A stylized graphic in the background shows two hands, one larger than the other, holding a globe. The hands are rendered in a dark, almost black color, and the globe is a lighter, textured grey. The overall composition is abstract and symbolic, representing care and global impact.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION TOWARDS
**A COMFORTABLE
LIFE FOR ALL**

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

2016-2017

Removal of Terminal Fees in the Airline Tickets of OFWs. On 30 April 2017, we removed the terminal fees from the airline tickets purchased by OFWs from ticketing offices; thus, eliminating the need for migrant workers to queue for refund when departing from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), giving them a hassle-free experience at the airport. By 30 July 2017 the fee will be automatically waived for their online ticket purchases.⁴⁷

Moving Towards an Independent Foreign Policy that Serves the Filipino People

We envision a strong and independent Philippines. We shall continue to strengthen our relations with traditional and non-traditional partners, broadening our engagements to achieve our development goals. Most importantly, through our strengthened foreign policy, we hope to further improve the plight of our OFs.

We shall also enhance our frontline operations to better serve our OFWs. Through the LANDBANK, we will convert the Philippine Postal Savings Bank into an OFW Bank, which will be a dedicated financial institution partly owned by OFWs.⁴⁸

In the meantime, we launched on 12 July 2017 the iDOLE Identification (ID) Card, which will undergo a three-month pilot run; after which, it will serve as the OFW's Automated Overseas Employment Certificate. The iDOLE ID Card will eventually serve as an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card with the OFW bank. This will make all transactions needed by OFWs accessible online, in turn enabling government agencies to share more accurate data and information to service OFWs faster and in real-time.⁴⁹

III. ENHANCING RESILIENCY TO NATURAL DISASTERS

As a local chief executive for over two (2) decades, I am not new to dealing with natural disasters. However, nothing can beat the destruction brought by super typhoon Yolanda in November 2013. I was appalled that despite early warnings about the coming of a very powerful typhoon, many of our countrymen took it lightly. We learned some very hard and painful lessons from the onslaught of super typhoon Yolanda.

Our country is facing far greater challenges with the increasing incidence of super typhoons and droughts, and recently, the frequent occurrence of earthquakes. According to the World Risk Report 2016, the Philippines ranks third among the countries with the highest disaster risk in the world, after Vanuatu (1st) and Tonga (2nd). The frequency and severity of these hazards, climate change, and its impact are expected to increase.⁵⁰ This phenomenon is referred to as the "new normal" of the 21st century. The World Risk Report further states that inadequate and inefficient infrastructure and weak logistic networks significantly increase the risk for an extreme natural event or hazard to backslide into a disaster. The geographic location of our country renders it prone to the devastating effects of large-scale earthquakes.⁵¹

I am determined to ensure that our government will not be placed in a similar helpless situation. We want to ensure that our development gains are protected for future generations, enabling them to

⁴⁷ DOTr, 21 July 2017.

⁴⁸ DOLE, 17 July 2017.

⁴⁹ DOLE, 17 July 2017.

⁵⁰ PDP 20-17-2022, page 170.

⁵¹ "World Risk Report 2016", Logistics and Infrastructure: 10, 18.

meet the development challenges of their time. We have, thus, prioritized initiatives to help make our communities safer and more resilient to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

Strengthening Disaster Resiliency

On 28 February 2017, we signed the Instrument signifying the Philippines' accession to the Paris Agreement, which was unanimously concurred with by the Senate on 14 March 2017. The Agreement seeks to address climate change by setting a limit on the emission of greenhouse gases to keep the increase in global temperature below two (2) degrees Celsius (2°C), and further to 1.5°C. The Agreement also allows developing countries, like ours, to benefit from the financial, technical, and capacity building assistance from developed countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives.⁵²



Source: CCC

To make the county more resilient to disasters, we are implementing programs to protect the environment. We are clearing our waterways to prevent flooding while implementing infrastructure projects to help us adapt to and be protected from the effects of disasters. We are

⁵² CCC, 23 June 2017.

also enhancing our capabilities to identify, assess, and forecast disasters, providing our people with relevant information to keep their communities resilient and secure.

