

“Rule of Law in Times of Crisis: Combating Corruption’s Economic Impact and Championing Human Rights in the Face of COVID-19”

9 December 2020 | Virtual Town Hall Discussion (vTHD)



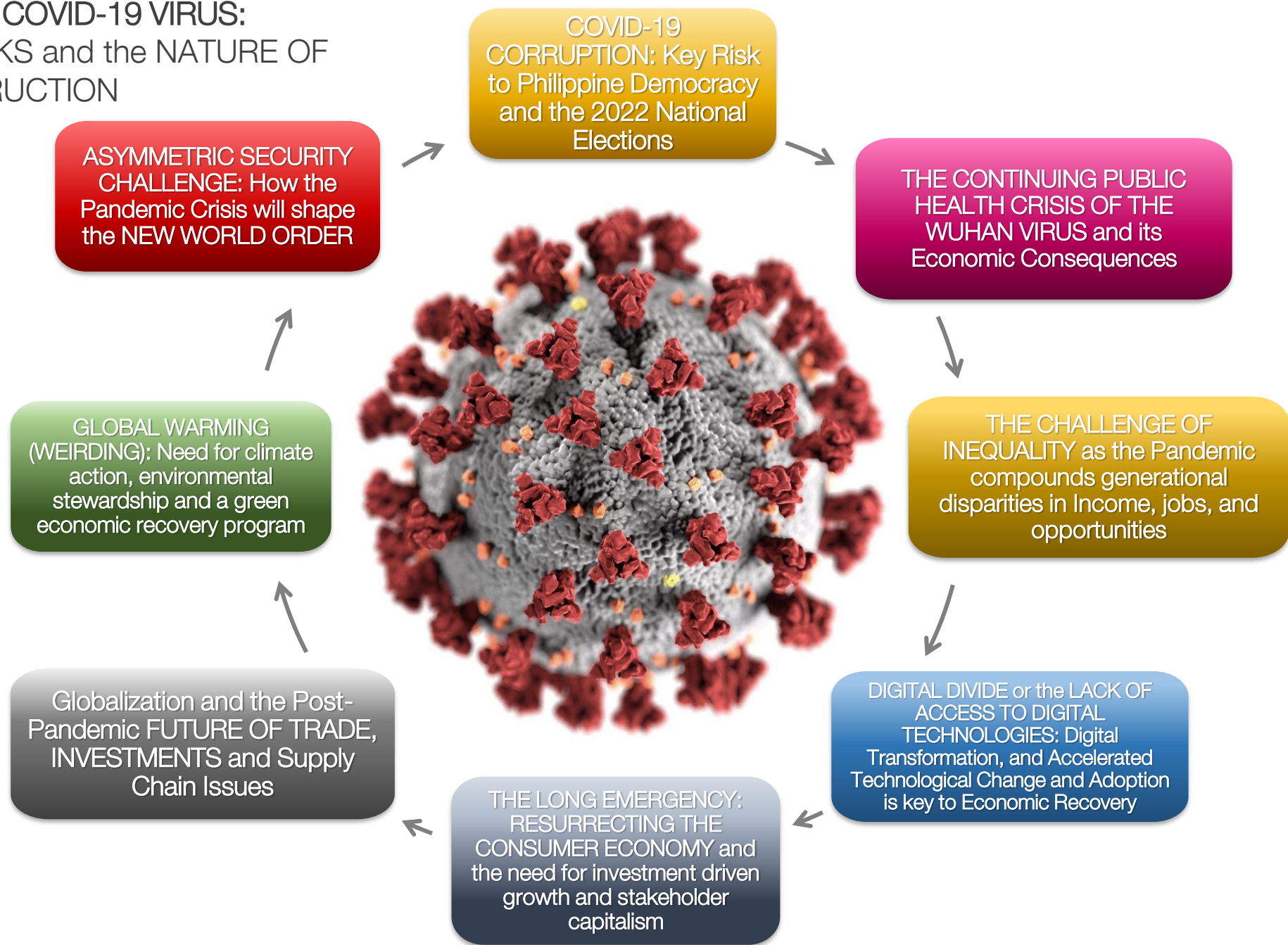
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“The problem of corruption is complex and multidimensional, requiring the **collaboration of both the public and private sectors**. The government and the private sector must work together to **promote greater transparency and accountability** in governance, and **build institutional integrity**.”

