



Employers  
Confederation  
of the  
Philippines



## **“REFORM. REBOUND. RECOVER: ONE MILLION JOBS FOR 2021”**

The prolonged community quarantine took its toll in the Philippine economy with hundreds of thousands of smaller enterprises closing, and millions of Filipinos losing their jobs. As we safely and gradually reopen the economy, signs of recovery can be gleaned as the unemployment rate was down at 8.7% in April 2021 from a high of 17.7% last April 2020, based on the Labor Force Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Likewise, the PSA also announced that the gross domestic product (GDP) shrank 4.2% in the first quarter of 2021, up from a 2020 average contraction of 9.6%.

To address the serious unemployment problem, the government formulated the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS), an employment recovery plan from 2021 to 2022 that aims to create a policy environment that encourages generation and improved access of employment, livelihood and training opportunities; improve employability, wellness, and productivity of workers; and provide support to existing and emerging businesses to preserve and create employment. On 24 June 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed an Executive Order adopting the NERS and reinforcing job generating programs through the NERS Inter-Agency Task Force.

In support of the NERS, key government agencies and the business and employer groups have decided to implement a partnership project called “REFORM. REBOUND. RECOVER: ONE MILLION JOBS FOR 2021.” The project 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.

In this regard, the business/employers sector shall:

- a. Identify job vacancies from its member companies;
- b. Find jobs for the qualified but unemployed;
- c. Recommend to the NERS Task Force specific improvements in the business environment;
- d. Coordinate with the NERS Task Force and provide necessary assistance in post-Job Caravan events (i.e. onboarding process, vaccination process and reskilling/upskilling referrals);
- e. Co-organize and participate in Job Caravans; and
- f. Provide other support and monitoring mechanisms in the implementation of the project.

Meanwhile, the NERS Task Force shall undertake the following responsibilities:

- a. Facilitate coordination with the IATF-MEID to secure vaccination for workers who will qualify in the partnership project;
- b. Consult with and provide assistance to businesses, especially on improving the environment that can generate more jobs;
- c. Provide profile of workers who can be referred to existing job vacancies;
- d. Continue to implement the Telecommuting Act and promote other alternative work arrangements in accordance to existing laws and policies;
- e. Provide training for workers who will not qualify for job vacancies;

- f. Coordinate with Local Government Units (LGUs) on the provision of transportation services to workers who will get their vaccination jabs and need to transfer from one LGU to another;
- g. Organize and invite relevant stakeholders in job caravans; and
- h. Provide other support mechanisms in the implementation of the project.

Signed this 30th day of June 2021 at the Closing Ceremonies of the 42<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Employers (NCE 42) of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

For the Government

For the Employer Sector

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