Bayan launches #FightCOVID19 campaign to push for 12-point people's demands during lockdown

#FightCOVID19

Outcry of the people against COVID-19 and the neglectful government
March 19, 2020

The responses of the Duterte government to the COVID-19 pandemic have been gravely lacking and late. While the epidemic was happening in China and neighboring countries, government officials minimized its possible impact on the Philippines. From the earliest part of the spread throughout the world the Philippines should have enacted a travel ban on the countries central to the spread of the sickness like hina. (The first ones to be positive in the Philippines are from China). There should also have been preparations for widespread testing and thorough contact-tracing for the possibility that the sickness would enter our borders. The machinery of public health until community level should have been readied in order to face this health crisis. But this was not done.

On March 18, 2020 only 1,030 tests have been done for COVID-19, much too small a number compared to the projected possible number of those who will be infected within 3 months according to the DOH (Department of Health) itself, which reaches up to 75,000. Currently, there are more than 200 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Philippines and it is expected to grow in the coming weeks.

The current lockdown which is called by the government as "enhanced community quarantine" on the whole of Luzon is a result of the late and sorely lacking response of the government to the crisis, the possible impect of which could be foreseen from the early part of February 2020. What's worse, the situation of the most vulnerable who would be affected by the lockdown were not considered, something that was exposed in the first days of the quarantine.

The spread of the COVID-19 sickness must be stopped or significantly slowed especially since there is no cure or vaccine yet for it and there are vulnerable sections of the population that will be hit with grave illness that they can die from. This is what the government should urgently respond to along with wide socio-economic support for all vulnerable sectors affected by the lockdown.

Our demands

The following are our urgent demands in the time of lockdown and facing COVID19:

Medical steps

1. Allocate sufficient funds for free testing, treatment, and eradication of COVID 19, and fixing health services.

Most immediately, use the P13 Billion Contingency Fund, P 16 Billion Disaster Rick Reduction Management Fund, and more than P4.5 Billion Confidential and Intelligence Fund of the President, aside from funds allocated for counter-insurgency, tourism, debt servicing and others. Congress should urgently act on the P1.6B supplemental funding for the eradication of COVID 19.

2. Implement mass testing that is free, widespread, and systematic. Test everyone who is suspected to have COVID-19 (Persons Under Investigation or PUI and Persons Under Monitoring or PUM) especially in chosen and priority communities (called surveillance or sentinel testing) in order to determine who is sick, and how and where it spreads in order to be make a concrete plan and steps to stop the spread. The symptoms of sore throat, runny nose, cough, fever, and especially pneumonia - severe or not - and all those with exposure to confirmed cases should have priority in testing. Related to this, increase the number of testing kits, establish testing centers and laboratories, and assign those with expertise there. Make it a priority of the government to procure and produce testing kits and increase the laboratories that can process the results.

3. Increase the equipment, supply, and personnel of hospitals. Assign COVID-19-specific hospitals (public and private) in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, that have sufficient equipment, supply, and trained personnel who will principally receive patients suspected and confirmed to have COVID-19. Increase the number of isolation rooms and ensure that no less than 3,000 ventilators will be provided to hospitals. Give aid to private hospitals if needed. Undertake immediate mass hiring of nurses and other health workers in order to fill the 17,000 vacant positions in public hospitals and the needed 42,000 nurses to support the curent health staffing in communities. Those taking the March 2020 Medical Licensure Examination may be mobilized to augment the current number of doctors.

4. Establish sanitation facilities and quarantine centers in communities. Establish handwashing facilities, sanitation tents, disinfection facilities, and quarantine centers at all levels - baranggay, town, city, and region - in order to stop the spread of the sickness and respond to the needs of patients. It is not realistic or practical to rely on those living in cramped communities and houses the system of home quarantine. The correct care and monitoring of PUM and PUI is also a problem, they are currently just sent home.

5. Ensure the support and protection of frontliners. This includes health workers, doctors or nurses, med tech, x-ray technitian, etc. Urgently provide them with adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Ensure that they have transportation to and from work during lockdown. Ensure their working conditions - that they have nutritional food and adequate rest, hazard pay, free and regular testing for COVID-19, and other support. This is appropriate both for those based in hospitals or in triage areas outside of hospitals that will be established in order to filter those who are sick or need to be checked out, and those who will be stationed in community centers in order to undertake specimen collection for targeted testing. Also ensure that the community health workers who will be going around communities to help with public information, education and sanitation drives have adequate gear like mask, alcohol, gloves, etc.

