for the 18th Congress. We attach here our July 29, 2019 letter to Senate President Sotto, which includes both reform measures among a total of 28.

Thus, at a conceptual level, we wish to register full support for the speedy deliberation and passage of a joint bill to establish a DWR and WRC. In order to advance the process, we recommend the Committee on Public Service establish a Technical Working Group to develop a consolidated DWR-WRC bill based on those bills filed and pending at the Committee. Based on our understanding, a similar effort was pursued in the House of Representatives last October 2019 and a consolidated bill is expected to soon be submitted for Second Reading.

In terms of general principles, ideas and themes we hope to see reflected in any consolidated water reform bill emanating from your Committee, please accept the following recommendations for your consideration:



AMCHAM
PHILIPPINES
AMERICAN



ANZCHAM
Philippines
AUSTRALIAN-NEW
ZEALAND



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



MBC



PAMURI



US-ASEAN
BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.



1. Adoption of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)¹ as the overarching framework to guide the governance, management, and development of the country's water resources.
2. Operationalization of IWRM through the use of river basins² as the basic unit of water resource management and planning at a local level and through the establishment of River Basin Organizations (RBOs)³. Natural hydrological boundaries should serve as the basis for defining the jurisdictions of the DWR's regional offices/presence.
3. In the spirit of IWRM and multi-stakeholder participation, establishment of a Multi-Stakeholder Policy Advisory Panel under DWR to provide a platform for policy formulation and dialogue among various stakeholders representing government, private sector, academe, and civil society.
4. In the allocation and development of water resources, mandate DWR to utilize science- based decision support systems, which shall have as its foundation a robust and live database of information and statistics for all aspects of water sources and water use.
5. As a key tool towards attaining national water security, pursue the development and implementation of a National Water Resources Management Framework Plan⁴. As a live document, the Plan should continuously adapt as needed in the face of changes in water flows and rainfall patterns due to climate change.
6. Establishment of an independent economic regulator to govern water supply and sanitation services, whose mandate is primarily to create a regulatory regime which incentivizes the full attainment of universal access to water and sanitation. The said regulator (i.e. WRC) should be separate and distinct from the DWR and guided by the general principle of ensuring efficient and quality water and wastewater services at rates which are both affordable and sufficient to

¹ IWRM: a systematic, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder process, which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources within geophysical boundaries in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner and without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

² River basin: an area of land drained by a stream or body of fixed water and its tributaries having a common outlet for surface run-off.

³ RBO: a multi-stakeholder platform or organization which plans, coordinates, and monitors activities within a river basin cluster.

⁴ National Water Resources Management Framework Plan: a policy document that incorporates a framework to guide the development and management of all the country's water resources, the general strategies to be pursued to ensure the sustainability of the resource and work towards the country's water security, and provides top-level direction on the utilization of the country's existing water resources in line with national development plans, policies, and programs. The plan shall also include a water infrastructure roadmap for all waters of the country as well as provide general guidance on how these shall be financed within an integrated financing framework that can draw on public, private, and international development finance. The plan shall be reviewed at the start of every new presidential administration to ensure its alignment with changing times.

maintain and expand these services. Rates should be set using performance-based tariff setting methodologies and also allow a reasonable rate-of-return for operators in line with local and international rate-of-return benchmarks for similarly situated industries and economies.

7. Encourage the participation of private sector investment in the water sector by establishing a clear Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework which lays down the areas of water infrastructure development and management the private sector is allowed to participate in, under what terms, and over what periods of time.
8. To ensure wastewater management will not continue to be neglected, all authorized participants involved in distribution of water shall automatically also be responsible to manage wastewater generated within their jurisdiction or franchise area.
9. Encourage technology innovation and adoption to help boost water efficiency and maximizes water use through the provision of tax incentives.
10. To help fast-track needed water resource infrastructure, reiterate the need to comply with the 3-7-20-45-day timelines provided under RA 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018 when it comes to the issuance of permits and licenses needed to implement the same. Relatedly, ensure that the Department of Water Resources will have the power of eminent domain.

Most of these proposed recommendations are all captured in more detail in the policy brief, and we would be very willing to expound on these ideas during your next hearing scheduled on this subject matter.

In terms of substance, any water sector reform law should (1) adopt IWRM and RBO principles, (2) establish an apex body to coordinate the entire effort and fulfill the policy function for the sector, and (3) establish a clear regulatory regime that will move the sector closer to achieving its universal access targets.

In terms of substance, any water sector reform law should (1) adopt IWRM and RBO principles, (2) establish an apex body to coordinate the entire effort and fulfill the policy function for the sector with a bias for strengthening institutions without slowing decision-making, and (3) establish a clear regulatory regime that will move the sector closer to achieving its universal access targets.

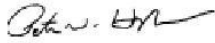
Attached with this position paper is the *Arangkada* Philippines policy brief number 7 *Water* of November 2018, which expressed and expanded upon the same position detailed above. The policy brief was co-signed by various foreign chambers and business groups, including the undersigned.

With best regards,



American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc • Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
 Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines • European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
 Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc. • Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines
 Makati Business Club • Management Association of the Philippines • Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.
 Philippine Water Partnership • US-ASEAN Business Council





PETER HAYDEN
 President
 American Chamber of
 Commerce of the
 Philippines, Inc.


DANIEL ALEXANDER
 President
 Australia-New Zealand
 Chamber
 of Commerce of the
 Philippines


JULIAN PAYNE
 President
 Canadian Chamber of
 Commerce of the
 Philippines, Inc.





NABIL FRANCIS
 President
 European Chamber of
 Commerce
 of the Philippines


KEIICHI MATSUNAGA
 President
 Japanese Chamber of
 Commerce and Industry
 of the Philippines, Inc.


HO IK LEE
 President
 Korean Chamber of
 Commerce
 of the Philippines, Inc.





EDGAR O. CHUA
 Chairman
 Makati Business Club


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
 President
 Management Association
 of the Philippines


EVELYN NG
 President
 Philippine Association of
 Multinational Companies
 Regional Headquarters, Inc.




CHRISTOPHER ILAGAN
 Chairman
 Philippine Water
 Partnership


MICHAEL MICHALAK
 Senior Vice President and
 Regional Managing Director
 US-ASEAN Business Council



BUSINESS GROUPS STATEMENT ON ABS-CBN FRANCHISE

February 18, 2020

We the undersigned business organizations express our strong support for a balanced, fair and timely consideration of the bills filed by several lawmakers on the renewal of ABS-CBN Corporation's broadcasting franchise.

We fervently urge Congress to judiciously address any issues raised against the company while taking serious account of the bedrock issues of media freedom and free enterprise, which allow businesses to flourish for the overall welfare of our economy and our people.

Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)
Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)
Makati Business Club (MBC)
Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT to participate in the 2021 PISA

We call on the whole of government—Department of Education (DepEd), Congress, Senate—to continue the Philippines’ participation in the 2021 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

While the 2018 PISA served as a much-needed diagnosis, the next PISA and other international large-scale student assessments will help us track our progress. They will inform existing and future reforms, particularly, the DepEd’s laudable rallying cry of *Sulong Edukalidad* and its push for improvement in aspects like curriculum, teacher quality, learning spaces, and community engagement.

Our first participation in PISA afforded us increased interest towards quality education. Let us ride that initial momentum to bring Philippine education to better heights. **Participation in the 2021 PISA will keep us on track towards our concerted effort for world-class education for all Filipino children.**

PBE_d PHILIPPINE
BUSINESS for
EDUCATION





Joint Statement of Support for CITIRA (Senate Bill No. 1357)
March 10, 2020

We, the undersigned business and professional organizations, jointly express our support for Senate Bill (SB) No. 1357, the Senate version of the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Reform Act (CITIRA) which is a core component of the Duterte administration’s Comprehensive Tax Reform Program that seeks to make the corporate tax system simpler, fairer, equitable, regionally competitive and more efficient.

We support CITIRA as it seeks to reduce the corporate income tax (CIT) rate from 30% to 20%, a rate that will eventually put us within the ASEAN range, and at par with our closest regional counterparts Thailand, Vietnam and Malaysia. This move will not only make us more competitive in attracting foreign investments, but it will also make our domestic corporates more competitive as they expand their operations or bring their goods in the international market.

We support the CITIRA as it will modernize the fiscal incentives system. We believe in the underlying principles of having a tax incentives system that is transparent, performance-based, targeted and time-bound. We believe in the equitable sharing of the tax burden, as we believe in the equitable enjoyment of living in an orderly, healthy and prosperous society.

We support SB 1357 as it addresses refinements that we have previously proposed:

1. The scheduled CIT rate reduction is fixed for the first five years to reduce uncertainty, which is detrimental to doing business.
2. An extended transition period of seven years is provided to certain firms under the gross income earned (GIE) tax regime to adjust their operations and prevent dislocation.
3. CITIRA keeps the current one-stop shop approach for registered enterprises. This would allow them to deal with only one tax agency, in effect avoiding the inconvenience of going through difficult processes and different rules of local government units.

This structure of the CITIRA under SB 1357 will help create an enabling environment for Filipino businesses, generate quality jobs, and spur growth that is felt throughout the entire archipelago. The passage of the law is a necessary step towards achieving the country’s shared vision of prosperity and a comfortable life for all Filipinos by 2040. It is also timely. The current disruptions in supply chains bring opportunities for the Philippines to attract foreign direct investments.

While there remain few key issues in the SB that need to be addressed, we strongly believe that passing the law will provide long-delayed certainty that will help the Philippines compete for job-creating investments.

Thus, we humbly request the Senate and the House of Representatives to move quickly and decisively to push the CITIRA forward, and ensure its passage at the soonest possible time. The uncertainty over CITIRA must end.

ANVIL BUSINESS CLUB ● BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BAP) ● FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC. (FCCCII) ● FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX) ● FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM (FEF) ● MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP) ● MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC) ● ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (OSHDP) ● PHILIPPINE INVESTMENT FUNDS ASSOCIATION (PIFA) ● SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (SHDA) ● TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES ● UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPSEAA)



**26 GROUPS SUPPORT HEALTH WORKERS COMBATING COVID-19 EPIDEMIC
AND URGE WHOLE OF SOCIETY EFFORT TO COMPLEMENT GOVT EFFORTS**
March 11, 2020

The undersigned organizations express full support to our dedicated public and private sector health workers and first-responders who serve at the frontlines of the battle against the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic.

We thank these dutiful men and women who work tirelessly in selfless anonymity to keep us safe, protected and informed, even as they risk their lives and the welfare of their families.

With the ramping up of the country’s alert status to Code Red sub-level 1, emergency proclamation and stepped-up mobilization of government resources, we trust that their response capability and protection from inherent health hazards has been augmented substantially, thereby enabling them to carry on with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

We acknowledge the round-the-clock vigilance of the Department of Health and are banking on sustained stringent implementation of enhanced surveillance, prevention and containment protocols. We trust that the valuable lessons learned from previous epidemic episodes --- SARS, H1N1, and MERS CoV --- will be applied and supported by the mobilization of the entire government machinery, at both national and local government levels.

We strongly urge our members and the public to fully cooperate with the government and our health workers in ensuring early detection and prompt medical response. We are determined to ensure that the health and welfare of our employees, customers, clients and stakeholders is not adversely affected or compromised.

We believe that whole-of government mobilization complemented by a whole-of-society approach are critical factors in mitigating the impact of the current state of public health emergency on the country’s hard-earned gains in achieving sustained and inclusive growth. With focused attention and unified efforts, we believe that the resiliency and determination of our nation in overcoming the threats posed by COVID-19 will prevail.

SIGNATORIES TO JOINT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

ANVIL BUSINESS CLUB
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMCHAM)
AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ANCHAM)
CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CANCHAM)
CONFEDERATION OF WEARABLE EXPORTERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (CONWEP)
CONNECTED WOMEN
EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECCP)
EMPLOYERS CONFEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECOP)
FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC. (FCCCII)
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
GUILD OF REAL ESTATE ENTREPRENEURS AND PROFESSIONALS, INC. (GREENPRO)
INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)
INSTITUTE OF SOLIDARITY IN ASIA (ISA)
IT AND BUSINESS PROCESS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IBPAP)
JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (JCCPI)
KOREAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (KCCP)
MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED AND ECONOMIC HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE
PHILIPPINES, INC. (OSHDP)
PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES REGIONAL
HEADQUARTERS, INC. (PAMURI)
PHILIPPINE ECOZONES ASSOCIATION (PHILEA)
ROTARY CLUB OF MAKATI
SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION, INC. (SEIPI)
SHAREHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)
SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (SHDA)
UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPSEAA)

March 19, 2020

HONORABLE RAMON M. LOPEZ

Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry
5th Floor, Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Dear Secretary Lopez:

We extend our sincerest gratitude and appreciation for what the government has been doing to contain and protect the nation from the onslaught of COVID-19. Worth mentioning is the Economic Team's P27.1B package for priority actions to help frontliners fight COVID-19 and provide economic relief to sectors affected by the virus-induced slowdown in economic activity. We also acknowledge the extension of the filing of the 2019 income tax returns just announced this morning.

Our membership, composed of 876 companies and 1,022 CEOs and other top executives, are taking concrete steps to ease the burden on their employees and other stakeholders (e.g., rent-free period for tenants in malls that are not allowed to operate and deferment of payment of utility bills for consumers) and help the government, such as donation of substantial amount of money to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for health workers, COVID-19 test kits and medical supplies.

In compliance with the request relayed to us, hereunder are our comments and recommendations for the consideration of the IATF:

1. Expedite the processing and release from the Bureau of Customs of imported test kits, medical supplies and other COVID-related imported items, such as masks and other PPE for our healthcare workers. In this regard, we are told that one of the biggest challenges on the ground is the availability of COVID-19 test kits as cases are rising. Countries are competing for supply. Time is of the essence and a critical action is immediately needed.
2. Designate government hospitals and, if determined necessary by the Department of Health, construct additional hospitals to be exclusively dedicated to COVID patients in strategic areas of the country to stem the transmission of the virus.
3. Adopt concrete measures not only for the physical health but also the mental well-being of our health workers and other frontliners. We have to support them in every way possible as they are an essential cog in our war against COVID-19. Special transport for our healthcare workers is necessary. It is unimaginable for a country to wage war without soldiers on the front lines, so to speak.
4. Consider at the appropriate time further extension of the deadline for filing and payment of the 2019 income taxes and other taxes as may be warranted by the circumstances. Under Section 53 of the Tax Code, "(t)he Commissioner may, in meritorious cases, grant a reasonable extension of time for filing returns of income (or final and adjustment returns in case of corporations, subject to provisions of Section 58 of this Code.)". Section 58 provides that taxes shall be paid upon the filing of the return.

This request is not without precedents. In the past, the Commissioner of Internal Revenue extended the deadline for filing the ITR under the following scenarios, among others:

- 4.1 Revenue Regulation No. 15-03 - Extension to file and pay annual income tax "to compensate for lost time and opportunity of the taxpayers to file their income tax returns due to perceived systems failure of the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS) of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and for the reduced bank work force due to the fact that April 15, 2003 falls within the Holy week of the year when so many bank employees go on leave."

- 4.2 Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 096-17- Extension to file and pay specified taxes in specified areas due to "the forthcoming Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and pursuant to Proclamation No. 331, s. 2017, signed on October 23, 2017 declaring November 13, 14 and 15, 2017 as special non-working days in the National Capital Region (NCR), as well as the provinces of Bulacan and Pampanga."
- 4.3 Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 056-13- Extension to file and pay specified taxes in specified areas due to bad weather.

Surely, the present condition presents a more compelling reason than the conditions mentioned in the foregoing revenue regulations and memorandum circulars.

5. Facilitate the supply chain to the maximum extent by, among others, easing restrictions, removing roadblocks, granting special permits and exemptions especially for raw materials and other items. Ensure that local government units and police at checkpoints fully cooperate. We have to keep our economy going. We have to rely on our own national capacity and capability to feed our people. FOOD SECURITY FOR OUR PEOPLE IS ESSENTIAL NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. Hunger and famine are real threats. In this regard, we commend the concrete steps that have been implemented recently to ease the burden on the supply chain, such as manufacturing and distribution of essential commodities and deliveries of raw materials to manufacturers.
6. Encourage LGUs to defer payment of local business taxes where many of our MSMEs are located. At the same time, encourage the government and private sector to source requirements from our MSMEs and pay them quickly to tide them over in this extraordinary situation. Needless to stress, our MSMEs are the most adversely affected among our businesses.
7. Require SSS/GSIS and Pag-IBIG to fast-track the processing and expedite the release of emergency/calamity loans of employees.
8. We understand that the government has approved food subsidy. Consider complementing this initiative by asking LGUs to set up a mechanism to distribute food packs to marginal families so they don't need to go out.
9. Consider the possibility of asking the President to call on Congress to appropriate special funds and/or re-align certain items in the 2020 General Appropriations Act to combat COVID-19, provide relief to businesses and stimulate the economy. While the P27.1 economic package is a good start, more money will definitely be needed for the foregoing purposes. For example, there is a need to review the ratio of hospital beds to population to prepare the country for a worst case scenario. There may also be a need to establish a rehabilitation fund to provide relief to businesses, especially the MSMEs, that will find themselves in financial difficulty as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, we note that the US Congress has provided additional funding to support the Executive Department to address COVID-19 and additional special packages are being contemplated.

In closing, we reiterate our support to the government's initiatives. With our members working hand in hand with the rest of the country in a *bayanihan* spirit, we are confident that we will defeat this invisible coronavirus and prevail in the end. *Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!*

Thank you.

Sincerely,


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President

cc: **Hon. CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ III**
Secretary, Department of Finance



*Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Center for Management Excellence
Unit 608, Ayala Tower One
Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue
1226 Makati City, Philippines
Tel: (632) 7751-1149 to 52
E-Mail: map@map.org.ph
Website: map.org.ph*

March 19, 2020

DR. TELESFORO GANA
President
PGH Medical Foundation, Inc.
G/F, Nurses' Home
Philippine General Hospital Compound
Taft Avenue
Manila

Dear Dr. Gana:

Greetings from the MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)!

On behalf of MAP, I am pleased to inform you that MAP is donating ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) to your Foundation to help fund the expenses needed to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kindly let us know your Foundation's bank details, preferably BDO, so we can deposit the MAP's contribution to your account.

We will also appreciate it if you can let us know the utilization of the fund.

With our best wishes and prayers for your success in the continued protection of all healthcare workers and the provision of COVID-19 care to all segments of our society.

Sincerely,


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President

CALL ON CONGRESS FOR MAXIMUM FISCAL RESPONSE

The undersigned business organizations support the call of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to call congress to a special session to pass a supplemental budget to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic effects.

We support the measures introduced by the government to reduce or slow the spread of COVID-19, including the intensified community quarantine for Metro Manila and other areas. However, the impact of the “lockdown” on millions of workers — both informal workers who are barred from making a living, and regular workers who may be laid off as companies respond to falling or disappearing sales — is literally a matter of life and death for them and their families. A health issue is now also a hunger issue and may trigger violence and longer term social tensions.

To mitigate the suffering of Filipinos and reduce damage to the society and economy, we urge Congress, in coordination with the Administration, to commit to a more forceful action on the fiscal front.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has taken decisive steps to help address the impact of the crisis including the second consecutive bigger rate cut yesterday and the relaxation of certain regulatory measures to encourage more lending by banks. The onus is now on the fiscal side.

Many companies are doing what they can to keep their employees paid despite their inability to work and drastic declines in sales. But they can only do so much compared with the millions who are vulnerable to the downturn.

We believe the government can and should adopt a fiscal stimulus program that will raise our deficit-to-GDP ratio to close to 5 percent, which is a usual red flag for credit watchers, though they will probably relax as an unprecedented number of countries buttress their economies.

Assuming GDP growth slows to 4.5 percent (GDP: 20.0 trillion), a 5 percent deficit will be P1 trillion. Subtract the programmed deficit of 3.6% (P720 billion), and there is room for a P281 billion fiscal stimulus program.

Assuming GDP growth slows to 3 percent (GDP: 19.7 trillion), a 5 percent deficit will be 987.5 billion. Subtract the programmed deficit of 3.6% (P711.3 billion), and there will be room for a P277 billion fiscal stimulus program.

The Department of Finance’s quick P27 billion package is a great start. The budgetary items there, as well as in proposals of Rep. Joey Salceda and others can and should be counted as part of a maximum fiscal response. We believe the response should include:

- Additional funds for CCT recipients, who are by definition the most financially vulnerable sector and will suffer greatly if/when they lose their livelihood during this time.
- Additional funds to support DOLE and other programs to support workers affected by quarantine, whether directly or through companies, including when companies have advanced this.
- Other measures to transfer funds or food to low-income families
- Additional funds for temporary hospitals and quarantine areas to ensure health system can cope with surge in patients
- Funds to support businesses -- especially MSMEs -- when COVID-19 is under control, with a focus on hiring
- Targeted subsidies to the health, tourism and transport industries as in Malaysia and Italy
- Increased public investment spending as in Germany
- Deferral of penalties related to interest payments

Funds may also be sourced from savings or mandated savings of government agencies -- except DOH, LGUs and other frontliners in the current crisis -- and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs) to support all vulnerable sectors (informal worker, micro and small enterprises, etc.).

This massive stimulus will save lives and protect our society but will not trigger alarm bells in the credit rating and global investment community as the Philippine debt/GDP measure is only likely to rise from 41.5% to 44.2%. It was almost 70% about 15 years ago.

The Administration and the DOF have done a great job improving the country's finances. Now is the most critical time to put it in service of the sovereign people.





Business organizations urge immediate passage of Special Law to address COVID-19

March 23, 2020

We, the undersigned organizations, thank the Administration and Congress for quickly starting official deliberations today on the proposed **“Bayanihan Act of 2020”** and its counterpart bill in the Senate known as **“We Heal as One Act”** that are specially designed to help the country aggressively combat the COVID-19 pandemic and address its ill effects to our countrymen and economy.

We express support for the immediate passage of the law.

We commit ourselves to continue working with the government to fight COVID-19 with the assets and facilities at our disposal and, with proper consideration for their safety, with our manpower, starting from our managers. We commit to continue to support the health workers and medical establishments at the frontline of the war.

We recommend that any law that is passed by Congress should be consistent with our constitutional and legal principles, and not be overly broad and over-reaching -- in particular with realignment and reallocation of government and GOCC funds that should consider the constitutional guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, and take-over of private enterprises -- in order to avoid constitutional challenges that would delay implementation thereof.

We suggest the Administration and Congress consider provisions on the following.

1. Limit the duration of the law to two months and any extension thereof should be by an act of Congress;
2. Authorizing the President or his designees to grant special permits and exemptions from bureaucratic requirements under existing laws and regulations as may be reasonably necessary to avoid delay in the deployment or utilization of the funds and procurement of needed requirements;
3. Authorizing the President to adopt measures as may be reasonably necessary to facilitate and/or minimize disruption to the supply chain, especially for basic commodities and services to the maximum extent possible;
4. Providing rehabilitation, special financing programs and/or stimulus package to help businesses - especially MSMEs - that are adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially to help them pay workers to remain quarantined and, when the pandemic is under control, to rehire and resume normal operations;
5. Supporting any fund raising or other forms of assistance that the President may seek to get from foreign countries, multilateral organizations and the capital markets.

Some of the foregoing items can also be covered in a second bill if including them now will cause needless delay in the passage of the bill.

Cognizant that the re-allocated or re-aligned funds from government agencies and GOCCs may not be sufficient for the foregoing purposes, a second bill may provide additional funds to address both health and economic issues.

In order to minimize the damage of COVID-19 to the people and the economy, we urge Congress to pass quickly the special law at the earliest possible time.

AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMCHAM) ● ANVIL BUSINESS CLUB ● AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES (ANZCHAM) ● BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BAP) ● CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CANCHAM) ● CEBU BUSINESS CLUB (CBC) ● CEBU LEADS FOUNDATION, INC (CLF) ● EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECCP) ● FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC. (FFCCCI) ● FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (PHIL) INC. (FICCI) ● INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD) ● INVESTMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IHAP) ● IT & BUSINESS PROCESS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (IBPAP) ● JUDICIAL REFORM INITIATIVE (JRI) ● KOREAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES (KCCP) ● MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC) ● MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP) ● MICROFINANCE COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES ● NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION (NREA) ● ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (OSHDP) ● PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMA) ● PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF SECURITIES BROKERS AND DEALERS, INC. (PASBDI) ● PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (GO NEGOSYO) ● PHILIPPINE HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC. ● SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION, INC. (SEIPI) ● SHAREHOLDERS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL) ● SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (SHDA) ● WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL PHILIPPINES (WBCP)



Appeal for a Nationwide Suspension of Real Property Tax Payments

Following the declaration of the state of national emergency and on behalf of the undersigned business and professional organizations, we appeal for a nationwide suspension of the payment of real property taxes (RPT) which fall due during the effectivity of the enhanced community quarantine.

We recognize that the implementation of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) is necessary due to unprecedented events caused by COVID-19 pandemic. Our individual countrymen are mandated to stay at home while businesses opted as a precaution to suspend operations or adopt flexible work arrangements. This undoubtedly severely affects the finances, earnings and liquidity of all of our taxpayers, including businesses and individuals who own real property and who have impending obligations to pay real property taxes on March 31, 2020 pursuant to Section 250 of the Local Government Code of 1991 (“LGC”).

Also, as the deadline falls within the effectivity of the ECQ, real property owners will be required to travel out of their homes to fulfill their RPT obligations to their respective localities, which poses a serious threat to the health and safety of these individuals, as well as of the members of their respective households. Moreover, the travel restrictions imposed by some localities within and outside Luzon make it difficult, or even impossible, for real property owners to travel to a different locality where the real properties are located and pay the tax thereon.

In response to the state of national emergency, some LGUs such as the City of Makati have suspended the payment of RPT while some LGUs have not issued a similar suspension. To bring uniformity among LGUs across the country, a nationwide suspension of the payment of RPT during the quarantine period is warranted.

Consistent with the national policy to mitigate, if not contain, the transmission of COVID-19, we believe that it is in the best interest of our countrymen to stay at home and minimize movements including travels for the purpose of paying RPT during the period of community quarantine.

Furthermore, the suspension of the payment of taxes including RPT is well within President Rodrigo Roa Duterte’s power and authority. Republic Act No. 11496, otherwise known as the “Bayanihan to Heal as One Act”, authorizes the President to exercise powers necessary to carry out the declared national policy and adopt certain measures, among others, to move the statutory deadlines for the payment of taxes, *viz*:

“Section 4. Authorized Powers. – Pursuant to Article VI, Section 23 (2) of the Constitution, the President is hereby authorized to exercise powers that are necessary and proper to carry out the declared national policy. The President shall have the power to adopt the following temporary emergency measures to respond to crisis brought by the pandemic:

xxx

(z) Move statutory deadlines and timelines for the filing and submission of any document, the payment of taxes, fees and other charges required by law, and the grant of any benefit, in order to ease the burden on individuals under Community Quarantine.”

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request for the suspension of the payment of real property taxes which fall due and are payable to all local government units nationwide during the effectivity of the community quarantine period and consequently, the extension of the deadline for real property tax payments (without interest and penalties) until the community quarantine is lifted.

BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BAP)
CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CANCHAM)
CEBU BUSINESS CLUB (CBC)
FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC. (FCCCI)
FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
INVESTMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IHAP)
JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (JCCIPI)
MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (PCCI)
SHAREHOLDERS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)
TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TMAP)
US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC. (US-ABC)
WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL PHILIPPINES (WBCP)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

THIS DOCUMENT IS INTENDED FOR THE ADDRESSEES ONLY AS PER COVER LETTER

April 20, 2020

Sec. ARTHUR P. TUGADE

Secretary
Department of Transportation
APO Court along Sergio Osmeña Street
Clark Freeport Zone
Pampanga

Dear Secretary Tugade:

As is well known, there is a need for public transportation services to operate so that people can go to work to ensure business continuity to avoid closures and layoffs as the country battles COVID-19 in order to make sure that the health and safety of our people are protected.

In this regard, the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) is pleased to submit a paper entitled ***“Transition Towards the Normalization of the Public Transport System in NCR with Initial Focus on Buses, LRT/MRT/PNR”***.

In summary, the MAP outlines, for consideration by DOTr and the IACT, a proposed transport system that is demand-driven where the number of transport vehicles, to be authorized, will be determined by the size of the requirements for transport service. The paper has more or less identified the approximate size of the demand for transport services in NCR which, in turn, allows the estimation of the volume of needed transport service supply as Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are allowed to operate - on a phase by phase gradual basis according to priority sectors and industries - in the coming months.