Expansion and enhancement of the National Greening Program (NGP) to cover an additional 1.46 million hectares (ha) of unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands up to 2022.⁵³ From 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, we planted trees in 275,383 ha, generating about 640,000 jobs, and benefiting 96,501 individuals.⁵⁴

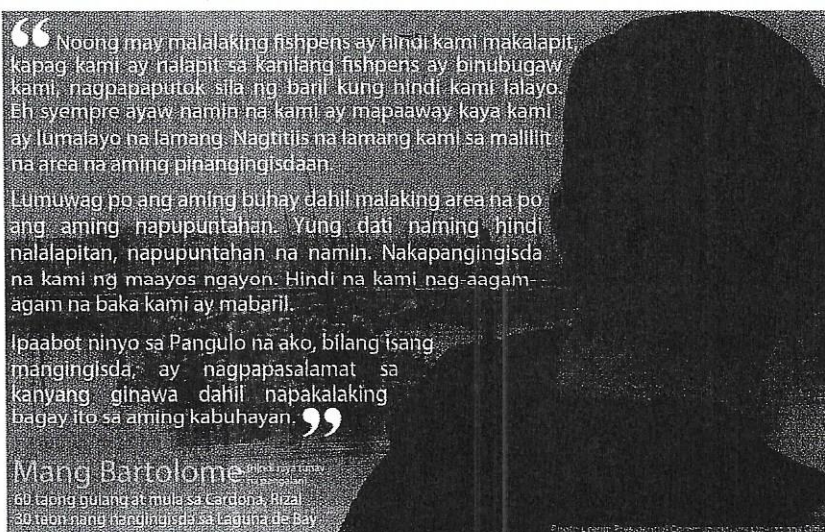


Enhanced National Greening Program

Source: DENR

Clearing of the Laguna de Bay.⁵⁵ To ensure sustainable and equitable distribution of resources in the Laguna de Bay, I asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to look into the fishpen operations in the lake with the objective of redistributing its resources and promoting the interests of the fisherfolks. Thus, the DENR enforced a moratorium on the renewal and issuance of fishpen and fishcage permits to allow small fishermen to enjoy the lake's resources and address massive fishkills in, and prevent flooding around, the Laguna de Bay.

We gave the illegal fishpen operators until end-March 2017 to harvest their stocks and dismantle their structures; otherwise, their fishpens will be demolished. As of end-June 2017, we had



⁵³ NGP Expansion (EO no. 193 s. 2015) aims to contribute to the rehabilitation of the remaining 7.1 million ha of forestlands from 2016 to 2028. As of 30 June 2016, the NGP has covered around 1.41 million ha of forest and marshlands.

⁵⁴ DENR, 10 July 2017.

⁵⁵ DENR, 20 July 2017.

demolished 44 fishpens covering 1,660 ha, which is 45 percent of the area occupied by illegal fishpens in the lake. These demolitions shall continue until the bay is free of illegal fishpens. In addition, 15 of the 323 legitimate fishpen operators voluntarily reduced their area to 25 ha, bringing the total area freed-up for small fishing to 2,000 ha.

Construction of infrastructure for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.⁵⁶ We are constructing infrastructure to help mitigate the impact of disasters and climate change, as follows:

- Continuing implementation of the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas, which shall serve as a roadmap for flood mitigation for Metro Manila until 2035. The 11 structural mitigation measures under this master plan cost PhP351.72 billion. From 2011 to 2017, PhP42.18 billion worth of flood mitigation projects have been programmed, representing 12 percent of the total estimated cost.

Under the Plan, we completed the Mandaluyong Main Drainage Project in August 2016. The project protects 182 ha, covering 10 barangays and four (4) major roads in Mandaluyong City, namely Bonifacio Avenue (East), Bonifacio Avenue (West), San Francisco Street, and Martinez Road. Costing PhP609.12 million, the project resulted in the decrease in inundation depth from chest deep to just about six (6) inches while the duration of flooding decreased from four (4) hours to only about 30 minutes.

- Strengthening the resilience of our transport structures. Under this initiative, we completed in February 2017 the strengthening of the Quezon Bridge along Quezon Boulevard Extension in Manila, which costs PhP77.83 million. The bridge, which was constructed in 1939 and caters to 115,000 motorists per day, was retrofitted to make it more resistant to earthquakes. After completion, its traffic load was increased from 10 tons per vehicle to 20 tons per vehicle.

