

[MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 49, September 16, 2020]

DIRECTING ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO COORDINATE AND POOL THEIR RESOURCES AND EFFORTS INTO THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FACE MASKS

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

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 to prompt a whole-of-government approach in addressing the COVID-19 outbreak in the country;

WHEREAS, Proclamation No. 929 (s. 2020) declared a State of Calamity in the entire country for a period of six (6) months, and enjoined government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to render full assistance to and cooperation with each other and mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent and appropriate disaster response aid and measures in a timely manner;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak is unlike any other calamity or emergency that confronted our country in recent years, as it has already dealt an incomparable blow to the overall health and security of the population and the economy, and continues to threaten more lives and livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to reinforce non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as minimizing face-to-face interaction, wearing of face masks and face shields, and observing social distancing, to complement our healthcare facilities and support our health workers in containing the further spread of the COVID-19 virus;

NOW, THEREFORE, the following are hereby ordered:

1. The following agencies shall coordinate and pool their resources and efforts into the production of face masks and their expedited distribution to the public free of charge:

- a. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- b. Department of Health (DOH);
- c. Department of Budget and Management (DBM);
- d. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA);
- e. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); and