We would be pleased to further discuss the key points brought up in the paper including any assistance that we may be able to provide.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President


RUY Y. MORENO
Chair, MAP Traffic, Transportation
and Infrastructure Committee

cc: Sec. CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ III, DOF
Gov. BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO, BSP
Acting Sec. KARL KENDRICK T. CHUA, NEDA
Sec. RAMON M. LOPEZ, DTI
Sec. EDUARDO M. ANO, DILG
Sec. CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR., Chief Implementor, IATF

Transition Towards the Normalization of the Public Transport System in NCR With Initial Focus on Buses, LRT/MRT/PNR

April 20, 2020

Background

Under the current government rules and regulations mandating the implementation of the lockdown that keeps people at home to “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 pandemic, companies and individuals involved in the industries and sectors specified in Attachments 1 and 2 may maintain a skeletal force to ensure the production and supply of goods and services so that the great majority of the population, particularly in the National Capital Region (NCR), are not deprived of said goods and services.

Due to the lack of public transportation (buses and LRT/MRT particularly), the said industries and sectors have not been able to start operations and, even if some have been able to do so, it has been very minimal. Such lack of public transportation has adversely affected the workers in terms of lack of income, low production for companies and low level in the provision of services, non-payment of invoices for goods delivered and services provided due to the absence of authorized personnel to process, approve, sign and release payments - these are some of the contributors to the country’s economic “malaise” and stress the need for business continuity to avoid closures and layoffs.

Based on the sectors specified in the above mentioned Attachments, as shown in Attachment 3, the Philippines has a total work force, in July 2019, of 42.925 million of which 5.4 million are in the NCR - this is the total labor force that, in the vast majority, cannot go to work due to the lockdown. These sectors and their regular work force (salaried and daily wage) are as follows:

	Sector	Number
1.	Manufacturing -	595,650
2.	Water supply, sewerage, waste management	5,415
3.	Accommodation and Food Services	557,745
4.	Information and Communications	151,620
5.	Wholesale & Retail	
	Selected NCR supermarkets (refer to Attachment 3A)	11,625
6.	Information and Communications - BPO	550,000
7.	Financial and Insurance	124,545
8.	Public Administration and Defense	308,655
9.	Human health and social work	113,715
	Total	2,418,970

Problem

There is a need to allow more companies to open in the priority sectors for which public transportation, initially buses including the LRT/MRT and PNR, are required. However, such action must be balanced by the need to optimize protection from COVID-19 for commuters to minimize the possibility of infection and spread of the virus.

Issue

Provide public transportation in NCR on a graduated and phase by phase basis for more or less 245,000 persons (estimate for a skeletal force), with the number increasing gradually as the COVID-19 curve

flattens, that would allow the opening of more companies and businesses, more workers and daily wage earners going to work while continuously following and enforcing COVID-19 protection protocol.

Recommended Approach

The approach is based on the numbers provided in the Attachments that more or less identifies the approximate size of the demand for transport services which, in turn, allows for the estimation of the volume of needed transport service supply - 250,000 workers more or less that can be gradually increased in phases as more sectors are opened and companies and individual entrepreneurs are allowed to operate so as to allow the eventual movement of 5.4 million persons which is the estimated total work force in NCR.

In other words, the proposed system is a demand-driven transport system where the number of transport vehicles to be authorized will be determined by the size of the requirements for transport service.

These are the key players that must be involved in the process

- a. Government - IACT, DTI, DILG (PNP and LGUS), DOTr (LTFRB, LTO, PNR), DOF (Customs, BIR), BSP (banking), DA;
- b. Private sector - industry associations in public transportation and manufacturing and services whose members have a clear understanding of the specific raw material needs (in the case of manufacturing) of their members including service sector members who can articulate the policies and rules to support the needs of the sector.

1. Locations

DTI and other relevant government agencies must identify the locations of the companies and firms that are in the industries and services covered by Attachments 1 and 2 inclusive of companies that are key players in the domestic and global supply chain including but not limited to:

- a. Manufacturing (MMSMEs - Major, Medium, Small Enterprises)
 - 1) Food products
 - 2) Agricultural products, particularly for products to be provided as raw materials to food manufacturers or to supermarkets and wet markets including inputs required by the agricultural sector, ex., fertilizers, seeds, etc.
 - 3) Essential household products
 - 4) Essential personal products
 - 5) Pharmaceuticals
 - 5) Raw materials for the manufacturing sector (local and imported), ex., cement, chemicals, steel, etc.
 - 6) PEZA firm including companies that are part of the global supply chain
 - 7) Packaging
 - 8) Technology hardware and software
- b. Service companies (MMSMEs)
 - 1) IT-BPO
 - 2) Local delivery services, ex., Grab Food, etc.
 - 3) Financial services - banks, insurance companies, pawnshops
 - 4) Telecoms
 - 5) Waste Management
 - 6) Shipping and transportation, particularly for cargo - shipping lines, airlines, land-based delivery vehicles

- c. Retail, wholesale and import companies - Food: ex., supermarkets, wet markets, convenience stores
- d. Retail, wholesale and import companies - Non-food: ex. pharmaceutical products, medical supplies and equipment, office and school supplies and equipment (paper, pens, pencils, computer equipment, printers, and supplies such as printer ink); parts for transport equipment, motor vehicles and motorcycles; downstream oil and gas, i.e, refineries and petrol stations
- e. Technology hardware and software - developers, importers, distributors and retailers
- f. Others

2. Priority Routes

Based on the list to be developed per item 1 above including the addresses therein, clusters of such firms (ex., PEZA locators, food and pharma manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, retailers) could be determined so that DOTr/LTFRB can identify the priority routes that must be served by public transport (buses, LRT/MRT and PNR up to Alabang initially) for commuters moving around NCR to their work locations from the east, north, west and south, e.g., EDSA and a few other main thoroughfares.

3. Authorized Public Transport

LTFRB should identify the buses, including MRT/LRT and PNR, authorized to ply the given routes (regular or special franchise), based on a set of criteria to be developed by LTFRB (jointly with the bus operators and LRT/MRT/PNR management and, as required, with the PNP). Given the urgency of the situation, such discussions with the transport sector, particularly the bus operators, should be limited to perhaps one to two meetings and, as much as possible, be conducted by e-mail or by teleconference. The discussion should include the financial aspect of the operations for both the operator and the driver, ex., monthly salary payments for the driver and conductor with income not based on the number of trips per day. To facilitate discussion, LTFRB should suggest an income that is fair to both the operators and the drivers. In doing so, the government - through LTFRB - should consider a subsidy for the operators in view of the lost income as the bus will not be operating at full capacity due to the need to maintain social distance inside the vehicle (estimated lost income of around 40% of normal income).

4. Dispatch Station

LTFRB and the LGU must identify the dispatch stations of the buses including the MRT/LRT and PNR station. The dispatch station (which could be the same for MRT/LRT and PNR passengers) must be manned by a barangay health officer (e.g., to scan the passenger for illness, to ensure that the passenger is wearing a mask and that the hands are properly sanitized), an LTFRB and/or MRT/LRT employee and police officers to ensure that all persons entering the dispatch station are wearing masks and carry the authorized IATF ID, company ID, and are not ill - no IDs/no masks/ill = no entry. The LTFRB/police personnel in the dispatch station shall ensure that there is social distance between passengers as they enter the dispatch station and also while the passengers are entering and are inside the bus or the LRT/MRT/PNR carriage. The actual number of control personnel in the dispatch station can be increased/decreased depending on the expected volume of passengers.

To ensure that there is no deviation in either the authorized route and/or changes in the social distance among passengers (ex., allowing another passenger to get on while en-route), a minimum of one police officer (best if two officers) shall ride in the bus. No bus can leave the station unless allowed to do so by the dispatcher - perhaps every 15 to 30 minutes depending on demand both projected and actual.

5. Authorized Vehicles - Safety Requirements

Authorized buses must display visible and uniform signage indicating their authorized routes. These must have disinfectants and must be disinfected after every trip. Passengers, drivers, conductors and security escort must wear masks. The dispatcher, who shall also be wearing a mask, shall not allow any vehicle to leave until compliance with the signage and health safety requirements is ensured. The police officers on board must ensure that all passengers keep their masks on and maintain social distance during the trip.

6. Driver/Conductor

Each authorized bus must have a conductor equipped with a temperature sensor and sanitizer; both driver and conductor must wear a face mask and hand gloves; needless to say, they must test negative on COVID-19. The police officers on the vehicle to help in enforcement shall be using similar protective gear and must also test negative on COVID-19. The same approach shall be applied to passengers and security personnel traveling on the LRT/MRT and PNR.

7. Social Distance

There must be a limit to the number of passengers in the bus or train carriage in order to maintain social distance; this limit must be posted on each bus or train carriage to facilitate compliance with the dispatcher ensuring such and the police officer riding in the bus/carriage also ensures continuous enforcement of the social distance requirement. The same approach shall be applied to passengers traveling on the LRT/MRT and PNR carriages.

8. Travel limitations

Travel must be limited to absolutely necessary trips, such as going to and from work, buying medicine and food, and other emergencies to be specified, if possible; these must be made absolutely clear to enforcers, particularly in the LGUs, to reduce discretion and prevent unnecessary inconveniences or abuses.

9. Enforcement

DOTr/LTFRB, LRT/MRT and PNR must coordinate with the enforcement agencies (DILG/PNP/HPG) for the enforcement of the above rules, regulations and limitations.

10. Checkpoints

Checkpoints must be established in strategic locations; inspection, however, must be done on a random basis to avoid unnecessary delays and inconvenience. The police personnel in the checkpoints must ensure that all persons on board the bus are wearing face masks and comply with the social distance requirement.

11. Penalties

Violators caught during the random inspections must be meted out heavy penalties to discourage cheating.

12. Consultation

DOTr/LTFRB should discuss the proposal with concerned bus operators and LRT/MRT and PNR management, to undertake the following: a) validate its practicality; b) identify and plug its weaknesses and blind spots; and c) most importantly, secure their buy-in and

cooperation. However, as mentioned above, there must be a specific time period to finalize consultations (no more than a week) and those operators/driver associations that did not participate should not complain but should follow the rules.

13. Pilot Run

If DOTr/LTFRB find the proposal feasible, they can begin by experimenting it on a limited basis (such as starting with EDSA) and expand it gradually to other routes.

###

AUTHORIZED PERSONS OUTSIDE RESIDENCE

(source: Authorized Persons Outside Residence, Joint Task Force CV, March 21, 2020 @ 2pm):

Basic Services

- a. All DOH officials and staff
- b. All health and service personnel stationed at LGU Health facilities
- c. All PRC vehicles bearing the Red Cross Logo and Staff with Red Cross IDs
- d. Core staff from the WHO Country and Regional Offices
- e. Doctors and their drivers
- f. Hospital staff and employees including janitors
- g. Medical professionals and other employees
- h. Private care givers
- i. Funeral Services
 - 1) Employees
 - 2) Immediate family of the deceased
 - 3) Officiating priests, pastors and ministers
- j. Emergency Responders
 - 1) BFP
 - 2) DRRMC
 - 3) DSWD

- 4) Barangay Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT)
- 5) LGU officials
- k. Security Services
 - 1) PNP, AFP, PCG, BJMP, NBI, OTS, BOC, BI, PPA, MMDA and other law enforcement agency personnel
 - 2) Company security officers and security guards
 - 3) Force multipliers (barangay officials, barangay tanods)
- l. Banks
 - 1) Bank employees
 - 2) ATM service provider crew
 - 3) Armored vehicle crew
- m. Money Transfer Services
 - Employees
- n. Hypermarkets, Supermarkets, Groceries, Convenience, Sari-sari stores
 - Employees
- o. Public Markets
 - Vendors
- p. Pharmacies/Drugstores
 - Pharmacists and employees
- q. Food Chain/Restaurants/Carinderia engaged in delivery and take-out
 - Staff and crew

Essential Goods

- a. Delivery of cargoes – with or without load (2 including the driver)
- b. Employees working at the manufacturing establishments engaged in the production and distribution of the following
 - 1) Food
 - 2) Essential and hygiene products (soap and detergents, diapers, feminine hygiene products, tissues, wipes, toilet papers and disinfectants)
 - 3) Medicine and vitamins
 - 4) Medical products such as PPEs, masks, gloves and others

Logistics/Warehouse establishments employees

Telecommunications

- a. Key officials and employees
- b. Employees of cable and internet service providers

Energy Companies

- a. Electric power generation, transmission and distribution employees
- b. Exploration, coal operation and trading employees and delivery drivers

- c. Petroleum tanker drivers
- d. Gasoline attendants

Utilities

- a. Key officials and employees
- b. Water delivery and refilling stations crew

Sanitation

- Industrial, residential, hospital and toxic garbage/waste collectors and drivers

Other Authorized Persons

- a. Private individual (1 per household) availing of the services of the mentioned establishments
- b. Government skeletal force of the Executive Branch
- c. Capital Market Personnel
 - 1) Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP)
 - 2) Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
 - 3) Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)
 - 4) Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corporation (PDEC)
 - 5) Philippine Securities Settlement Corporation (PSSC)
 - 6) Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation (PDTC)

DOLE Skeletal Staff for Tulong Hanapbuhay sa Ating disadvantaged/displaced Workers (TUPAD)

Senators and Congressmen with their COS

Department Secretaries, USEC and ASEC

Bureau Directors

Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman

Justices of SC, CA, CTA and Sandigan Bayan

Judges of the Regional, Metropolitan, City and Municipal Trial Courts and Prosecutors

Governors

Media Personalities including PCOO and its attached agencies

- Date of Implementation requiring unified ID cards issued by PCOO will be announced later

Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) and Export-Oriented Business Personnel

Critical Transportation Facilities Employees (i.e., MRT, LRT, PNR, Airport and Toll Facilities)

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**Heads of Mission or Designated Foreign Mission Representatives
(including limited Foreign Mission Personnel and Staff)**

**Hotel employees and tenants who have existing long term leases
and booking accommodations as of March 17, 2020**

Outbound and inbound international passengers and driver

Civil Aviation Related Services Personnel

- a. Pilots and crew of airline ground personnel
- b. Air traffic services personnel and other personnel of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines
- c. Airport personnel who will perform other airport operations and other personnel of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and Luzon International Premier Airport Development (LIPAD)
- d. Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) personnel who man the Malasakit Help Desks

Ensuring Unhampered Movement of Cargo and Transit of Personnel of Business Establishments allowed to Operate During the Enhanced Community Quarantine of Luzon

(DTI Memorandum Circular no. 20-06, 10 March 2020)

I. All Covered Enterprises are the following:

1. Manufacturing of Food and Essential Products, Medicine and Medical Supplies
 - a. All Food
 - b. Essential and Hygiene Products
 - 1) Soap and detergents
 - 2) Diapers, feminine hygiene products, tissue, wipes/and toilet papers
 - 3) Disinfectants
 - c. Medicine and Vitamins
 - d. Medical Products such as
 - 1) PPEs
 - 2) Masks, gloves
 - 3) Others

This section includes the distribution and logistics to support Manufacturing Activities, including Cargo Handling, Warehousing, Trucking and Port Operations

2. Retail Establishments (groceries, supermarkets, hypermarkets, convenience stores, pharmacies and drug stores)
3. Export and Business Process Outsourcing Companies (BPO) Companies

II. Movement of all cargoes in the entire Luzon area

The movement of ALL types of cargoes (food & non- food) within, to and from the entire Luzon **SHALL BE UNHAMPERED**. If subjected to random inspection (with cargo before delivery or empties after delivery), the movement of cargo **SHALL NOT BE DELAYED**, upon presentation of the cargo manifest or delivery receipt including the destination, nature and quantity of the loaded goods/cargoes.

III. Movement of personnel needed to operate the covered enterprises

1. Staff or employees working in the above enterprises and establishments shall be **PERMITTED** to pass through control points.
2. The covered enterprises and establishments shall:

- a. Operate with skeletal workforce, and where possible, provide shuttle services or temporary accommodations; and
 - b. Ensure safety protocols and social distancing in their respective workplaces.
 - c. Encourage alternative work arrangements, such as Work-From-Home (WFH)
3. The skeletal workforce of covered enterprises and establishments shall be allowed to enter and exit control points upon presentation of any of the following:
 - a. Valid company identification card
 - b. Proof of residence
 - c. Certification of employment

To further facilitate transit of personnel of covered enterprises and establishments, an official IATF ID issued by DTI shall be presented starting 22 March 2020 unless extended.

IV. Export and BPO Companies

1. Export and BPO companies shall be allowed to continue operations with a skeletal workforce, subject to strict observance of social distancing measures and provision of appropriate temporary accommodation arrangements or shuttle service within the immediate vicinity of the

workplace. Where applicable, a work from home (WFH) arrangement will also be encouraged.

2. The following shall be allowed until end of 20 March 2020 unless extended:

a. Transfer of necessary equipment of BPO and export-oriented establishments to facilitate work from home (WFH) arrangement and;

b. For BPOs and export-oriented establishments to make arrangements with hotels for basic lodging.

For purposes of the above, personnel of BPOs and export-oriented establishments, setting up the foregoing arrangements shall be allowed to travel subject to presentation of proof of employment, address of employee, and residence.

Copy of the Memorandum Circular shall be presented to the Philippine National Police and Local Government Units to control points for implementation.

RAMON M. LOPEZ
Secretary

**Table 6: Percent Distribution of Employed
Persons by Sex, by Region and
Major Industry Groups: July 2019**

(Source: PSA and 2009 PSIC)

Selected data for NCR was extracted from Table 6 based on the DTI MC and JTF CV, March 21, 2020

Region and Major Industry Group	Total	Male	Female
Philippines (total labor force, in million)	42.952	26.166	16.786
<hr/>			
NCR (labor force, in million)	5.415	3.132	2.283
Total NCR (%)	100	100	100
Manufacturing in number	10.8 584,820	11.7 366,444	9.5 216,885

Electricity, gas, steam and airconditioning supply	0.2	0.2	0.2
in number	10,830	6,264	4,566

Sub-Total	595,650	372,708	221,451
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Region and Major Industry Group	Total	Male	Female
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Philippines (total labor force, in million)	42.952	26.166	16.786
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NCR (labor force, in million)	5.415	3.132	2.283
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Total NCR (%)	100%	100%	100%
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Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0.1	0.2	0.1
In number	5,415	6,264	2,283

Transportation and Storage Accommodation and Food Services	10.3	16.5	1.8
In number	557,745	516,780	41,094

Information and Communications	2.8	3.2	2.2
in number	151,620	100,224	50,226

Sub-Total	714,780	623,268	93,603
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Region and Major Industry Group	Total	Male	Female
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Philippines (total labor force,in million)	42.952	26.166	16.786
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NCR (labor force, in million)	5.415	3.132	2.283
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Total NCR (%)	100%	100%	100%
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Wholesale and RetailTrade - NCR Supermarkets only (Attachments 3 and 3A)	11,625	NA*	NA*
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Information and Communications (including telecoms and BPO)	Own Assumption: 550,000	NA*	NA*
More or less 1.1 milion workers; 50% in NCR			

Sub-Total	561,625	NA*	NA*
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* NA - Not Available

Region and Major Industry Group	Total	Male	Female
Philippines (total labor force, in million)	42.952	26.166	16.786

NCR	5.415	3.132	2.283
(labor force, in million)			
Total	100%	100%	100%
Financial and Insurance (also banks) Activities	2.3	1.8	2.9
(in numbers)	124,545	56,376	66,207
Public Administration and Defense; compulsory social security	5.7	6.1	5.3
(in numbers)	308,655	191,052	120,999
Human health and social work (health workers)	2.1	1.5	3.0
(in numbers)	113,715	46,980	68,490
Sub-Total	546,915	294,408	255,696
Grand Total	2,418,970	1,383,987	383,544

Metro Manila
Major Supermarkets and Estimated number of Employees

	City	Number of Supermarkets	Estimated Number of Employees
1.	Caloocan	4	250
2.	Malabon	4	350
3.	Valenzuela	2	150
4.	Quezon City	30	2,375
5.	Marikina	6	450
6.	Pasig	9	700
7.	Taguig	9	700
8.	Makati	16	1,250
9.	Manila	18	1,250
10.	Mandaluyong	14	1,100
11.	San Juan	4	300
12.	Pasay	8	500
13.	Paranaque	6	500
14.	Las Pinas	10	800
15.	Muntinlupa	10	950
	Total	150	11,625

Notes:

1. Though part of NCR, Pateros and Navotas are not included due to lack of data.
2. Number of Supermarkets source: List of Shopping Malls, Metro Manila https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_shopping_malls_in_Metro_Manila
3. Estimated Number of Employees - assumption regarding supermarket staffing:
 - a. 20 counters = 1 cashier/shift x 2 shifts = 40 cashiers/day
 - b. 20 counters = 1 bag boy/shift x 2 shifts = 40 bag boys/day
 - c. Bodega staff (including receiving, storing and releasing): 15
 - d. Supervisors/managers: 15

Total: 110 employees in a supermarket

For easy calculation, 100 is used as the number of staff per supermarket adjusted downwards (to 50 or 75) or upwards (200) depending on the size of the supermarket based on personal experience with many of the supermarket. Please note that it is probable that the list is not complete, ex., SM Hypermarket on Alabang Zapote Road in Las Pinas is not included. Please refer to Attachment 3-A for details.

Metro Manila
List of Supermarkets and Estimated Number of Employees
By City

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
1.	Caloocan	Araneta Square	50
		SM Center Sangandaan	100
		Victory Control Mall	50
		Zabarte Town Center	50
		Total	250
2.	Malabon	Fisher Mall Malabon	100
		Malabon Citisquare	50
		Robinsons Town Mall	100
		Star J. Mall	100
		Total	350
3.	Valenzuela	One Mall Valenzuela	50
		SM City Valenzuela	100
		Total	150
4.	Quezon City	Fairview Terraces	100
		Gateway Mall	
		(3 supermarkets in area)	300
		Robinsons Galleria	100
		SM City Fairview	100
		SM City North	100
		Trinoma	100
		Ever Gotesco	50
		Fairview Center	50
		Fisher Mall	100
		Robinsons Novaliches	100
		Robinson Townville Regalado	100

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
4	Quezon City (cont.)		
		SM Cherry Congressional	100
		SM City Novaliches	100
		SM City Sta. Mesa	100
		Walter Mart E. Rodriguez	50
		Walter Mart North EDSA	50
		Z Square Mall	50
		Ayala Malls Cloverleaf	100
		Ayala Malls Vertis North	100
		Eastwood Mall	100
		Industria Mall	50
		Robinsons Magnolia	100
		Centris walk	50
		Pearl Drive Commercial Center	50
		The Clubhouse at Temple Drive	50
		Mezza Strip	50
		UP Town Center	75
		Total	2,375
5.	Marikina		
		Graceland Plaza	50
		Riverbank Center	100
		SM City Marikina	100
		Ayala Malls Marikina	100
		Blue Wave Marikina	50
		C&B Circle Mall	50
		Total	450

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
6.	Pasig	Robinsons Metro East	100
		SM Center Pasig	100
		SM City East Ortigas	100
		Arcovia Parade	50
		Ayala Malls Feliz	50
		Ayala Malls The 30 th	50
		Estancia Mall	100
		The Grove by Rockwell	50
		Pioneer Center	100
		Total	700
7.	Taguig	Market Market	150
		SM Aura	150
		Sunshine Plaza Mall	50
		Vista Mall Taguig	50
		S&R	100
		Bonifacio High Street	50
		Forbes Town Center	50
		Tuscany at McKinley Hill	50
		Uptown Mall	50
		Total	700
8.	Makati	Glorietta (2 supermarkets)	200
		Greenbelt	50
		Rockwell	100
		Cash & Carry	100
		Guadalupe Commercial Center	50
		Walter Mart Makati	50
		Ayala Malls Circuit	100
		Century City	100
		Paseo de Magallanes	50
		San Antonio Plaza	50
		Alphaland Makati Place	100
		Alphaland Southgate Tower	100
		E West Mall	50

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
8.	Makati (cont.)		
		SM Jazz Residences	100
		Paseo Center	50
		Total	1,250
9.	Manila		
		Robinson's Plaza Manila	100
		Ever Gotesco	50
		Isetan Carriedo	50
		Robinson's Otis	100
		SM City Manila	100
		SM City San Lazaro	100
		Tutuban Center	100
		Unitop Sta. Mesa	100
		University Mall	50
		Lucky Chinatown	50
		Green Mall	50
		The One Grand Center	50
		Times Plaza	50
		11/88,168, 999 Shopping Mall*	50
		DS Mall	50
		Odeon Terminal Mall	50
		Plaza Miranda Mall	50
		Landers	100
		Total	1,300

*Treated as one outlet

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
10.	Mandaluyong		
		Shangri-La Plaza	100
		500 Shaw Blvd.	50
		Forum Robinsons	50
		Shaw Centremall	50
		SM Cherry Shaw	100
		S&R Shaw	100
		Starmall EDSA Shaw	50
		The Marketplace Mall	50
		Madison Square Pioneer	50
		DMG Plaza	100
		SM Light Residences	100
		Podium	100
		Purefoods	50
		SM Megamall	150
		Total	1,100
11.	San Juan		
		Agora Mall	100
		Greenhills Shopping Center	100
		Madison Square Greenhills	50
		Santolan Town Plaza	50
		Total	300
12.	Pasay		
		SM Mall of Asia	150
		Metropoint Mall	50
		Victory Pasay Mall	50
		W Mall	50
		Met Live	50
		Gate 3 Plaza	50
		Baclaran Galleria Shopping Mall	50
		Baclaran Bagong Milenyo Plaza	50
		Total	500

Item	City	Name of Supermarket	Est. Number of Employees
13.	Paranaque		
		SM City BF Paranaque	100
		SM City Bicutan	100
		SM City Sucat	100
		Walter Mart Bicutan	50
		Walter Mart Sucat	50
		Santana Grove	100
		Total	500
14.	Las Pinas		
		Evia Lifestyle Center	100
		Robinsons Supermarket	50
		SM Center Las Pinas	100
		Vista Mall Global South	50
		Vista Mall Las Pinas	100
		The Village Square Alabang	50
		Madison Square Las Pinas	50
		Landers	100
		SM South Mall	100
		Landers	100
		Puregold	100
		Total	900
15.	Muntinlupa		
		Alabang Town Center (2 supermarkets)	200
		Molito	100
		Festival Alabang (2 supermarkets)	200
		Starmall Alabang	100
		Ayala Malls South Park	100
		Lakefront Boardwalk	50
		S&R	100
		South Supermarket	100
		Total	950

April 22, 2020

Hon. SHARON S. GARIN
Hon. STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO
Hon. JOSE S. SALCEDA
Co-Chairs - Sub-Committee on Economic Stimulus Package
Defeat COVID-19 Committee (DCC)
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Dear Congresswoman Garin, Congresswoman Quimbo and Congressman Salceda:

Greetings from the MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)!

MAP is a non-stock and non-profit organization that has 1,034 individual members, many of whom represent 40 of the top 100 corporations in the Philippines. Around 75% of our members are either the chairman, CEO, President, managing director/partner and country head of these companies. We have in our fold 72 listed companies whose combined capitalization at one point is PhP9.3 Trillion, representing around 60% of our stock market's total market capitalization.

We sincerely thank you for working on a stimulus program for the country. The current difficult circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the future clearly justify the immediate passage of a law to support the stimulus program. The current disruption is a public health issue that is highlighting the limits of the local public health infrastructure, has affected global supply chains, and has constricted economic activity and thus incomes.

The two draft bills separately authored by the Honorable Jose Salceda and Stella Quimbo sent to us for comments and suggestions are welcome news. They cover the important sectors that deserve assistance from social and economic standpoints. They are responsive and comprehensive in coverage and specific in the total and sectoral amounts to be allocated. They boost aggregate demand at the household level by putting back purchasing power to them to help the economy. Their guiding principles essentially address the current and future requirements for economic recovery and growth while at the same time aimed at promoting fairness.

