



FOR THE PRESIDENT

THRU : EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA
CABINET SECRETARY KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES
Office of the President

SUBJECT : 1ST PERIODIC REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT
RECOVERY STRATEGY (NERS) TASK FORCE UNDER
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 140, SERIES OF 2021

DATE : 15 September 2021

In compliance with Executive Order No. 140, series of 2021, which mandates the NERS Task Force to submit periodic reports on the implementation of the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS), we are respectfully submitting the following updates:

I. 8-Point Employment Recovery Agenda

The NERS Task Force is monitoring the implementation of its Action Plan which is espoused in the 8-Point Employment Recovery Agenda. The said Recovery Agenda contains programs, policies and projects of the NERS Task Force Agencies that help workers and businesses through employment, training, and livelihood assistance. A total of **2,076,000 individuals** have benefited either from training, employment facilitation, livelihood, or cash subsidies, while **128,837 establishments** have been assisted through the various enrolled programs in the Recovery Agenda. Below is the detailed status:

1. **Approval of the Proposed Wage Subsidy for Workers in the Private Sector.** The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) has already endorsed its recommendation to the Office of the President, through the Executive Secretary. This proposal aims to preserve existing employment and is hinged on the passage of Bayanihan 3 which is pending in the Congress. The NERS Task Force is awaiting final advice from your good office if the same will still be pushed.
2. **Conduct of a Job Summit.** The Job Summit has been conducted as part of the 2021 Labor Day Celebration to demonstrate a whole-of-society approach in dealing with the pandemic. After a series of Focused Group Discussions and dialogues, the labor sector and business sector agenda towards recovery served as its outputs, which contain their respective recommendations for the government to consider implementing in the short-, medium-, and long-term period. This is being monitored by both DOLE and DTI with continuous engagements for both sectors being undertaken.
3. **Support the Passage of Priority Legislations that Strengthen Economic and Employment Recovery.** The NERS Task Force supports the passage of key legislations geared towards economic reforms under the LEDAC-Common Legislative Agenda. Among the bills which it pushes for its passage are the "Public Service Bill", "Retail Trade Liberalization Bill", and the "Foreign Investments Bill".

The DTI is at the forefront in pushing for these legislative measures by attending public hearings and providing inputs on these policy measures.

Also, the NERS Task Force is looking at the inclusion of the Pandemic Protection Bill as a priority legislation. The bill seeks to adequately support and prioritize the purchase of critical products produced by local manufacturers in times of pandemic or public health emergencies to: (1) retain employment of skilled workers; and (2) assure the local availability of critical products to meet current demand/stockpiling requirements. It also provides for the: (1) accreditation of manufacturers and producers of critical products; (2) exemption from custom duties, value-added tax, and fees; (3) suspension of export requirement; (4) preferential procurement of critical products by the government, (5) exemption from the requirement of Phase IV clinical trial under Health Technology Assessment of vaccines and medicines; (6) stockpiling of critical products; and (7) relocation or expansion of manufacturing enterprises in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the detailed support programs and accomplishments for the following items in the 8-Point Employment Recovery Agenda are listed in **Annex A**:

4. **Promote Retooling and Upskilling of Workers** (pages 1-9)
5. **Full Implementation of Youth Employability Programs** (pages 9-25)
6. **Extend Assistance to Business Establishments** (pages 26-36)
7. **Provide Social Protection to Vulnerable Groups** (pages 37-41)
8. **Monitor and Support Continuous Implementation of Programs with High Impact on Employment** (pages 41-43)

II. Issuance of Resolutions

As part of its functions, among others, to address the recovery of the labor market, and harmonize employment, training, and livelihood projects and programs of the Government, the NERS Task Force adopted two Resolutions, to wit:

1. **Resolution on Local Preference for Government Procurement.** The NERS Task Force adopted a resolution on preference for locally-manufactured products in the Terms of Reference of Government Procurement. This is part of the efforts of the NERS Task Force to stimulate the economy by creating more demand for our locally-manufactured goods; thus, creating more jobs in the process. The Resolution has been already signed by the NERS Task Force Chairperson and Co-chairpersons, and is awaiting signature of other members. After completion of the signatories, the same will be endorsed to the Government Procurement Policy Board for their consideration to issue a general guidance for all government agencies. Attached as **Annex B** is a copy of the said resolution.
2. **Resolution on Cross-Referencing of Programs and Services.** Citing the need for more convergence in the programs of the Government to create a mechanism that ensures the continuity of support for beneficiaries (e.g., from training to employment or livelihood/entrepreneurship) and to increase their chances of success, the NERS Task Force adopted a resolution to create a mechanism to harmonize employment, livelihood, and training programs and projects among NERS Task Force agencies aimed at enabling cross-referencing to sustain the needed support of beneficiaries. This is also in consonance with Section 3.b of Executive Order No. 140-2021 which provides that one of the functions of the NERS Task Force is to harmonize the employment, livelihood, and training projects and program of the National Government to preserve and create more jobs. The

Resolution has been already signed by the NERS Task Force Chairperson and Co-chairpersons, and is awaiting signature of other members. Attached as **Annex C** is a copy of the said resolution.

III. Reform. Rebound. Recover: 1 Million Jobs for 2021

This Project between the NERS Task Force and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) aims to immediately source Filipino talents for deployment in the construction, manufacturing (particularly semiconductors and electronics), tourism and hospitality, and export industries, under a policy environment that would help create jobs all over the country. While the monitoring system to track the number of jobs created is still being finalized, participating companies from ECOP have started with the hiring of workers.

On the part of the NERS Task Force, a total of 452,000 initial vaccine request for the project has been already approved by the National Task Force against COVID-19. This was made through the efforts of the NERS Task Force to facilitate the said request of the Private Sector Partners. A kickoff vaccination activity was held in Manila on 08 September 2021 where 1,046 workers, mostly in the construction industry, were vaccinated. Another 1,117 workers were vaccinated in Manila on 17 September 2021. Succeeding vaccination rollouts will be done in Bulacan, Bataan, Cebu, and Dumaguete. Meanwhile, the NERS Task Force continues to coordinate with other Local Government Units (LGUs) to expand the reach of the vaccination for workers under this project.

In addition, employer groups brought to the attention of the NERS Task Force their difficulty in filling up vacancies due to workers having challenges in completing their pre-employment requirements (i.e., SSS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, TIN). To address this, the NERS Task Force invited representatives from concerned agencies to discuss the adjustments in their procedures and other options that can be availed by individual workers or the company to obtain necessary requirements from them. The meeting was held on 13 September 2021 and was attended by SSS and Pag-IBIG representatives.

IV. Ways Forward

The NERS Task Force shall:

- Continue its implementation and monitoring of the 8-Point Employment Recovery Agenda;
- Facilitate vaccination of workers under the 1 Million Jobs for 2021 project;
- Assist workers and employers in addressing bottlenecks and challenges in recruiting and hiring; and
- Engage other stakeholders for collaborations that will improve the labor market.

We shall be providing another periodic report on the accomplishments of the NERS Task Force **in December 2021**.

For information and reference, please.



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NERS Co-Chairperson
DOLE Secretary



RAMON M. LOPEZ
NERS Chairperson
DTI Secretary



ISIDRO S. LAPEÑA
NERS Co-Chairperson
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