6. Ensure the system of response to COVID-19 until the community level. Ensure that correct, timely, and understandable information about COVID-19 and how to avoid it is given to the people. Clarify where the closest and first place to go is for those who are suspected to be sick. Prepare a transportation system for them if they need to be brought to the hospital. Give appropriate orientation and skills to Barangay Health Workers (BHW), relief and disasater management presonnel, and volunteers so that they can effectively contribute to responding to COVID-19. Related to this, fix the system of unified and comprehensive health system and general management in facing COVID-19. There should be clear guidelines and support from the national government to LGUs that recognizes their abilities and weaknesses. Use persuasion instead of oppression or fear in order to get the people to implement quarantine protocols.

Socio-economic steps

1. Forbid layoffs and give support to affected workers and semi-workers. Implement mandatory paid leave (separate from regular leave credits) to workers who can't come to work due to sickness or lockdown. Give support to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) who can't implement this. Give financial assistance no less than P10,000 to contractual and informal workers who are affected but not qualified for paid leave. Urgently implement the DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) order for P5,000 COVID Adjustment Measures Program for private employees who will lose their jobs and P5,000 Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Displaced/Underprivileged Workers (TUPAD) (Livelihood Assistance to Displaced/Underprivileged Workers), including street vendors, tricycle and jeep drivers.

2. Give emergency relief packs and other support for the poor. Include in relief packs not just food but also face masks, vitamins, medicines, soap, alcohol, and sanitizers like bleach. Make distribution house to house to abide by social distancing. Loosen and expand the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) program and use the more than P56.4B available funds for unconditional cash transfer (UCT) to help the poor. Increase the capability and funds of crisis intervention units (CIU) of the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) in handling social workers.

3. Implement a moratorium on bills and penalties. Principally on bills for water, electricity, phone service, rent, debts, and tax, including the suspention of the deadline for income tax return on April 15.

4. Control the prices and ensure the supply of basic goods and services. Particularly water, electricity, telecommunication, medicine, rice, and other basic food. Ensure the continuous entry into Manila and other urban centers of food from the countryside.

5. Ensure transportation for those who need it. Other than frontliners and those providing important services, limited but sufficient transport should also be ensured for patients, those buying food and basic goods, and to those stranted and wish to return to their homes. The guidelines on social distancing will be followed here.

6. Stop the demolition of houses of the poor and shelter the unhoused. Find a way for those who were affected by the lockdown to be able to go home to their respective homes in the provices. Ensure those without homes are sheltered and their needs are taken care of.

Mobilize against COVID-19 and the incapable Duterte government

Our demands are primarily directed at the government which has the biggest capability but has failed to respond to COVID-19. Even so, this should be responded to by all and effort should be exerted in different ways and levels, especially by those who are organized.

In relation to this, we as the people should mobilize to push the government to do their duty. Let us also mobilize to the best of our ability to cover any shortcoming that we can. Let us help the frontline personnel and agencies and cooperate with baranggays, hospitals, LGUs, and other agencies to reach our demands. Let us take the initiative to organize volunteer brigades that can undertake information, sanitation, and disinfection drives in the community. Use social media in the effort against COVID-19 and to propagate our demands.

It is also important to expose, demand, and hold responsible those who have been negligent in government, primarily President Rodrigo Duterte. At the same time as working to fight COVID-19, let us launch a widespread protest against the neglect of the government in order to push them to do their duty. Let us demand urgent help for the poor and most vulnerable in the time of lockdown.

Medical service, not military action!
Check-ups, not checkpoints! Socio-economic help now!
Save the people! Remove the virus from Malacañang!