We propose the following preliminary refinements:

1. The title of the law be simplified to make it reader-friendly. Titles like "*The National Economic Recovery Act of 2020*" (NERA) or "*The Stimulus Program for Economic Recovery Act of 2020*" ("SPERA") may be considered.
2. The law should provide that infrastructure projects for which public funds are provided under the 2019 and 2020 General Appropriations Act (GAA) and special laws be transferred to the PPP program of the government under the Build and Operate Transfer Act (BOT Law) so that these funds therefor can be freed up and redirected to finance the stimulus package while at the same time providing the private sector the opportunity to help jumpstart the economy.
3. To incentivize the banking industry and other sectors to make increased credit available to the economy:
 - 3.1 The capitalization of the Philippine Guarantee Corporation be substantially increased to guarantee loan obligations, especially of MSMEs and other hard-hit sectors of the economy like the airline industry and other primary actors in the tourism sector;


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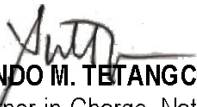
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- 3.2 Automatic revival of the Special Purpose Vehicles Act (SPV Act) for a temporary period should the non-performing assets of the banking industry dramatically increase to a level determined by the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) taking into account the financial stability of the banking sector;
 - 3.3 The law should encourage, authorize and/or direct the relevant authorities to adjust and relax the requirements, restrictions and other matters presently found in existing regulations and laws, such as the SPV Law, the Agri-Agra Act and the MSME Act;
 4. On MSMEs, consider the following:
 - 4.1 The government will guarantee a certain percentage of a loan to an MSME that is encountering financial difficulties due to COVID-19 as stated above. Most MSMEs do not have a formal type of equity that government could take over.
 - 4.2 No payment of interest or capital for the first twelve (12) months. The government should subsidize it. The MSMEs will be struggling to get any revenues in the first year.
 5. Instead of creating a new government corporation like the National Emergency Investment Corporation (NEIC) which will take time to organize and delay the implementation of the law, consider just expanding the mandate of an existing GOCC like the National Development Corporation and increase its capitalization to perform the tasks envisioned for the NEIC.
 6. Government financial institutions should be encouraged to issue bonds, as appropriate, to raise funds to help finance the programs under the stimulus law;
 7. Time is of the essence in implementing the provisions of the bill, as soon as it becomes law. As such, the law should specifically mandate that procedures for extending assistance to the sectors targeted, especially the workers and the MSMEs, must be in the simplest and most expeditious manner to avoid the implementation of the law being mired in red tape.
 8. The law should strengthen its accountability, monitoring and transparency mechanisms. Congress should create a multi-sectoral committee, with private sector participation, to ensure that the fund utilization and key programs will be properly monitored and accounted for.

We will be honored to work with the Committee to refine the draft bills along the foregoing suggestions.

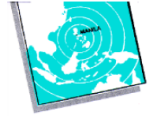
Thank you.

Very truly yours,


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President


AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.
Governor-in-Charge, National
Issues Committee (NIC)


RIZALINA G. MANTARING
Chair, NIC



CALL ON THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT EFFICIENCY AND REDUCE LOGISTICS COST

In these trying times, when the government is implementing a socio-economic amelioration program to provide subsidies and assistance to the people, increasing transport logistics efficiency and reducing cost can also help the business sector and consumers at large.

Pursuant to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) Resolution No. 24 dated 15 April 2020 approving the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to pursue Supply Chain Regulatory Impact Assessments and to develop the Supply Chain Analysis (SCAN) Dashboard, allow us to put forward some doable recommendations to help address global and supply chain challenges and sustain business operations amid the disruptions of brought about by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

- 1. Implement a moratorium on demurrage/detention fees, port congestion surcharges, and other penalties imposed on cargoes/shipments stuck at the port due to slow DO issuances/bank processing /customs clearance and apply this retroactively to all shipments affected.** At the Forum last Wednesday, it was mentioned that international shipping lines are imposing port congestion surcharges of US\$ 1,400 per reefer container. On top of this, demurrage charges (Php 1,400-2,800 per 40' dry container; Php 2,800-3,200/day for reefers), and other penalties are likewise imposed. As early as 03 April 2020, the Export Development Council (EDC) already wrote a letter to the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Department of Finance (DOF), and Department of Transportation (DOTr) requesting for a waiver on demurrage fees. Only DOTr responded by suggesting that the request be elevated to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF).

There is a 2019 Joint Administrative Order (JAO) establishing *guidelines in the application of local charges imposed by international shipping lines, freight forwarders or logistics companies, customs brokers, cargo truck operators, terminal operators and container yard operators to comply with existing laws and instructing the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) to improve productivity in the handling of cargoes.* The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Transportation (DOTr) already signed the JAO.

We appeal to the Department of Finance (DOF) to sign so that it can already be implemented especially at this time.

2. **Extend free storage period from 5 days to 10 days.** Currently, shippers pay storage fees to port terminal operators (after the 5-day free storage period) of Php 962-1,443/day for 40' dry containers and Php and Php 192.50 per hour for reefers. We appeal that the free storage period be extended to 10 days.
3. **Adopt a 'super green lane' (SGL) process for PEZA, CDC, SBMA shipments/ transshipments.**
4. **Lift the truck ban/number-coding.** Because of the lockdown, there are few trucks operating today to transport. This is exacerbated further by the truck ban and number-coding schemes. The issue today is not 'traffic', rather the delivery of cargoes – food and essential products, raw materials, export-import cargoes. We appeal for the immediate lifting of the truck ban and number-coding scheme.
5. **Improve the automation of the Bureau of Customs (BOC).** At this time when social distancing and less/no face-to-face dealings have become the 'norm', automation and the role of ICT have all the more become critical. While other countries (**like us**) are battling COVID-19, their port operations have remained efficient (**unlike us**) due to their fully-automated systems and processes. We do not know when the lockdown will be lifted. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve the automation process at the BOC. For a start, something drastic must be done to address the downtime arising from inefficient servers of the BOC. Delay or failure to process documents online is a critical factor behind port congestion.
6. **Use Subic and Batangas as 'extension' ports** as specified in Executive Order (EO 172 s. 2014) in cases of port congestion and emergency situations. We appeal for Transport Secretary Tugade to implement EO 172.
7. **Ensure that all shipping lines have sufficient container yard (CY) space for empty containers/ Expedite the accreditation and activation of Inland Container Depots (ICDs) as needed.**
8. **Rescind Letter of Instruction (LOI) 1005-A s. 1980**
 - **IMMEDIATE IMPACT:** It will reduce transport logistics cost by removing the share of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) from cargo handling revenues.

WINNERS: Consumers, manufacturers, farmers/fisherfolks, exporter and importers. In short, **the economy**.
 - **NEUTRAL:** Cargo handlers/ port workers. They will not be affected by the policy because it is the government's share that will be given up.

While this recommendation admittedly will cause a reduction in PPA's revenue, we have to put a stop to this policy of sharing from cargo handling revenues (10-20%) which unnecessarily increases logistics cost. **The negative impact [damage] such a policy brings to the economy is definitely greater than whatever the government does with the revenue it generates.**

- **STRATEGIC IMPACT:** It corrects the conflict of interest where the regulator can increase rates not based on merit or financial justification but based on the benefit that accrues to it. This will have a long lasting, positive impact, beyond the COVID-19 crisis. Rescinding LOI 1005-A can be done with the issuance of an Executive Order by the President. The Supreme Court ruled in *PASEI vs. Joblink International, Inc.*, G.R. 98472 dated August 19, 1993, that an Executive Order has the power to repeal a Letter of Instruction issued during the Marcos Administration. We appeal to President Duterte to issue and EO rescinding LOI 1005-A.
9. **Conduct regulatory impact assessment (RIA) on COVID 19-related issuances.** A number of policy and regulatory issuances both at the national and local levels has caused confusion/unnecessary delays and hampered the transport of goods. We recommend that the TWG, with ARTA taking the lead, conduct regulatory impact assessments on COVID 19-related issuances to ensure that the rules are consistent, contributes to efficiency, and lower cost.

MAP Statement on the Closure of ABS-CBN

May 6, 2020

It's a sad day for media freedom and the thousands of people and their families who will be adversely affected by the closure of ABS-CBN.

We in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) had fervently hoped that this day would never come as we, together with other business organizations, strongly urged Congress to consider in a timely and judicious manner the renewal of ABS-CBN's broadcasting franchise.

We reiterate in the strongest possible terms our plea for Congress to act swiftly, especially at this time when we all must act as one nation for the sake of our country.

FRANCISCO ED. LIM

MAP President

JOINT STATEMENT ON SHUTDOWN OF ABS-CBN BROADCASTS

6 May 2020

We, the undersigned organizations, express our concern that the shutdown of ABS-CBN Corp.'s broadcast operations will be a blow to press freedom, which is a pillar of democratic societies such as ours. It is also a setback at a time when the country needs to be united against the pandemic. Now more than ever, everyone should be working together on the singular goal of helping each other through this crisis.

We strongly support a balanced, fair and swift consideration of the bills filed by several lawmakers to renew ABS-CBN's franchise. If there are legitimate issues against the company, Congress should address them while defending constitutional rights and freedoms; according equal treatment as other companies with expired franchises and pending applications; and preserving broadcast and communications systems that can deliver truth, news, and information to even the farthest points of the country, especially at this time.





14 May 2020

“The New Normal for the Workplace and Public Spaces Act of 2020” (House Bill No. 6623)
Position Paper

We, the undersigned, thank the honorable congressmen authors of House Bill No. 6623 in their efforts to institute public health and safety standards to prevent the transmission of the COVID-19 or novel coronavirus (nCOV). We support the protection of vulnerable groups while at the same time, “ensuring the restoration of livelihood opportunities and sources of income for all, especially the country’s poor”.¹ Allow us to offer our comments on House Bill No. 6623, known as the “NEW NORMAL FOR THE WORKPLACE AND PUBLIC SPACES ACT OF 2020”.

Firstly, the universal safety, management, and monitoring measures under Section 3, 5, and 6 of House Bill No. 6623 may not be applicable or apt to all areas in the Philippines and for the entire effectivity of the proposed measure – three (3) years from enactment or until a viable vaccine has contained or eradicated COVID-19.² Response strategies, in the form of infection prevention and control, is a matter best left at the **sub-national level**³ – in the case of the Philippines, on a barangay, city, or province level.

Secondly, we support the role of local government units in institutionalizing the essential health and social policies in their respective territorial jurisdiction. Section 4 can be utilized to strengthen Republic Act No. 11332 or the “MANDATORY REPORTING OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN ACT.”

Finally, we support the call to fast track the implementation of the Philippine Identification System Act and the National Broadband Program, as well as the establishment of E-Government Systems. These provisions, however, can be used in a government digital modernization program as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic rather than in a public health and social measure bill. We suggest that Section 7 be integrated into the economic stimulus bill or institutionalized in a separate digital modernization bill.

¹ Section 2, House Bill No. 6623 or the “New Normal for the Workplace and Public Spaces Act of 2020.

² Section 11, NEW NORMAL FOR THE WORKPLACE AND PUBLIC SPACES ACT OF 2020.

³ Page two (2), CONSIDERATION IN ADJUSTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19, Interim Guidance issued by the WHO dated 16 April 2020, available at <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-in-adjusting-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19-interim-guidance>, last accessed on 9 May 2020.

The National Detection and Response Strategy to COVID-19 are functionally addressed by Republic Act No. 11332 and Executive Order No. 112, Series of 2020. Additional funding should instead be allocated to strengthen these health strategies.

We, the undersigned, anchor our opinions, same as with the House, on expertise developed by esteemed international health and policy institutions. The World Health Organization (WHO), the leading authority, in order to assist authorities, leaders, and policy-planners to identify appropriate approaches in preventing, preparing, and measuring readiness to combat COVID-19, released the “NATIONAL CAPACITIES REVIEW TOOL FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS.”⁴ The review tool was developed with other coronaviruses, such as SARS-COV and MERS-CoV, in mind and in consultation other member states to help national authorities identify main gaps, perform risk assessments, and plan for additional investigations, response and control actions.

According to the NATIONAL CAPACITIES REVIEW TOOL FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, the following are essential in any national policy response to COVID-19:

- a. Detection strategies comprising of the existence of a national laboratory system, an efficient and accurate surveillance and risk assessment system, and a rapid response team available in both national and sub-national level.⁵
- b. Response strategies for command and coordination, risk coordination, point of entry and case management, infection prevention and control, as well as logistics, procurement and supply management.⁶

The Philippines’ national detection and response strategies are well enunciated in the MANDATORY REPORTING OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN ACT or Republic Act No. 11332. The Epidemiology Bureau under the Department of Health (DOH) was empowered to identify and update the list of diseases and health events, like COVID 19, which shall be under an institutionalized disease surveillance and response system.⁷ The integrated reporting, containment, quarantine, isolation, contact tracing, and testing, as suggested under Section 4 for local government units and Section 6 for the private sector was also defined in Section 6, 7, and 8 of Republic Act No. 11332. Republic Act No. 11332 is

⁴ Available at <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/national-capacities-review-tool-for-a-novelcoronavirus>, last accessed on 9 May 2020.

⁵ Pages one (1) to three (3), WHO NATIONAL CAPACITIES REVIEW TOOL FOR NOVEL CORONAVIRUS, Available at <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/national-capacities-review-tool-for-a-novelcoronavirus>, last accessed on 9 May 2020.

⁶ Pages three (3) to five (3), *Id.*

⁷ Section 6, Republic Act No. 11332 or the “MANDATORY REPORTING OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN ACT.

also supplemented and aided by Executive Order No. 112, Series of 2020, which imposes the temporal guidelines on command and coordination as well as infection prevention and control.

We recommend that, instead of the passage of a new law, the esteemed Congress **re-allocate resources and grant additional funding for the DOH and LGUs** in order to improve implementation of Republic Act No. 11332.

The Mandatory Safety Measures in Section 3, Workplace-Specific Protocols in Section 5, and Workplace Management Plan in Section 6 are response strategies that are the most effective on a sub-national or local level.

The WHO recommends that “the adjusting of measures should not be undertaken all at once, but should be considered at the sub-national level, starting in areas of lowest incidence.”⁸ This means that response and containment guidelines are indeed correctly within the sphere of effective execution by the executive branch of the government. As recognized also in Section 4 of House Bill No. 6623, it is the local government units that would best decide on the strategy in imposing measures in their respective territorial jurisdictions. As the WHO recommends, measures (i.e. business closures) could be lifted first where the population or individual density is lower (i.e. rural versus urban, small versus large cities, small stores versus shopping malls), and could be lifted for part of the workforce depending on the independent efficacy of each single measure.⁹

We recommend that, instead of the passage of universal and national public health and social measures, the Congress supports and allocates funds to the full execution of Executive Order No. 112, Series of 2020.

The creation of an E-Government System can be fast tracked by supporting the Department of Information and Communications (DICT).

We support the creation of an E-Government system through allocation of funds in the e-Government Fund described under Executive Order No. 269, Series of 2004 as well as continued support to the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). Agencies and local government units can also be allotted a digitization fund through

⁸ Page two (2), CONSIDERATION IN ADJUSTING PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19, Interim Guidance issued by the WHO dated 16 April 2020, available at <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-in-adjusting-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19-interim-guidance>, last accessed on 9 May 2020.

⁹ *Id.*

Republic Act No. 11293 or the “PHILIPPINE INNOVATION ACT” where the Innovation Council can issue a less strict procurement system for innovative goods and services.

In conclusion, support may be directed on other laudable legislation before the Honorable Committee such as House Bill No. 6622 on the Philippine Banking Industry Resiliency Act Against COVID-19 and the various economic stimuli legislation in House Bills No. 6606, 6612, 6613, 6614, 6619, and 6693. Should the Honorable Committee need our assistance in these economic legislations, we, the undersigned, are at your disposal.

Approved:

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.
Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines
Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.
European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc.
Foundation for Economic Freedom
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc.
Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines
Makati Business Club
Management Association of the Philippines

Philippine Business Groups Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc.
European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc.
Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Makati Business Club • Management Association of the Philippines
Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.

May 21, 2020

Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr.
Chief Implementer
Inter-Agency Task Force on
Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF)
Malacanang Palace
Manila

Dear Secretary Galvez:

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mobility of Filipinos since all public transportation throughout Luzon and other areas subject to the ECQ was suspended. Nevertheless, essential workers including frontliners, logistics workers, employees of grocery and drug stores, government employees, export firm employees, utility workers, and many others managed to commute to their factories, offices, and stores. Many walked long distances, purchased bicycles, or slept at or near their worksites.

The lockdown, with its stay-at-home orders, was needed to prevent surges in infection and to save lives. Now, after two months, the health of the economy is our increasing concern.

The Modified ECQ for the National Capital Region now allows increased free movement of citizens but maintains tight limits on trains, buses, taxis, TNVS, jeepneys, and tricycles and does not permit passengers on motorcycles.

In this regard, we strongly urge government to resume public transportation in and between major urban areas at the earliest time, while observing appropriate health protocols and introducing reformed practices to elevate existing transportation modes to best international practice. We understand this has been under discussion for some weeks within DOTr and the IATF and are hopeful that the implementation phase can commence soon.

Operational requirements for physical distancing will severely reduce the capacity of all modes of public transport. Social distancing and no-standing protocols, when followed by the three light rail lines and the PNR, will reduce their carrying capacities drastically and could create long boarding delays. Buses and other modes will be similarly affected.

As economic activities resume in the transition to General Community Quarantine (GCQ), it will be important to ensure that safe and sufficient travel options are available to move increasing volumes of people returning to work.

We are pleased to learn that the Department of Transportation (DOTr) plans to introduce measures to enhance the efficiency of the existing public transport fleet to compensate for reduced seating capacity. Faster travel times and more round trips for buses and other public utility vehicles (PUVs) will allow them to move more passengers with the same number of vehicles.



AMERICAN



CANADIAN



EUROPEAN



JAPANESE



KOREAN



PAMURI

Those are the immediate concerns that we believe require urgent action. As well, allow us to revisit some similarly important but longer-gestating proposals.

In past decades, little progress was achieved in transport industry reform. Today, with the industry shut down and at risk, industry consolidation, centrally coordinated services, and efficient operations are the key to survival and profitability. Thus we endorse DOTr's efforts to facilitate consolidation of the public transport industry, implementation of common fleet management, and elimination of the "boundary" system. There is no better time than now to undertake a fundamental transformation of the industry, and we are pleased to learn that many bus and other PUV operators have started forming consortia to enable common fleet management.

We welcome DOTr's rationalization and simplification of bus routes in Metro Manila as announced in the recent Memorandum Circular of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB). We commend the parallel effort of DOTr to make these bus routes more efficient by placing buses on dedicated lanes, where possible. The experience of many large progressive cities around the world has shown that prioritizing public transportation on limited road space enables the same road infrastructure to move significantly more people, enhancing the productivity of the entire city.

We recommend that DOTr should have the capacity to contract public transport services in order to ensure that public transportation services continue even under unprofitable operating conditions. Without such a facility and budget, bus operations on major routes might be at risk to the detriment of hundreds of thousands of commuters.

In cities around the world, private transport operators are contracted to deliver services on a "fee per day" or "fee per kilometer" basis with government collecting the fare revenue. The contracts are performance-based, with incentives and penalties linked to service standards. We believe that this model, successful in places like Singapore and London, can deliver high-quality services to Filipino commuters. A budget for contracting public transport services should be viewed not only as a contingency measure but also as a timely investment in industry reform that will yield considerable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

A service contract approach also ensures that public transport operators have the financial capacity to apply needed hygiene measures, including daily disinfection of vehicles. If operators cannot make ends meet, they will lack funds for chemicals or hiring extra labor for sanitation. In contrast, when operators are paid under service contracts, DOTr can demand strict compliance with hygiene protocols.

We also applaud the timely action of DOTr to promote safe walking and cycling corridors in cities. Many commuters have no other option than to walk or bike. A future network of protected bike lanes and foot paths will motivate Filipinos to shift to such sustainable travel modes. Investments in such infrastructure will also create jobs in urban barangays, while making our cities more livable. There are also significant health and environmental gains when people walk or cycle.

Another impact of COVID-19 will be more pressure to use private motor vehicles as a form of physical distancing. Cities in Korea and China report escalating traffic congestion as

citizens prefer cars. The Philippines should consider de-congestion charges to reduce demand for private motor vehicle use as in London, Singapore, and Stockholm. Already Waze rates Metro Manila traffic as among the worst in the world.

The COVID-19 crisis provides the opportunity to transform the public transportation business model. We support DOTr's plan to deliver safe, reliable, efficient, and environment-friendly public transport services. Under the capable leadership of Secretary Arthur P. Tugade, Filipinos may soon begin to experience world-class public transportation services.

We thank you for your attention to these issues, among the many challenges facing the IATF, and have confidence that your collective vision will contribute to more modern transportation system for Metro Manila as one of the reforms in the post-COVID environment.

Best regards,



PETER HAYDEN

President
American Chamber of
Commerce of the
Philippines



JULIAN PAYNE

President
Canadian Chamber of
Commerce of the
Philippines



NABIL FRANCIS
President

European Chamber of
Commerce of the
Philippines



KEIICHI MATSUNAGA

President
Japanese Chamber of
Commerce & Industry of
the Philippines Inc.



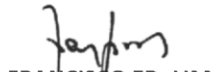
HO-IK LEE

President
Korean Chamber of
Commerce of the
Philippines, Inc.



EDGAR O. CHUA

Chairman
Makati Business Club



FRANCISCO ED. LIM

President
Management Association
of the Philippines



EVELYN NG

President
Philippine Association of
Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.

Cc: DOTr Secretary Arthur Tugade
IATF Deputy Chief Implementer Vivencio Dizon



Joint Statement of Support for CREATE (revised CITIRA)
 May 29, 2020

We expressly reiterate our strong support for the immediate passage of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE). CREATE is a bold, historic economic reform, one of the largest and most game changing in decades. As a stimulus package, CREATE will be a life-restoring boost to market confidence, providing the most direct, cost-efficient and instant relief to businesses suffering from business reverses due to COVID-19.

We particularly support the immediate reduction of corporate income tax (CIT) rate from 30 to 25 percent by July 2020, which would instantly bring the country close to the ASEAN average of 23%, and the further reduction of the CIT to 20 percent by 1 percentage point reduction per year from 2023 to 2027, which would brighten business outlook even further. The instant 5% tax savings by July is a direct infusion of financial assistance to businesses, giving them more resources to retain employees and to keep up with financial difficulties. As an investment-attracting move, the CIT cut drastically alters, for the better, the financial prospectus of the Philippines.

We also support the extension of NOLCO (net operating loss carryover) for additional 2 years, from the current 3 years to 5 years, for losses incurred in 2020 for all taxpayers. This also drastically reduces the downside a company expects from COVID-19, and tilts the decision-making process very strongly towards maintaining operations through the recovery years after 2020 – making the amendment a very robust job protection measure, considering that, in 2020, substantial losses will cut across all businesses, whether large or non-large, and all sectors, especially those hard-hit by COVID-19.

We support the proposal to give flexible authority to the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) and the President in granting both fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. This will make the tax incentives system an agile mechanism that can adapt easily to changes in the global business environment, and can very decisively seize high-value investment opportunities when they are

presented. However, we urge that proper safeguards must be put in place to prevent abuse of discretion or be a political tool to grant favors to undeserving recipients.

Lastly, we support the granting of a maximum transitory period of 9 years for current holders of incentives and appropriate gross income earned (GIE) tax rate.

We humbly request the Senate and the House of Representatives to move quickly and decisively to push CREATE forward and ensure its passage urgently, ideally before Congress adjourns on June 3. Any further delay comes at the risk of losing more jobs and hemorrhaging more investments. Pass CREATE now!

1. ALYANSA AGRIKULTURA
2. ANVIL BUSINESS CLUB
3. BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BAP)
4. CEBU BUSINESS CLUB (CBC)
5. CEBU LEADS FOUNDATION (CLF)
6. CHINESE FILIPINO BUSINESS CLUB, INC. (CFBCI)
7. ENTREPRENEURS' ORGANIZATION (EO) PHILIPPINES
8. FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC. (FFCCCII)
9. FEDERATION OF INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE (PHIL) INC. (FICCI)
10. FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
11. FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM (FEF)
12. INSTITUTE FOR SOLIDARITY IN ASIA, INC. (ISA)
13. INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)
14. INVESTMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IHAP)
15. MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
16. NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION (NREA)
17. ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (OSHDP)
18. PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)
19. PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (GO NEGOSYO)
20. PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (PCCI)
21. PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS AND ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES (PCAA)
22. PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (PFA)
23. PHILIPPINE HOTEL OWNERS ASSOCIATION INC. (PHOA)
24. PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (PICPA)
25. PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION (PRA)
26. PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC NETWORK (PHILWEN)
27. PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY INSTITUTE OF ASIA (PASIA)
28. RURAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (RBAP)
29. SHAREHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)
30. SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (SHDA)
31. TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TMAP)
32. UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPSEAA)
33. WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL PHILIPPINES (WBCP)

JOINT STATEMENT ON RULE OF LAW IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

31 May 2020

To mitigate the spread and impact of the COVID 19 virus, the government acted decisively and placed Luzon under severe quarantine measures starting March 17, 2020. In line with ensuing directives on the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila, NCRPO chief Maj. Gen. Debold Sinas declared that – “We will arrest those who will not follow the guidelines”.

The restrictions under the IATF guidelines have affected millions, in terms of livelihood and freedom of movement. The impact has been much greater on families living near or below the poverty line, despite government’s extension of financial aid. Additionally, the seeming confusion and different interpretations of rules led to numerous quarantine violations.

From March 17 to April 17, almost 30,000 violators had been arrested; 6,616 underwent inquest while 23,016 cases were for filing. The number was reported to have reached nearly 41,000 by May 1. Many of those arrested suffered detention, costs, humiliation, and inconveniences, and some endured unwarranted jailtime when unopened courts or government offices, or even limited bank branches, could not process their bail in a timely manner.

Above happened even with the Supreme Court’s recently issued administrative circulars that reduce bail and allow recognizance as among the means of releasing the accused. The compounding economic hardships and unfamiliarity with new rules resulted in many people languishing in detention centers for many days, thus risking exposure to the virus in overcrowded facilities.

The private sector strongly supports the “whole-of-government, whole-of-society” effort to respond and recover from the social and economic adversities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with the international community, we have demonstrated utmost cooperation, and enjoined our own officers and employees to abide by the quarantine rules of the IATF.

We are therefore greatly disappointed – even appalled and dismayed – about news reports of public officials violating with impunity the IATF and DOH protocols intended to protect public health.

As the country rides this tide of uncertainty, we trust that our leaders at the national and local levels, will demonstrate beyond doubt, the highest standards in observing and enforcing the rule of law, and serve as role models in discipline and moral ascendancy. Upholding the law and ensuring faith in our justice system stand as the bedrock of our democracy, and will enable the economy to survive and recover from these most trying times. The sacrifice of our people deserves nothing less.





JOINT STATEMENT ON ARISE/PESA
June 4, 2020

The undersigned business organizations support a second, more substantial economic stimulus plan along the lines of the Accelerated Recovery and Investments Stimulus for the Economy (ARISE) bill, formerly the Philippine Economic Stimulus Act (PESA) bill, to fight the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, protect jobs and help job-creating businesses, especially MSMEs, which employ more than 62% of our workforce. ARISE would be an effective program for building on the *Bayanihan* Law and the measures President Duterte and the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* have rolled out. It will serve as a powerful complement to the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE) proposed by the Department of Finance.

We appeal to the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Administration to have thorough but speedy deliberations to produce a law for this stage of the crisis and recovery. We support the calls for President Duterte to call a special session of Congress to act on this and other similar legislation.

A law along the lines of ARISE would act on the lessons that many countries are heeding from previous recessions: that swift, substantial intervention is needed. The Administration’s fiscal management has provided the financial strength and fiscal space to do this. We can and should increase stimulus spending to approximate or exceed those of many of our neighbors, according to some comparisons.

ASEAN + INDIA COVID-19 Policy Measures			
COUNTRY	Total Package in USD Millions	% of GDP	Package per Capita in USD
Thailand	84,092	15.96%	1,211.20
Singapore	45,062	12.82%	7,991.68
India	345,600	12.29%	255.51
Viet Nam	26,396	10.08%	276.28
Malaysia	35,474	9.98%	1,125.15
Timor-Leste	254	8.65%	200.32
Cambodia	2,060	7.71%	126.77
Indonesia	64,274	6.08%	240.13
Philippines	19,823	5.39%	185.86
Brunei Darussalam	318	2.66%	741.61
Myanmar	99	0.13%	1.84
Lao PDR	10	0.06%	1.46

As of May 18, 2020
(source: <https://covid19policy.adb.org/>)

As the country reopens and the economic effects of the pandemic become clearer, a strong new law would provide much-needed support and confidence to COVID-19 frontliners, workers, and businesses. Unemployment funds and wage subsidies will help workers provide for their families, keep their children in school, and fuel the economy. Loans, grants, and guarantees will help businesses pay suppliers and banks, strengthening all of them for the challenging months and years ahead.

