

DENR INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS ADVERSE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In support to the whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DENR proper and its field offices have undertaken projects and activities that seek to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of COVID 19 in consonance with Republic Act 11469 known as the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (Bayanihan 1) and Republic Act 11494 or the “Bayanihan to Recover as One Act” (Bayanihan 2).

Setting-up/Construction of Temporary Health Facilities

To help in the expeditious establishment, construction and operation of temporary medical facilities, the DENR donated confiscated lumber to DPWH, LGUs, hospitals, PNP, MIATF, Provincial Engineer and Provincial Health Office, among others, intending to put up/refurbish COVID-19 quarantine/isolation facilities.



Figure 21.1 DENR field offices donated confiscated lumber for temporary quarantine facilities for PUIs/PUMs

On top of this, the DENR allowed the use of its facilities to serve as temporary isolation areas for PUIs, quarters for frontliners and staging areas for food distribution. The DENR facilities used for these purposes are:

1. Two ecolodges in Bessang Pass Natural Monument Landmark in Cervantes, Ilocos Sur
2. CENRO Calanasan, Apayao (CAR) Bldg
3. PENRO Ifugao Guest House
4. Monitoring Station at Talaca, Agbannawag, Tabuk
5. PA Information Center of Dupax Watershed Forest Reserve
6. DENR-INREMP office at Anabel, Sadanga, Mountain Province
7. CENRO Baganga monitoring station in Brgy San Rafael, Cateel as quarters of the frontliners assigned at the checkpoint entering Cateel
8. Portion of the Mt. Arayat National Park (MANP) used as quarantine area and room in PASU office as quarters for frontliners
9. One building at the Environment and Natural Resources Academy in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija
10. DENR office in Puerto Princesa
11. Mt. Mayon Natural Park Information Center that can accommodate 10 persons
12. Building at the Environment and Natural Resources Academy in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija
13. CENRO sub-office in Barotac Nuevo, Lambunao, Iloilo
14. DENR Operation Center in Brgy Kinabuhayan, Dolores Quezon
15. Two (2) buildings of Mt. Kanlaon Natural Park (MKNP) at Biak Na Bato, La Castellana
16. DENR Operation Center in Brgy Kinabuhayan, Dolores Quezon
17. Former Research Building inside the compound of CENRO Ayungon
18. New CENRO office building in Baganga
19. Ecolodge/Tarsier Information Center in Sikatuna, Bohol
20. DENR R11 new office in Baganga
21. Monitoring Station in Manay, Davao Oriental
22. DENR Region 11 Union Hostel in Davao City



Figure 21.2 DENR facilities used as temporary quarantine facilities for PUIs/PUMs

Provision of Services and Relief Goods/PPEs/Health Materials

In the true spirit of Bayanihan, the DENR employees voluntarily donated Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), food packs and other materials to frontliners as well as poor communities within their areas of responsibility.

In addition, DENR employees in the field assisted in manning 19 COVID-19 checkpoint locations as well as in the re-packing and distribution of relief goods. PPEs, face masks, alcohol, hygiene sanitation items among others, were distributed to external and internal beneficiaries, amounting to PhP 17,744,209.00.

For external beneficiaries alone, 79,934 units of PPEs, thermal scanners and even ventilator cartridges and 2,926 liters of alcohols were provided particularly to hospitals, frontliners and communities, amounting to Php 11,647,134.10.



Figure 21.3 DENR employees initiated in managing COVID-19 checkpoints and in repacking of relief goods

Food Security

To support the food security in the upland communities and promote urban agriculture as well as to contribute to the government’s initiatives to assist COVID-19 pandemic-affected communities, the DENR field offices collaborated with the Department of Agriculture and LGUs to engage in the production of high value crops (HVC) using the DENR Mechanized and Modernized Forest Nurseries (MMFN).

Through this initiative, the DENR was able to produce 3,227,924 vegetable seedlings. Of these, 1,743,620 seedlings were distributed to the Local Government Units, communities, and People’s Organizations (POs). Aside from vegetable seedlings production, a total of 13,575,803 forest tree seedlings were produced from the MMFN.



Figure 21.4 Vegetable seedlings produced from the MMFN were distributed to target beneficiaries

Health Safety and Housekeeping

The DENR Central and Regional Offices including the Bureaus continued to undertake various measures to protect the welfare of employees and ensure their safety including their clients through the strict implementation of health protocols such as social distancing, wearing of face shields and face masks, and personal hygiene, among others.



Figure 21.5 Protocol in all DENR Offices nationwide that all employees and clients entering the office and its premises are subjected to body temperature checking and hand disinfection using alcohol.



Figure 21.6 Installed health protocol signages, protective barriers, hand washing stations, and foot rug disinfectants, among others, are duly maintained in all the DENR Offices.



Figure 21.7 Infographics for information of employees and visitors were put in conspicuous places in DENR Offices for instant visibility. This is one of the information dissemination strategies of DENR Offices to help control the spread of COVID-19.



Figure 21.8 Aside from strict enforcement of health protocols, regular disinfections of DENR offices and premises is being undertaken using fogging machines with solution for disinfection to ensure COVID-free working unit.



Figure 21.9 Office vehicles were also assigned/used to ferry employees from their respective residences to the office and vice versa.

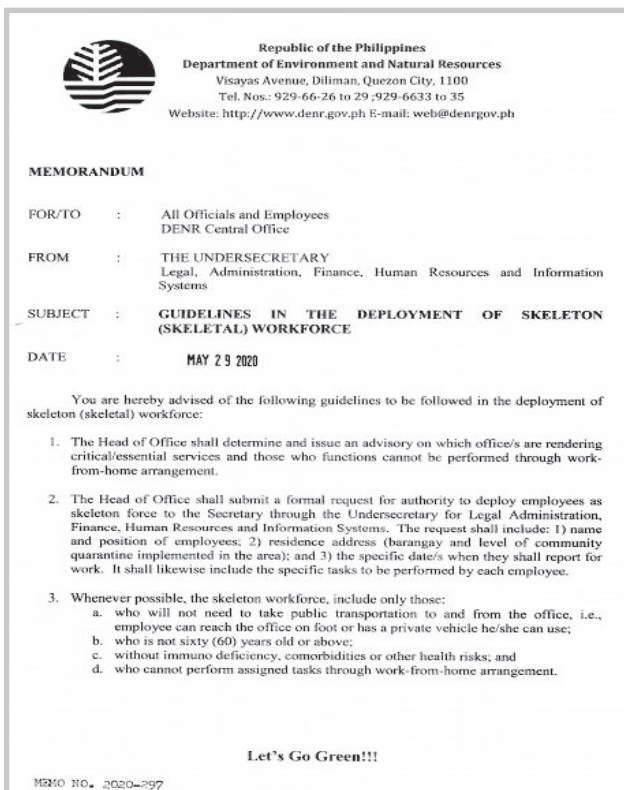


Figure 21.10 Memorandum vis-à-vis alternative working arrangements

Alternative working arrangements were likewise adopted in DENR offices nationwide. At least 50% work force was required to report in the office for at least two weeks every month on a rotation scheme.

Solid waste management thru proper management and segregation of wastes, especially hazardous wastes coming from healthcare facilities has been a priority during the pandemic. Thus, waste segregation at source, regular collection of segregated wastes, operationalization of Materials Recovery Facilities, utilization of alternative technologies and proper storage to Temporary Residual Containment Areas and/or disposal to Sanitary Landfills are continuously undertaken by the LGUs and regularly monitored by DENR offices.