That Other Virus – Corruption
Philippine Daily Inquirer, 20 March 2020

LIVING WITH THE COVID-19 VIRUS: 8 PANDEMIC RISKS and the NATURE OF CREATIVE DESTRUCTION



COVID-19 CORRUPTION: KEY RISK TO PHILIPPINE DEMOCRACY AND THE NATIONAL ELECTION OF 2022

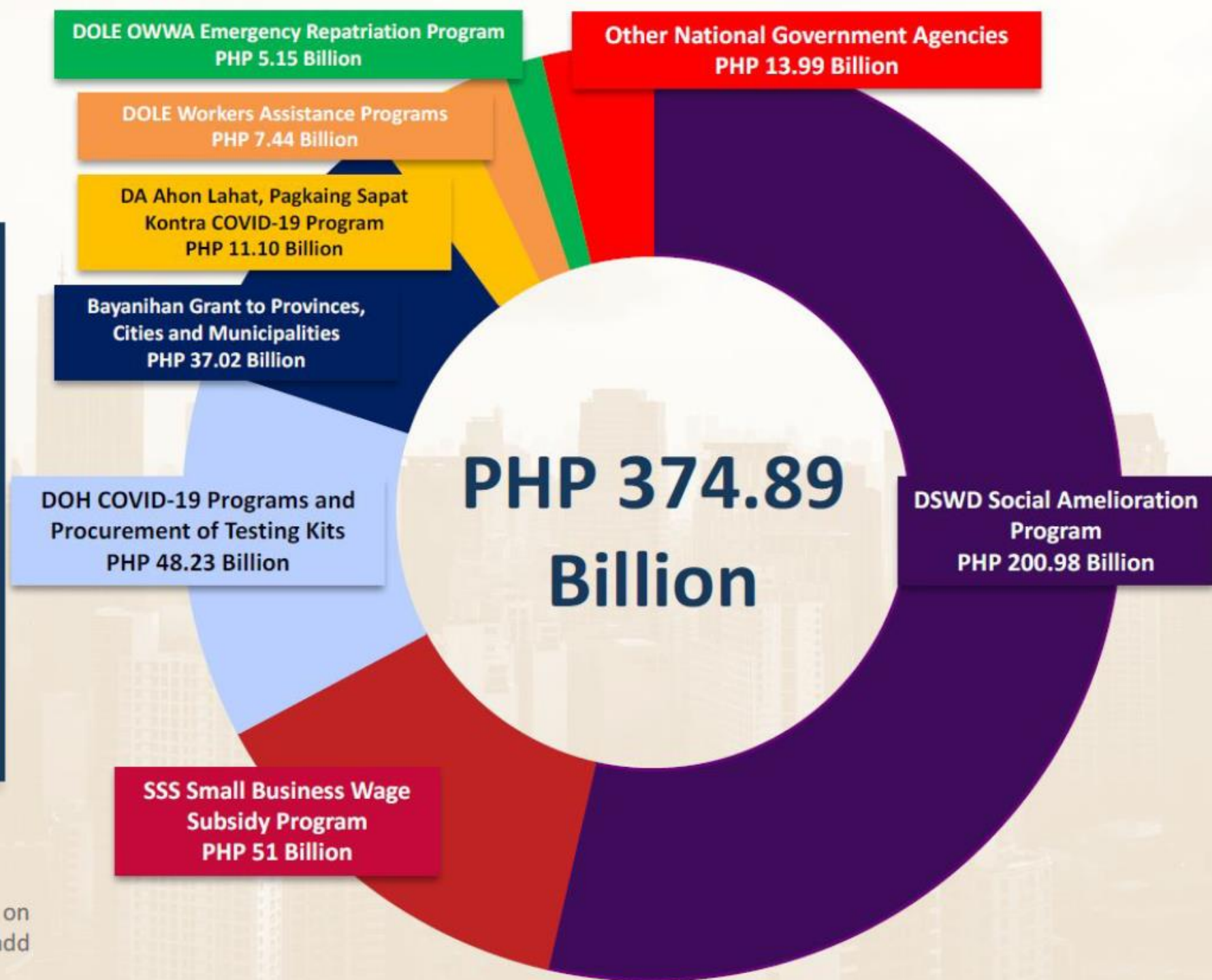
As government moves to ramp up the COVID-19 response and increase its funding, alongside cushioning the ravaging impact of the past two typhoons, the **current level of transparency and accountability leaves much to be desired**. The pandemic has given governments the opportunity to skip accountability measures and democratic procedures under the guise of "emergency powers."