1. ALYANSA AGRIKULTURA
2. AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (AMCHAM)
3. ANVIL BUSINESS CLUB
4. ASIA PACIFIC REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION (APREA) - PHILIPPINES
5. AUSTRALIAN-NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES (ANZCHAM)
6. BANGSAMORO FEDERAL BUSINESS COUNCIL
7. CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (CANCHAM)
8. CEBU BUSINESS CLUB (CBC)
9. CEBU LEADS FOUNDATION (CLF)
10. CHINESE FILIPINO BUSINESS CLUB, INC. (CFBCI)
11. EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES (ECCP)
12. FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, INC. (FFCCCII)
13. FILIPINA CEO CIRCLE (FCC)
14. FINANCIAL EXECUTIVES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES (FINEX)
15. FINTECH ALLIANCE.PH
16. FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES (CCI FRANCE PHILIPPINES)
17. INSTITUTE FOR SOLIDARITY IN ASIA, INC. (ISA)
18. INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)
19. INVESTMENT HOUSE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IHAP)
20. IT & BUSINESS PROCESS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (IBPAP)
21. JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
22. KOREAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PHILIPPINES (KCCP)
23. MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB (MBC)
24. MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
25. MINDANAO BUSINESS COUNCIL (MINBC)
26. NATIONAL REAL ESTATE ASSOCIATION (NREA)
27. ORGANIZATION OF SOCIALIZED HOUSING DEVELOPERS OF THE PHILIPPINES (OSHDP)
28. PEOPLE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (PMAP)
29. PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, INCORPORATED (PAMURI)
30. PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (GO NEGOSYO)
31. PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (PCCI)
32. PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF ASSOCIATIONS AND ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVES (PCAA)
33. PHILIPPINE FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION (PFA)
34. PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS (PICPA)
35. PHILIPPINE LIFE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (PLIA)
36. PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION (PRA)
37. PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC NETWORK (PHILWEN)
38. PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY INSTITUTE OF ASIA (PASIA)
39. SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC. (SEIPI)
40. SHAREHOLDERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (SHAREPHIL)
41. SUBDIVISION AND HOUSING DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION (SHDA)
42. TAX MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TMAP)
43. UP SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (UPSEAA)
44. WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL PHILIPPINES (WOMENBIZPH)

JOINT STATEMENT ON ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2020

5 June 2020

We the undersigned are united in voicing our opposition in the strongest possible terms to the enactment at this time of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 (House Bill 6875) recently approved by the House of Representatives on third and final reading, and a similar bill approved by the Senate (Senate Bill 1083) last February.

In these trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic, what we need is national unity. We are all suffering and fighting for survival: businesses are closing down, people are losing their jobs, those who still have jobs find it impossible to find safe transportation to work, our children are going hungry and the continuity of their education is under threat. We need to come together, united around a set of relief and recovery measures that will help us come out of this pandemic a stronger and more resilient nation.

We fully appreciate the need for peace and security in building a stronger nation. Current threats to national security are well addressed by existing laws and policies, and as such do not require urgent new legislation. And the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 is highly divisive - because it poses clear and present danger to human rights enshrined in our Constitution - at a time when our nation needs to come together as one.

We strongly urge our national leaders and the private sector to be focused fully at this time on what really matters; developing policies that will address multiple socio-economic shocks resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening our health systems, improving the investment climate to create more jobs especially given many thousands of returning OFWs. These are what our country needs to pull us out of our crisis and get back on our feet.



Bishops-Businessmen's
Conference for Human
Development



FINEX
Financial Executives Institute
of the Philippines



ISA
INSTITUTE FOR SOLIDARITY IN ASIA



Subdivision and Housing
Developers Association, Inc.



URGENT APPEAL TO VETO ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

July 2, 2020

We the undersigned citizens and organizations appeal to the President to veto the Anti-Terrorism bill. We are one with its proponents that we need the proper legal provisions to fight this scourge. However, more thorough discussion is needed to get broad support for a law as important as this, and to strengthen the unity the country needs to fight the bigger health and economic crisis we are all facing.

Kami, mga mamamayan at mga samahang nakalagda sa ibaba ay umaapela sa Pangulo na i-veto ang Anti-Terrorism Bill. Nakikiisa kami sa mga nagpanukala na kailangan ng angkop na legal na batayan upang labanan ang salot. Subalit kailangan pa ng mas malalim na talakayan upang makakuha ng mas malawak na suporta para sa isang batas na kasinghalaga nito, at para patatagin ang pagkakaisa ng bansa laban sa mas mabigat na krisis pangkalusugan at pangkabuhayan na ating hinaharap.

Schools

Ateneo de Manila University
De La Salle Philippines
PHINMA Education

Business Organizations

Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development (BBC)
Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen & Professionals
Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA)
Filipina CEO Circle
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)
Institute for Solidarity in Asia, Inc. (ISA)
Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)
Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP)
Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI)
Makati Business Club (MBC)
Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)
Philippine Business for Education (PBED)
Shareholders' Association of the Philippines, Inc. (SharePhil)

CSOs/ Political, School, Youth Organizations

Akbayan Citizens' Action Party (AKBAYAN)
Akbayan Youth
Alab Katipunan
Anakbayan
ASAP (ALYANSA NG Samahang Pantao)
Ateneo de Naga University Student Council Organization
AWARE (Alliance of Women for Action for Reform)
Bayan Bago Sarili
Bulacan State University BAHAGHARI
Center for Agrarian Reforms and Rural Development (CARRD)
College Editors Guild of the Philippines
De La Salle - Lipa Commission on Elections
De La Salle Lipa Student Government
EVERYWOMAN

Green Convergence for Safe Food, Healthy Environment and Sustainable Economy
Illuminates of the Spectra - Silliman iMPACT Leadership
Interfacing Development Interventions for Sustainability
Kabataan para sa Karapatan - Negros Oriental
Kabataan Partylist
Kabataang Tagapagtanggol ng Karapatan
Kalipunan ng Kilusang Masa
Kilos Maralita
Kilusang Artikulo Trese (A.13)
Laban PUP
Labor Education and Research Network (LEARN)
LAMRAG Eastern Visayas
Lasallian East Asia District
League of Filipino Students
Liberal Youth
Lingap para sa Kalusugan ng Sambayanan (LIKAS)
Magdalo
Mamayang Liberal
Manindigan Na!
MATA (Movement Against Terrorism Act)
Medical Action Group
Millenials PH
Nagkaisang Tinig ng Kababaihan ng Caloocan (TKABS)
National Society of Parliamentarians
National Union of Students of the Philippines
One Big Fight for Human Rights and Democracy
One La Salle for Human Rights and Democracy
OnePLM
People Power Volunteers for Reform
Peoples Reforms for Social Advancement (PWERSA)
Philippine Anti-Discrimination Alliance of Youth Leaders (PANTAY)
PLM Propaganda
PM Coalition
PUP KASARINLAN
Samahan ng Progresibong Sillimanians
Silliman University CAS Student

Council
Silliman University Speech and Theatre Arts Department Student Circle
Silliman USG - Advocacy, Environment and Students' Rights and Welfare Committees
Social Democratic Caucus (SDC)
Social Enhancement Restoring Values for Integral Community Empowerment Inc. (SERVICE INC.)
Social Work Action Network-Philippines
Social Work Action Network-Philippines (SWAN-Philippines)
STAND UST
Student Christian Movement of the Philippines
Task Force Detainees of the Philippines
TCG (The CSOs Guild)
The Silent Majority-Silent No More Organization, Inc.
Tindig Kabataan
Tindig Pilipinas
TUP DUGONG BUGHAW
United PUP
UP Manila University Student Council
UP Rises against Tyranny and Dictatorship
UP SAMASA
UP Students' Catholic Action
Women Action Network in Development (WAND)
Youth Act Now Against Tyranny

Labor Organizations

Alliance of Filipino Workers (AFW)
Alliance of General Unions, Institutions and Labor Organizations (AGUILA)
Building and Wood Workers' International-Asia Pacific (BWI-AP)
Federation and Cooperation of Cola, Beverage, and Allied Industry Unions (FCCU)
Federation of Free Workers (FFW)
Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU)
Nagkaisa Labor Coalition (NAGKAIISA!)
National Confederation of Transport Workers' Union (NCTU)
National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry in the Philippines

(NACUSIP)/Philippine Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Workers Unions (PACIWU)/Congress of Independent Organizations (CIO)
National Federation of Labor Unions (NAFLU)
National Union of Bank Employees-Insurance and Finance Organization (NUBE-IFO)
National Union of Workers in Hotel, Restaurant and Allied Industries
National Union of Workers in the Power Industry (POWER)
Partido Manggagawa (PM)
Philippine Metalworkers' Alliance (PMA)
Sentro ng mga Nagkakaisa at Progresibong Manggagawa (SENTRO)
Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP)
UNI Global Union-Philippine Liaison Council (UNI-PLC)
United Filipino Service Workers (UFSW)
Workers' Solidarity Network

Religious Organizations

Ang Ligaya ng Panginoon
Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa, Most Rev. Socrates C. Mesiona, MSP, D.D.
Archdiocesan Council of the Laity of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga
Archdiocesan Council of the Laity of the Diocese of San Fernando, Pampanga
Archdiocese of Caceres, Most Rev. Rolando J. Tria Tirona, OCD, D.D.
Archdiocese of Lingayen - Dagupan, MOST Rev. Socrates B. Villegas, D.D.
Archdiocese of Manila, Most Rev. Broderick S. Pabillo, D.D.
Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines (AMRSP)
Augustinian Missionaries of the Philippines (AMP)
BALAOD Mindanaw, Inc.
Brothers of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (O.Carm.)
Caritas Sorsogon Foundation, Inc.
Carmelite Missionaries (CM)
Carmelite Missionaries Secular

Join the petition: bit.ly/VetoATB

URGENT APPEAL TO VETO ANTI-TERRORISM BILL

July 2, 2020

We the undersigned citizens and organizations appeal to the President to veto the Anti-Terrorism bill. We are one with its proponents that we need the proper legal provisions to fight this scourge. However, more thorough discussion is needed to get broad support for a law as important as this, and to strengthen the unity the country needs to fight the bigger health and economic crisis we are all facing.

Kami, mga mamamayan at mga samahang nakalagda sa ibaba ay umaapela sa Pangulo na i-veto ang Anti-Terrorism Bill. Nakikiisa kami sa mga nagpanukala na kailangan ng angkop na legal na batayan upang labanan ang salot. Subalit kailangan pa ng mas malalim na talakayan upang makakuha ng mas malawak na suporta para sa isang batas na kasinghalaga nito, at para patatagin ang pagkakaisa ng bansa laban sa mas mabigat na krisis pangkalusugan at pangkabuhayan na ating hinaharap.

Carmelite Sisters Charity of Vedruna (CCV)
Carmelite Sisters of Our Lady (Carm. OL)
Catholic Bishops' Conference Of The Philippines
Children of God Our Father, Father of All Mankind Apostolate
Christian Family Movement
Church and Labor Conference
Commission on the Laity of the Archdiocese of Cebu
Congregation of the Mission, Fr. Gregorio Banaga, Jr., CM
Council of Lay Ecclesial Movements & Organizations of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro (CLEMOACO)
Council of the Laity of the Archdiocese of Manila
Council of the Laity of the Diocese of Legazpi
Council of the Laity of the Diocese of Novaliches
Crusaders of the Holy Face of Jesus
Cursillos in Christianity
Daughters of St Anne (DSA)
Daughters of St. Teresa (DST)
Diocesan Council of the Laity of the Diocese of Malolos
Diocesan Council of the Laity of the Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan
Diocesan Council of the Laity Of The Diocese Of Pasig
Diocesan Council of the Laity of the Diocese of Tarlac
Diocesan Social Action Center of Calapan
Diocese of Antique, Bp. Marvin Maceda
Diocese of Bayombong, Bp. Elmer Mangalinao
Diocese of Bontoc Lagawe, Bishop Valentin Dimoc
Diocese of Borongan, Bp. Crispin Varquez
Diocese of Caceres, Bp. Rolando Tria Tirona
Diocese of Cagayan de Oro, Bp. Antonio Ledesma
Diocese of Cotabato: Bp. Angelito Lampon
Diocese of Gumaca, Bp. Victor Ocampo
Diocese of Kalookan, Most Rev. Pablo

Virgilio S. David, D.D.
Diocese of Kidapawan, Bp. Jose Colin Bagaforo
Diocese of Maasin, Bp. Precioso Cantillas
Diocese of Malaybalay, Bp. Jose Cabantan
Diocese of Marbel, Bp. Allan Casicas
Diocese of Marbel, Most Rev. Cerilo Alan U. Casicas, D.D.
Diocese of Novaliches, MOST REV. Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr., D.D.
Diocese of Romblon, Bp. Narciso Abellana
Diocese of San Carlos, Bp. Gerardo Alminaza
Diocese of San Carlos, Most Rev. Gerardo A. Alminaza, D.D.
Diocese of San Fernando, La Union, Bp. Daniel Presto
Diocese of San Pablo, Bp. Buenaventura Famadico
Diocese of Sorsogon, Bishop-Emeritus Arturo Bastes
Diocese of Surigao, Bp. Antonieto Cabajog
Diocese of Tagbilaran, Bp. Alberto Uy
Diocese of Tarlac, Bp. Enrique V. Macaraeg, D.D.
Diocese of Taytay, Bishop-Emeritus Edgardo Juanich
Diocese of Virac, Bp. Manolo de los Santos
Dominican Daughters of the Immaculate Mother (OP-DDIM)
Dominican Province of the Philippines
DSAC Antique, Fr. Edione Febrero
DSAC Bayombong, Fr. Enrique Tiongson
DSAC Boac, Fr. Eulogio Mangui
DSAC Borongan, Fr. Juderick Calumpiano
DSAC Butuan, Fr. Stephen Brongcano
DSAC Calapan, Fr. Gabayno Oybad
DSAC Calbayog, Fr. Cesar Aculan
DSAC Capiz, Fr. Mark Granflor
DSAC Catarman, Fr. Fred Placa
DSAC Cotabato, Fr. Clifford Bayra
DSAC Gumaca, Fr. Dondi Sayson
DSAC Iba, Fr. John Nataniel Cube
DSAC Iligan, Fr. Deo Franco Cabiles
DSAC Infanta, Fr. Israelito Gabriel
DSAC Jaro, Msgr. Meliton Oso

DSAC Kidapawan, Fr. Lambert Pragados
DSAC Legazpi, Fr. Rex Arjona
DSAC Libmanan, Fr. Romulo Castaneda
DSAC Lipa, Fr. Jazz Siapco
DSAC Lucena, Bryan Ralph Cabrera
DSAC Malaybalay, Fr. Darwin Alcontin
DSAC Marbel, Fr. Jerome Millan
DSAC Nueva Segovia, Fr. Danilo Martinez
DSAC Pagadian, Ms. Elizabeth Monteza
DSAC Puerto Princesa, Fr. Jasper Lahan
DSAC Romblon, Fr. Ric Magno
DSAC San Carlos, Fr. Julius Tormis and Fr. Ricky Beboso
DSAC San Fernando, Fr. Gari Zaldy Patiag
DSAC San Jose, Nueva Ecija, Fr. Paul Silva
DSAC San Pablo, Fr. Noel Conopio
DSAC Sorsogon, Fr. George Fajardo
DSAC Surigao, Fr. Denish Ilogon
DSAC Tagbilaran, Fr. Warly Salise
DSAC Talibon, Fr. Chito Lozada
DSAC Taytay, Fr. Rey Aguanta
DSAC Urdaneta, Fr. Jun Laya
DSAC Virac, Fr. Renato de la Rosa
ELIM COMMUNITIES
FAMILIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Federation of Transparochial Charismatic Communities (FTCC)
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary (FMM)
Franciscan Sisters Adorers of the Holy Cross (FSAHC)
Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (SFIC)
Franciscan Solidarity Movement-Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
Global Catholic Climate Movement-Pilipinas
Holy Name Society of the Philippine Hospitalier Order of St. John of God (OH)
Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Most Rev. Rhee M. Ttimbang
Inam Philippines
John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues
Justice, Peace and Creation Commission
Kaabag sa Sugbo Foundation, Inc.
Maryknoll Sisters

Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz (MMB)
Mga Katutubong may Kapangyarihang luigit ang Sariling Kaunlaran
Missionaries of Jesus (MJ)
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC)
Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing
Missionary Benedictine Sisters of Tutzing (OSB)
MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE HOLY TRINITY (MSHT)
Order of Friars Minor –Justice, Peace & Integrity of Creation
Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherds (RGS)
Philippine Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (PhilCCRS)
Philippine Misereor Partnership Inc. (PMPI)
Responsible Citizens Empowered Communities in Solidarity for Social Change, Inc.
Saint Paul of Chartres (SPC)
Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas (Council of the Laity of the Philippines)
Siervas de Nuestra de la Paz (SNSP)
Siervas de San Jose (SSJ)
Sisters of Social Service (SSS)
Sisters of the Good Samaritan (SGS)
Social Action Center Surigao
Social Action Center Zambales
Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RSCJ)
Spirit of Love Covenanted Community
St. John the Apostle & Evangelist Services Association
TAO-Pilipinas (Technical Assistance Organization)
Teresian Association
Terra Sisters of the Trinity, Sr. Elizabeth Carranza
The Lord's Flock Catholic Charismatic Community
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila
Western Samar Development Foundation Inc.
World Apostolate of Fatima
Young Christian Workers of the Philippines

Join the petition: bit.ly/VetoATB



Media statement

July 20, 2020

PHILIPPINE BUSINESS GROUPS AND FOREIGN CHAMBERS REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR TWENTY-SEVEN LEGISLATIVE REFORMS PENDING IN THE 18TH CONGRESS

With the upcoming fifth State of the Nation Address of President Rodrigo Duterte and the opening of the 18th Congress’ 2nd Regular Session, 14 Philippine business groups and foreign chambers have written President Duterte, Senate President Sotto, and House Speaker Cayetano to reaffirm their support for 27 business and economic reform measures.

The group advocated the same measures in July 2019 in letters to the Executive and Legislative branches of the government. The letters commented favorably on the parallel advocacy of the public and private sectors for many of the proposals.

Eight of the reforms were included in the President’s fourth SONA¹ while 19 are included in the legislative agenda of the Philippine Development Plan’s Midterm Update.² When the 1st Regular Session of Congress adjourned, however, only 9 of the 28 has reached at least 2nd reading approval in either House or Senate.

With the COVID-19 pandemic recovery period creating an urgency to move ahead to enact reforms, the group decided to resubmit their recommendations to the president and Congressional leaders.

The reform package of 27 measures can generate substantial inclusive growth while generating jobs, reducing poverty, improving national competitiveness, and supporting economic recovery and higher GDP growth in 2021 and thereafter.

¹ Tax reform packages 2, 2+, 3, and 4; Creation of a Department of Water and Water Regulatory Commission; National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority; and National Land Use Act

² Bills mentioned in SONA plus: (1) Public Service Act amendments; (2) Foreign Investment Act amendments; (3) Retail Trade Act amendments; (4) BOT Law amendments; (5) FOI Act; (6) Bank Secrecy Law amendments; (7) Open Access in Data Transmission Act; (8) Agri-Agra Law amendments; (9) Amendment of PPA Charter; (10) National Transportation Safety Board; and (11) Philippine Airports Authority Act

The 27 recommended legislative measures, in order of priority, include:

1. Public Service Act amendments
2. Tax Reform Package 2: CITIRA/CREATE³
3. Foreign Investment Act amendments
4. Retail Trade Act amendments
5. Apprenticeship Program Reform
6. Build Operate Transfer Law amendments
7. Freedom of Information Act
8. Bank Secrecy Law amendments
9. Foreign equity restriction amendments to the Constitution
10. Tax Reform Package 3: Property Valuation and Assessment
11. Tax Reform Package 4: Capital Income and Financial Taxes
12. Open Access in Data Transmission Act
13. Water Department Act
14. Farm Entrepreneurship Act
15. PEZA Act amendments
16. Agri-Agra law amendments
17. Holiday Rationalization Act
18. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority Act
19. National Land Use Act
20. National Traffic and Congestion Crisis Act
21. Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board amendments
22. PhilPorts Act (amend PPA Charter)
23. Water Regulatory Commission Act
24. CAAP Act amendments
25. CA 541 amendments
26. National Transportation Safety Board Act
27. Philippine Airports Authority Act

³ While the signatories support comprehensive tax reform overall, some elements of the Tax Reform Package 2 bills have created issues for many firms, most acutely the termination of the 5% GIE benefit for exporters. We support the reduced CIT and fair treatment of foreign investors who have chosen to locate in the Philippines.

A 25-page position paper with specific comments on the provisions of CREATE has been submitted to the Chairperson of the Senate Ways and Means Committee by the following groups: Alyansa Agrikultura, AmCham, ANZCham, CanCham, CONWEP, ECCP, FFCCCII, IBPAP, JCCIPI, KCCP, MBC, PAMURI, PHILEA, SEIPI, and US-ABC

The letter was signed by the leaders of:

- A. Alyansa Agrikultura
- B. American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- C. Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- D. Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- E. European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- F. The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
- G. Foundation for Economic Freedom
- H. IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines
- I. Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc.
- J. Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Inc.
- K. Makati Business Club
- L. Management Association of the Philippines
- M. Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.
- N. Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

Attachment:

Status of 28 priority bills as of June 5, 2020 (adjournment of 18th Congress 1st Regular Session)

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SCHOOL OPENING

July 24, 2020

We, the undersigned, strongly support the opening of the school year and schools, with appropriate public health and safety standards in place, by August 24, 2020, as previously recommended by the Department of Education (DepEd). Children's right to education must be protected. We affirm the global belief that schools are not only places of learning. They provide social protection, nutrition, health, and emotional support that are a life security for disadvantaged learners. Education is an essential strategy to reopen the economy. The sooner we bring back the Filipino youth to school, the sooner we can start rebuilding for a stronger Philippines, post-pandemic.

There are public health risks associated with reopening schools. But if planned and resourced well, we can safely manage those risks and ensure that we do not erase the almost universal access to basic education that the Philippines has achieved before COVID-19. We cannot afford the high costs of prolonged school closures to Filipino children, economy, and society.

We believe in the utilization of blended learning options, which involves face-to-face interactions in low-risk areas following health and safety measures, as enshrined in the multi-stakeholder-developed Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan (BE-LCP). We believe that face-to-face teaching and learning, on the condition that appropriate health standards are met, should be implemented especially in poor communities and in areas with very low or zero cases of COVID-19, gaps in ICT infrastructure, and low learning outcomes.

We, partners in education, are one with DepEd in exhausting all means to guarantee the safe and continued learning for all Filipino children by August 24. We enjoin local government units to ensure the safe reopening of schools. The earlier most schools can reopen the better; the less risk of long-term damage to the learning journeys and well-being of millions of Filipino children. **Learning is a child's right and education is an investment for the future, not only of each Filipino, but also of the nation. Indeed, if the outlook is an economic bounce back next year and continued growth thereafter, we should not neglect the continued learning of the youth, who are the future drivers of the economy and builders of the nation.**



MAP's Reaction on the SONA 2020

“He gave a stern warning to two of our big businesses to improve their services until December 2020, otherwise he would take over them with the help of Congress.”

"Given what recently happened to ABS-CBN, this is a clear and present danger to the businesses mentioned. He can make it happen and that sends a chilling effect to business and potential investors.”

“What is sad is that he characterized our present-day businessmen as the same type of oligarchs who took advantage of people during the Spanish regime. This is so sad given how Philippine business has helped the country through the years, which it ably demonstrated during the pandemic.”

- FRANCIS LIM, MAP President

MAP Statement on the MECQ August 3, 2020

“It’s a bitter but necessary pill, given the plight of our medical front-liners. We hope that the government will deep dive into our COVID-19 strategy and find more effective ways to execute it.”

- FRANCIS LIM, MAP President

MAP's reaction on the GDP performance:

“A stimulus package like the ARISE that was endorsed by more than 40 local and foreign business groups, supported by 5 cabinet secretaries and approved by more than 90% of the House membership is really needed for the economy to bounce back at the soonest possible time. We have been saving for the rainy days and now is the time to spend.

Funding for ARISE can be staggered and partly supported by borrowings which, under a Supreme Court decision, can be done.

We should not also leave any stone unturned to regain public confidence as our economy is principally driven by domestic consumption.”

- FRANCIS LIM, MAP President

MAP Statement on the Bayanihan 2

August 14, 2020

“The 365-day loan moratorium under the House version of the Bayanihan 2, while ostensibly good for our citizens in the short run, may have unintended adverse consequences for the country that can potentially exacerbate the negative impact of the pandemic.

Based on available figures, at least PhP11 Trillion, or roughly 78% of the total PhP14 Trillion deposits, have been loaned to the public. Around 70% of the depositors are non-borrowers.

The moratorium will put to risk our banks' ability to service the withdrawals of their clients and adversely affect public confidence in the banking system. It will also drastically lessen the banks' liquidity, curtailing their capacity to lend at a time when businesses badly need capital to help them recover from the pandemic. This will cause grave damage to the economy that will require significant resources and time to repair.

We strongly urge the Bicameral Conference Committee to adopt the Senate version of the Bayanihan 2 which limits the moratorium to one month.”

- FRANCIS LIM, MAP President

MAP Statement on the 60-day reprieve for bank loans and the payment moratorium for insurance and pre-need companies

August 16, 2020

"While the MAP supports the 30-day moratorium under the Senate version, 60 days will be a good compromise if 30 days is not doable, provided that it is a one-time and non-extendible payment moratorium.

The moratorium should also exclude insurance and pre-need companies as they may find it difficult to service claims, especially COVID-related deaths. Pre-need companies have to service the medical and hospitalization claims of COVID patients and the tuition and other educational needs of our children as school opening is just around the corner.

This is not even to mention that the moratorium may adversely affect the financial viability of the smaller enterprises, most of which are Filipino companies."

- FRANCIS LIM, MAP President

MAP Statement on the Bayanihan 2

August 21, 2020

“We commend Congress for enacting the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act which is envisioned to stimulate the economy and help it recover from the pandemic.

We are happy that health is the focus, which is key to opening the economy. Big funding is set aside for credit and we urge the government to ensure that it can be accessed easily, especially by small businesses.

We commend the removal of the bureaucratic red tape on the construction of the telco towers and the ball is now in the courts of the telcos to show drastic improvement of their services.

The abolition of the tax on initial public offerings is a welcome development. It will incentivize companies ready to offer their shares to the public to access the stock market for funding at this crucial time.

Since the funds appropriated are extremely limited, we urge that disbursement be based on objective criteria, such as the sector’s contribution to the GDP, employment share, value added contraction, and their multiplier effect on the economy.

We also call all those concerned to use the funds for the best interest of the country and welfare of our countrymen as they are duty-bound to do.”

FRANCIS LIM, President, Management Association of the Philippines



**Business Groups Hail SC Decision
Against Warrantless Searches and Seizures**

We join the voices of several groups who commended the Supreme Court in a landmark decision upholding the primacy and inviolability of human rights as enshrined in the Constitution. We thank the Court for delivering a message that no citizen should be deprived of his personal liberty based on unlawfully obtained evidence, such as in an illegal search or a warrantless arrest. The business community is highly encouraged by the Court's determination to uphold the rule of law over the rule of men.

We appeal to all the sectors of the government, as well as ordinary citizens, to be watchful and to help ensure that constitutional rights are always protected, and that those who violate the same are held accountable. Truly, our officials are sworn “to do justice to every man.” There is nothing more sacred in society than the rule of law and justice. (Aug. 23, 2020)

- Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines**
- Institute of Corporate Directors**
- Institute for Solidarity in Asia**
- Investment Houses Association of the Philippines**
- Judicial Reform Initiative**
- Makati Business Club**
- Management Association of the Philippines**
- Shareholders Association of the Philippines**
- American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines**
- European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**

Alyansa Agrikultura • American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce of the Phils. • Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Phils. • European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. • Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Phils. • Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Phils., Inc. • Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. Makati Business Club • Management Association of the Philippines • Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. • Philippine Ecozones Association • US-ASEAN Business Council Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.



August 24, 2020

(May 27 letter updated with 6 additional signatories and italicized textual comments)



Sen. Pia Cayetano
Chairperson
Committee on Ways and Means
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City, Manila



Dear Sen. Cayetano:

We write to supplement and replace our March 3 letter and to include new observations and recommendations on SB 1357, the committee report on the CITIRA. We submit these comments in the cooperative spirit of our meetings to discuss the legislation.



We understand the legislation will be renamed the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act (CREATE) and contains several new provisions, which will appear in the committee's substitute bill. Comments in this paper are based on the July 30 draft which was shared with us.



Our letter is divided into four parts:



1. the New Normal: the world and the Philippines face their gravest crisis since WWII,
2. Vietnam, India, and Indonesia are big winners from the shift away from China,
3. CITIRA/CREATE: content and timing, and
4. SB 1357: comments, proposed rewording, and amendments



1. New Normal: the world and the Philippines face their gravest crisis since WWII



On March 31 United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the world faces its most serious crisis since World War II as a result of a pandemic that will cause a recession “that has no parallel in the recent past.”

The Asian Development Bank estimated that global GDP could fall as much as 9.7% or losses of \$8.8 trillion over 6 months in a report released May 15. As many

as 242 million jobs could be lost. With more than 5.5 million confirmed cases and total deaths near 350,000,¹ the harm to the health of the world's population will continue to mount until treatment remedies and vaccination protection are available.



