

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 36, November 16, 2020]

AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF COVID-19 SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE TO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS DIRECTLY CATERING TO OR IN CONTACT WITH COVID-19 PATIENTS DURING THE STATE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 922 (s. 2020) declared a State of Public Health Emergency in recognition of the COVID-19 public health event as a threat to national security, and prompted a whole-of-government approach in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak in the country;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 11469 or the *BayanIhan* to Heal as One Act," Administrative Order No. 28 (s. 2020) authorized the grant of a one-time Special Risk Allowance to public health workers in light of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, RA No. 11494 or the "*Bayanihan* to Recover as One Act," affirmed the existence of a continuing national emergency in view of the unabated spread of COVID-19 and the economic disruption ensuing from it;

WHEREAS, Section 4(h) of RA No. 11494 authorized the national government to grant Special Risk Allowance (SRA) to all public and private health workers (HWs) directly catering to or in contact with COVID-19 patients for every month that they are serving during the state of national emergency as declared by the President; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to recognize the heroic and invaluable contributions of our public health workers throughout the country, who bravely and unselfishly risk their lives and health by being at the forefront of the national effort to address the public health emergency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order;

Section 1. Grant of COVID-19 SRA. National government agencies, government-owned or-controlled corporations and local government units (LGUs) are hereby authorized to grant COVID-19 SRA not exceeding P5.000 per month to public and private HWs who directly cater to or are in contact with COVID-19 patients. The COVID-19 SRA shall be in addition to any Hazard Pay, Hazardous Duty Pay, Hazard Allowance or other similar benefits under existing laws, issuances, rules and regulations, and shall be exempt from income tax.

For purposes of this Order, "public and private HWs" shall refer to medical, allied medical and other personnel who directly provide treatment and support care to COVID-19 patients.