

BRIEFER ON THE 2023 BUDGET PRIORITIES FRAMEWORK

Consistent with the 10-point policy agenda that will help accelerate the country's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposed FY 2023 National Budget will prioritize health-related expenditures, disaster risk management, social security, digital economy/government, local government support, and growth-inducing expenditures.



Infrastructure Development

- Sustain the Build, Build, Build Program
- Address risks for infrastructure projects by strengthening Plan-Program-Budget linkage and prioritizing shovel-ready programs, activities, and projects (PAPs) and ensure their timely completion
- Promote convergence programs for infrastructure development
- Invest in infrastructure projects that will focus on:
 - the establishment of an efficient and reliable mass public transport system;
 - the construction, renovation, and rehabilitation of educational facilities and better access to health care facilities;
 - the development of downstream natural gas, renewable energy, and alternative sources of energy;
 - streamlining the processes for securing permits and clearances for digital infrastructure; and
 - capacitating local governments in promoting wider use of information and communication technologies to improve both public and private services.



Climate and Disaster Risk Resilience, and Environmental Management and Protection

- Ensure that disaster risk resilience and climate change adaptation measures are well incorporated in PAPs
- Intensify law enforcement, protection, and management measures for various environment and natural resources



Food Safety and Security

- Develop eco-friendly pest and disease management control strategies for better crops
- Innovate technologies that will prolong shelf-life and improve nutritional content of agriculture and fisheries products
- Strengthen the link between small farmers and fisherfolk and industrial-level agribusiness enterprises
- Provide more efficient transport and logistics systems for goods and services, particularly in geographically-isolated and disadvantaged areas



Enterprise Development

- Provide continuous funding for PAPs that will support the digital transformation of the country
- Invest in analog complements, such as skills, regulations, and institutions, to leverage the old economy (i.e., pre-digital transformation)
- Develop digital financial infrastructure to ensure the country's readiness for the shift to a cash-lite economy



Science, Technology, and Innovation

- Intensify research and development of technologies and processes in the agriculture, industry, services, and health sectors
- Prioritize investments in health research institutes, such as the Virology Science and Technology Institute of the Philippines and the Philippine Genome Center, among others
- Strengthen collaboration with scientists, virology centers, and institutes, especially at the international level



Transition to Full Devolution

- Strengthen coordination between the national government and local government units (LGUs) for better delivery of public services and goods
- Provide technical assistance to LGUs when implementing devolved functions and services

Human Capital Development



Health

- Continue to support reforms that are consistent with landmark legislations (e.g., Universal Health Care, *Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act*, Mental Health Act)
- Enhance primary health care facilities
- Promote nutrition and health-related interventions especially during the first 1,000 days of life for children and their mothers
- Adopt a multisectoral approach to the causes of childhood malnutrition to reduce hunger incidence in the country
- Accelerate and expand the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, especially for infants and children
- Intensify the implementation of the Family Planning Program



Social Protection

- Provide subsidies for affected individuals and households from disadvantaged sectors
- Fast-track implementation of the Community-Based Monitoring System and the Philippine Identification System Act



Education

- Improve the implementation of online and blended learning modalities in basic and higher education, and technical vocational education and training
- Ensure safe return to in-person schooling (i.e., vaccination, well-ventilated classrooms, availability of water, sanitation, and hygiene [WASH] facilities)
- Enhance the implementation of student financial assistance programs



Labor and Employment

- Upskill and reskill the labor force by implementing measures that support continuing education, digital learning, training, and redeployment
- Strengthen financial and technical assistance programs for workers
- Capacitate critical groups severely hit by the pandemic (e.g., workers in the tourism and agriculture sectors)



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A separate briefer will be released for the FY 2023 National Budget's final macroeconomic assumptions and fiscal aggregates that will be approved by the Development Budget Coordination Committee.