JAPANESE

The Philippine population is gravely impacted by the COVID-19 enemy. Lives and livelihoods of citizens and the life of the economy are continually being harmed during the quarantine and recovery under the “New Abnormal.”



KOREAN

No one knows when the old normal will return, with or without a second or even third wave of infection, or whether recovery will be a V, W, or U or fall into a “doom loop” and not recover for many years.



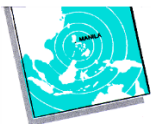
NEDA reports that 18 million households, 80% of all households in the country, require assistance. In early May the trade union group Nagkaisa estimated more than 2 million workers in the formal sector have lost their jobs. Similar numbers of informal and daily workers have little or no income. Hundreds of thousands of OFWs are coming home. Unemployment levels will reach double digits until the economy recovers. In Senate hearings on May 21 DOLE Secretary Bello agreed that job losses could reach as high as 10 million.

NEDA reported a quarterly GDP growth rate of -0.2% for First Quarter of 2020, ending an 84-quarter growth streak. Only two of 12 weeks of the quarter were during ECQ.



Management Association of the Philippines

A much higher rate of contraction is inevitable in the Second Quarter, perhaps -10% or more, as the period under quarantine is much longer. Some predict the annual decline for 2020 to be as severe as in 1984 and 1985 when it plunged by -7.3% each year. By 1986 growth resumed and remained steady for 43 years until this year, except for -0.6% in 1991 and also in 1998.



PAMURI

As presented in hearings in the House of Representatives of the Defeat COVID-19 Committee, the most vulnerable sectors of the economy impacted by the quarantine include Construction, Land Transport, Retail Trade, and Tourism. Overall, the committee estimated the jobs of 23 million Filipinos are affected. Export manufacturers and BPOs are operating at reduced levels, while most garment export factories have stopped production as orders were cancelled. OFW remittances are projected to decrease 15-20%.



SECCI

Like all countries, the Philippines faces the double challenge of flattening the COVID-19 curve, while simultaneously flattening the curve of a potential economic collapse. Both can have fatal consequences if not flattened.



US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL, INC.

The global economy is suffering with world trade possibly falling by one-third. Air travel has fallen by 95%. The United States, despite its resources, reports

¹ John Hopkins University School of Medicine, May 21, 2020

unemployment near 15%, the highest since the Great Depression. Almost 40 million Americans have applied for unemployment insurance since March;² unemployment skyrocketed from 4.4% to almost 20% in two months.

In such dire and challenging circumstances, the Congress faces a dual responsibility to provide for relief and stimulus to the population and to restore fiscal certainty to current and future investors, especially to foreign investors, during a period when major realignments of their Asian regional manufacturing footprint are underway.

In the four months since the above paragraphs were written, the pandemic and its economic impact have continued to destroy lives, jobs, and the confidence and hopes of not only the Philippines but the world as well. Virus positives now exceed 23 million people, and more than 800,000 deaths are reported.

The Philippines is learning to live with the virus until better treatment remedies and vaccines are widely available. The WHO has predicted the pandemic will end before the end of 2022. But the learning period of lockdowns - said to be the longest in the world - while saving many lives, has pummelled the economy, as shown in the GDP growth collapse of -16.5% in Q2 of 2020, the worst in the country's history. The result is severe contraction of major sectors, the loss of many millions of jobs, increased hunger and poverty, and weakened export markets.

Nevertheless, we can be optimistic and hope the famous Philippine resiliency will get the country through its current trials. As DOF Secretary Dominguez and BSP Governor Diokno have often pointed out, macroeconomic fundamentals are sound, with a strong currency, record international reserves, and a low debt-to-GDP ratio. We also compliment the legislators who have worked very hard to craft legislation to deal with immediate health and citizen support and business recovery requirements.

Two Myths Rebuted

In the July 30, 2020 slide presentation of DOF Asec. Labino, he presents three "myths" about CREATE.

Under Myth #1, the presentation states that in "2017, Php 441 billion in incentives were granted, many of which are redundant, to 3,150 firms." It continues to estimate the number of public markets, kilometers of roads, daycare centers, and classrooms this amount could have been funded had the incentives not been granted. These statements are extremely misleading. The DOF - an agency that is more focused on revenue generation than investment promotion - does not state how many direct and indirect jobs those firms created nor how much tax revenue the firms paid. Nor does it state that these firms had other choices to invest in than the Philippines, including Costa Rica, India, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Vietnam, and many others and that without these incentives most of the firms would not have invested in the Philippines. In other words, the investments actually resulted in jobs as well as revenue for public markets, roads, daycare centers, and classrooms. The firms came to the Philippines because of the quality of the country's workforce and the incentives offered, even though other costs of doing business (e.g. labor, logistics, security, utilities) were higher.

² Media reports, May 21, 2020

Under Myth #3, the presentation attempts to deny that the CREATE proposal has discouraged investments. The slide fails to explain the difference between “forever” investments and BOI investments. The former are for firms that compete in global markets. The later are usually awarded to domestic market firms, especially large infrastructure projects, such as the PRC steel mill (\$3 billion), the Singaporean (PRC) fiberoptic cable project (\$3 billion), and the New Manila International Airport project (\$10 billion) (awarded in 2020 and not in the DOF table). More importantly, the table ignores the surveys of foreign investors in PEZA zones that revealed firms had stopped or reduced new investments precisely because of the DOF proposal made in December 2017 in TRAIN 2/TRABAHO/CITIRA, which proposed to raise taxes enormously on thousands of foreign investors who had been invited to invest in the Philippines under certain rules and now had been told by the DOF that the rules would change. Their reaction was to reduce new investments and wait and see, precisely because of the uncertainty created by the proposed law. A better slide would have shown the billions of US\$ and tens of thousands of jobs from lost investments at PEZA, Clark, Subic, and other zones because the original DOF proposal made the country unattractive for many investors.

2. Vietnam, India, and Indonesia, are big winners from the shift away from China

Over the two decades since joining the WTO in late 2001, China has become the leading global manufacturer, attaining 25% of the global total with foreign investment of US\$ 1.75 trillion from 2002 until 2018. Companies from Europe, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and the US have been the leading investors in manufacturing in China. Starting with low technology products, such as apparel, appliances, footwear, houseware, and toys, the sector rapidly transformed into more sophisticated products in automotive, electronics, railroad, semiconductors, shipbuilding, telecommunications, and others. Total exports grew rapidly from US\$ 326 billion in 2002 to US\$ 2.5 trillion in 2019. According to official statistics, there are 2.8 million factories in China.

China followed the well-known path to industrialization in Asia, as Japan and Korea did. In the last decade, foreign manufacturers began to diversify out of China. Reasons included rising production costs, especially for labor,³ anti-Japanese riots, and intellectual property theft. More recently, the trend has intensified due to the US-initiated trade war with China, the call by governments of Japan, Korea, and the US for their multinational firms to reshore, and the COVID-19 crisis influencing firms to shift reliance on production bases in China to multiple international locations. As senior Home Depot executive Ted Decker stated in late 2019 “I am not aware of a single supplier who is not moving some form of manufacturing outside of China.”

Vietnam has emerged as the country of first choice for international manufacturers moving production from China but not reshoring to their home countries.⁴ The example of Samsung a decade ago with its huge investment in Vietnam is being followed by other large electronic contractors. Apple, whose products are assembled in China at 27 factories by nearly 1 million workers, is shifting some production to Vietnam, starting

³ Manufacturing wages have risen eightfold since 2004.

⁴ The Japanese, Korean, and American governments have policies to encourage their manufacturers to reshore manufacturing investments from overseas. Japan has created a \$2.5 billion fund to assist companies to return.

in 2020 with 3 million of its wireless earbuds. Google is shifting production to Vietnam of its Pixel mobile phone and Home smart speaker.

Panasonic was reported to be closing its factory in Thailand to shift production to Vietnam, where it employs 8,000. The Nikkei report did not explain why the two factories in the Philippines were not included for additional workforce. Thousands of companies in light manufacturing are rushing to build factories in Vietnam.⁵ We have to ask why aren't they rushing to the Philippines? The answers will guide policy corrections to prepare the Philippines to attract more relocating regional supply chain manufacturing. The new incentive package will be an important part of the policy corrections.

Nike lists 41 countries on its global manufacturing and sourcing map. Under Vietnam, the map shows 109 factories with 500,393 employees making apparel and footwear; this is 42% of the 1,164,201 workers that Nike indirectly employs at 533 factories globally. Although Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand also produce Nike products, the Philippines no longer does.⁶

Vietnam has managed the COVID-19 crisis extraordinarily well, with little impact on the health of its citizens. There have been no deaths and less than 300 persons infected. The country was the first in Southeast Asia to emerge from the pandemic after a lockdown of only three weeks, resume domestic flights, and expectations to retain its status as the region's fastest growing economy after 7% GDP growth in both 2018 and 2019. Its economy grew 3.8% in First Quarter 2020. Tourism arrivals (12 million in 2019) may take years to recover, while exports (\$US 264 billion in 2019) are expected to fall due to weaker overseas markets but will increase as more foreign manufacturers move into Vietnam.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told an audience of 6,000 at the largest-ever online business conference on May 9 that the growth target for 2020 is 5%, probably an over-optimistic goal. Vietnam reports approvals of US\$38 billion in FDI in 2019, with Korea (US\$7.9 billion), Hong Kong (US\$7.9 billion), Japan (US\$4.14 and China (US\$4.06 billion invested. Nikkei reported US\$12.33 billion in FDI approved for January-April period 2020.⁷ Not all of these proposed investments will be actualized but the high numbers indicate a very strong inward flow.

Vietnam has emerged from the pandemic as one of the least harmed economies in the world due to its immediate and thorough lockdown and effective testing, tracing, and treatment capability. With its economy less impacted, it is expected to continue to be the third largest recipient of FDI in ASEAN after Singapore and Indonesia. For the foreseeable future, analysts predict Vietnam will be the region's first choice for new

⁵ various Nikkei articles in 2019 and 2020.

⁶ www.nikemanufacturingmap.nikeinc.com

⁷ Myanmar is another ASEAN member which escaped the pandemic with some 200 cases and 6 deaths, largely repatriations. Restaurants and schools are being permitted to re-open.

manufacturing locators moving out of China or seeking a regional site in addition to China.

AmCham has prepared a matrix comparing the Philippines and Vietnam on nearly 140 factors that foreign manufacturing firms may study when deciding between the two countries for an investment. Since Vietnam scores better overall, we suggest the matrix should be reviewed by appropriate Philippine government agencies and the Congress to review how the Philippines can compete better with Vietnam. (please see attachment)

India has launched a campaign to invite 1,000 American and other multinational manufacturing firms to relocate to India, according to recent media reports. A total area of 461,589 hectares has been identified by the government as available land area where the government will assist new locators who previously needed to acquire land on their own from small landowners.

Ten sectors have been prioritized – auto parts, chemicals, electronics, food processing, heavy engineering, leather goods, medical devices, pharmaceuticals, solar equipment, and textiles. The government's promotion agency Invest India is receiving inquiries from Japan, the U.S., South Korea and China, expressing interest to relocate to Asia's third-largest economy.

A special CIT rate of 15% is being offered to new foreign manufacturing investors. Companies availing of the 15% CIT may sell in the domestic economy (1.38 billion population). If they are export firms and locate in economic zones, they are entitled to an ITH. With over 120 million Indian citizens losing their jobs in recent months, India is campaigning to take full advantage of global manufacturing realignments as part of its economic recovery strategy.

India is having some initial successes in attracting large US companies. Apple partners have been producing inexpensive phones (including model 11) in India for the domestic market. But by mid-2011 the more advanced Model 12 will be assembled in the country. Very recently Google announced it would invest US\$10 billion in India over the next three years.

Indonesia has announced plans this year to seek more FDI aggressively. After winning his second term in office, President Joko Widodo announced plans for Indonesia to become not just a developed country but one of the world's largest economies by 2050. To get there the country will require massive investment, especially FDI. To achieve this, reforms are needed, including lowering corporate income taxes, removing restrictions on foreign investment, and relaxing labor restrictions

The government has designated a state-owned 4,000 hectare industrial park in central Java for new manufacturing locators. where the minimum monthly wage is \$135. President Widodo has sent an ambitious labor reform bill to the parliament intended to

lessen burdensome rules on employers and other legislation to liberalize business activities reserved for nationals.

On July 1, Widodo announced seven foreign firms had agreed to relocate facilities from China, totaling \$850 million in new investment in Indonesia. The group included Panasonic (Japan) and LG Electronics (Korea).

The Philippines is not benefiting from the shift away from China and has yet to be seriously considered as an alternative to Vietnam, India, and Indonesia. BOI reports only a few dozen enquiries and a handful of firms deciding to relocate to sites in the Philippines.⁸ Even if potential investors are aware of the advantages the Philippines offers, the fact they cannot calculate the changing tax environment because of the controversial TRAIN 2 legislation has discouraged new and expansion investments since first proposed in December 2017.

Surveys of Japanese investors in the Philippines conducted in 2018 reported most would downsize or depart the Philippines under the sharp increases in taxes originally proposed in TRAIN 2. The transition provisions in the successive versions of the proposed legislation were considered insensitive and unwelcome by hundreds of previously satisfied Japanese businesses who had been prioritized in investment campaigns by successive administrations over four decades.

Present and potential foreign investors of other nationalities reacted in similar fashion, and FDI in manufacturing, as measured by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), declined sharply from previous high levels. Foreign business chambers of commerce estimated severe jobs losses should the proposed law be enacted.

Fortunately, the SWMC committee report for CITIRA SB 1357 reduced these apprehensions of investment outflow and job destruction.

Then the COVID-19 pandemic struck and brought the existential crisis of our lives.

3. CITIRA (*CREATE*): content and timing

Amidst these unprecedented circumstances of decreasing GDP, rising unemployment, and increasing competition for foreign investment, the Philippine Government plans to resume consideration of the CITIRA (*CREATE*) in the Senate and targets for the bill to achieve final passage before the June 4 recess.

The undersigned see both positive and negative possibilities from completing the full legislation at this time.

Some have suggested to pass an updated version of the proposed Investment and Incentives Act of the Philippines that was extensively discussed but not approved in

⁸ Media reports of May 21, 2020 press conference of Undersecretary Ceferino Rudolfo.

the 16th and previous Congresses. However, the bill would have to be redrafted to take into account enhanced incentives for new investors in CITIRA (CREATE)⁹ This suggestion has been repeatedly rejected over the last four years.

There is also the suggestion to pass the new DOF proposal to reduce the CIT to 25% beginning July 1, 2020 (or keeping the original January 1, 2020 effectivity date), while postponing passage of the Incentives Rationalization part of the bill until August to allow more careful consideration of its final contents.

Another option is to approve the CIT reform and section containing new incentives now and postpone approval of sections on existing investors until the second half of 2020. This would allow the BOI, PEZA, and other IPAs to offer the enhanced incentive menu to new investors sooner. The highly controversial treatment of existing investors would be studied further, in light of the impact of COVID-19 on their costs, markets, and prospects. Some of these companies are in intensive care and about to layoff workers and may close. During the lockdown, a significant number experienced production shifts to plants in other countries (Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam.)

The positive result of lowering the CIT to 25% would be to provide a “stimulus” for the recovery of the economy by making more funds available for the country's one million firms to invest in employees and capital. DOF Secretary Dominguez has described this as “one of the largest economic stimulus measures in the country's history.” DOF estimates this reform would provide firms an infusion Php 625 billion to invest rather than pay to the government. We agree.

Another positive result of improving the fiscal incentives for new investors will be to **provide the Investment Promotion Agencies better incentives** as good as and better than those competing economies offer investors so that they invest more in the Philippines.nn

And enactment would end uncertainty created for many investors by more than two years of lengthy debate in Congress over controversial provisions of the legislation.

⁹ Fiscal incentives rationalization was first proposed in 1995 as part of the comprehensive tax reform. However, it was not included in the resulting reform in 1997. Subsequent Congresses considered stand-alone bills entitled the Investment and Incentives Code of the Philippines, but the failure of DOF and DTI to agree left the status quo in place. For several IPAs – led by PEZA, CDC, and SBMA – the incentives attracted over 4,000 firms to locate employing more than 1 million Filipinos directly and creating some 5 million indirect jobs. Even a cost-benefit analysis of the cost and value of fiscal incentives as required to be done by NEDA under RA 10708 or TIMTA enacted in 2015 has not been completed and made available to Congress.

This uncertainty was the main reason for the decline in net FDI received by the Philippines in recent years, in contrast to Vietnam and others in SEA.¹⁰

However, while ending uncertainty should be overall positive for the country's investment climate, if existing investors face provisions that still degrade their financial projections - at a time when COVID-19 has harmed their operations – some will lose confidence in the Philippines as an investment location. We want existing investors to have increased confidence, decide to expand their investments, and confirm to firms considering investing in the Philippines that doing so is the right decision.

We encourage the Senate to approve the recommendation of the Department of Finance to accelerate the CIT reduction to 25% effective July 2020 and continue reductions of 1% a year until reaching 20%. However, we recommend that the reduction continue at one year intervals in order to reach 20% in 2025 rather than in 2027. Under the CREATE proposal the Philippines will still retain the highest CIT rate in Southeast Asia until 2027. The CREATE proposal is to remain at 25% for 2020, 2021, and 2022 before decreasing to 20%.

Indonesia, which had a 25% CIT when TRAIN 2 was proposed, has reduced its CIT to 22%, to be followed by another reduction to 20% in two years. *Indonesia also is offering a CIT as low as 17% to the more than 600 firms that are listed on the Jakarta Stock Exchange.*

Vietnam is discussing to cut its CIT and VAT on SMEs by 50%. The current proposal is to reduce the CIT from 20% to 10% for SMEs (compared to 30% currently in the Philippines and 20% in 5 years as proposed by CREATE.)

The critical issue for the undersigned with the proposed legislation is whether in its present form CITIRA (CREATE) will benefit or harm current investors, who are experiencing the unexpected effects of the quarantine period and depressed operating conditions.

¹⁰ Table: FDI inflows, ASEAN-6, 2009-2019

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019*	Total
Total ASEAN	41.4	113.0	86.0	112.1	118.2	129.4	114.3	116.8	144.2	148.7	177.0	1 301.1
Indonesia	4.9	13.8	19.2	19.1	18.8	21.8	16.6	3.9	20.6	22.0	24.4	185.1
Malaysia	1.4	9.2	12.0	9.4	12.1	10.9	10.2	11.3	9.3	8.1	9.0	102.9
Philippines	2.0	1.3	1.8	2.8	3.9	5.8	5.6	8.3	10.3	9.8	7.6	59.2
Singapore	18.9	57.2	39.9	60.1	56.7	73.3	59.7	73.9	75.5	77.6	105.4	698.2
Thailand	6.4	14.7	2.5	12.9	15.9	5.0	8.9	2.8	8.2	13.2	13.7	104.2
Viet Nam	7.6	8.0	7.5	8.4	8.9	9.2	11.8	12.6	14.1	15.5	16.1	119.7

* 2019 Forecasts from UNCTAD except for Philippines. Actual 2019 PH data from BSP.
Actual data from BSP (Philippines) and CEIC (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore Thailand, and Vietnam)
BSP FDI data and UNCTAD data may vary, as they did in 2018 when BSP reported \$9.8 billion and UNCTAD reported \$6.5 billion

During over five months of quarantine export industry investors have experienced displacement of workforce to work-from-home, additional costs for accommodations near factories and at worksites, expenses for shuttle transport for employees who could not use public transportation, payment of salaries for employees who could not work, loss of overseas orders due to cancellations, and shift of overseas orders to other regional plants that were more productive, delays in arrival of raw material imports due to port delays due to inadequate BOC staffing, and other reasons.

*The **business process outsourcing industry** is considered as one of the country's largest job generators and one of its biggest private sector employers, creating jobs for 1.3 million Filipinos and indirectly impacting close to 4.2 million jobs in other industries across the country. Alongside OFW remittances and tourism receipts, the IT-BPM industry is one of the economy's major sources of foreign exchange with recorded revenues of USD26.3 Billion by end of 2019, fueling the Philippine economy.*

While a majority of the IT-BPM workforce is able to render essential services to domestic and international clients throughout the Community Quarantine, the industry is not quite Business As Usual yet. Given the unprecedented consequences of Covid-19, the sector is facing strong headwinds - with reduced revenues arising from reduced productive capacity, and significant increase in expenses to enable continuity of operations (i.e. provision of food and lodging, shuttle services, massive Work-From-Home enablement, etc.). Being one of the only few industries that continued to persevere during the Community Quarantine, it is imperative for the Philippines and the IT-BPM industry to remain agile amid the changing landscape.

For example, one large BPO company which employs 5,000 pays Php 1 million a month for shuttle service. DTI and DOLE now require that shuttle service must be provided for companies with assets above Php 15 million.

Another BPO company had to move 20,000 CPUs from office to WFH in five days in March.

***Electronic exporters** experienced orders being shifted to other plants in Southeast Asia because operating costs went up in the Philippines. The industry expects exports in 2020 to decline by 23%.*

The cost to house 1,000 workers in a hotel near a worksite is at least Php 1,500 a day and Php 30,000 a month for 20 days, amounting to Php 30 million. Such housing was required for many firms during the ECQ.

These costs are rapidly adding up for export companies, as they are for domestic market companies. As the cost of operating in the Philippines increases, companies will decide to shift some production abroad. Even domestic firms may be harmed by

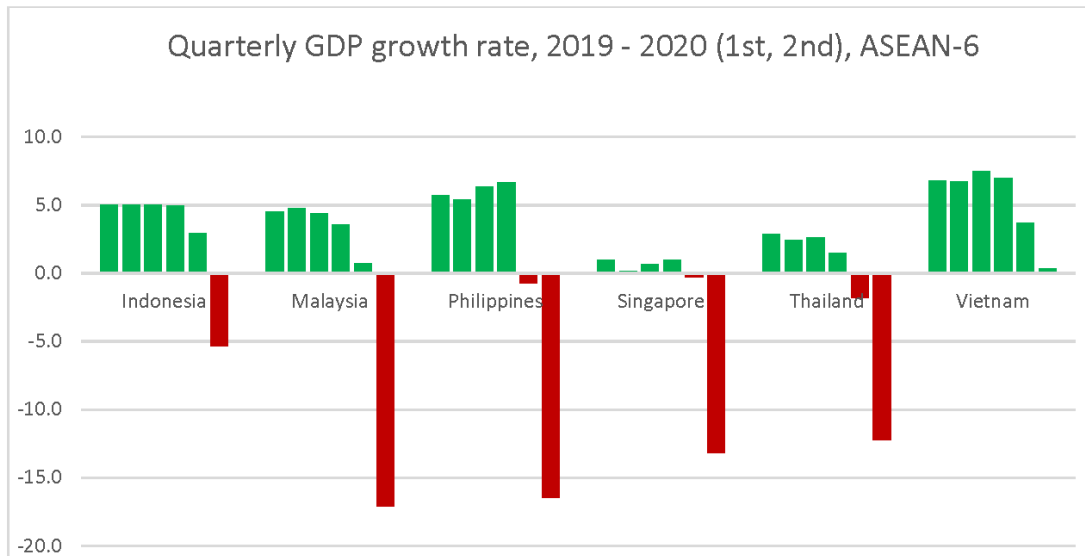
cheaper imports from Vietnam, where firms do not have to pay comparable local pandemic-related costs.

Garment export firms are left with no choice but to lay off employees by thousands. They are struggling to have orders, mostly losing more than half of orders, others in a worst situation of having no orders, repeat no orders at all. Demand for new clothing and other wearables has collapsed in major markets in America and Europe. Some factories shifted to making PPEs for the domestic market, but, as reported in the media on August 22 and 23, government procurement offices are still buying from China. Fortunately, CREATE allows “footloose” companies to keep their 5% GIE tax. However, even this benefit will not help if they shut down. Not long ago over a million Filipinos worked in the garment export industry. Today, the future of the industry is bleak.

Export statistics for wearables show that both apparel and travel goods have been badly hit, for Jan-June 2020 both exports went down by 44% and 43% respectively. (Travel goods include products such as luggage, backpacks, travel/sports bags, business cases/computer bags, handbags, personal leather goods, and luggage locks).

Noting the current trend, the industry association projects between -40 to -50% for wearables for 2020 and, if the same conditions exist, recovery won't be seen soon and 2021 would experience -25 to -30% loss.

The sharp contraction in GDP growth in Q2 2020 (see figure below) indicates the entire year 2020 will be negative. Estimates are in the -4% to -7% range, with NEDA at -5.5%. The next few years should see positive growth but probably not as high as pre-pandemic. Global export markets are likely to remain depressed, as will OFW remittances, domestic demand, and tourism sector revenue. Among the ASEAN-6 economies, only Vietnam is expected to have positive GDP growth in 2020.



Source: CEIC

The table below shows actual and estimated export value for the period 2017 to 2022 for three export sectors that have been well-established in the Philippines as a result of past fiscal incentives: (1) garments, (2) business processing services, and (3) semiconductors and electronics.

**Exports of Garments, IT-BPO, and Semiconductors from 2017 to 2021
(in US\$ billion)**

	2017	2018	2019	2020 (industry estimate)	2021 (industry estimate)
Garments ¹	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.0 (0.5 actual exports for YTD Jan-June 2020)	0.7
IT-BPO ^{2,3}	23.4	24.5	26.3	28.0*	30.0*
Semiconductors	36.5	41.6	43.3	33 (17.1 actual exports for YTD Jan-June 2020)	35

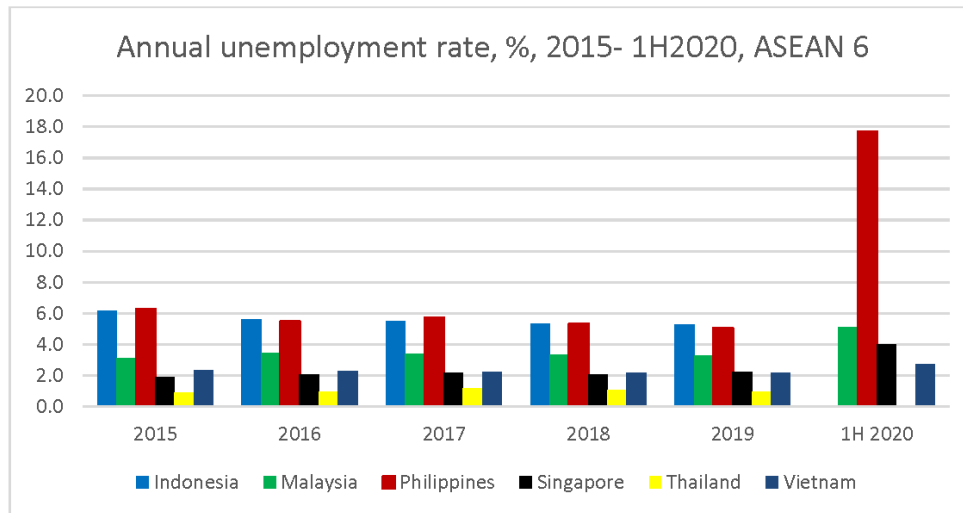
¹ Total for apparel, travel goods, and footwear

² Reflects total IT-BPO industry revenue, not just export revenues

³ IT-BPO estimates for 2020 and 2021 are pre-COVID projections

Sources: CONWEP, IBPAP, and SEIPI

Negative economic growth and lockdowns have resulted in extensive job losses, as shown in the figure below (data from Indonesia and Thailand is not yet available). It appears the Philippines will experience the worst job loss of the ASEAN-6 economies.



Source: CEIC

4. SB 1357: comments, proposed rewording, and amendments

Summary of fiscal incentive recommendations for 4 types of investor

Overall request: retain the existing tax incentives for at least **five years** and then apply new incentives rules:

1.a Existing investors on ITH and GIE

- Additional two years of ITH
- On GIE, retain existing tax incentives for five (5) years, after which sunset rules apply

1.b Sunset Rules (Transition Period)

- If on ITH, complete the ITH **(included in CREATE)**
- Sunset of 4, 5, 7 years (rather than 2-3-5-7 in CITIRA) **(included in CREATE)**
- After sunset ends, regular CIT applies or eligible for conditional grandfathering, i.e., 5% GIE to continue provided that any of the conditions are maintained, namely, 90% exporter, 10k employees, and footloose

2. New investors

- ITH for variable periods followed by CIT **(included in CREATE)**
- Investors supplying domestic markets eligible for incentives
- Increase maximum period of ITH from 12 to 20 years for approved new domestic and foreign owned investments in less developed areas
- Special CIT on gross income of 8% (2021), 9% (2022), and 10% (2023) in lieu of national and local taxes **(included in CREATE)**
- Maintaining any of the conditions 90% exporter, 10K employees, and footloose 5% GIE
- Enhanced deductions **(included in CREATE)**

3. ROHQs

- Subject to 10% of taxable income provided that after 5 years existing ROHQs shall be subject to regular CIT
- Add other relevant and competitive incentives package for qualified employees

4. All others

- CIT of 25% starting January 1, 2020, 1% decrease until January 2025 to reach 20% CIT
- Microenterprises with assets below P3M CIT of 10% on taxable income after 2 year ITH under BMBE law
- For small enterprises with assets between P3M and P15M CIT of 15% on taxable income
- For medium enterprises with assets between P15M and P100M CIT of 20% on taxable income
- Suspend 2% Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT) for 5 years
- 300% additional R&D expense deduction from gross income
- tax credit (1% of gross revenue or gross receipts using e-invoicing) for IT infrastructure expenses to enable use of computerized accounting system

Detailed recommendations follow.

