



**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR :** **The Directors**  
Environmental Management Bureau  
Forest Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Mines and Geosciences Bureau  
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau  
Land Management Bureau

**FROM :** **The OIC-Director**  
Policy and Planning Service

**SUBJECT :** **COMMENTS/INPUTS/RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE 8-POINT EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY ACTION PLAN OF THE NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RECOVERY STRATEGY 2021-2023**

**DATE :** **12 APR 2021**

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This has reference to the agreement during the 2<sup>ND</sup> Meeting of the National Employment Recovery Strategy (NERS) Task Force held last 30 March 2021 that all the concerned member agencies of the NERS Task Force shall provide their respective comments/inputs to the 8-Point Employment Recovery Action Plan of the National Employment Recovery Strategy 2021-2023.

The approval of the abovestated Action Plan include the following:

1. Approval of the proposed wage subsidy for private sector workers;
2. Conduct of a Job Summit;
3. Support the passage of priority legislations that strengthen economic and employment recovery;
4. Promote retooling and upskilling of workers;
5. Full implementation of youth employability programs;
6. Extend assistance to establishments through loans, deferment of applicable fees, upgrading of processes, etc.
7. Provide social protection to vulnerable groups; and
8. Monitor and support continuous implementation of programs with high impact on employment.

In this regard, we would like to request for your comments/inputs on the attached 8-Point Employment Recovery Action Plan. Please submit your inputs to the email address: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) on or before **14 April 2021**.

For your preferential and appropriate action.

  
**MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO**



**National  
Employment  
Recovery  
Strategy  
2021-2022**

*8-Point Employment  
Recovery Action Plan*

*As of 29 March 2021*

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**1. Approval of the Proposed Wage  
Subsidy for Private Sector Workers**

The proposed wage subsidy program is a safety net program which aims to save jobs, promote employee retention, and augment income loss of affected workers in the formal sector.

Priority will be given to (i) MSMEs currently implementing Flexible Work Arrangements (FWAs) or Temporary Closure (TC), (ii) other MSMEs, and (iii) establishments availing of the zero or low interest loan facility of DTI-SB Corp and CARES program.

*Agencies involved: DOLE, DBM, DOF, DTI, NEDA*

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**2. Conduct of a Job Summit**

This will be a venue for high-level consultation and discussion with employer groups, labor sector, government representatives, and other key stakeholders to address the employment problems in the country brought by the pandemic.

*Agencies involved: TGER/NERS Task Force*

**3. Support the passage of priority legislations that strengthen economic and employment recovery**

*Agencies involved: DTI, DOF, NEDA*

LEDAC Priority Bills: Amendments to the Public Service Act, Amendments to the Retail Trade Liberalization Act, Amendments to the Foreign Investments Act, Magna Carta of Barangay Health Workers, and Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act *DTI, DOF, NEDA*

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Bayanihan to Arise as One Act (HB 8031 and 8628), *DTI* and Bayanihan to Rebuild as One Act (HB 8059)

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Warehouse Receipt Bills

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Policy on Local Preference on Government Procurement

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Policy on Consumer Welfare

# National Employment Recovery Strategy 2021-2022

## 8-Point Employment Recovery Action Plan

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## 4. Promote retooling and upskilling of workers

*Agencies involved: TESDA, DOLE, DTI, CHED, DepEd, DOST, DICT, DA, DOT*

Tulong Trabaho	<i>TESDA</i>
PET Project	<i>DTI</i>
Manpower trainings to retool and upskill tourism workers and stakeholders	<i>DOT</i>
Community-Based Tourism Organization (CBTO) Re-Start Program	<i>DOT</i>
Entrepreneurial education and livelihood assistance: Skills Training for Employment/ Entrepreneurship Program (STEEP), Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP), Kapatid Mentor Me program, Livelihood Seeding Program, Helping the Economy Recover thru OFW Enterprise Start-ups (HEROES) Program, etc.	<i>DTI</i>

## 5. Full implementation of youth employability programs

Addressing employment issues of vulnerable groups, including the youth should be addressed by helping acquire skills and relevant experience for full, decent, and gainful employment in the New Normal.

