



ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
of the
DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FY 2021
(as of 30 June 2022)

OUTCOME 1: NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

In pursuit of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's independent foreign policy, the DFA actively led efforts to engage bilateral and international partners to promote a stable security environment for the country's economic growth. This is in line with the Government's vision of a secure and prosperous Philippines that is confident of its place in the community of nations.

On maritime matters, the Duterte Administration improved relations with China through bilateral visits and cooperative mechanisms which helped create an improved environment for managing issues in the West Philippine Sea (WPS). During the 12th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting (ARF ISM) on Maritime Security held on 29 April 2021, the DFA advocated for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the resumption of the negotiations on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea. This stance was further echoed in other ASEAN Meetings and Dialogues.

On security cooperation, the DFA represented the Philippines and participated in regional and multilateral security fora to enhance the country's security capabilities. The DFA also issued Guidelines to diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to PH as guidance for foreign governments, inter-governmental and international organizations, in disclosing all foreign government funding intended for Philippine non-government organizations (NGOs). The Guidelines were issued to promote transparency and information-sharing, in accordance with the DFA's mandate to be the lead agency in advising and assisting the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations.

On engagements with other countries, the DFA expanded ties with traditional allies while enhancing engagement of non-traditional partners through the conduct of a series of high-level bilateral engagements and meetings. Throughout the year, Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin met with his counterparts from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, European Union, France, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Palau, Poland, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

On economic security, the DFA continues to lead the government's efforts in the promotion of the Philippines' economic interests, through both multilateral and bilateral engagements. Priority was given to intensifying economic promotion activities for trade, investment, tourism, and services, as well as capacity-building and strengthening collaboration with relevant government agencies for a reinforced One Country Team Approach. The DFA led the country's participation in the various Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Meetings, focusing on the reinforcement of free and open trade, regional integration via the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP), support for WTO and the multilateral trading system (MTS), economic recovery, inclusion, sustainability, green economy, digitalization, innovation, and structural reform.

On multilateral engagements, the DFA in coordination with other government agencies, actively participated in regional and global platforms to pursue Philippine advocacies and interests in fora such as the UN, ASEAN and ASEM. The DFA played an active role on matters regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity, maritime cooperation, biodiversity conservation and management, climate action, tourism, human rights and humanitarian issues, smart cities, circular economy biotechnology, agriculture, food security, food sustainability, free and open trade, inclusive economic growth, women's economic empowerment, digital economies, financial technologies, cyber security and information and communication technology (ICT) and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

OUTCOME 2: OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED

The DFA provided various forms of assistance to distressed overseas Filipinos (OFs), including the provision of assistance-to-nationals and legal assistance when necessary, as well as pursuing advocacies to ensure the protection of migrants, including the fight against trafficking in persons.

Repatriation and COVID-19 Pandemic

As of 31 December 2021, the DFA, through its Foreign Service Posts worldwide, has facilitated the repatriation of 454,796 overseas Filipinos during the COVID-19 pandemic, of which 105,615 are seafarers and 349,181 are land-based workers.

As of 29 October 2021, the DFA facilitated the issuance of flight clearances for 2,308 flights used to repatriate distressed overseas Filipinos worldwide, including those stranded due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The DFA has assisted in the processing/facilitation of international humanitarian assistance from 15 foreign governments and 6 other entities thereof, 5 international organizations, and 48 private companies, groups and individuals. The Department also issued visas to foreign technical experts in relation to the COVID-19-related procurement of the Philippine Red Cross and to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) grant to DOH.

COVID-19 Vaccine Diplomatic Engagement and Negotiations

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Finance (DOF), and the Office of the Chief Implementer of the National Task Force (NTF) COVID-19 and Vaccine Czar, helped facilitate the arrival in the Philippines of several vaccines, either through donation or procurement, from foreign governments and from the COVAX Facility, a tripartite initiative by GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

As of 28 December 2021, the Philippines received a total of 205,453,940 doses of COVID-19 vaccines (56,030,400 doses of Sinovac vaccine; 34,987,850 doses of

AstraZeneca; 12,557,650 doses of Janssen vaccine; 59,475,780 doses of Pfizer/BioNTech; 31,297,260 doses of Moderna; 10,000,000 doses of Sputnik V; 1,100,000 doses of Sinopharm; and 5,000 doses of Sputnik Light). Of the total, 143,936,840 doses have been distributed to health facilities nationwide, accounting for 70% of the total doses received by the country.

As of 28 December 2021, a total of 73,961,080 doses were donations from the COVAX Facility and foreign governments. Vaccine donations made up 36% of the total received doses. Meanwhile, 131,492,860 doses were procured by the national government (including tripartite agreements with LGUs and private sector).

PH Vaccine Certificate-Related Matters

The DFA, as part of the Sub-Technical Working Group on (Sub-TWG) of the VaxCertPH, continuously coordinates with other concerned government agencies on the recognition, interoperability, and reciprocity arrangements of the COVID-19 vaccine certificates, and participates in various inter-agency meetings on COVID-19 vaccine certificates.

Moreover, DFA continued to operate as the focal Office in facilitating engagements with foreign countries and other relevant foreign entities on the recognition and acceptance of the PH-issued digital vaccine certificate (DVC) for COVID-19 through bilateral, regional, and multilateral agreements. It also serves as a focal point in facilitating the acceptance of foreign countries on the utilization of public keys.

Migration Governance

The DFA, in cooperation with Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and the International Organization for Migration, conducted a virtual forum entitled "*Labor Mobility and Human Rights: Examining Migrant Labor Governance in the Middle East in the Context of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)*" on 20 April 2021. President Rodrigo Roa Duterte addressed the forum, reaffirming the Philippines' commitment to protecting millions of migrant workers around the world. He called for the abolition of the Kafala system, a sponsorship system of migrant workers.

OUTCOME 3: CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED

The DFA continues to endeavor to strengthen its delivery of consular services to meet the growing demand and make these services more accessible to the public despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, there are 36 COs, of which 17 are located in Luzon, 5 are in Visayas, 8 are in Mindanao, and 6 are located within the National Capital Region (NCR).

From 01 January to 31 December 2021, the DFA has issued 2,530,085 passports. The DFA partnered with service providers to establish Philippine Passport Renewal Centers (PaRCs) under the jurisdiction of FSPs. The PaRCs provide an alternative means for Filipinos holding expired or expiring passports, who, and for one reason

or another, are unable to visit the FSPs. The PaRCs had been useful and instrumental in delivering straightforward consular services during the COVID-19 pandemic. As of December 2021, there are 16 PaRCs located in the Middle East, Europe, ASEAN and the US. From 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021, a total of 147,498 passports have been released by VFS and BLS operating PaRCs.

Moreover, the DFA also launched Temporary Off-site Passport Services (TOPS) in seven NCR locations and three regional sites. As of 31 December 2021, these TOPS facilities processed a total of 290,804 passport applications. Additionally, the DFA conducted 85 Passport on Wheels (POW) outreach programs, issuing a total of 19,290 passports in 2021.

The DFA also launched the Global Online Appointment System (GOAS) for passport applications in the Foreign Service Posts, mirroring the current Online Appointment System (OAS) used in DFA Consular Offices in the Philippines.

Through the efforts of the DFA's Visa Division, the visa application and issuance process was modernized and streamlined with the launch and implementation of the Online Visa Application System (OVAS) and the Philippine Visa Management System (PVMS). The OVAS and PVMS were rolled out to all FSPs worldwide, except Philippine Honorary Consulates, in September 2021. From 01 January to 25 December 2021, the DFA has issued 25,206 visas.

On 09 March 2021, the online Apostille Appointment and Verification System at the Office of Consular Affairs (OCA) was also launched. With the new system, the turnaround time for authentication of documents has been reduced from four to three days at no additional charge to the public. As of 31 December 2021, the DFA has authenticated 288,004 public documents.

For the year 2021, the DFA has successfully transmitted to the Philippine Statistics Authority a total of 53,232 civil registry reports (Report of Birth, Report of Marriage, Report of Death, Legal Instruments, Petitions for Correction of Clerical Errors, Supplemental, Conversion to Islam and Renunciation).

The DFA is committed to mainstreaming Quality Management System pursuant to its ISO 9001:2015 certification which was retained in December 2020 based on the remote audit done by TUV Nord Philippines, Inc., a third-party certifying body.