Section 3 amending Sections 4 of the NIRC – (on Power of Secretary of Finance to Interpret Tax Incentives)

We suggest the deletion of the proviso granting the Secretary of Finance the exclusive and original jurisdiction to interpret the provisions on the tax incentives. We believe that such power should be left to the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) tasked by the legislature to implement the intent of this bill, i.e., to attract foreign investments.

We note that even if the power to interpret tax incentive provisions is left with the IPAs, it will not preclude the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) from challenging the interpretation and going to court. Foreign investors need assurance that incentive laws will be interpreted according to their intent and spirit and not according to “its letter that killeth.” Foreign investors have many choices of where to invest and are discouraged by too many level of bureaucratic approvals. This power also seems contrary to the Ease of Doing Business reform of the Duterte Administration, which was intended to reduce the burden of regulatory approval. The FIRB may conduct oversight of IPAs and correct what might be determined to be misapplications of incentives.

**Sections 5 and 6 amending Sections 27 and 28, respectively, of the NIRC
Reduction of Corporate Income Tax Rate**

Our suggestion is to revise Section 27 and 28 to read, as follows:

“SECTION 27. Rates of Income Tax on Domestic Corporations. —

*“(A) In General. — Except as otherwise provided in this Code, beginning **January 1, 2020**, an income tax of twenty-five percent (25%) is hereby imposed upon the taxable income derived during each taxable year from all sources within and without the Philippines by every corporation, as defined in Section 22(B) of this Code and taxable under this Title as a corporation, organized in, or existing under the laws of the Philippines: Provided, That the rate of corporate income tax shall be twenty four percent (24%) beginning January 1, 2021; twenty three percent (23%) beginning January 1, 2022; Twenty two percent (22%) beginning January 1, 2023; Twenty one percent (21%) beginning January 1, 2024 and **Twenty percent (20%) beginning January 1, 2025.***

***Micro enterprises** with asset size of Php 3 Million or less shall be subject to 10% of taxable income from all sources after the expiration of their income tax holiday of two years under the BMBE Law; **Small Enterprises** with asset size of more than Php 3 Million but not more than Php 15 Million shall be subject to 15% on taxable income from all sources; while **Medium Enterprises** with asset size of more than Php 15 Million but not more than Php 100 Million shall be subject to 20% of taxable income from all sources.”*

“SECTION 28. Rates of Income Tax on Foreign Corporations.

—
(A) Tax on Resident Foreign Corporations. —

*(1) In General. — Except as otherwise provided in this Code, beginning **January 1, 2020**, a corporation organized, authorized, or existing under the laws of any foreign country, engaged in trade or business within the Philippines, shall be subject to an income tax of twenty-five percent (25%) of the taxable income derived in the preceding taxable year from all sources within the Philippines: Provided, That effective January 1, 2021, the rate of income tax shall be twenty four percent (24%); twenty three percent (23%) beginning January 1, 2022; Twenty two percent (22%) beginning January 1, 2023; Twenty one percent (21%) beginning January 1, 2024 and **Twenty percent (20%) beginning January 1, 2025.**”*

***Small Enterprises** with asset size of more than Php 3 Million but not more than Php 15 Million shall be subject to 15% on taxable income from all sources; while **Medium Enterprises** with asset size of more than Php 15 Million but not more than Php 100 Million shall be subject to 20% of taxable income from all sources.”*

We believe that our corporate income tax rates must also be equitable, that is, based on one's ability to pay as mandated by the Constitution. We note most ASEAN countries do not follow the single tier of corporate taxation because simple logic will tell us that it is not equitable.

You can readily verify that Indonesia only applies 50% of their regular CIT (22% beginning 2020) to their SMEs with gross turnover of not more than Php 170.4 Million. In Thailand, companies with paid up capital of not more than Php 7.9 Million and with gross turnover of not more than Php 47.4 Million are subject to progressive CIT rate of 0%, 15% and 20%. Beginning 2019, Malaysia subjects only to 17% CIT the first Php 23 Million of taxable income and the balance to 24% CIT. In Singapore, 75% of the first Php 356,000 of taxable income is exempt from CIT, and only 50% of the next Php 6.7 Million of taxable income is subject to 17% CIT, the balance of taxable income is subject to 17% CIT (*Source: 2019 Ernst & Young Worldwide Corporate Tax Guide, fx conversion using US\$50.68/US\$1.00*).

Further, Vietnam is considering reducing the current 20% CIT rate to 10% for SMEs.

Accordingly, the provisos in Section 34 (B)(1) of the NIRC should also be revised to read, as follows:

“Section 34. Deductions from Gross Income. xxx

- (A) Expenses*
- (B) Interest. - xxx*
- (1) In General. —*

*Provided, however, that the taxpayer's otherwise allowable deduction for interest expense shall be reduced by 20% beginning **January 1, 2020**; Provided, Further, that the following percentages shall apply if the corporate income rate as provided in Sections 27 (A) and 28 (A)(1) is adjusted:*

- (a) If rate is twenty four percent (24%), interest rate reduction is sixteen percent (16%);*
- (b) If rate is twenty three percent (23%), interest rate reduction is thirteen percent (13%);*
- (c) If rate is twenty two percent (22%), interest rate reduction is nine percent (9%);*
- (d) If rate is twenty one percent (21%), interest rate reduction is five percent (5%);*
- (e) If rate is twenty percent (20%), interest rate reduction is zero percent (0%).”*

We strongly recommend that the above rate reduction in CIT be made retroactive to January 1, 2020, so that companies particularly SMEs will immediately get reprieve from onerous taxation.

Equally crucial, the **2% Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT)** should also be **suspended for all companies for a period at least five (5) years** as we expect that most corporate taxpayers will be in tax loss position given the tremendous economic loss brought about by Covid-19 which will certainly still be felt in coming years. We believe the proposal to extend NOLCO from 3 to 5 years will become a token benefit, unless the MCIT will be suspended as well for the same period.

Along with the proposal to extend net-operating loss carry-over (NOLCO) to 5 years, we are also **proposing a 300% additional research and development (R&D) expense** (similar to Indonesia and Hongkong) as deduction from gross income to encourage innovation, technological and digital transformation among companies.

We also believe that the government should revive the proposal of granting of **tax credit (1% of gross revenue or gross receipts using e-invoicing) to companies for IT infrastructure expenses** to enable the use of computerized accounting system and/or e-invoicing. This will immensely help the BIR's effort to implement e-invoicing under TRAIN 1.

We also recommend that **Section 32 (B) (4) of the NIRC be amended** to read, as follows:

"Section 32. Gross Income.

xxx xxx

(B) Exclusions from Gross Income. — The following items shall not be included in gross income and shall be exempt from taxation under this Title:

XXX XXX

(4) Compensation for Injuries or Sickness and compensation during prolonged state of national emergency. — Amounts received, through Accident or Health Insurance or under Workmen's Compensation Acts, as compensation for personal injuries or sickness, plus the amounts of any damages received, whether by suit or agreement, on account of such injuries or sickness. Any amount of compensation, salary, benefit and/or financial assistance, in cash or in kind, provided to employees during prolonged state of emergency, calamities, pandemic, national epidemic or any force majeure shall not be subject to income tax.”

Section 6 amending Section 28 (A)(5) of the NIRC – (on BPRT Exemption of PEZA Philippine Branches) (Included in CREATE)

We recommend the retention of the exemption from Branch Profit Remittance Tax (BPRT) of PEZA-registered Philippine Branches so they can reinvest their profits for further expansion in the Philippines.

Section 6 amending Section 28 (A)(6)(b) of the NIRC – (on ROHQs)

We reiterate our recommendation to rephrase the above provision, as follows:

*“Regional Operating Headquarters as defined under Section 22 (EE) shall pay a tax of ten percent (10%) of their taxable income: Provided, that after **five (5) years** from the effectivity of this Act, existing regional operating headquarters shall be subject to the regular corporate income tax; provided, further, that the SIPP shall include in the list of qualified activities those covered in Section 22 (EE) of the National Internal Revenue Code which shall henceforth be provided by Global Corporate Centers (GCCs); Provided, Further, that those that will qualify as GCCs under the conditions stipulated in the SIPP shall continue to be taxed at ten percent (10%) of their taxable income, for the periods to be provided under the SIPP but in no case to exceed eight (8) years from the effectivity of this Act; provided, finally, that GCCs may be a domestic or foreign corporation.”*

As many ROHQs serve mostly foreign affiliates, we believe that the shared services industry should be encouraged by allowing them to avail of the incentives under this bill, if they are so qualified.

We request your good office to carefully consider the important points extensively discussed in the position paper of the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies' Regional Headquarter, Inc. (PAMURI) regarding the importance of the shared services sector as a rising industry. At this time of extraordinarily high unemployment and uncertainty about future job prospects, the government should

avoid actions that may lead to the closure of such firms and the loss of jobs to competitors described below.

We believe that it is also very important for your Committee to know that Thailand and Malaysia continue to provide incentives to their ROHQs and have tailored them in a way that their ROHQs are compliant with the OECD guidelines against “harmful tax practices.” Thailand, in particular, now grants a preferential corporate income tax of 3%, 5% or 8% (and 15% personal income tax on expatriate employees) to their **International Business Centers** (IBCs, their equivalent of ROHQs) depending on the amount of local expenditure of the IBC. We believe that the same can be done in the Philippines to encourage the growth of the shared services industry.

As we noted above, Thailand is able to maintain its 15% preferential income tax at least for its expatriates and has passed the OECD peer review despite maintaining it. In the post-Covid world, where the Philippines is facing very stiff competition in the region. We believe that the incentives for regional offices should continue to be encouraged and incentivized. The same policies should be adopted that will entice regional offices to locate in the Philippines, benefitting the country in the long run in terms of technology transfer on business and management processes and bringing about increased economic and consumer activity,

Section 9 introducing new Section 294 of the NIRC – (on Allocation of Revenue between IPAs and LGU)

We strongly recommend that the bill should already provide the exact respective percentage share of the IPAs and LGUs in the special corporate income tax rate that will be paid by the Registered Business Enterprises (RBEs). Otherwise, this will become a contentious issue later on.

On Incentives, in General

We express grave concern on the Department of Finance’s (DOF) proposal to “tailor fit” incentives. This will further aggravate the feeling of uncertainty and apprehension from foreign investors as they do not know what incentives they will be able to negotiate from the government. On the other hand, the idea of “tailor fitting” of incentives can greatly complement the government’s effort to attract FDIs if the tailor-fitted incentives are in addition to the minimum set of incentives that will be set by either CITIRA or CREATE.

Thus we express our strong clamor to retain the existing tax incentives for a period of at least five (5) years to arrest this lingering doubt and ambiguity in government’s policy about tax incentives vis-à-vis attracting FDIs.

We also cannot overemphasize our unequivocal support to PEZA and its one stop shop to be maintained as the leading investment promotion agency for exporters in our

PEZA industrial zones and ecozones. For nearly two decades, PEZA's highly professional, corruption-free, and dedicated staff has served thousands of very pleased and appreciative investors.

After maintaining the status quo for at least five (5) years, we believe that the following suggested refinements will aid in the execution of the tax incentive provisions of SB 1357:

In recognition of the hardship of incentivized firms of the quarantine and weaker GDP growth, provide firms currently receiving ITH with an additional two years of ITH

New Section 294

We are recommending to add another proviso to Section 294 B) that will read, as follows (please see underlined proviso)

“Sec. 294. Incentives. – subject to the conditions and period of availment in sections 295 and 296, respectively, the following types of tax incentives may be granted to registered projects or activities:

(A) Income Tax Holiday;

(B) Special Corporate Income Tax Rate - A tax rate equivalent to eight percent (8%) effective January 1, 2021, nine percent (9%) effective January 1, 2022, and ten percent (10%) effective January 1, 2023 onwards, based on the gross income earned, in lieu of all taxes, both national and local, as specified in the respective special laws of the investment promotion agencies: provided, that, the National Government share shall be as follows: six percent (6%) in 2021, seven percent (7%) in 2022 and eight percent (8%) in 2023 onwards: Provided Further, that, if applicable, the shares of the local government units and the investment promotion agencies under the special laws governing the latter shall be observed; Provided Finally, that for RBEs that qualify under any of the conditions under subsections (i), (ii), and (iii) of section 311, the applicable GIE tax rate shall be five percent (5%), the entitlement to which shall be subject to the same condition as that imposed in the last paragraph of Section 311.

The rationale of the proviso is to make the Philippines more attractive to potential foreign investors who are going out of China while recognizing the government's effort to make the granting of tax incentives to become time-bound and targeted as the 5% GIE can only be enjoyed by new RBEs if they are able to maintain any of the conditions in Section 311 subsection i to iii, i.e. exporting 90% of their output; will employ 10,000 employees; or comply with the conditions for a footloose activity.

New Section 294 (C)(2) to (7) and Section 295 (B) – (on Enhanced Deductions)

We recommend to delete the phrase “up to” to get rid of the uncertainty and eliminate the exercise of discretion by the approving body. For example, if the training is already approved by the IPA, why does the FIRB need to determine the allowable percentage of deduction for such training? This will make everything too bureaucratic and opposed to the government’s goal of simplifying doing business in the country.

New Section 294 (C)(7) and Section 295 (B)(7) – (on Investment Allowance)

We believe that reinvestment allowance should not be limited to the manufacturing industry. The reinvestment allowance should be applied to all registrable industries to encourage expansion projects of foreign investors in the country and generate the much needed high-paying jobs that our countrymen need to grow the middle-class segment of our society.

New Section 295 (B)

We suggest to reword the first sentence of Section 295 (B) to read, as follows:

“At the option of the newly registered business enterprise, the enhanced deductions shall be granted in lieu of the income tax holiday and the special corporate income tax rate;”

The underlined phrase will provide clarity that the availment of the enhanced deduction is an option of the applicant/registrant. We note that as Section 295 (B) is currently worded now, it is not clear if the RBE has the option to avail of the enhanced deduction instead of the ITH or SCIT.

New Section 295 (B)(4) – (on Approval of Trainings by IPAs)

We do not see the need for approval of the trainings by IPAs. The IPAs cannot claim that they know better which trainings are necessary and indispensable to the operations of the RBEs. Prior approval of trainings by IPAs will just add to the bureaucratic process. In the alternative, if prior approval by IPAs of trainings will be required, then, all trainings should be allowed 200% additional deduction already without need of any further conditions anymore.

New Section 295 (C)(1) – (on Conditions for Duty-Free Importation)

We suggest to remove the conditions that the imported capital equipment, raw materials, and spare parts are not produced or manufactured locally in sufficient quantity or of comparable quality and at reasonable price. We believe that these are useless conditions given that additional domestic input expense should be enough to encourage local sourcing of supplies by RBEs.

New Section 295 (C)(2)(d)– (on Subsequent Dispositions of Capital Equipment, etc) (Included in July 30 version of CREATE)

We strongly recommend to add a proviso in Section 295 (C)(2)(d) that will read, as follows:

“(d) Proven technical obsolescence of the capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts or accessories.

Provided that, transfer by donation of machinery, equipment, raw materials, spare parts or accessories to TESDA, state colleges and universities, or DECS/CHED-accredited schools due to technical obsolescence shall be exempt from duties and taxes, including donor’s tax.

All transfers that comply with the aforementioned conditions enumerated in (a), (c) and (d) above shall not result to the imposition of the taxes not imposed upon tax and duty-free importation of the said capital equipment, raw materials, spare parts, or accessories.”

The proviso is meant to facilitate the donation of equipment particularly computers and laptops to schools that will enhance the learning of both students and teachers. Currently, such donations are required to pay duties and taxes based on original cost, resulting in few donations.

The last paragraph is meant to provide clarity that transfers that comply with the above conditions will not be subject to duties and taxes.

New Section 295 (D) VAT Exemption on Importation and VAT zero-rating on Local Purchases

We recommend that the said new Section 295 (D) be reworded, as follows:

“Sec. 295. Conditions of availment. - the tax incentives in the preceding section shall be governed by the following rules

(d) The VAT exemption on importation and VAT zero-rating on local purchases shall apply to all purchases of goods and/or services by registered business enterprise located inside an ecozone or freeport.”

We are suggesting the deletion of the requirement that the purchase must be directly and exclusively used in the business of the locator since the latter will most likely not have any activities subject to 12% VAT. Hence, any accumulation of input taxes for purchases of services like security services, legal, and accounting services, etc. will mean trapped cash for the locator and requiring them to file a claim for refund for those unutilized input will only mean added bureaucracy and business cost for the locators which are all unnecessary.

New Section 296 (A), 2nd Proviso – (on SCIT for Existing RBEs)

For clarity, we recommend that the second proviso be reworded to read, as follows:

“That existing registered projects or activities prior to the effectivity of this Act may qualify to register under this Act and avail of the special corporate income tax or enhanced deductions for the prescribed period subject to the criteria and conditions set forth in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan. The SCIT for existing registered projects or activities, if availed of, shall not exceed twelve (12) years.”

The underlined statement will provide clarity that the SCIT for existing registered RBEs or activities can also be up to 12 years and that the Enhanced Deductions can also be availed of by existing RBEs. We note that it is not clear in the current wording of this provision if existing RBEs can also avail of the Enhanced Deductions.

New Section 296 (B) – (on Location Criteria)

Increase the maximum period of **the ITH from 12 to 20 years**, at the discretion of the responsible IPA, for approved new domestic and foreign owned investments in less developed areas in support of the *Balik Probinsya* program under EO 114 in order to address overpopulation, traffic congestion and pollution in Metro Manila.

We recommend that the **location classification be revised** to read, as follows:

*“(1) NCR and Metropolitan Areas defined as... xxx;
(2) Areas adjacent to NCR (Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna and Rizal);
(3) Less Developed Areas (LDA) and All Other Areas.”*

We believe that what should be considered as “Metropolitan Areas” must be clearly defined to avoid confusion.

We believe that the above classification is more attuned with the government's aim of promoting countryside development towards increasing inclusive growth.

New Section 297 and all of the provisions related to FIRB

Consistent with our proposal to maintain the status quo for five (5), we are recommending the activation of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board (FIRB) and all of the provisions related to its expanded functions only **after 5 years**, so that the country can respond quickly and efficiently to potential foreign investors who are refocusing their supply chain out of China.

Definitely, this is not the time to experiment and transfer the power and functions of existing efficient IPAs like PEZA to a body that has no proven track record, much less,

experience. We need to be agile and efficient at this point when companies are scrambling to move out of China. We take note that replacing the IPAs now with the FIRB will require so much time and effort to recalibrate and establish new processes for evaluation and approval of investments. Foreign investors will not wait for us as they would like to recover their lost time and income due to Covid-19.

New Section 297 (B) – (on the Expanded Functions of the FIRB)

In relation to the expanded functions of the FIRB, if and when it is convened, we propose that Section 297 (B) be reworded, as follows:

“Section 297. Expanded Functions of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board. –

(A) xxx xxx

*(B) To approve or disapprove the grant of tax incentives but **only for investments exceeding US\$ 500 Million**, upon recommendation of the Investment Promotion Agency: Provided, that the application for tax incentives shall be deemed approved if not decided upon by the FIRB after twenty (20) days from submission of the Investment Promotion Agency’s recommendation to the FIRB: xxx”*

We believe that the role of the FIRB should not be so broad as to approve all grants of incentives but limited to those that are the largest and major projects exceeding US\$ 500 million in capital.

New Section 304 (Qualifications of a Registered Business Enterprise for Tax Incentives

We take note that Senate Bill No. 1357 only clearly provides (in Section 296 (A) and in Section 311 (C)) that existing RBEs, upon effectivity of this Act, only have the OPTION to DEREGISTER and then, register under this Act and will only be entitled to SCIT as an incentive.

We wish to bring to your attention that SB 1357, even if read in its entirety, is still not clear if existing RBEs can register their expansion activities or renew their incentives, if qualified, after their pertinent incentives expire. In other words, there is nothing in SB 1357 that explicitly states that existing RBEs can register their expansion activities or renew their incentives when they expire. We respectfully emphasize that these benefits, namely, registration of expansion activities and renewal of incentives, were repeatedly promised to the private sector both by Cong. Salceda and Usec. Chua in various fora.

Thus, to avoid confusion and make sure that this commitment of the government will be realized, we are recommending to **add a new paragraph F to Section 304** that will read, as follows:

“Section 304. Qualifications of a Registered Business Enterprise for Tax Incentives. - xxx xxx xxx

(F) Expansion Projects and Renewal of Applications.

Expansion of registered activities existing upon approval of this Act may qualify to register under this Act and will be entitled to five (5) years of ITH and five (5) years of 5% GIE thereafter. Renewal of expiring registered project or activities approved before this Act and expansion projects of new RBEs approved under this Act shall be entitled to applicable incentives under Section 294 for the prescribed period subject to the criteria and conditions set forth in the Strategic Investments Priorities Plan”

We believe that giving the registrants the opportunity to register their expansion activities or renew their expiring incentives will further encourage foreign investment into the country and would still be in keeping with the government’s aim to make the incentives time-bound and performance-based.

Chapter VI Transitory and Miscellaneous Provisions

New Section 311

We are strongly proposing that new Section 311 be revised to read, as follows:

“Section 311. Investments Prior to the Effectivity of this Act.

Registered Business Enterprises with incentives granted prior to the effectivity of this Act shall continue to enjoy their respective incentives for a period of five (5) years;

(a) During the five-year period, RBEs whose projects or activities are under ITH will continue to enjoy their unexpired ITH as specified in the terms and conditions of their registration; and

(b) RBEs whose ITH will expire within or after the above five-year period and RBEs currently availing of the five (5) percent tax on gross income earned granted prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be allowed to continue under the 5% GIE incentive; and after the said 5-year period, in accordance with the following schedule;

- 1) *Four (4) years for projects or activities availing of the 5% GIE for more than ten (10) years;*
- 2) *Five (5) years for projects or activities availing of the 5% GIE for ten (10) years or less but for more than five (5) years; and*
- 3) *Seven (7) years for projects or activities availing of the 5% GIE for five (5) years or less.*

However, existing projects or activities who are under the ITH or 5% GIE incentive after the said 5-year period will maintain their 5% GIE incentive even after the above schedule expires provided that they satisfy any of the following conditions:

- i. Registered exporters that export ninety percent (90%) of their goods and/or services;*
- ii. RBEs that employ at least ten thousand (10,000) Filipino employees directly engaged in the production of the registered project or activity prior to the effectivity of this act; or*
- iii. Registered enterprises engaged in footloose projects or activities as defined herein.*

The entitlement to the 5% GIE will be subject to the RBEs continuing to meet any of the aforesaid conditions.”

The maintenance of the five-year period above is being asked considering the unprecedented severe business losses incurred and still being incurred by exporters due to Covid-19. All leading economists are telling us that it will take years for the country to recover. Coupled with the fact that no reliable vaccine is on the horizon yet, we believe it is but reasonable and logical to let the dust settle first (and we do not know yet when it will settle) and give existing investors a period of 5 years before any drastic changes in tax incentives are put in place.

As you are very much aware, in 2019, the global economy was unsettled by the disruptive US-China trade dispute. In recent months, the Philippines experienced a volcanic eruption in proximity to many of the country's largest export industrial estates.

Soon thereafter (COVID-19) arrived. The world and the Philippines began a global lockdown which has completely shattered expectations of economic growth as well as our lives, as we knew them, until science develops treatment and vaccines. There is no guarantee that science will succeed soon or that the new medicines will be available in the Philippines even within the next 12 months. And with the crowded living conditions facing many millions of Filipinos living in extreme poverty in large cities successive waves of the pandemic cannot be ruled out despite the best efforts of the

government to protect the people and the economy. Already, the WHO has warned governments in Southeast Asia that they may be relaxing their restrictions too soon.

The uncertainty created since late 2017 for existing foreign investors availing of fiscal incentives by the proposed TRAIN 2/TRABAHO/CITIRA tax regimes led to significant reductions in inward FDI in PEZA and other major special economic zones. Billions of dollars and tens of thousands of new jobs from new investors and expansion projects were lost.

Trade uncertainty between the world's two largest economies and the pandemic are leading to large realignments of regional logistics supply chains as the reliance of multinational firms on manufacturing in China is being questioned, leading to accelerated diversification out of China into Southeast Asia, especially Vietnam.

Unfortunately, the Philippines is not benefiting with increased inward FDI due to the policy uncertainty over the last two years over the future of fiscal incentives. The uncertainty was created by the government and not by the thousands of foreign investors who have been attracted by the quality of the Filipino workforce and competitive fiscal incentives. These incentives compensate for higher business costs for labor, logistics, power, and others.

Now, at a critical crossroads, the Senate is asked to approve a major tax and fiscal incentives bill with important benefits to the economy. The resulting law will greatly determine the volume of future inflows of reshoring manufacturing firms. Will they locate in the Philippines or continue to decide to stay away and invest elsewhere.

Existing investors under the 5% GIE incentive and operating ROHQs are being asked to transition to more expensive tax regimes, when their future operations are uncertain at best and severely impacted at worst.

The requested five year delay in starting the new fiscal regime for existing investors will demonstrate the support of the government for the conditions key export sectors of the economy face when their current and future operations are highly uncertain.

New investors will also observe how the government has accommodated these concerns. We all want a win-win to avoid contractions and job losses by existing investors and to attract a large share of the huge amounts of manufacturing investment relocating into Southeast Asia.

Last Paragraph of New Section 311 (C) – on Footloose Project or Activity

We recommend that the last paragraph of Section 311, particularly the 2nd requirement for the qualification of a footloose project or activity to be reworded, as follows:

“For purposes of this Section, a footloose project or activity shall meet all of the following conditions: (1) It is is a manufacturing activity or project;

(2) it has a labor cost to depreciation expense of capital equipment ratio of at least 70% for three consecutive years immediately preceding the year of implementation of this Act; xxx xxx”

New Section 312 - Structural Adjustment Fund

We strongly recommend that SB 1357 adopt the Structural Adjustment Fund proposed under HB 4157 to support the IT-BPO industry to help prepare Filipino employees maintain their competitive advantage and employability. We believe that the Structural Adjustment Fund of PhP 5 Billion will be a major and critical aid in training Filipino employees to graduate from standard voice calls into higher value-added services like software development, robotic processes and automation, and even R&D for artificial intelligence.

New Section 10 (A) (6) and Section 10 (B) (1) – (removal of IPA’s authority)

Finally, our strong clamor is to retain the full authority of PEZA, SBMA, CDC, and other IPAs’ full authority to process and approve applications for registration of registrable projects or activities under the SIPP. We believe that credit should be given where credit is due and given their proven track record of efficiency for so many years, the trust and confidence of foreign investors in these IPAs as corruption-free agencies, and their ability to promote the Philippines and attract foreign investments into the country, the said bodies should be allowed to retain their powers and functions.

We believe that the safeguards put in place by the government such as TIMTA and all the administrative reporting requirements placed on zone registrants are more than enough check-and-balance mechanisms already to make sure that the agencies do not overstep their authority.

In this regard, we respectfully **request the deletion of new Section 10 (A)(6) and Section 10(B)(1) in SB 1357.**

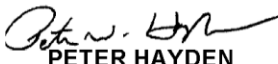
In conclusion, we look forward to working with you and your Senate colleagues as you move to complete consideration of the CITIRA (CREATE) SB 1357. We are all aware that CITIRA (CREATE) was planned in better economic times. However, now it must be adjusted as a vital stimulus measure of the national government needed to strengthen investment flows when the world is facing the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

We trust our comments and suggestions will merit your consideration in the deliberations of this bill and look forward to any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,




ERNESTO M. ORDÓÑEZ
Chairman
Alyansa Agrikultura



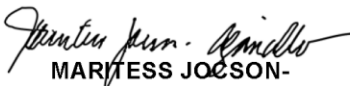
PETER HAYDEN
President
American Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines



DANIEL ALEXANDER
President
Australian-New Zealand
Chamber of Commerce of the
Philippines




JULIAN PAYNE
President
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**MARIESS JOOSON-
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Executive Director
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Exporters of the Philippines



NABIL FRANCIS
President
European Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines



DR. HENRY LIM BON LIONG
President
The Federation of Filipino-
Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, Inc.




