Next gov't must back recovery plan — palace



NEWS ONLINE

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The Economy

THE next administration is legally bound to implement Executive Order (EO) 166, which contains elements of President Rodrigo R. Duterte's economic recovery plan, unless it is revoked, the Palace said in a statement.

The President's acting spokesman, Jose Ruperto Martin M. Andanar, rejected claims that EO 166 represents the outgoing government's closing move in effecting an economic recovery.

"We do not share the view that this is the current Administration's exit plan, for this forms part of the country's preparation to build resilience under the new normal," he said.

"Unless Executive Order No. 166 is modified or revoked, it will remain effective and operational," he added.

EO 166 is a 10-point economic recovery agenda that, among others, designated the Inter-agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the National Task Force Against COVID-19 as the bodies responsible for the agenda's implementation and for aligning all government measures to ensure a coordinated response to the weakened economy.

The agenda calls for legislation that will facilitate the efficient rollout of emergency measures and the development of a comprehensive pandemic response framework.

Mr. Andanar said Mr. Duterte's office is confident that the next administration will adhere to the principles of EO 166.

In a joint statement, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of Finance, and the Department of Trade and Industry said EO 166 will boost the economic recovery.

"Through the EO, we will be able to help more firms adapt and pursue the full and safe reopening of the economy," Trade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez was quoted as saying.

Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said in the statement that the Philippines has made significant progress in implementing elements of the 10-point agenda, citing the move to more permissive quarantine settings after the Omicron wave of the coronavirus receded.

Under Alert Level 1, NEDA estimates that economic activity will be boosted by around P10.8 billion per week and reduce the number of unemployed by around 195,000 over the next quarter, compared to the economy's performance under to Alert Level 2, the next and less permissive quarantine setting.

Mr. Chua, however, said the full benefit of Alert Level 1 cannot be maximized if many schools are still not conducting face-to-face learning. -Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza

Power Maintenance Updates

The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

SUNDAY. MARCH 27.

CAVITE (IMUS CITY AND DASMARIÑAS CITY)

BETWEEN 2:30AM AND 3:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 6:00PM AND 6:30PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK, 35WK AND 36WK

Portion of Patindig Araw Road from Emilio Aguinaldo Highway to Malagasang Road including Sarreal Subd. and Verville Subd. in Bgys. Anabu I-C, Bayan Luma 8 & 9 and Bucandala I, II & II

Portion of Malagasang Road from Patindig Araw to and including Grandiose South Subd., Guevarra Subd., Hotelie's II Village, Montera Homes Subd., Sunnydale The Garden Village, Celina Plains Imus Subd., Dexterville Legacy Subd., Woodlane Subd., Jade Residences, Sunnydale Villas, Dexterville Homes Subd., Savanna Ville Subd., Mallari Subd., Manela Subd., Silver Towne III & IV Subd. and Green Estate Subd. in Bys. Bucandala IV & V, Bayan Luma 8 & 9 and Malagasang I-A, I-B, I-C, I-D, I-E, I-F, I-G, II-A & II-B in Imus City.

Portion of Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Paredes Primary Care Center in Bgy. Bayan Luma 7 to Meralco – Imus substation including Hausland Subd., Villa Leticia Subd., Villa Nicasia I Subd., Villa Celina Subd., Plaridel III Subd. and Rita Sanchez Compound; Imus Polytechnic Institute, Jollibee, SM Hypermarket Imus, Sun City Plaza Building, Chowking, Marikina Shoe Exchange, Mon sori Professional College of Asia and Natasha - Imus Branch in Bgys. Anabu I-B, I-C & I-D, Bayan Luma 2, 7 & 8, Buhay Na Tubig and Tanza Luma V & VI in Imus City. Portion of Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco – Imus substation to and including San

tiago Subd., Ventis Villas, Bavanihan Homes Subd, and New Imus Village; Elizabeth Seton School Cavite and Lechon Manok Sr. Pedro in Bgys. Anabu II-F, II-E, II-D, II-C, II-B, II-A, I-D and I-A in Imus City.

Portion of Emilio Aguinaldo Highway from Dara Subd. to and including Mango Village; and Caltex Gas Station in Bgys. Salitran I and Salitran IV in Dasmariñas City. REASON: Upgrading of facilities and testing work inside Meralco – Imus substation

QUEZON PROVINCE (PAGBILAO)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT HOPEWELL - PAGBILAO 31WI Bgys. Ibabang Polo, Ilayang Polo and Kanluran Malicboy

REASON: Preventive maintenance inside Meralco – Hopewell-Pagbilao substation

MANILA (TONDO)

- BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM PORTIONS OF CIRCUITS NORTH PORT 49H AND 53H
- Portion of Tayuman St. from Dagupan Ext. St. to Antonio Rivera St. including PLDT, Honorio M. C. Lopez Technical Institute and Manila Cathedral School.
- Portion of Bambang St. from Narra St. to and including McDonald's, Dynasty Tower 1 & 2 Tower Blda

Subd. and Southville 2-TMC HSG. PRJ. Subd; and Philippine Ecopanel Inc. in Bgys. Luciano and Lapidario.

