



PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

MESSAGE FROM THE PEZA DIRECTOR GENERAL

The coronavirus outbreak will forever change the way we live our lives and the way things are. To us who exist, there has never been a disaster so widely disruptive and lethal as COVID-19 which is equipped with capacity to decimate global population similar to what the “Spanish flu” did in 1918. Nations perceived to be capable of managing a pandemic are caught unprepared and are scrambling to get their acts together to flatten the curve.

COVID-19 momentarily derailed the programs of our government for our people to improve their standard of living, but with our decisive and strategist Chief Executive in President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, we expect our economy to recover faster in due time. The current administration through the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on COVID-19 is doing its best within its powers and beyond the agencies' mandates to contribute to managing the pandemic, and so far we have fared well in containing the spread of the virus and in keeping the economy afloat. As a public official and a concerned citizen, may I humbly express my sincerest and deepest appreciation and admiration for the government and health workers who are on the trenches right now and have put themselves in harm's way being our frontliners and owing to their personal resolve to be of service to the nation. To those families who lost their loved ones or with family member battling the disease, we can only offer our prayers and our grim determination to defeat and put a stop to this scourge to assuage your grief.

The “Bayanihan to heal as one Act” is proof that our government is decisive and proactive, knowing that postponing government actions can be catastrophic for the Filipino population. In particular, PEZA in coordination with the DTI and IATF--together with our host LGUs--have put in place measures intended to keep our valued ecozone locators up and running, and at the same time cushion the adverse impact of the pandemic. Towards this end, PEZA is cognizant of the need to strike a balance between advancing public health and safety while sustaining the needed jobs and exports for the country.

Kudos to the PEZA investors for keeping their trust and confidence despite the odds, adversities and challenges brought upon us by COVID-19. To the PEZA employees, I am honored and privileged for being at the helm and working with dedicated and competent colleagues and public servants during this direst of situation. When this is over, we shall aim to preserve our gains as the biggest contributor to export income, employment, and technology transfer by creating different types of economic zones as economic drivers towards full industrialization of the country, building smart and sustainable cities and new metropolitan areas in the countryside.

As we call on everyone to rally together amidst COVID'19, we hope that this "bayanihan" value of helping one another particularly in times of crisis will ignite in us the spirit of communal unity, work and cooperation in support of government's efforts to contain the virus and its ill effects. To borrow a phrase, “All things must pass” and “the only thing to fear is fear itself”. Our ability to overcome fear and to care transcends boundaries, and we Filipinos, in solidarity with the global community, shall heal as one and will move forward as a nation, stronger and united in aspirations and purpose. Stay home, stay safe and God bless our country!

Very truly yours,


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