REY UNTAL
President & CEO
Information Technology and Business
Process Association of the Philippines



KEIICHI MATSUNAGA
President
Japanese Chamber of
Commerce & Industry of the
Philippines Inc.



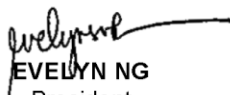
HO-IK LEE
President
Korean Chamber of Commerce of
the Philippines, Inc.



EDGAR O. CHUA
Chairman
Makati Business Club




ATTY. FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President
Management Association
of the Philippines




EVELYN NG
President
Philippine Association of
Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.



FRANCISCO ZALDARRIAGA
President
Philippine Ecozones Association



DANILO LACHICA
President
Semiconductor & Electronics
Industries in the Philippines, Inc.



MICHAEL MICHALAK
Senior Vice President and
Regional Managing Director
US-ASEAN Business Council

Attachments: 1. Matrix comparing the Philippines and Vietnam
2. Matrix comparing amendments recommended in this paper and CREATE

Copy: All senators
DOF Sec. Dominguez
DOF Asec. Lambino
DTI Sec. Lopez
DTI Usec. Rodolfo
NEDA Act. Sec. Chua
PEZA DG Plaza

MAP Statement on the CAP ON CREDIT CARD INTEREST RATES

August 25, 2020

“The BSP Governor’s proposal, coupled with the 60-day payment deferment under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, will provide big relief to businesses and individuals using credit cards, many of whom have found themselves jobless as a result of the pandemic.

We understand that the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) is supportive of the proposal and that is a clear indication how the banking industry is bending over backwards to help our countrymen during this critical period.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

August 26, 2020

SECRETARY ARTHUR P. TUGADE
Department of Transportation (DOTr)
APO Court along Sergio Osmeña Street
Clark Freeport Zone
Pampanga

Re: Public Transportation in NCR - Recommendations for Further Improvements

Dear Secretary Tugade,

The MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP) is pleased to submit, for your consideration, the attached recommendations for the further improvement of Public Transportation in the National Capital Region (NCR). Such improvement, in terms of availability, comfort and safety, further ensures the protection of commuters' health and life and is in consonance with, and in support of the posting in your website that "Human Life is Priceless".

PREMISES:

1. Public transportation is required to allow/ensure that workers and commuters arrive in their destinations safely and in good health recognizing that "Human Life is Priceless".
2. Roads are shared by the following means of transportation: Buses, Jeepneys, Private Vehicles (ex. cars) and Mass Transit, such as Light Rail. Thus, the transport system should be treated as a **HOLISTIC SYSTEM**.
3. The bus problem cannot be solved without solving the problem of other users particularly: jeepneys and private vehicles. However, for purposes of this letter, we have limited discussions to **immediate issues vis a vis BUSES, JEEPNEYS and LIGHT RAIL**. PRIVATE VEHICLES are briefly discussed in the section on medium term action.
4. **COVID-19** is a virus we may have to live with over an indefinite period requiring periodic quarantine/lockdown (hopefully on a localized basis); thus, we strongly recommend that **public transportation be reclassified as an essential industry that must not be suspended during a selective quarantine/lockdown but the number of buses, jeepneys, light rail trips and tricycles should be reduced to comply with the level of quarantine/lockdown.**

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS -- IMMEDIATE

1. BUSES

1.1 Dedicated Bus Lane - Speed Limiters

Maximum 40 kms. an hour by requiring all buses to have speed limiters to minimize accidents due to over-speeding, specially given the narrow lanes they are given in several sections, such as an overpass or underpass.

1.2 Bus Runs

Follow schedule with fixed headway (2-3 minutes), 1 minute to unload or pick up passengers in the designated bus stops.

1.3 Strict Enforcement/Penalties for Violations of Speed Limits and Loading/Unloading Time

- 1.3.1 Driver - cancellation of license;
- 1.3.2 Operator/Owner - heavy fine (P50K) and no LTFRB clearance to operate until fine is paid.

1.4 Technology/Accreditation

1.4.1 GPS/CCTV

Monitor bus movement on real time basis and check/address traffic chokepoints thru CCTV monitors.

1.4.2 Certification

ISO certification for bus operators to ensure compliance with best practices in public transport management. This is also an excellent opportunity to weed out “*colorum*” buses as they will not be able to secure required certifications.

1.5 Bus Terminals/Center Islands along EDSA

Complete and operate the 16 locations that follow the MRT line mentioned by MMDA ASEC Celine Pialago in her DZBB interview on July 29, 2020. During the interim period while permanent pedestrian access (with PWD access) for the center island bus terminals are being constructed, the timing of the bus arrivals and the MRT arrivals/departures from the MRT station should be synchronized as much as possible so that a seamless flow between MRT and bus passengers is achieved.

1.6 Commuter Safety and Protection - Bus Terminal Access Facilities for Pregnant Women, PWDs and Seniors

Immediate construction of a bus terminal to serve as a model and template for the other stations to include:

- 1.6.1 Escalators - at least two per station;
- 1.6.2 Elevator - capacity for 6 persons;
- 1.6.3 Stairways and Crosswalks - easy access, well lighted, well guarded 24/7.

1.7 Feeder Roads to EDSA

A holistic approach requires that improvements to public transportation along EDSA should also result in improvements along the major feeders roads to EDSA in Pasay, Makati, Mandaluyong, Quezon City and Calocan - some examples are Quezon Boulevard and Commonwealth Avenue.

2. JEEPNEYS

Jeepneys are necessary to meet Metro Manila transport demands.

2.1 Health Protocols

Jeepneys must be allowed to operate but under strict monitoring and regulation by LTFRB, the LGU and the barangay where their terminals are located to ensure that Health Protocols are complied with.

2.2 Cooperatives/Consortia/Route Rationalization/Vehicle Inspection System

There is a need to deploy jeepneys as soon as possible due to public need for which rationalization of jeepneys should be considered in terms of consortia, a strict vehicle inspection system and driver's fixed salaries (rather than the current boundary system).

2.2.1 Re-organize into consortias

Routes (including feeder routes) to be allocated to different consortia - one consortium per route and one franchise per route or consortium; similar to the system for buses.

2.2.2 Vehicle Inspection System

LTO **MUST** ensure that only roadworthy vehicles are allowed to register and operate.

2.2.3 Fixed Salaries/Underground Economy

Pay fixed salaries to drivers, instead of the present boundary system, to eliminate disorderly competition for passengers and restore some order to our streets. This will also facilitate registration in government agencies (ex., DOLE, SSS, PhilHealth) while also facilitating tax collection forcing the underground economy to surface. Modernization must be implemented as we enter the new normal.

2.2.4 Jeepney Terminals/Jeepney Runs/Jeepney Stops

All of the above will facilitate the establishment of jeepney terminals to be manned by LGU and barangay personnel to ensure compliance with health protocols in the terminals and the vehicles prior to departure. It will also ensure that jeepneys follow a fixed schedule (similar to the bus run) and that the pick-up and unloading of passengers are only in designated jeepney stops. Violators of jeepney stops to suffer heavy penalties, not only the driver, but also the operator/owner.

3. RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN NCR

The NCR is served by four rail lines, namely, Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT-1), LRT-2, Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) and the Philippine National Railway (PNR).

Movement of people and cargo via rail is recognized to be one of the most efficient forms of public transportation as it allows high passenger throughput, exclusive right of way and use of full rolling stock.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, average daily ridership of the rail service was around 500,000 vs. 112,000 daily ridership from June 1-25, or 22% of pre-COVID-19 ridership (June 25, 2020 Philippine News Agency article, "DOTr reported total 2,799,025 passenger transported or 111,961 passengers a day). The 22% load factor is much lower than the 50% average load factor allowed for buses and jeepneys.

Thus, we strongly recommend that the Rail Transit System be allowed to operate at a 50% load factor just like the other forms of public transportation to further facilitate the seamless flow of passengers from the rail system to the buses and jeepneys while also ensuring that all health protocols are strictly enforced and followed.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS - MEDIUM TERM

1. Private Vehicles

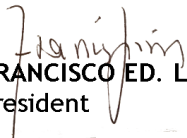
Congestion pricing should be considered for private vehicles to manage congestion in the still to be identified business centers and chokepoints in the 17 LGUs that compose the National Capital Region.


Letter to Sec. ARTHUR P. TUGADE
August 26, 2020

2. **MMDA**
In the holistic approach to transportation, MMDA's powers should be reviewed and improved either through an EO or legislation or both.
3. **Road Transport Corridor**
Ideally, the road transport corridor should be 1/3 for people - pedestrians and bicycles; 1/3 for trees and landscaping; and 1/3 for moving traffic lanes for vehicles.

Please kindly refer to the Attachment for details and we would be pleased to further discuss the above recommendations with you if you so desire.

Very truly yours,


FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President


RUY Y. MORENO
Chair, MAP Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee

cc: Sec. CARLOS G. DOMINGUEZ III, DOF
Sec. RAMON M. LOPEZ, DTI
Sec. KARL KENDRICK T. CHUA, NEDA
Sec. CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR., IATF

August 26, 2020

MAP Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Detailed Recommendations

BASIC PREMISES

1. Public transportation is required to allow/ensure that workers and commuters arrive safely and in good health in their destinations for “Human Life is Priceless”.
2. Roads are shared by the following means of transportation: Buses, Jeepneys, Private Vehicles (cars, vans) and Mass Transit, such as Light Rail. Thus, the transport system should be treated as a **SYSTEM** (or holistically).
3. The bus problem cannot be solved without solving the problem of other users: jeepneys and other private vehicles. However, for purposes of this document, we have limited discussions to immediate issues *vis-a-vis* **BUSES** and **JEEPNEYS and LIGHT RAIL**. **Private vehicles** are briefly discussed in the section on medium term action.
4. **COVID-19** is a virus we may have to live with over an indefinite period requiring periodic lockdowns (hopefully on a localized basis), thus we strongly recommend that **public transportation be reclassified as an essential industry** so that such **should not be suspended during a quarantine/lockdown - instead, the number of buses, jeepneys and tricycles should be reduced to comply with the quarantine/lockdown level.**

BACKGROUND

1. Letter to DOTr

In April 2020, MAP submitted to DOTR Sec. Tugade, with copy to IATF, a letter recommending limited public transportation, particularly buses, to travel along EDSA to facilitate the movement of people to allow them to commute to work (while following health safety protocols) to help revive the economy. We are pleased to note that DOTR accepted most of the recommendations.

2. Public Transportation - Areas for Immediate Action

2.1 BUSES

2.1.1 Dedicated bus lane

Located on the innermost lane beside the center island with 16 planned bus stops from MOA to Monumento along EDSA (radio interview of MMDA ASEC Celine Pialago, DZBB, July 29, 2020) that follow the MRT line.

- Speed limiters

Minimize accidents by installing Speed Limiters in the buses to ensure maximum speed of 40kph to minimize accidents due to over-speeding, given the narrow lanes they are given in several sections, such as an overpass or underpass.

2.1.2 **Bus Runs**

Follow a schedule “*a la*” MRT with a fixed headway (2-3 minutes); allow only 1 minute to unload or pick up passengers in the designated bus stops that follow the MRT line along EDSA. The timing of the bus arrivals and the MRT arrivals/departures from the MRT station should be synchronized as much as possible so that a seamless flow between MRT and bus passengers is achieved.

2.1.3 **Strict Enforcement/Penalties**

Speed limits (exceeding 40kph by disabling the speed limiter) and loading/unloading time in bus stops must be strictly and equitably enforced. Cancellation of driver license violating speed limits and bus stop time limits. Bus owner/operator to be heavily fined (suggest P50K/violation) and no LTFRB clearance to operate until fine is paid. Operating the bus while fine is not paid shall result in immediate cancellation of the bus line franchise to operate.

2.1.4 **Technology/Accreditation**

2.1.4.1 **GPS**

Use GPS to monitor the buses on a real-time basis, and remind/ reprimand drivers soonest of any infraction(s) that may not have been noticed by the authorities.

2.1.4.2 **CCTV**

Review on a real-time and daily basis the recordings of the MMDA Operations Center to identify systemic chokepoints for deployment of traffic personnel to ensure that the chokepoints are continuously cleared. This is to include recommendations on the infrastructure to be installed/built in the area (ex. traffic lights).

2.1.4.3 **Certification**

ISO Certification for bus operators to ensure best practices in transport management are followed. This is also an excellent opportunity to weed out “colorum” buses as they will not be able to secure the required certification.

2.1.5 **Bus Terminals/Center Islands along EDSA**

A visual count, in a drive along EDSA on July 28, identified approximately 9 locations (out of 16 mentioned by ASEC Pialago, DZBB, July 29, 2020) that DOTR had identified to be center island bus terminals:

2.1.5.1 Guadalupe (Makati) - operational

2.1.5.2 Megamall (Mandaluyong) - operational

2.1.5.3 Main Avenue (Quezon City) - operational

2.1.5.4 Quezon Blvd (Quezon City)

2.1.5.5 Trinoma (Quezon City)

2.1.5.6 EDSA, in front of Floor Center near Wilcon (Quezon City)

2.1.5.7 Just before Balintawak turning right to NLEX (Quezon City)

2.1.5.8 After Balintawak in front of Honda (Caloocan)

2.1.5.9 Before Monumento in front of MCU Hospital (Caloocan)

No bus terminal was seen between Cubao and Quezon Blvd. heading north and, heading south, from Rockwell all the way to MOA Pasay.

2.1.6 **Commuter Safety and Protection - Bus Terminal Access Facilities**

To ensure the safety and comfort of commuters, DOTR should immediately construct and finish in one month (if possible) a model Bus Terminal station to accommodate all types of commuters, i.e., PWDs, pregnant women and senior citizens consisting of:

2.1.6.1 Escalators

Two escalators - one going down and another going up (always well maintained and running).

2.1.6.2 Elevator

Capacity - 6 persons; can also accommodate groceries or suitcases (well maintained and running); air-conditioned preferably; two electric fans, minimum

2.1.6.3 Stairway and Crosswalk

Well-lit and guarded stairway and crosswalk that has a roof to protect users from the sun, the rain, illegal vendors, beggars and bad elements (well-maintained and guarded 24/7)

The above will minimize the current use of the emergency exits of the MRT station while showing commuters that the government cares about their health and safety. The model station can be replicated in the other stations along EDSA.

During the interim period while permanent pedestrian access for the center island bus terminals are being constructed, the timing of the bus arrivals and the MRT arrivals/departures should be synchronized as much as possible so that a seamless flow between MRT and bus passengers is achieved.

2.1.7 Center Lane Flyovers (ex., turning left to Ortigas Ave in Mandaluyong and Tramo in Pasay)

These structures will likely stay and can be seen as major obstacles to the inner bus lane scheme if not addressed properly. We propose, for consideration, that traffic aides be assigned in such areas to ensure that the buses on the bus lane have priority *vis-a-vis* a private vehicles turning into the flyover. Having a traffic aide controlling bus and private vehicle flow will ensure that accidents are avoided.

2.1.8 Feeder Roads to EDSA

To ensure continuous success of the bus lane concept, it is imperative that there be another plan concurrently being readied for the secondary roads, including a trial run as soon as possible.

2.1.8.1 Public Transport

What public transport will be allowed on these roads?

2.1.8.2 Major Feeder Roads

For major feeder roads, such as **Quezon Ave onto Commonwealth Ave**, will DOTr implement the inner bus lane scheme? Or does DOTr have another scheme for these roads?

2.1.8.3 Boni and Shaw Blvd

Will there be other strategies for narrower roads, such as Boni and Shaw Blvd?

2.1.8.4 No Bicycle Lane on EDSA

Due to the high possibility of accidents (particularly at night), stop the implementation of bicycle lanes on EDSA, unless it is on an elevated area, as once proposed, to include covered and lighted (as needed) walking lanes. DOTr can assign a secondary route parallel to EDSA that allows bicycles and motorbikes.

2.1.8.5 Clearing of Sidewalks and Illegal Structures

MMDA, together with the LGUs, must vigorously continue the clearing of sidewalks and illegal structures both on EDSA and the feeder roads.

2.2 JEEPNEYS

2.2.1 Background

Jeepneys are necessary to meet Metro Manila transport demands.

2.2.1.1 Health Protocols

Thus, so long as they follow health protocols, jeepneys must be allowed to operate but under strict monitoring and regulation by LTFRB and, most importantly, by the LGU and the barangay(s) where their terminals are located.

2.2.1.2 Cooperatives/Consortia/Route Rationalization/Vehicle Inspection System

Jeepney operators, just like bus operators, should be encouraged - if not required - to organize themselves into consortia, or cooperatives. Jeepney routes could then be allocated to each consortium, one consortium per route. As modernization will take time and there is a need to deploy jeepneys as soon as possible due to public need, it may be best to consider the rationalization of jeepneys in terms of consortia, a strict vehicle inspection system and driver's fixed salaries (rather than the current boundary system).

(a) Re-organization into consortia

Routes (including feeder routes) should be allocated - as equitably as possible - to different consortia; one consortium per route and one franchise per route or consortium; similar to the system being adopted for buses.

(b) Vehicle Inspection System

LTO **MUST** ensure that only roadworthy units are to register and operate. Modernization must be implemented as we enter the new normal.

2.2.2.3 Fixed Salaries/Underground Economy

To eliminate disorderly competition for passengers and restore some order in our streets, drivers should be paid fixed salaries instead of the present boundary system. Such a system will also facilitate registration of drivers with government agencies (SSS, PhilHealth, PagIBIG, BIR) and will facilitate access to benefits and tax collection, forcing facets of the underground economy to surface.

2.2.2 Jeepney Terminals/Jeepney Runs/Jeepney Stops

2.2.2.1 Jeepney Terminals

The above will facilitate the establishment of jeepney terminals at the beginning of the route and also at the end of the route that would serve as the terminal for the return route.

The terminals should be manned by LGU and barangay personnel to ensure compliance and enforcement of health protocols particularly that face masks and shields are kept on at all times, sanitizers are available in the terminals and also on the jeepneys including social distancing by passengers. If possible, the jeepneys should include LGU and/or barangay security personnel tasked to ensure continuous compliance with health protocols and traffic rules.

2.2.2.2 Jeepney run

Follow a schedule "a la" MRT with a fixed headway (dispatch every 5 minutes depending on the hour) and allow only 2 minutes to load/unload in a jeepney stop.

2.2.2.3 Jeepney stops

There should be designated jeepney stops along the route between terminals - any jeepney that unloads or picks up passengers in non-designated jeepney stops: the driver's license shall be immediately confiscated and suspended for three months with the jeepney operator paying a fine of P25K and shall not be allowed by LTFRB to operate until the fine is paid by showing LTFRB the payment receipt.

2.3 RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM IN NCR

The National Capital Region (NCR) is served by four rail lines, namely, Light Rail Transit 1 (LRT-1), LRT-2, Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) and the Philippine National Railway (PNR).

Movement of people and cargo via rail is recognized to be one of the most efficient forms of public transportation as it allows high passenger throughput, exclusive right of way and use of full rolling stock.

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, average daily ridership of the rail service was around 500,000. In a June 25, 2020 Philippine News Agency (PNA) article, DOTr reported total passenger transported totalled 2,799,025 (June 1-25) or 111,961 passengers a day or only 22% of pre-COVID-19 ridership.

Though the 22% is higher than the permitted load factor of 13% per trainset, this is much lower than the 50% average load factor allowed for buses and jeepneys.

Thus, we strongly recommend that the Rail Transit System be allowed to operate at the 50% load factor just like the other forms of public transportation with the commensurate health protocols in place.

MEDIUM TERM

1. Private Vehicles (ex., cars, vans)

Since jeepneys and private vehicles will be sharing the remaining road space not reserved for buses, and as the implementation for the smooth re-introduction of the proposed changes in the operations of buses and jeepneys moves forward, the imposition of congestion pricing (and its attendant equipment requirement and pricing structure) for private vehicles should be considered in order to manage congestion in our streets, particularly in the yet to be identified business centers and chokepoints in the 17 LGUs that compose the NCR.

2. MMDA

2.1 Executive Order (EO)

Prior to the March 15, 2020 lockdown, MAP President Francis Lim, together with some members of the MAP Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, met with the MMDA leadership and agreed to help in securing a stronger mandate, thru an EO from the Office of the President, that would strengthen MMDA's authority particularly in relation to transportation matters in the NCR.

2.2 Legislation

Work with MMDA, the LGUs in NCR, and Congress to amend the MMDA charter to give the agency more powers on basic services in the NCR to ensure consistency of policies and enforcement across the 17 LGUs in NCR.

2.3 Road Transport Corridor

Ideally, the road transport corridor should be 1/3 for people - pedestrians and bicycles; 1/3 for trees and landscaping; and 1/3 for moving traffic lanes for vehicles.

These should help encourage health protocols, such as social distancing while also being environmentally friendly, inclusive, affordable, democratic and less costly. Some such modes are:

2.3.1 Walking and Bicycle Lanes

Encouraged by building elevated covered walkways and bicycle lanes.

2.3.2 Water Transport System

Continuous and regular use of the Pasig River from Pateros to Binondo (and back) with stops in between. Provision of protected and, possibly high rise, parking facilities for vehicles in each of the stations to encourage vehicle owners to take the commuter boat.

2.3.3 Rail Transport System - Linked to Divisoria and to the MRT System

Cargo (ex., fresh produce from Central/Northern Luzon) could be dropped off in Clark in the north for transport via rail directly to the Divisoria station. Passengers could also be encouraged to take the train from Clark to transfer to MRT stations that would serve as a hub and spoke system.

A similar approach could be taken for goods coming from the south, namely, a drop-off station in either Calamba or Alabang for both cargo and passengers.



The 7 Commandments for Lives and Livelihoods
Amongst the Most Comprehensive Health Measures in the World
16 September 2020

The undersigned business and professional organizations call for revitalizing the country safely and restoring livelihoods, by gradually increasing public transport capacity, in conjunction with the “The 7 Commandments” of public health measures proposed yesterday by an expert panel of doctors led by former DOH Secretary Dr. Manuel Dayrit ([please see attached](#)).

We recognize that most Filipinos still need to move around to reach their workplaces, meet essential daily needs, and provide assistance to the vulnerable sectors. Limiting public transportation encourages more crowding and longer queuing, which lead to further exposure to the virus. People should practice physical distancing where appropriate but be given alternative options to relax this requirement where the risks are manageable.

We believe that the safe and gradual increase in public transport capacity is a critical step towards achieving the long-term objective of building a revitalized and more resilient Philippines. To restart the economy safely, there is a need to immediately focus on rebuilding national confidence through vigilance, discipline, and education through the 5T’s Plan (see below), of which Transportation is at present the key bottleneck.

- A. T3 (Test, Trace, Treat): Public and private collaboration to support the National Task Force’s plan of “Prevent, Detect, Isolate, Treat, and Recover (PDITR) and ensure safety of workplace
- B. Transportation: Safe public transportation to enable mobility of consumers and workers
- C. Transformation: Shifting mindsets to shared responsibility among government, citizens, and the private sector to enable coexistence with the virus

Under Transportation, we must both (a) increase the overall supply of various modes of transport (buses, trains, jeeps, TNVS, motorcycle taxis, walking, cycling, and shuttles), and (b) increase vehicle capacity utilization safely, to ensure that more Filipinos can go back to work.

In this view, we recommend that the government adopts “The 7 Commandments”, which their medical expert proponents believe allow us to manage viral transmissions well even when reducing physical distancing requirements. Backed by science and global best practices, this combination of health measures will be one of the strictest in the world and will enable better public transport:

1. Wearing of proper **face masks**
2. Wearing of **face shields**
3. **No talking and no eating**
4. Adequate **ventilation**
5. Frequent and proper **disinfection**
6. **No symptomatic** passengers
7. **Appropriate physical distancing**



We believe a combination of these measures will be amongst the most comprehensive in the world. By ensuring strict enforcement, we would be able to relax physical distancing requirements in order to increase our current public transport capacity, while minimizing the spread of the virus.

With regards to appropriate physical distancing, the World Health Organization recommends: **“To the extent possible, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other passengers when purchasing tickets, waiting to board public transport, and moving around public transport stations.”**¹

We agree with Dr. Dayrit and the expert panel of doctors that “while WHO recommends keeping a distance of 1 meter from other passengers to the extent possible, it allows for adjustments based on context. Given our other recommended health interventions, we propose the gradual reduction of the physical distancing norm during transit to 0.5 meters or lower. Based on our review of the scientific literature and the policies and experiences of neighboring countries, we believe the evidence shows physical distancing can be maintained below 1 meter, so long as other health measures are also implemented.”

Given the above recommendations, we support the Department of Transportation’s plans to gradually relax distancing so long as the 7 Commandments are well communicated and strictly enforced alongside it. Its rollout must be done with the proper pace and caution under monitoring and evaluation by public health experts, who can recommend a return to stricter measures should the situation require it. We believe that the issues of safety and supply are both addressed and given equal importance. We need to adopt a holistic mindset in approaching this pandemic situation in order to revitalize the country safely.

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For further information, please contact Romeo Bernardo, Vice Chairman of Foundation for Economic Freedom at romeo.lopez.bernardo@gmail.com.

¹ WHO_Europe. (2020, April 22). 📱 If you need to use public transport, make sure to practice physical distancing and keep at least one metre from other passengers. #COVID19 #coronavirus [Tweet]. https://twitter.com/who_europe/status/1252902465378430976

Seven Commandments To Revitalize the Country Safely
Medical Experts Recommend Strict Health Protocols for Public Transportation
September 15, 2020

While the efforts of the IATF, the Department of Health, and the One Hospital Command to address the COVID-19 pandemic have successfully increased and improved current hospital capacity, there is now an urgent need to revitalize our country. We need to emerge from the current recession that has severely impacted livelihoods. This will enable our countrymen to work again, so that they can feed their families and support their communities. The economic enablement of Filipinos translates to their health and welfare.

However, we cannot build back the economy without increasing public transport capacity, which has been operating at only 20-30% of pre-pandemic levels due to understandable fears of outbreaks arising from congested public transport spaces.

We write this statement as an expert panel of doctors with diverse backgrounds, including public health, epidemiology and infectious diseases, all with the intention of seeing our country get back on its feet as safely as possible. What we outline below was presented to several IATF members yesterday, September 14, 2020, as part of a more comprehensive set of recommendations to aid the country in reviving the economy while adhering to comprehensive public health standards.

We advocate strictly implementing what we call the **7 Commandments**, for all public transportation:

1. Wearing of proper **face masks**
2. Wearing of **face shields**
3. **No talking and no eating**
4. Adequate **ventilation**
5. Frequent and proper **disinfection**
6. **No symptomatic passengers**
7. **Appropriate physical distancing**

We believe that the combination of these measures will be amongst the most comprehensive in the world, based on our consultation with international experts. These 7 Commandments need to be strictly enforced and independently monitored in their implementation. By imposing these strict measures, we believe we can gradually relax social distancing rules, in order to double or even triple our current public transport capacity, without compromising public health.

A recent study from Duke University², for example, shows that surgical masks reduce droplet transmission by up to 99%, and that the simple act of not talking can reduce droplet counts by up to 4x. In addition, a meta-analysis published on June 22, 2020 in *The Lancets*, a leading

² Fischer, E.P., Fischer, M.C., Grass, D., Henrion, I., Warren, S.W., Westman, E. (2020, Sept 2). *Low-cost measurement of face mask efficacy for filtering expelled droplets during speech*. *ScienceAdvances*. <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/36/eabd3083>

³ Chu, D.K., Akl, A., Duda, S., Solo, K., Yaacoub, S., Schünemann, H., et al. (2020, June 1). *Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic*

international medical journal, shows that face masks and face shields can independently reduce the chance of viral transmission by up to 5-fold and 3-fold, respectively. In China, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Vietnam, and other countries, passengers wear face masks while sitting side-by-side in trains, while COVID cases remain manageable.

With regards to appropriate physical distancing, the World Health Organization recommends: **“To the extent possible, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other passengers when purchasing tickets, waiting to board public transport, and moving around public transport stations.”**⁴

While WHO recommends keeping a distance of 1 meter from other passengers to the extent possible, it allows for adjustments based on context. Given our other recommended health interventions, we propose the gradual reduction of the physical distancing norm **during transit** to 0.5 meters or lower. Based on our review of the scientific literature and the policies and experiences of neighboring countries, we believe the evidence shows physical distancing can be maintained below 1 meter, so long as other health measures are also implemented.

To be clear, there are many more layers to our proposal and the studies we are reviewing. Public policy has no quick-and-easy solutions, and addressing the transport crisis in this pandemic is no exception. Where possible, we would like to engage in further dialogue with the IATF, medical and transportation experts, and other stakeholders, about our proposal. We also encourage a discussion of other groups' thoughts on health and other matters, including the overall increase of the supply of safe public transportation such as rail, buses, jeepneys, motorcycle taxis, and Transport Network Vehicle Services (TNVS), and the use of other options such as cycling, walking, and private shuttles. We also recommend the full institutionalization of private sector expert consultation to further improve our overall management of the economy and public health.