Portion of Aguado Road from Trece Martires - Indang Road to and including South Summit nces Subd., Aguado Resettlement Subd., Sitio Pag-Asa I and Sitio Pag-Asa II; and Somico Steel Mill Corp. in Bgy. Aguado.

REASON: Replacement of facilities along Trece Martirez - Indang Road in Bgys. Inocencio, Luciano and San Agustin in Trece Martires City, Cavit

LAS PIÑAS CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM (TUE., 03/29/22) AND 4:30AM (WED., 03/30/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LAS PIÑAS 43XD

Portion of Aurora Drive and Aurora Drive Ext. from Naga Road to and including Vergonville Subd., Santos Homes 1 & 2 Subds., Josefina Compound and Santos Village; and St. Therese in Bgys. Pulang Lupa I & II and Zapote.

REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconductoring work along Naga Road in Bgy. Pulang Lupa II, Las Piñas City.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

BULACAN (MALOLOS CITY)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - PORTIONS OF CIRCUITS TABANG 33YH AND 323YH Portion of MacArthur Highway from Meralco - Tabang substation in Bgy. Tikay to Gat

Damaso Kaluag St. in Bgy. San Pablo. Portion of Mighty Road from MacArthur Highway to near Mighty Corp. including San Pablo Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Malolos Marine Fishery School; Calle Bonifacio and Calle Biga; Purok 3 & 4; and Pleasantville Subd. in Bgy. San Pablo.

Portion of Gat Damaso Kaluag and Lucero Sts. from MacArthur Highway to and including Holy Trinity Funeral Service, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish Church and Marcelo H. Del Pilar Na-tional High School in Bgys. San Pablo, Sta. Isabel, Mabolo and Confradia.

Portion of St. Joseph St. from Gat Damaso Kaluag St. in Bgy. Sta. Isabel to and including Bgy. Balite. Portion of Matimbo Barangay Road from near Bags of Bulacan St. in Bgy. Panasahan to

Bulakan - Malolos City boundary in Bgys. Mambog, Taal and Matimbo.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along MacArthur Highway in Bgy. San Pablo, Malolos City, Bulacan.

TAGUIG CITY (HAGONOY, NAPINDAN AND WAWA)

BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 3:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGUIG 46ZL Along Seagull Ave. from M. L. Quezon Ave. to and including Bay Breeze Executive Village

Gov't urged to reconsider Pasig expressway due to environmental concerns

A TRANSPORT advocacy has urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to reassess the proposed Pasig River Expressway (PAREX), citing its environmental impact.

The Move As One Coalition said that the expressway will deliver "little or no benefit while causing significant harm," calling it the "wrong project for today and tomorrow.'

PAREX is San Miguel Corp.'s (SMC) planned P95-billion, six-lane elevated highway, which will traverse Manila, Mandaluyong, Taguig, Makati, and Pasig along the river's course.

Move As One urged the government to postpone the public hearing on PAREX scheduled for March 25.

"The PAREX scoping meeting on July 14 (2021) was not carried out correctly and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the project contains two different expressway alignments, a serious error that will mislead and confuse stakeholders." the coalition said in a statement.

On March 23, the coalition issued an 18-page statement and its own environmental impact assessment to the Environmental Management Bureau of the DENR.

"If the EIA is undertaken correctly and comprehensively, the EIA will show that the damage from PAREX significantly outweighs its questionable and likely small benefits. A project with negative impacts that exceed expected benefits should not be allowed to proceed, especially if the negative impacts are significant and not amenable to mitigation," Move As One said. "Unlike other major infrastructure projects, PAREX has never undergone the normal scrutiny and careful review by the government's multi-agency Investment Coordination Committee. PAREX was never given any scrutiny by the Toll Regulatory Board, except for a cursory technical and financial evaluation with very little detail," it added.

Move As One said that SMC was not required to submit a comprehensive project economic analysis incorporating all costs and benefits including losses from likely negative social, economic, and environmental impacts.

"For this reason, the EIA of PAREX needs to be a comprehensive and credible accounting of all impacts that the project will bring. It may be the only opportunity the Filipino people will have to put a stop to a harmful project. It is therefore important that the proponent should not be permitted to take any 'shortcuts' or to submit an incomplete or half-baked EIA," it said.

"The draft EIA Report has missed out on several significant impacts of PAREX. Because of the considerable harm that PAREX could bring to millions of Filipinos, to priceless heritage assets and to the environment, these likely impacts deserve to be analyzed thoroughly by the proponent," it added.

