



FOR THE PRESIDENT

THRU : **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**
ACTING CABINET SECRETARY MELVIN A. MATIBAG
Office of the President

SUBJECT : **4th PERIODIC REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT
RECOVERY STRATEGY (NERS) TASK FORCE UNDER
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 140, SERIES OF 2021**

DATE : 16 June 2022

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

I. **Employment Data based on the Labor Force Survey**

Based on the latest Labor Force Survey (LFS) released for April 2022, we registered an employment rate of 94.3%, the highest since the pandemic started. All sectors have shown significant improvements in terms of employment generation. The **agriculture sector** reported the highest increase at +1.402M, followed by **services sector** (+1.107M) and the **industry sector** (+104,000).

Unemployment rate dropped to its lowest at 5.7% from its peak of 17.7% in April 2020 when strict quarantine restrictions and lockdowns were imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. The current unemployment rate falls short of the pre-pandemic rate of 5.4% based on the January 2020 Labor Force Survey.

While the rate of Key Employment Indicators has not returned to pre-pandemic levels, the absolute figures behind these percentages reveal an encouraging indicator of labor market recovery. The current number of employed in the country is estimated to be at 45.6 million, which is greater than the estimated number of employed in January 2020 that is pegged at 42.7 million. Meanwhile, the current number of unemployed is estimated to be at 2.76 million – only 370,000 more from the pre-pandemic figure of 2.39 million in January 2020.

II. NERS Updated Employment Recovery Agenda

As previously reported, the NERS Task Force recalibrated its response towards labor market recovery and shifted to a new set of agenda for 2022 to ensure the continuity and sustainability of labor market interventions given the changes in the pandemic situation and the transition to a new administration. It has retained its core objective of providing assistance to workers and businesses through employment, training, and livelihood, under the following recovery agenda:

1. Institutionalize NERS and its initiatives across all relevant government agencies;
2. Improve governance and enhance business environment to expand domestic capacities;
3. Promote retooling and upskilling of workers;
4. Provide social protection and assistance to workers; and
5. Actively engage partners through social dialogue.

Based on the submission of the NERS Task Force agencies, a total of **745,363 individuals** and **72,695 establishments** have already been reached by the programs and interventions of the NERS Task Force. Detailed breakdown is herein attached as **Annex A**.

III. Status of Identified Priorities

Part of the Updated Employment Recovery Agenda are priority interventions that were targeted to be accomplished within this Administration. The following have already been delivered:

- Signing of the Public Service Act;
- Approval of the Strategic Investments Priority Plan (SIPP);
- Signing of the Partnership with the International Labour Organization on “Bringing Back Jobs Safely”;
- Concluding the Philippines-South Korea Free Trade Agreement;
- Implementing the “SkillsUpNet Philippines” project with the Asian Development Bank; and
- Continuing engagement with the private sector through the “Beyond 1 Million Jobs Project: Create. Sustain. Transform.”

The abovementioned priorities are expected to increase investments, create more job opportunities, and improve the competitiveness of the workforce to sustain labor market recovery. Meanwhile, efforts to deliver the following are still ongoing and will hopefully be continued in the next administration:

- Institutionalization and localization of NERS;
- Issuance of an Executive Order for ‘Go Lokal’;
- Development of a platform on cross-referencing for Training, Trabaho at Kabuhayan (E-Trak);
- Creation of ‘Green Lanes’ in critical government agencies for exporting and other key employment generating industries;
- Ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);

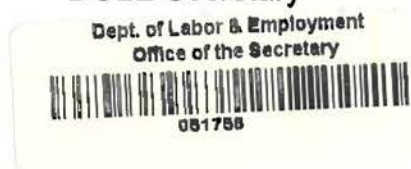
- Completion of Skills Map and Philippine Skills Framework; and
- Review of education curriculum.

IV. Way Forward

In view of the transition to the next administration, the NERS Task Force, as a group, will respect the prerogative and priorities of the next heads of agencies, specifically on whether NERS and its priorities will be continued. Nonetheless, all existing and ongoing convergence of agencies shall be continued, unless deemed unfit in the agenda of the next administration.

For the President's information and reference.


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