*Agencies involved: DOLE, DepEd, CHED, TESDA*

Government Internship Program	<i>DOLE</i>
Special Program for Employment of Students	<i>DOLE</i>
JobStart Philippines	<i>DOLE</i>
Career Advocacy and Employment Coaching	<i>DOLE</i>

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**6. Extend assistance to establishment through loans, deferment of applicable fees, upgrading of processes, etc.**

*Agencies involved: DTI, DOF, DOT, DOST, DA, DAR, DENR*

Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST), & Innovation for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH)	<b>DOST</b>
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COVID-19 Assistance to Restart Enterprises (CARES) Program, Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Program, CTRL+Biz, Livelihood Seeding Program	<b>DTI</b>
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Issuance of World Trade and Tourism Council Safe Travels seals, Waiving of accreditation fees for tourism enterprises, CARES for TRAVEL Program	<b>DOT</b>
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DOLE NWPC Productivity Toolbox	<b>DOLE</b>
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**7. Provide social protection to vulnerable groups**

Safeguarding the welfare and safety of our most vulnerable sectors assures the continued recovery of the labor market and its protection from further outbreaks and economic disruptions.

*Agencies involved: DOLE, DSWD, DOTr, DTI*

DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program	<b>DOLE</b>
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DSWD Livelihood Programs	<b>DSWD</b>
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Livelihood Seeding Program-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay	<b>DTI</b>
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Cash subsidy for affected transport sector workers	<b>DOTr</b>
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**8. Monitor and support continuous implementation of programs with high impact on employment**

*Agencies involved: OCS, DOTr, DPWH, DA, DILG, PPP, BBB and BP2TF member agencies*

Build, Build, Build	<b>DPWH</b>
Plant, Plant, Plant	<b>DA</b>
Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-Asa	<b>BP2TF</b>
Integrating Workforce Opportunities for Rebalanced Communities (iWORC)	<b>DILG, TESDA, DOLE, DTI</b>
Public-Private Partnership for the People Initiative for Local Governments (LGU P4)	<b>DILG</b>
Support to National Convergence and Initiatives for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD)	<b>DA, DENR, DAR, DILG</b>

**REPORTING  
MECHANISM**

*Ulat sa Taong Bayan*

An Ulat sa Taong Bayan: TNK Reports on Trabaho, Negosyo, Kabuhayan, at Kasanayan Accomplishments shall be done quarterly to provide access and dialogue to relevant stakeholders on the gradual restarting of the economy.

*Agencies involved: NERS Task Force, PCOO/STG StratComm Economic Recovery*



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## I. Background

Countries in the East Asia region have thriving trade and economic relations with each other through free trade agreements. The Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN) has free trade agreements with six partners namely the People's Republic of China (ACFTA), Republic of Korea (AKFTA), Japan (AJCEP), India (AIFTA), and Australia and New Zealand (AANZFTA).

In order to maintain the centrality and proactive role of ASEAN in relation with its trading partners and to enhance participation in global value chains, the ASEAN Leaders adopted the ASEAN Framework Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) at the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Bali, Indonesia in November 2011 (**Annex A**). The Leaders established the RCEP as an ASEAN-led process through which ASEAN would broaden and deepen its engagement with FTA/CEP partners, and subsequently with other external economic partners towards a regional comprehensive economic partnership agreement.

In August 2012, the 16 Economic Ministers endorsed the Guiding Principles and Objectives for Negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (**Annex B**).

The RCEP negotiation was formally launched by Leaders by 10 ASEAN Member States<sup>1</sup> and six ASEAN FTA partners<sup>2</sup> at the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2012.

Recognizing the ASEAN Framework for RCEP, the objective of launching RCEP negotiations was to achieve a **modern, comprehensive, high-quality, and mutually beneficial** economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN's FTA Partners.

The RCEP was viewed as an initiative that will complement the work that was also being undertaken through other plurilateral negotiations such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and multilateral forums such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). The primary objectives are to promote greater openness, create a more business-friendly environment, encourage closer integration of economies, and provide a more stable and predictable rules based system of trade.

The RCEP negotiations commenced in early 2013, and was concluded in 2020.

There have been 28 full rounds of negotiations, the last full round was held in September in Da Nang, Viet Nam. There were also 8 regular and 10 intersessional Ministerial Meetings convened. Also, there were three (3) RCEP Leaders Summit held, with the last one being the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCEP Summit on 4 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

### ***India's Participation in RCEP***

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCEP Summit in November 2019, Leaders announced that 15 RCEP Participating Countries (RPC) have concluded text-based negotiations for all 20 Chapters, and essentially all market access issues. India did not join the announcement following the statement of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Summit that the current version of the RCEP Agreement does not fully reflect the RCEP guiding principles and does not satisfactorily address the concerns of India, such that it is not possible for India to join RCEP.

<sup>1</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam

<sup>2</sup> Australia, People's Republic of China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand