Neighbourhood Governance and Community Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic in the Philippines

Dr. Mario R. Delos Reyes
COVID-19 in the Philippines: a timeline

- **First confirmed case** in Jan
- **First death due to COVID-19** in Feb
- **Strict community quarantine** in Mar
- **State of calamity in the country** in Mar
- **Bayanihan to Heal as One Act** in Mar
- **ECQ extension in select areas incl. Metro Manila** in May
- **ECQ extension in select areas incl. Metro Manila** in Apr
- **Modified ECQ in Metro Manila and other areas** in May
- **GCQ in Metro Manila and other areas** in Jun
Proportion of urban population who are informal settlers:

3.2% (2015)

Proportion of Poor Filipinos:

16.6% (2018 est.)

Photo Credit: Jez Aznar | The New York Times
Vehicles carrying essential food commodities as well as agri-fishery products and inputs delayed due to quarantine checkpoints.
- Presidential
- Unitary
- Local Governments with Local Autonomy

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provinces</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cities</td>
<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>1,488</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barangays</td>
<td>42,045</td>
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1,710 barangays are in Metro Manila.
President Duterte: Barangays, game changer in fight against COVID-19

March 10, 2020
To harmonize its preventive measures against the coronavirus, the Quezon City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (QCDRRMC) called for an emergency meeting with its community leaders and health workers last February 4.

Over 800 participants composed of punong barangays, sangguniang barangay committee chairpersons for health, barangay health workers and civil society sectoral representatives were updated on the efforts of the city against 2019 nCoV-ARD.

Executive Order 2020-4, which established the Quezon City Taskforce to STOP nCoV was also discussed to the community leaders. The task force was assigned to lead in harmonizing the efforts, as well as in organizing the Barangay Health Emergency Response Teams or BHERTs.
Social Amelioration Program

Republic Act No. 11469: “Bayanihan” to Heal as One Act

Benefits for the 18 million low income sector

• A minimum of Php5k to a maximum of Php8k a month for 2 months.
• The cost of treatment for COVID-19 patients shall be covered by PhilHealth
• Rice, canned goods and other basic food items subsidy
“Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa” Program or the Back to the Province, New Hope Program
Leyte mayors lament lack of coordination in ‘Balik Probinsya’ program

By Marie Tonette Marticio

TACLOBAN CITY - Some local chief executives here aired their frustration on the lack of coordination from the inter-agency task force on the Balik Probinsya Program.

Ormoc Mayor Richard Gomez
(Ormoc City Government official Facebook page / MANILA BULLETIN)
Some community-based organizations initiatives

• Strawberry Cultivation Program: create innovations to boost their local economy amid COVID-19 pandemic thru establishment of mini greenhouses for strawberry cultivation in the cities of Davao and Baguio

• “PasaBuy ng Gamot” Program in Kalayaan Municipality, Laguna Province or a vehicle roaming around the municipality to buy medicines: this program will minimize contamination by HH members

• “Fil-filayon” Program: the act of equitable sharing among the people led by women in Sitio San Pablo, Tabuk City, Cebu Province

• Other individuals organizing themselves and donating to neighbourhoods such as food, face mask, alcohols, hygiene kits, etc.
Urban-Rural Linkages
Interventions

- **Integrate** mobility and transport planning in land use and spatial planning in the context of an archipelago
- **Revisit** the delineation of administrative regions in the Philippines to facilitate ridge-to-reef planning
- **Reimagine** comprehensive land use and spatial planning to include neighbourhood planning that allows horizontal and vertical integration of human scale physical design
- **Consider** value chain development of neighbourhood level economic activities
- **Empower** MSMEs through fully integrated value chain and linkages (forward and backward)
- **Promote** efficient densities in urban areas
Strengthening Capacities, Institutions, and Networks

- **Design** barangays in terms of human scale and walkability
- **Establish** barangay/neighbourhood-based population register that includes information on internal migration
- **Fast track** the implementation of the **Community-Based Monitoring System**
  - a technology-based system for collecting, processing, and validating necessary disaggregated data that may be used for planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process
  - **Generation of data at the neighbourhood level**
- **Harmonize** legal frameworks and administrative arrangements
- **Focus** the role of national government in empowering neighbourhoods
- **Upscaling** of neighbourhood-level innovations
- **Promote** urban agriculture and agrihood
Thank you for your attention