TAGALOG

#*FightCOVID*19

Kalampag ng Bayan Laban sa COVID-19 at Pabayang Gobyerno

Marso 19, 2020

Lubhang kulang at huli ang naging mga tugon ng gobyernong Duterte sa pandemya ng COVID-19. Habang nagaganap ang epidemya sa China at karatig bansa, minaliit ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno ang maaaring epekto nito sa Pilipinas. Sa maagang bahagi pa lamang ng pagkalat nito sa mundo ay dapat nagsagawa na ng travel ban ang Pilipinas sa mga bansang sentro ng pagkalat ng sakit tulad ng China. (Ang mga unang nagpositibo sa Pilipinas ay mula China). Dapat naghanda na rin para sa malawakang testing at masinop na contact-tracing kung sakaling makapasok ang sakit sa ating mga border. Dapat inihanda ang makinarya ng pampublikong kalusugan hanggang antas komunidad upang maharap ang krisis pangkalusugan. Subalit hindi ito naisagawa.

Noong Marso 18, 2020 ay nasa 1,030 lamang ang naisagawang test para sa COVID-19, lubhang maliit na bilang kumpara sa inaasahang maaring bilang ng tatamaan ng sakit sa loob ng 3 buwan na ayon mismo sa DOH at aabot sa 75,000. Sa kasalukuyan, mahigit 200 na ang kumpiramdong kaso ng COVID-19 sa Pilipinas, at inaasahang lalaki pa ito sa mga darating na linggo.

Ang kasalukuyang lockdown na tinatawag ng gubyerno na "enhanced community quarantine" sa buong Luzon ay resulta na lamang ng mga malalaking pagkukulang at nahuhuling tugon ng gobyerno sa krisis, na sa maagang bahagi pa lamang ng Pebrero 2020 ay kita na ang maaaring epekto. Ang malala pa, hindi naisaalang-alang ang kalagayan ng pinakabulnerableng maaapektuhan ng lockdown, bagay na nalantad sa unang mga araw ng quarantine.

Kailangang mahinto o signipikanteng mapabagal ang pagkalat ng sakit na COVID-19 lalo na't wala pang gamot ni bakuna para dito at may mga bulnerabeng seksyon ng populasyon na tatamaan ng malalang sakit na maaari nilang ikamatay. Ito ang pinaka-kagyat na dapat tugunan ng gobyerno kasabay ang malawakang suportang sosyo-ekonomiko para sa lahat ng bulnerableng sektor na apektado ng lockdown.

Ang ating mga panawagan

Ang sumusunod ang ating kagyat na panawagan sa panahon ng lockdown at pagharap sa COVID19:

Mga hakbang medikal

1. Maglaan ang sapat na pondo para sa libreng testing, pagpapagamot at pagsugpo sa COVID 19, at pagsasaayos ng serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Sa kagyat, gamitin ang P13 Billion Contingency Fund, P16 Billion Disaster Risk Reduction Management Fund, at mahigit P4.5 Billion Confidential and Intelligence Fund ng Pangulo, bukod pa sa pondong nakalaan sa counter-insurgency, turismo, debt servicing at iba. Kagyat na aksyunan ng Kongreso ang P1.6B supplemental funding para sa pagsugpo ng COVID 19.

2. Magsagawa ng mass testing na libre, malaganap at sistematiko. I-test ang lahat ng hinihinalang may COVID-19 (Persons Under Investigation o PUI at Persons Under Monitoring o PUM) lalu na sa mga pili at prayoridad na komunidad (tinatawag na surveillance o sentinel testing) upang matukoy kung sino ang may sakit, paano at saan ito lumalaganap at para makagawa ng kongkretong plano at hakbang para pigilan pa ang paglaganap nito. Ang mga may sintomas ng sore throat, sipon, ubo, lagnat, at lalo na pneumonia - malala man o hindi - at lahat ng may exposure sa mga kumpirmadong kaso ay dapat gawing prayoridad sa testing. Kaugnay nito, paramihin ang mga testing kit, magtayo ng mga testing centers at laboratoryo, at magtalaga ng mga may kasanayan dito. Gawing prayoridad ng gobyerno ang pagkalap at produksyon ng testing kits at pagpaparami ng mga laboratoryo na kayang magproses ng resulta.

3. Dagdagan ng gamit, suplay at personnel ang mga ospital. Magtalaga ng mga COVID-19-specific hospitals (pampubliko at pribado) sa Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao, na may sapat na gamit, suplay at trained personnel na pangunahing tatanggap ng mga pasyenteng hinihinala at kumpirmadong may COVID-19. Dagdagan ang mga isolation rooms at tiyakin ang di liliit sa 3,000 ventilators na ipapamahagi sa mga ospital. Bigyan ng ayuda ang mga pribadong ospital kung kinakailangan. Magsagawa ng agarang mass hiring ng mga nars at iba pang health workers upang punuan ang 17,000 bakanteng plantilla position sa mga pampublikong ospital at kinakailangang 42,000 nars upang ayudahan ang kasalukuyang health staffing sa mga komunidad. Maaring pakilusin ang mga kumukuha ng March 2020 Medical Licensure Examination upang maayudahan ang kasalukuyang bilang ng mga doktor.

4. Magtayo ng mga sanitation facilities at quarantine centers sa komunidad. Itayo ang mga handwashing facilities, sanitation tents, disinfection facilities, at quarantine center sa lahat ng antas - baranggay, bayan, lungsod at rehiyon - upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng sakit at matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga pasyente. Hindi realistiko ni praktikal na iasa sa mga nakatira sa siksikang komunidad at kabahayan ang sistema ng home quarantine. Problema din ang tamang pangangalaga at monitoring ng mga PUM at PUI na pinapauwi lamang.

5. Tiyakin ang suporta at proteksyon sa mga frontliner. Kabilang dito ang mga manggagawang pangkalusugan, duktor man, nars, med tech, x-ray technician, atbp. Kagyat na bigyan sila ng sapat na Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Tiyakin na mayroon silang transportasyon papunta at pabalik ng trabaho sa panahon ng lockdown. Tiyakin ang kanilang kalagayan sa trabaho -- na mayroon silang masustansyang pagkain at sapat na pahinga, hazard pay, libre at regular na testing para sa COVID 19, at iba pang ayuda. Marapat ito kapwa sa mga nakabase sa mga ospital, o mga triage areas labas sa ospital na itatayo upang salain ang mga may sakit o magpapatingin, at pati na ang mga ipepwesto sa mga sentro sa komunidad na magsasagawa ng specimen collection para sa targetted testing. Siguruhin din na ang mga community health workers na mag-iikot sa mga komunidad para tumulong sa public information, education at sanitation drive ay may sapat na gamit tulad ng mask, alcohol, gwantes, atbp.

6. Ayusin ang sistema ng pagtugon sa COVID-19 hanggang sa antas komunidad. Tiyaking nabibigyan ng tama, napapanahon at naiintindihang impormasyon ang mamamayan tungkol sa COVID-19 at pag-iwas dito. Ilinaw kung saan ang pinakamalapit at unang pupuntahan ng mga hinihinalang may sakit. Maghanda ng sistema ng transportasyon para sa kanila kung kinakailangang dalhin sa ospital. Bigyan ng tamang oryentasyon at kasanayan ang mga Barangay Health Workers (BHW), relief and disaster management personnel, at mga volunteer para epektibong makaambag sa pagtugon sa COVID-19. Kaugnay nito, ayusin ang sistema ng unified at komprehensibong sistemang pangkalusugan at kabuuang pamamahala sa pagharap sa COVID-19. Dapat may malinaw na guidelines at suporta ang pambansang gubyerno para sa mga LGU na may pagkilala sa kanilang kakayanan o kakulangan. Gumamit ng pagkumbinse sa halip na panunupil at pananakot ng mamamayan para maipatupad ang quarantine protocols.

Mga hakbang sosyo-ekonomiko

1. Ipagbawal ang tanggalan sa trabaho at bigyan ng ayuda ang mga apektadong manggagawa at mala-manggagawa. Magpatupad ng mandatory paid leave (hiwalay sa regular leave credits) sa mga manggagawang hindi makakapasok sa trabaho dulot ng sakit o lockdown. Bigyan ng ayuda ang mga micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) na hindi kayang magpatupad nito. Bigyan ng financial assistance ng di bababa sa P10,000 ang mga kontraktwal at informal workers na apektado pero hindi kwalipikado sa paid leave. Sa kagyat, ipatupad agad ang kautusan ng DOLE para sa P5,000 COVID Adjustment Measures Program sa mga pribadong empleyadong mawawalan ng trabaho at P5,000 Tulong Pangkabuhayan sa Displaced/Underprivileged Workers (TUPAD), kabilang ang mga street vendor, tsuper ng tricycle at jeep.

2. Bigyan ng emergency relief packs at iba pang ayuda ang mga maralita. Isama sa relief pack hindi lang ang pagkain kundi face mask, bitamina, gamot, sabon, alcohol, at sanitizer tulad ng bleach. Gawing bahay-bahay ang distribusyon bilang pagtalima sa social distancing. Paluwagin at palawakin ang programang Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) at gamitin ang mahigit P56.4B available na pondo ng unconditional cash transfer (UCT) para tulungan ang mga mahihirap. Dagdagan ang kakayanan at pondo ng mga crisis intervention units (CIU) ng DSWD sa pangangalaga ng mga social workers.

3. Magpatupad ng moratorium sa mga bayarin at penalty. Pangunahin dito ang singil sa tubig, kuryente, telepono, renta, utang at buwis, kasama ang pagsuspinde ng deadline para sa income tax return sa Abril 15.

4. Kontrolin ang presyo at tiyakin ang suplay ng mga batayang produkto at serbisyo. Partikular dito ang tubig, kuryente, telekomunikasyon, gamot, bigas at iba pang batayang pagkain. Tiyakin ang tuluy-tuloy na pagpasok sa Kamaynilaan at iba pang sentrong lungsod ng mga pagkain mula sa kanayunan.

5. Tiyakin ang transportasyon sa mga nangangailangan. Bukod sa mga frontliner at nagbibigay ng mahalagang serbisyo, kailangan ding tiyakin ang limitado subalit sapat na transportasyon para sa mga pasyente, namimili ng pagkain at batayang bilihin, at mga istranded na nais umuwi sa kanilang bahay. Susundin ang mga pamantayan sa social distancing sa pagpapatupad nito.

6. Itigil ang demolisyon ng mga bahay ng maralita at pagkupkop sa mga walang matutuluyan. Gawan ng paraan na ang mga naipit sa lockdown ay makauwi sa kani-kanilang bahay sa probinsya. Tiyakin na ang mga walang bahay ay may matutuluyan at mapapangalagaan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan.

Kumilos laban sa COVID-19 at sa inutil na gobyernong Duterte

Ang ating mga panawagan ay pangunahing nakatuon sa pamahalaan na siyang may pinakamalaking kakayahan ngunit nagkulang sa pagtugon sa COVID-19. Gayunpaman, ito'y dapat tugunan ng lahat at mainam kung pagsisikapan sa iba't-ibang paraan at antas, lalu na ng mga organisadong mamamayan.

Kaugnay nito, dapat kumilos mismo tayong mamamayan para itulak ang gobyerno na gawin ang kaniyang tungkulin. Kumilos din tayo sa abot ng makakayan para punan ang anumang pagkukulang na kaya nating punan. Tulungan natin ang mga frontline personnel at ahensya at makipag-ugnayan sa mga baranggay, ospital, LGU at iba pang ahensa para makamit ang ating mga panawagan. Mag-inisyatiba tayo sa pag-organisa ng mga volunteer brigade na maaring magsagawa ng information, sanitation at disinfection drive sa komunidad. Gamitin ang social media para makatulong sa pagsisikap laban sa COVID-19 at palaganapin ang ating mga panawagan.

Mahalaga din ang pinaigting ang paglalantad, paniningil at pagpapanagot sa mga may kapabayaan sa gobyerno, pangunahin na si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. Sabay sa pagsisikap na labanan ang COVID-19, ilunsad natin ang malawakang protesta laban sa pagpapabaya ng gobyerno upang matulak itong gumampan ng kaniyang tungkulin. Ipanawagan natin ang kagyat na ayuda para sa mga mahihirap at pinakabulnerable sa panahon ng lockdown.

Serbisyong medikal**, **hindi aksyong militar!

Check-up**, **hindi checkpoint! ***Ayudang sosyo-ekonomiko**, **ngayon na***!
Iligtas ang bayan! ***Alisin ang virus sa Malacañang***!