Preparing for Earthquakes

As a country frequented by earthquakes, we have intensified efforts to inculcate among Filipinos a culture of safety and preparedness through the quarterly conduct of the Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drills. The drills for the first and second quarters of 2017 were held on 31 March and 29 June 2017, respectively. In Metro Manila, we are conducting Shakedrills to prepare for a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that could strike anytime and claim the lives of a significant number of people.

Expanding the Scope of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF). On 14 March 2017, we revised the guidelines on the allocation of the NDRRMF, which finances the rehabilitation and recovery initiatives of local government units (LGU) and/or national government agencies (NGA), allowing mitigation, prevention, and preparedness programs and projects (e.g., acquisition and development of lots for resettlement sites, and construction of disaster risk reduction public infrastructures) to be eligible for the fund.⁵⁷

Enhancing the government's risk identification and assessment, and forecasting capabilities. Towards this end, we have undertaken the following:

- Produced enhanced and high-resolution earthquake multi-hazard maps with a scale of 1:50,000 for Davao City, Bohol, and Cebu in December 2016. These hazard maps identify areas susceptible

⁵⁶ DPWH, 19 July 2017.

⁵⁷ OCD, undated.

to ground rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, and earthquake induced landslides. These maps are critical tools for disaster preparedness, land use, and development planning. We also produced the updated volcanic hazard maps or maps identifying lava and lahar flows for the Bulusan, Pinatubo, and Mayon volcanoes.⁵⁸

- Conducted a massive information and education campaign on the use of geohazard maps for 20,589 barangays from 1 July 2016 to 31 May 2017.⁵⁹ This will allow the communities vulnerable to geohazards (e.g., landslides and flooding) to understand the importance and use of these maps. We plan to cover all the 42,036 barangays nationwide by end-2017.⁶⁰
- Attained a 90.65 km forecast track error⁶¹ for 14 tropical cyclones in 2016 through the 13 Doppler Radars⁶² strategically situated around the country.⁶³ These radars, which detect wind speed and the amount of rain from approaching typhoons, also contributed to disaster preparations for super typhoon Lawin. With Tropical Cyclone Warning Signal (TCWS) at Signal no. 5, Lawin devastated six (6) regions in the country in October 2016. Compared to super typhoon Yolanda, also with TCWS Signal no. 5, the casualties and damages resulting from super typhoon Lawin were significantly lesser (see Table 2).⁶⁴

Table 2: Comparison of Damages Sustained from Super Typhoons Yolanda and Lawin

| Particulars | Super Typhoon Yolanda | Super Typhoon Lawin |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Damages (in Billion PhP) | 95.48 | 16.26 |
| Casualties | Dead – 6,300 Injured – 28,688 Missing – 1,062 | Dead – 23 Injured – 120 Missing – 0 |

Source: NDRRMC

- Enhanced the Philippine Seismic Network by operating 10 additional earthquake monitoring stations⁶⁵ in 2016, bringing the total to 92. The improved network allowed us to issue earthquake information for more than 3,400 local earthquakes and tsunami bulletins related to 38 distant earthquakes. It strengthened the capability of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to detect and evaluate more accurately local and distant earthquakes, allowing local governments to implement faster and more appropriate response to earthquakes and tsunamis.⁶⁶

⁵⁸ DOST, 20 July 2017.

⁵⁹ Geohazard maps were completed in 2014 for all 1,634 cities and municipalities.

⁶⁰ DOST, 20 July 2017.

⁶¹ The distance between the forecast location and actual location of the storm center. (Source: Daniel P. Brown, "Forecast Verification: Quantifying Forecast Uncertainty", National Hurricane Center, 2013.)

⁶² 1) Iloilo, 2) Quezon (Municipality in Palawan), 3) Guiuan, 4) Subic, 5) Tagaytay, 6) Mactan, 7) Hinatuan, 8) Tampakan, 9) Basco, 10) Baler, 11) Aparri, 12) Virac, and 13) Baguio. The radar in Zamboanga will be operational within the year, while the radar in Busuanga, Palawan will be installed within the year.