The coalition estimated that the economic cost of the urban blight to nearby communities at a minimum of P96.9 billion.

It also cited the health and economic impacts of PAREX, including the increase in ambient air temperature, and air and noise pollution.

"Neighborhoods in the vicinity of PAREX will become warmer. Increased temperature is expected from motor vehicles, from the reduction of the

Portion of Padre Algue St. from Guerrero St. to Jose Abad Santos Ave. including Narra and Balintawak Sts.; Most Rev. Sui Kim Centennial Hall, Stanford Industrial Supply and Aqua Park.

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS NORTH PORT 49H AND 53H; TUTUBAN 43VT AND 432VT; AND TUTUBAN 56VT - NORTH PORT 54H

Portion of Antonio Rivera St. from Tayuman St. to La Torre St. including Ran-Properties and Management Corp., BenBryant Realty Holdings and Fortune Dragon Development

Portion of Mayhalique St. from Antonio Rivera St. to Narra St. including Guerrero St.: and Chiang Kai Shek College - Narra Campus.

REASON: Replacement of poles, line reconductoring work and installation of additional lightning protection devices along Antonio Rivera St. in Tondo, Manila.

BULACAN (ANGAT)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Portion of Marungko Road from Gen. Alejo G. Santos Highway to near Zkhy Pharma Trading including G. Villarama, Antipolo, Dr. Antonio and T. Capistrano Sts. in Bgy. Marungko

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT

Portion of Gen. Alejo G. Santos Highway from Bgy. Donacion Basketball Court to near Mar ungko Road including Bgys. Donacion, Taboc, Sulucan and Marungko.

REASON: Line reconductoring work along Gen, Aleio G, Santos Highway in Boys, Donacion, Taboc and Sulucan in Angat, Bulacar

PAMPANGA (APALIT) AND BULACAN (BALIUAG AND PULILAN)

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 10:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:30PM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PULILAN 326PUL

Portion of Esguerra St. from Arc Inaon to and including Sitio Batasan and Sitio Manalili; Richfield Integrated Structure Corp. in Bgys. Sta. Peregrina, Balatong A and Inaon in Pulilan, Bulacan Portion of NIA Road from Esguerra St. in Bgy. Balatong A to and including Angeles St. in

Pulilan, Bulacan

Sitio Mulawin Matanda in Bgy, Tarcan, Baliuag, Bulacan

Portion of Sitio Centro Road from Esguerra St. to and including Sitio Banag, Sitio Dungan and Sitio Kaingin in Bgy. Balucuc, Apalit, Pampanga.

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PULILAN 326PUL

Portion of Sitio Cabio Bakal Road from Sitio Centro to and including Sitio Everlasting, Sitio Ilang-Ilang, Sitio Sampaguita and Sitio Cabio Bakal in Bgys. Balucuc and Calantipe in Apalit, Pampanga.

Sitio Sulong in Bgy. Tilapayong, Baliuag, Bulacan.

REASON: Replacement of poles and installation of facilities in Sitio Centro, Bgy. Balucuc, Apalit, Pampanga

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 - 30, 2022

CAVITE (TRECE MARTIRES CITY)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 03/29/22) AND 4:00AM (WED., 03/30/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT TMC-II 423WA

Portion of Governor's Drive from Puregold Jr. to and including St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Church, Saint Jude Thaddeus Parish School, 7-Eleven Convenience Store, SMDC Hope Residences and SM Tower Mall in Bgy. San Agustin

Portion of Trece Martires - Indang Road from Governor's Drive to and including Re gina Ville 2000 Subd., Sampaguita Village, Tradition Hores, St. Joseph Village and Cavite Provincial Capitol Compound; Sustamina Feedmill, Super8 Grocery Warehouse, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, Amore International Academy, Trece Martires City National High School, PLDT - Trece Martires and Mercury Drug in Bgys. Inocencio, Luciano and San Agustin.

Portion of Marcius Ave. from Trece Martires – Indang Road to and including Capitol Hills ve Subd. Villages 1 and 2; and Agricultural Training Institute Region IV-A in Bgy. Lapidario. Portion of Lapidario Road from Marcius Ave. to and including Ciudad Adelina AFP-PNP

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n Bay Hagonov

Along Cadena De Amor St. in Bgy, Wawa. Portion of C-6 Road from Hagonoy Taguig Hospital in Bgy. Hagonoy to Napindan Bridge in Bgy. Napindan.

REASON: Line reconductoring work along Seagull Ave. in Bgy. Hagonoy, Taguig City.