The comparative toll on Filipinos from a further prolonged recession is much more devastating than the manageable risks entailed in our plan. We believe that there is a way forward that carefully balances a careful reopening of public transport capacity, with public health, while allowing purposeful flexibility to re-adjust measures based on actual and evolving data from the ground.

The success of this plan is by no means guaranteed. It relies on the proper implementation and enforcement of these measures by the relevant agencies. Critically, it also requires the education of the public, who must take full responsibility for compliance with the 7 Commandments. This plan's success also rests on continuous monitoring and data-driven evaluation by public health experts.

review and meta-analysis. The Lancet. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext#seccestitle170](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext#seccestitle170)

⁴ WHO_Europe. (2020, April 22). 🗺️ If you need to use public transport, make sure to practice physical distancing and keep at least one metre from other passengers. #COVID19 #coronavirus [Tweet]. https://twitter.com/who_europe/status/1252902465378430976

It is our hope that by working together, we can implement these public health measures to revitalize our country safely and give Filipinos their lives back.

Respectfully,

Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit
Former Secretary
Department of Health

Dr. Vicente Belizario, Jr.
Dean
College of Public Health
UP Manila

Dr. Teodoro Herbosa
Special Advisor
NTF against COVID-19
Former Undersecretary
Department of Health

Dr. Manuel Francisco T. Roxas
Director
Philippine College of Surgeons Cancer Commission

Dr. Esperanza Cabral
Former Secretary
Department of Health

Dr. Ma. Dominga Padilla
Founder and CEO of Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines

Dr. Rontgene Solante
Infectious Disease Specialist

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Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit is leading the medical panel of experts that has submitted its recommendations to the IATF. For further information please contact him at 0925 – 514 – 0495 or mdayrit@ateneo.edu.

MAP Press Statement on the Removal of GSP Preferences by the EU

September 22, 2020

“We fervently hope that the removal of the GSP preferences by the EU countries will not push through. It will make our products less competitive and will seriously impact on several industries. It will increase the number of the unemployed among our countrymen at the time when they most need jobs.

Our economy will suffer more damage, especially given the contraction we are already experiencing with the pandemic.

Our government should not take the matter lightly for the sake of our people. We hope it will be discussed and addressed by both parties in a mutually satisfactory manner.”

FRANCIS LIM
MAP President



October 5, 2020



BUSINESS GROUPS SUPPORT GRANDFATHERING, CONTINUITY, FOR ZONE EXPORTERS AND ROHQs IN THE CREATE BILL



Business groups are calling for Congress and the President to support proposals currently under debate in the Senate in the CREATE bill to support export industries located at Philippine export and special zones and regional operating headquarters and to protect jobs of employees.



Over 3,000 firms - almost all foreign-owned - engaged in manufacturing, business processing, and regional headquarters and employing nearly 2 million Filipinos are facing large increases in their future income taxes. The firms are predominantly American, Australian, Canadian, European, Korean, and Japanese. Some have operated in the country for decades, while others decided to invest in the Philippines more recently because of the quality workforce and fiscal incentives.



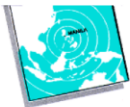
While located throughout the country, the firms are concentrated in Metro Manila, Baguio, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Cebu, and Davao. Their products and services comprise the Philippines' participation in a number of regional and global supply chains.



These investors are categorized by the World Bank as "efficiency seeking" and the fiscal incentives granted to them compensate for higher logistic, power, and other costs in the Philippines. Given that such costs are lower in many other ASEAN countries attracting investment, because they subsidize electricity for manufacturing, have fewer non-working holidays, and more efficient airports and seaports, the consistency of these incentives are critical to the global investment competitiveness of the Philippines.



The proposed CREATE bill is the fourth version of a tax bill since December 2017 which, as originally drafted, would have resulted in many of these firms downsizing or departing the country. Each subsequent version of the legislation made adjustments to encourage the firms to continue to expand in the Philippines.



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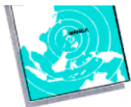


With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, UNCTAD has predicted FDI in Emerging Asia in 2019 to be -35 to -50% below 2019 and unlikely to return soon to pre-pandemic levels. Under these conditions, competition for reduced investment flows will intensify.



The pandemic has raised production costs for export firms, whose foreign markets have been badly impacted with depressed economic growth and massive employee layoffs. For this reason, the **companies proposed a five-year pause**





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before CREATE's tax reforms would apply to their operations and provided suggested language to the Senate in a letter shared with all senators.

However, as industry position papers always explained, the export **firms preferred the status quo** to continue the tax provisions they had been promised over the years to attract them to locate in the Philippines. These provisions were introduced 25 years ago after destabilizing coups, the Pinatubo eruption, and the turnover of empty military bases at Clark and Subic when the government became serious about attracting foreign investment. To attract investors, after the initial income tax holiday (ITH) incentive expired, a 5% gross income earned (GIE) tax would apply. Investors were told this rate would continue indefinitely, and they believed the government.

But today the government talks about imaginary "lost revenue," and seems unhappy that the firms have been profitable and expanded operations in the country. They are likewise insisting that companies will invest regardless of incentives. However, these firms face stiff competition with competitors in the global market and should not be similarly treated like domestic market firms. Clearly, given the closure of numerous ROHQs after TRAIN 1 took away their 15% preferential tax rate, it is undeniable that tax incentives matter. Incentives are, in many instances, one of the fundamental considerations for a company's decision to continue investing in a country.

Senate president pro tempore **senator Ralph Recto is proposing a grandfather provision to allow these export firms to continue to use their current incentives.** Sixty thousand workers are employed at these firms located at zones in the senator's hometown of Lipa, Batangas. Senator Recto wants them to keep their jobs and to attract more investment to locate on the hundreds of hectares of available land in Lipa export zones. These must also be the concerns of other government officials whose cities host export zone investors.

Senator Recto recently argued in the Senate that, after a transition period of 4, 5, 7, or 9 years, CREATE will double the income tax on most export firms located in Batangas. He is concerned these firms will leave, more firms will not invest, and Lipa will have fewer instead of more workers employed.

Senate Ways and Means Committee chairperson Pia Cayetano has done a remarkable job of managing a very complex bill. Along with her House counterpart, they have brought the bill closer to the desk of President Duterte.

She has said that these firms, when their incentives expire, can apply for new incentives so long as they continue to meet the employment, export, investment, and other conditions for which they received incentives.

In interpellation on September 29, Senator Cayetano stated: *"There can be an extension not longer than 12 years. It's actually a 4-year extension, not to*



exceed 12 years. After that, you can reapply again. There is no prohibition to reapply. It just depends on the SIPP. For so long as your business is captured by the SIPP, then you can apply and then they will evaluate you."



PAMURI



But the text of SB 1357 is still not clear whether existing registered business enterprises (RBEs) can register expansion activities and/or renew incentives, if qualified, after their incentives expire. In other words, there is nothing in SB 1357 that explicitly states existing RBEs can register their expansion activities or renew incentives when they expire. We respectfully emphasize that these benefits, namely, registration of expansion activities and renewal of incentives, were repeatedly promised to the private sector both by House Ways and Means committee chair Cong. Joey Salceda and former DOF Usec. Karl Chua in various fora and now by Senator Cayetano.

To avoid confusion, we reiterate a recommendation made in our position paper to make it clear that existing RBEs can register their expansion or renew their incentives after the transition periods provided for under CREATE.

We believe that giving the registrants the opportunity to register their expansion activities or renew their expiring incentives will further encourage foreign investment into the country and would still be in keeping with the government's aim to make the incentives time-bound and performance-based.

We urge that this addition for a new Section 304 (f) be included in an amendment to SB 1357. At the same time we strongly support the grandfathering proposal of Senator Recto, which will cover all IPAs and ROHQs approved under RA 8756.

We thank all the legislators and government officials who have listened to the arguments of export zone investors since 1995 when the DOF first proposed to rationalize fiscal incentives. We have always supported the goal of rationalization to achieve uniformity among IPAs to remove redundancy and unnecessary incentives. In the highly competitive world of global trade, the right menu of incentives remains necessary to retain existing investors and to attract new ones in order for the Philippines to catch up with countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Approved by the following business organizations:

- American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- Australian-New Zealand Commerce of the Philippines
- Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- Confederation of Wearable Exporters of the Philippines
- European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines
- Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines





Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of the Philippines
Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines



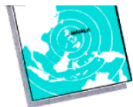
Makati Business Club
Management Association of the Philippines



Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc.
Philippine Ecozones Association



Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.
US-ASEAN Business Council



PAMURI



MAP Statement on the Suspension of Session of the House of Representatives

October 7, 2020

“We hope that the suspension will not delay the passage of the 2021 budget, which is even more critical now given the need to mitigate the impact of the current crisis.

The situation reminds us of the 2019 national budget, the enactment of which was delayed due to the impasse between the Senate and the House of Representatives. As a result, our GDP grew only 5.6 percent in the first quarter of 2019, much lower than the 6.5 percent growth recorded during the same period of 2018.

Let’s keep our fingers crossed that this sad situation will not repeat itself, otherwise our country’s economic recovery from the pandemic will be delayed to the further prejudice of our people.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP Statement on the Special Session of Congress

October 11, 2020

“The sudden suspension of the session of the House of Representatives a week before the recess of Congress deprived the House of fully deliberating upon the 2021 national budget.

This unfortunate situation makes probable the repeat of the impasse between the Senate and the House that attended the 2019 budget. As we may recall, the impasse caused the re-enactment of the 2018 budget to the massive damage of our economy.

We note with concern the observation of Rep. Stella Quimbo, a respected economist, that a re-enacted budget will exact a huge toll on the government’s coronavirus response and the economy. Needless to emphasize, this will cause further suffering to our people.

In this light, we laud and profusely thank the President for calling a special session of Congress on October 13-16 and certifying as urgent the 2021 budget. His decisive action will stem further suffering of our people, who deserve utmost help from our public servants at this critical time.

We call on our politicians to think of country first and subordinate their personal political interests to the public good. Your duty as public servants demands no less and anything short is an extreme disservice to our people.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP urges strict observance of the Seven Commandments

October 31, 2020

“We commend the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for easing the control measures in malls and other commercial centers, and expanding the group of people to ages 15 to 65 years who can now go out of their residences to help stimulate the economy.

This initiative is a concrete response to the clamor of 39% of our people that the Government should balance the needs of COVID-19 with the economy, particularly in the National Capital Region. It is a bold step intended to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on our economy, which is estimated to lose Php6 Billion daily even with the easing of community quarantine for most parts of the country.

We are especially gladdened that the DTI has adopted the recommendation of the private sector to put in place the Seven Commandments for health and safety standards and protocols, which are considered the most comprehensive in the world.

The Seven Commandments consist of: (1) wearing of mask; (2) wearing of face shields; (3) no talking and eating in public transports and similar settings; (4) adequate ventilation; (5) frequent and proper disinfection; (6) isolation of symptomatic and COVID positives; and (7) appropriate physical distancing.

We strongly urge our people to strictly observe the Seven Commandments. These are essential in regaining public confidence in our ability to contain COVID-19 while opening up our economy, and thereby minimize the suffering of our people from the pandemic.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP hopeful with President-elect Joe Biden

November 8, 2020

“The United States has been a very important ally and economic partner of the Philippines. There is an estimated 4 million Filipinos living in the United States. We are glad that America has a President-elect after a contentious political campaign and nail-biting electoral count.

We are emboldened by the victory speech of President-elect Joe Biden. We nurture the hope that he will lead America with steady hands in this difficult time given the enormous challenges, like reviving the virus economy, healing the divide in the nation and across nations, protecting democratic ideals around the world, addressing the imperatives of the environment and social inequality, and strengthening global cooperation, peace and stability.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association
of the Philippines (MAP)

**Philippine Business Groups
Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines**

American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc.
Bankers Association of the Philippines • Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • European Chamber of
Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines • Foundation for Economic Freedom
IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines • Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Phils.,
Inc. • Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Makati Business Club • Management Association of the
Philippines • Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. • Semiconductors
Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

November 11, 2020

Hon. Vicente C. Sotto
President of the Senate
Republic of the Philippines
Pasay City



Dear Senate President Sotto:

We write in relation to two bills declaring additional non-working holidays approved by the lower house and transmitted to the Senate. These bills would make July 27 of every year a special national non-working holiday (NWH) to commemorate the Founding Anniversary of *Iglesia ni Cristo* (Senate bill 481 and House Bill 5912); and declare the Chinese New Year's Day as a special non-working holiday (Senate Bill 1595 and House Bill 6570). Also there are at least 19 bills declaring local holidays.



The undersigned Philippine business groups and foreign chambers request the Senate to consider carefully the negative economic impact on the business sector of legislating additional non-working holidays. Instead of creating more NWHs through legislation, national competitiveness would be protected by making clear that both the Executive and Legislative branches will only support new working holidays and are opposed to new non-working holidays. There are many worthy proposals in Congress to commemorate various historical, cultural, and other worthy occasions which can be honored with working holidays.



In fact, in the previous Congresses, several laws have been enacted commemorating these holidays through working holidays. The Senate, through Local Government Committee Chair Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., also initiated converting proposals for local holidays into working holidays. A number of these bills were passed by the Senate and eventually enacted into laws as well.



The Senate actions were a positive indication that the Philippine government may be becoming more aware of and willing to seek to control the public sector from raising business costs.



One of the fastest-growing industries in the country, business process outsourcing estimates that every NWH costs more than Php 1 billion in extra expenses to pay for overtime. This in an industry where costs already exceed our leading competitor India by 15 to 20% and which has been burdened this year with high extra costs to maintain operations during the pandemic.

Furthermore, casual workers lose a day of pay for holidays when they are prevented from working. Even more under pandemic conditions, they cannot afford the luxury of another NWH.



According to DOLE, the total number of NWHs celebrated in the Philippines for the last five years has been:

Regular, special, and local non-working holidays in the Philippines, 2015-2019

Total	Year	Regular	Special	Local
23	2019	12	10	1
22	2018	12	9	1
20	2017	12	7	1
22	2016	12	9	1
25	2015	12	12	1

In addition, there are more than 100 local NWHs proclaimed each year resulting in additional NWHs in most provinces and cities.

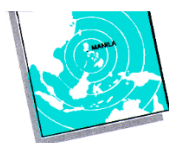
By contrast, the numbers of NWHs in some other selected countries in 2019 are:

Australia	9
China	19
Hong Kong	17
Malaysia	15
Philippines	23
Taiwan	15
Thailand	29
United Kingdom	8
United States	10
Vietnam	11

Source: Official government releases

Non-working holidays make the Philippines a less competitive economy by raising the cost of doing business. Although well-intentioned, having too many NWHs destroys jobs in the Philippines, where jobs are so inadequate that millions of citizens must leave to work abroad. They are also harmful to MSMEs who struggle to make ends meet. They make our factories and farms less productive and allow cheaper imports to damage local markets. The commitments the government has made in free trade treaties with ASEAN and others allows their products access to the Philippine market in exchange for Philippine products to enter foreign markets.

Beyond this, national competitiveness can be improved by a policy to rationalize and reduce the current high number of NWHs to be closer to the number in our main competing ASEAN economies. For example, the total number of NWHs could be reduced by five by (1) passing a law to combine the three NWHs for Benigno Aquino,



PAMURI

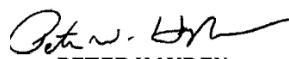


Andres Bonifacio, and Jose Rizal with National Heroes Day, (2) repealing either Eidl' Fitr or Eid'l Adha, (3) repealing the new December 8 NWH, and (4) ending the practice of proclaiming Chinese New Year as a non-working holiday, which has only been declared by President Duterte and President Aquino in recent years.

The Senate may also consider the proposal of Rep. Joey Salceda in House Bill 5032, limiting the number of non-working holidays to seven and giving employees the option to commemorate their chosen special days based on their cultural, religious, and personal preference. The bill also enjoins each local government unit to have only one local holiday to commemorate its founding heroes, or fiesta in its respective territory. This essentially means two local holidays, one for province and one for the town or city. Thus, bringing to nine the total regular non-working holidays.

In light of the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty of economic recovery, we strongly recommend that the Senate adopt a policy to examine all bills for their impact on national competitiveness and to strive to make our economy more able to compete with competitors. The Senate should be a partner for national competitiveness and avoid actions that further increase the cost of doing business in the Philippines.

With best regards,



PETER HAYDEN
President
American Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines



DANIEL ALEXANDER
President
Australian-New Zealand Chamber
of Commerce of the Philippines



BENJAMIN P. CASTILLO
Managing Director
Bankers Association of the
Philippines



JULIAN PAYNE
President
Canadian Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines



NABIL FRANCIS
President
European Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines



JOSE JEROME R. PASCUAL III
President
Financial Executives Institute of
the Philippines



CALIXTO CHIKIAMCO
President
Foundation for
Economic Freedom



REY UNTAL
President and CEO
IT and Business Process
Association of the Philippines



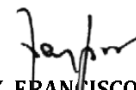
KEIICHI MATSUNAGA
President
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and
Industry of the Philippines, Inc.



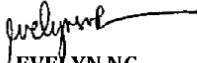
HOIK LEE
President
Korean Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



EDGAR O. CHUA
Chairman
Makati Business Club



ATTY. FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President
Management Association
of the Philippines


EVELYN NG
President

Philippine Association of
Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.


DANILO C. LACHICA
President

Semiconductor and Electronics
Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

cc: Speaker Lord Allan Velasco
Senate President Pro-Tempore Ralph Recto
Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri
Senate Minority Leader Franklin Drilon
Senator Francis Pangilinan
Senator Cynthia Villar
Senator Imee Marcos
Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla
Rep. Joey Salceda
Rep. Sharon Garin
Secretary of Labor Silvestre Bello
Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon Lopez
BOI Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo
NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua
Secretary of Finance Carlos Dominguez
PLLO Secretary Adelino Sitoy
Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles



Urgent Call for Efficient Disaster Response and Preparedness

November 16, 2020

We commend our member-companies and other private sector organizations who once again responded in real time to the immediate needs of our countrymen brought about by the recent typhoons.

We take special note that those initiatives are a concrete implementation of the Covenant for Shared Prosperity which our organizations have recently signed with the Management Association of the Philippines.

We express serious concern about the state of our country's disaster preparedness that could have minimized the untimely deaths of our countrymen, and avoided massive damage and destruction of property.

But even as we express this concern, we urge our countrymen to move forward in a coordinated and efficient fashion to mitigate the ill-effects of the recent typhoons, and prevent further loss of life and damage to property and the economy.

We encourage more and better public-private partnerships in making our LGUs less vulnerable to disasters, particularly in implementing extensive disaster-prevention measures, especially as recent disasters appear to be expanding in their geographic coverage and becoming more destructive in magnitude.

We call on the whole country to address the Environment and Climate Change which have accelerated the frequency of disasters, including destructive earthquakes, devastating typhoons, massive floods, catastrophic volcanic eruptions, and ravaging landslides.

We encourage our member-companies to continue and enhance their ongoing disaster relief operations, and at the same time urge our local government units (LGUs) to fully support these private sector initiatives bereft of any political agenda and opportunism.

Let us all continue doing our share in helping our disaster-stricken countrymen rise above their unfortunate situation.

1. American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (AMCHAM)
2. Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP)
3. Cebu Business Club (CBC)
4. Cebu Leads Foundation (CLF)
5. European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP)
6. Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)
7. Fintech Alliance
8. Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)
9. Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD)
10. Investment House Association of the Philippines (IHAP)
11. IT & Business Process Association of the Philippines, Inc. (IBPAP)
12. Judicial Reform Initiative (JRI)
13. Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)
14. People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP)
15. Philippine Women's Economic Network (PHILWEN)
16. Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI)
17. Shareholders' Association of the Philippines (SharePHIL)
18. UP School of Economics Alumni Association (UPSEAA)
19. Women's Business Council Philippines (WomenBizPh)

Philippine Business Groups Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines

Alyansa Agrikultura • American Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (Phils.), Inc. • Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • European Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. • Foundation for Economic Freedom • IT and Business Process Association of the Philippines • Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Phils., Inc. • Korean Chamber of Commerce of the Phils., Inc. • Makati Business Club • Management Association of the Philippines • Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters, Inc. • Semiconductors Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

November 26, 2020

HON. LORD ALLAN VELASCO

Speaker

House of Representatives

Batasan Hills, Quezon City



Dear Speaker Velasco:

As leading Philippine business groups and foreign chambers, we respectfully wish to respond to recent press statements on the priority bills of Congress to be taken up before it adjourns on December 19 for a month-long Christmas break.

We agree with your goal of ensuring the immediate passage of economic bills that will “jumpstart the economy and help the country rise above the devastating effects of the pandemic.”

Indeed, Congress has done its part in approving economic reform bills such as the amendments to Public Services Act, Retail Trade Act, Foreign Investments Act, and Agri-Agra Law, and the creation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. We hope that Congress can follow through until the full enactment of these bills by urging the Senate to pass their counterpart measures.

The recent meeting of House and Senate leaders to identify priority bills is a step in the right direction. Holding these meetings more often can lead to passage of more urgent laws that will directly and indirectly support recovery of the economy.

We also look forward to Congress finally enacting the bill creating the National Transportation Safety Board after languishing in the legislature for over two decades. The Senate has approved the bill on third and final reading and the House can do its part by passing the same. We can ill afford major transportation accidents causing the lives of many Filipinos, especially during this pandemic.

Aside from the above measures approaching approval and enactment, we request Congress to prioritize other economic bills which our groups are advocating. These are:

1. BOT Law amendments
2. Contractor's License Law amendments
3. Creation of the Department of Water
4. Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations bill
5. Faster Internet Services Act
6. Open Access in Data Transmission



Likewise, we agree to the passage of the other priority bills of Congress such as the:



JAPANESE

1. Coconut Farmers Trust Fund Bill
2. Creation of the Department of Water Resources and Water Regulatory Commission
3. Financial Institutions Strategic Transfer Act
4. Government Financial Institutions Unified Initiatives to Distressed Enterprises,
5. National Land Use Act



KOREAN

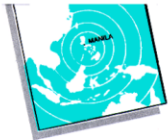
We also furnish you a copy of a letter from the seven members of the JFC with seven Philippine business groups sent to President Rodrigo Duterte at the beginning of the 18th Congress. These 14 leading business organizations identified 28 priority legislative reforms. A tracker for the status of the 28 measures is also attached. We are optimistic that the coming 12 months will be productive for this business agenda, as well as that of the president.



As we face the greatest challenge, possibly, of our lifetime that is the coronavirus disease pandemic, we have all the more reason to immediately enact game-changing laws that will help the country get back on track. It will be your legacy as new Speaker of the House to pass these landmark laws at this very trying times.



We also renew our congratulations to you on your new role as Speaker and look forward to your address on December 3 to the annual *Arangkada* Philippines forum of the Joint Foreign Chambers.



PAMURI

Thank you for considering our request.

Attachment: letter to President Duterte

With best regards,



ERNESTO M. ORDOÑEZ
Chairman
Alyansa Agrikultura

PETER HAYDEN
President
American Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines

DANIEL ALEXANDER
President
Australian-New Zealand Chamber
of Commerce of the Philippines

JULIAN PAYNE
President
Canadian Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines

NABIL FRANCIS
President
European Chamber of
Commerce of the Philippines

DR. HENRY LIM BON LIONG
President
The Federation of Filipino-
Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, Inc.

CALIXTO CHIKIAMCO
President
Foundation for
Economic Freedom

REY UNTAL
President and CEO
IT and Business Process
Association of the Philippines

KEIICHI MATSUNAGA
President
Japanese Chamber of Commerce and
Industry of the Philippines, Inc.



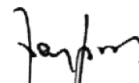
HOIK LEE
President

Korean Chamber of Commerce
of the Philippines, Inc.



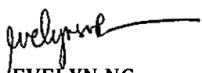
EDGAR O. CHUA
Chairman

Makati Business Club



ATTY. FRANCISCO ED. LIM
President

Management Association
of the Philippines



EVELYN NG
President

Philippine Association of
Multinational Companies
Regional Headquarters, Inc.



DANILO C. LACHICA
President

Semiconductor and Electronics
Industries in the Philippines, Inc.

cc: Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez

Sen. Grace Poe

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, III

Sen. Imee Marcos

Sen. Cynthia Villar

Sen. Panfilo Lacson

Sen. Emmanuel Pacquiao

Sen. Win Gatchalian

Sen. Nancy Binay

Rep. Edgar Mary Sarmiento

Rep. Eleandro Jesus Madrona

Rep. Weslie Gatchalian

Rep. Marvey Vittorio Marino

Rep. Gloria Labadlabad

Rep. Juan Miguel Macapagal Arroyo

Rep. Victor Yap

MAP Statement on the appointment of GMA as Presidential Adviser on Clark Development

November 27, 2020

“President Duterte’s move to appoint someone who can focus on the development of Clark and provide advice to him is a step in the right direction. Former President GMA’s status, as former Chief Executive of the country, would have armed her with the requisite experience and wisdom to provide valuable advice to the President to make Clark an attractive investment destination in the country.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP Statement on Further Reopening of the Economy

November 28, 2020

“We support the proposal of DTI Sec. Ramon Lopez to further reopen the economy this Christmas Season through, among others, the relaxation of the age range (currently 15 to 65) who are allowed to go out to enable consumer spending, investor confidence, and economic rebound.

To strike a balance between saving lives and rescuing the economy, we urge everyone to strictly observe the following Seven Commandments which we endorsed on October 31, 2020:

1. wearing of masks;
2. wearing of face shields;
3. no talking and eating in public transports and similar settings;
4. adequate ventilation;
5. frequent and proper disinfection;
6. isolation of symptomatic and COVID positives; and
7. appropriate physical distancing.

These Seven Commandments are essential in regaining public confidence in our ability to contain COVID-19 while reopening our economy, and thereby minimize the suffering of our people from the pandemic.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP Statement on the IATF Rules on Conferences, Seminars and Workshops

December 4, 2020

“We welcome the initiative of the IATF to allow physical attendance of participants in conferences, seminars, workshops to the extent of 30% of the capacity of the venue.

The move will help boost the economy. It is consistent with the government’s desire to return to normalcy. It will lend a helping hand to the hotel and accommodation industry, which is highly impacted by the pandemic.

We urge the venue and the organizers to put in place a system to ensure that the Seven Commandments for health protocols are strictly observed.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

MAP Statement on the Effect of the Roll-out of Vaccines on Business Confidence and Economic Recovery

December 14, 2020

"Based on the MAP-PwC Survey presented during the MAP CEO International Conference last September 15, our CEOs are cautiously optimistic about the prospects of the economy. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of them are confident about their organizations' revenue prospects over the next 12 months and 83% of them expect the economy to recover within 1-3 years.

The roll-out of the vaccines, especially if their acquisition and distribution are accelerated, will certainly boost this confidence and hasten the economic recovery of our country."

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

Christmas Message of MAP President Francis Lim

December 23, 2020

“We, in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), join all our countrymen in the celebration of the birth of Jesus, who is the reason for the Christmas Season.

The year 2020 is definitely full of unprecedented challenges but it has given us the opportunity to rise above ourselves and be of service to our less fortunate countrymen.

As we end the year, it is our fervent hope that the coming year will be much better for all of us, for our businesses, for our families and for our countrymen.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to one and all!”

MAP Statement on what the government has done for business in 2020 and what it hopes can be done in 2021

December 30, 2020

“The enactment of Bayanihan 1 and 2, coupled with the controlled opening of the economy and the liquidity pumped in by the BSP to our economy, helped the business sector avoid a deeper downturn amidst the pandemic.

We hope to see the early enactment of the other stimulus bills, such as the CREATE and Bayanihan 3 bills, to further stimulate the economy.

The government should not leave any stone unturned to immediately acquire the vaccines and inoculate as many people as possible as this is essential to regain public confidence and hasten our economic recovery.”

FRANCIS LIM

President

Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

December 31, 2020

Dear MAP Member:

As I end my stint as your President, I wish to thank each one of you for your trust and confidence and the unwavering support you have given me, the Board, liaison governors, committee chairs and the Secretariat.

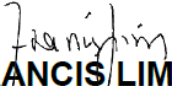
The pandemic has made 2020 a tough year but with our resolve to work hand in hand, MAP has not only navigated its waves of uncertainty but has sailed successfully to its destination this year beyond expectations.

Let me reiterate my profuse gratitude to Arnold and the Secretariat for going beyond the call of duty to make our programs and projects happen amidst the pandemic.

May I ask you to support President Gigi and his administration with the same zeal as you have supported my presidency.

Happy New Year to one and all, and may 2021 be a lot better for all of us.

Sincerely yours,



FRANCIS LIM
MAP President