Paradoxically, the **presence of a crisis has always been used as the buffer in committing democratic shortcuts** that relate to the urgent allocation and release of public funds. In the process, governments possess the proclivity of eschewing oversight mechanisms altogether in a perceived or assumed state of alleviating the socio-economic impact of the crisis.

In a myopic point of view, the **corrosive effect of such undemocratic practices assails the very foundations of good and responsive governance**.

Released Allotments for the Government's COVID-19 Response Programs

(as of June 30, 2020)



NOTE: Figures are subject to changes based on emerging COVID-19 needs. Values may not add up due to rounding-off.

FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET



PhP4.506 T



9.9% year-on-year growth
21.8% of GDP



CORRUPTION & HUMAN RIGHTS

"Undisclosed, unchecked, or undue influence over the powerful skews resources and policies away from the common good. **It perpetuates inequality, undermines democracy and deprives people of their human rights.**

Building political integrity requires **context-specific, comprehensive systems that combine measures to prevent political corruption.**"

– *Political Integrity* Transparency International

A HUMAN RIGHTS-CENTERED COVID-19 RESPONSE

"Governments must provide reasoned justification for the choices they make, both to contain the pandemic and to boost their economies. **A public health emergency should not be taken as an opportunity to bypass accountability.**

We call on all governments and other actors involved to ensure that all responses to the COVID-19 outbreak are in **compliance with international human rights law and standards**, taking into account the specific needs of marginalized groups and people and those most at risk, and that the specific human rights risks associated with any particular response are addressed and mitigated."

- Joint Statement of Transparency International, CIVICUS, and Amnesty International

CORROSIVE CAPITAL: AN EMERGING RISK

Corrosive capital is state-driven and private capital, usually from authoritarian nations, that **that lack accountability and transparency**. This makes it especially dangerous for emerging or weakened democracies as it **erodes the strength of the rule of law and enables corrupt practices**.

As we approach the 2022 presidential elections, it is vital that we take stock of all factors that exert influence on Philippine society, be it in the economic, social, or electoral aspect.

“The Philippines has much to celebrate in terms of drawing up a framework and putting systems in place to ensure human rights protection and accountability. However, reality presents a grimmer picture. The past years have shown us how these systems can easily be manipulated to violate, instead of protecting, our rights. **The most sophisticated legal devices cannot stop state abuses, only the Filipino people can.**”

Reclaiming human rights

– Atty. Jenny Domino

*Non-Resident Fellow, Stratbase ADR Institute;
Associate Legal Adviser, International Commission of Jurists*

Philippine Star, 13 December 2019

HOLDING THE POWERFUL TO ACCOUNT FOR THE COMMON GOOD

– *Transparency International (December 2020)*

We need **responsive governance founded on the principles of transparency and accountability** to surmount the economic and health challenges we face in the wake of COVID-19. It is with such core principles matched by institutional reforms that governments are able to move **in cooperation with the various sectors of civil society**, creating a culture of **responsive public service** and a **mature democratic system**.

A whole of society working together is the stepping stone toward good and responsive recovery and growth from this induced crisis.

THANK YOU!



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