NESDAY TO THURSDAY, MARCH 30-31, 2022

RIZAL PROVINCE (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (WED., 03/30/22) AND 6:00AM (THU., 03/31/22) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT DOLORES 65XM – ST. ANTHONY 61ZN – MANGGAHAN 61ZM – MARIKINA 64VG Midland Steel in St. Anthony Subd., Bgy. San Juan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Dolores 65XM - Marikina 64VG - Manggahan 61ZM - St. Anthony 61ZN 115kV trannsmission lines

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY)

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 1:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LUCENA 423LCN

Portion of Park Ave, from Lucena - Tavabas Road to and including Metro South Gate Subd. Metropolis East Grove Subd., Metropolis Lucena Subd. Phases I, II & VI, Purok Baybayin and Metropolis Lucena TML Subd. in Bgys. Mayao Kanluran and Ibabang Dupay.

REASON: Replacement of poles; and line reconstruction work in Purok Baybayin, Bgy. Ibabang Dupay, Lucena City, Quezon Province.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, MARCH 31-APRIL 1, 2022

LAGUNA (BAY; AND CALAUAN)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 03/31/22) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 04/01/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILA 413DIA

Portion of Bay - Calauan Highway from Meralco - Dila substation to Manila South Road (Los Baños - Bay - Calauan National Highway) in Bgy. Dila, Bay. Portion of Manila South Road (Los Baños - Bay - Calauan National Highway) from Bay

Calauan Highway in Bgy. Dila, Bay to and including Bayer Cropscience Inc. and Isdaan Floating Restaurant Bgys. Bangyas and Hanggan in Calauan.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by DPWH project along Manila South Road (Los Baños – Bay – Calauan National Highway) in Bgys. Dila, Hanggan and Bangyas in Bay and Calauan in Laguna.

RIZAL PROVINCE (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 03/31/22) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 04/01/22) - THE WHOLE OF CIR-CUIT DOLORES 65XM - ST. ANTHONY 61ZN - MANGGAHAN 61ZM - MARIKINA 64VG

Midland Steel in St. Anthony Subd., Bgy. San Juan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Dolores 65XM - Marikina 64VG - Manggahan 61ZM - St. Anthony 61ZN 115kV trannsmission lines.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

BATANGAS PROVINCE (BATANGAS CITY)

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 1:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BATANGAS 323SG Portion of Catandala Barangay Road from Sitio Ilaya to and including Sitio Pulo; Catandala

Roads 1 & 2; and Golden Duos Farm in Bgy. Catandala. REASON: Replacement of pole in Sitio Ilaya, Bgy. Catandala, Batangas City, Batangas Province

SUNDAY TO MONDAY, APRIL 3 - 4, 2022

CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS CITY)

BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 5:00AM (SUN., 04/03/22) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:00AM AND 4:00AM (MON., 04/04/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT AMADEO 62AMA - GATEWAY 62WP - FCIE 65WB - SMC

San Miguel - Purefoods Hormel Compound along Governor's Drive in Sitio De Fuego, Bgy. San Francisco

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Crisanto Delos Reyes Ave. in Bgy. Biclatan, Gen. Trias City, Cavite



natural cooling effect of the Pasig River. and from the 'urban heat island effect.' Increased temperatures will result in illnesses such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke and more deaths from heart attacks, strokes and other cardiovascular diseases." Move As One said. – Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

Subsidies sought for returning business processing workers

THE GOVERNMENT needs to support employees returning to perform onsite work in the information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) industry, also known as the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector, an Akbayan Party-List candidate said.

The party-list's second nominee, Raymond John S. Naguit, said in a statement on Thursday that IT-BPM workers required to return to the office need subsidized commutes and free coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) testing, after the industry was recently denied permission to continue doing the bulk of its work remotely.

Akbayan supports the industry's position on continuing with work-from-home (WFH) arrangements for employees until September, saying that the government needs the time to prepare the work environment to make it safer, and also to shield workers from high fuel prices.

"If BPO workers are required

to go back to onsite work, they should be given stronger benefits and subsidies. The government must ensure that COVID-19 testing for all BPO workers is free and that adequate public transportation be made available, coupled with a sufficient commuter subsidy for workers returning to onsite duty," Mr. Naguit said.

Incentives granted to economic zone locators, including IT-BPM companies, are tied to working within the economic zones because they are classified as separate customs territories under the law. Economic managers have argued that ecozone locators' continued enjoyment of tax privileges despite WFH arrangements puts non-locators at a disadvantage.

During the pandemic, the industry was granted a WFH exemption in the interest of safety. The authorization to work from home expires on March 31.

Mr. Naguit also called on the industry to subsidize the personal electricity and internet bills of remote workers.

"Under Republic Act No. 11165 or the Telecommuting Act, employees have the right to reimbursement (of) any expenses incurred while WFH," Mr. Naguit said. - Revin Mikhael D. **Ochave**