⁶³ DOST, 20 July 2017.

⁶⁴ OCD, undated.

⁶⁵ These are in 1) Lazi, Siquijor; 2) Talibon, Bohol; 3) Garcia Hernandez, Bohol; 4) Calayan Island, Cagayan; 5) Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; 6) Cateel, Davao Oriental; 7) Dalaguete, Cebu; 8) Medellin, Cebu; 9) San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu; and 10) Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

⁶⁶ DOST, 20 July 2017.

Pursuing Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in Super Typhoon Yolanda-affected communities

As of end-March 2017, our government had released PhP117.23 billion of the PhP144.45 billion funding requirement for the Yolanda Rehabilitation and Recovery Program. While targets for various programs and projects had been attained as of 2 May 2017,¹ implementation of some are still being pursued:

| Programs/Projects/Activities | Target | Status |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Construction of Permanent Housing | 205,128 | Completed: 50,791 Ongoing: 71,743 Under Procurement: 25,724 Not Yet Started: 56,870 |
| Rehabilitation of Seaport Facilities | 56 | Completed: 27 Ongoing: 10 Under Procurement: 11 Not Yet Started: 8 |
| Rehabilitation of Airport Facilities | 40 | Completed: 38 Ongoing: 0 Under Procurement: 0 Not Yet Started: 2 |
| Rehabilitation of Classrooms | 13,065 | Completed: 11,720 Ongoing: 1,032 Under Procurement: 313 Not Yet Started: 0 |
| Construction of New Classrooms | 2,278 | Completed: 1,790 Ongoing: 207 Under Procurement: 281 Not Yet Started: 0 |

Source: NEDA

In fulfillment of our commitment during the third-year commemoration of the said super typhoon in 2016 in Tacloban City, I ordered the allocation of PhP1 billion for financial assistance to families (amounting to PhP5,000 per family) with damaged houses but had not received any shelter assistance from the government or private donors. Close to 167,000 households (85 percent of the target) from Regions VI, VII, and VIII² have been validated to be eligible to avail of the assistance.

Rehabilitation and Recovery in Region VIII

Region VIII accounted for 5,902 or almost 94 percent of the 6,300 total deaths, and PhP68.71 billion or 72 percent of the PhP95.48 billion total damages caused by super typhoon Yolanda in November 2013.

Our Administration has fast tracked rehabilitation and recovery initiatives and prioritized the provision of housing to those who were displaced and living in danger areas:

Construction of Housing Units in Region VIII

| | Target | As of June 2016 | July 2016- June 2017 | Total |
|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|----------------------|-------|
| Housing Units Constructed | 56,140 | 7,537 | 558 | 8,095 |
| Housing Units Occupied | 56,140 | 2,013 | 5,844 | 7,857 |

Source: NEDA

We also implemented the Php87 million-Livelihood Seeding Program, wherein about 200 livelihood starter kits were distributed to the occupants of five (5) resettlement sites in Tacloban City (i.e., Ridge View Park, GMA Kapuso Village, Villa Diana, Villa Sofia, and Habitat for Humanity) alongside the provision of trainings.

We are completing the modernization of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) in Tacloban City, which entails the expansion of the hospital's capacity from 250 to 500 beds, construction of four (4) buildings³, and acquisition of medical equipment and IT system. The construction of the EVRMC Complex is expected to be completed in September 2017 and fully operational by 2018.

¹ Including the following: i) covered the 40,022 beneficiaries under skills and livelihood trainings; ii) repaired 30,412 fishing boats; iii) provided 81,017 sets of fishing gears and paraphernalia; iv) installed 921 fish cages; v) distributed 18,921 post-harvest facilities; and vi) reconstructed/rehabilitated 1,937.81 lineal meters of national bridges and 109.48 km of national roads.

² Including Negros provinces

³ Mother and Child Hospital; Main Building; Support Building; and Outpatient Department Building. The Mother and Child Hospital Building had been completed and operational since August 2016.

Improving Disaster Risk Management and Response

To protect the gains achieved thus far, we are sustaining efforts to capacitate our country in disaster risk management while improving our disaster response. As of 18 July 2017, our Administration has released Php36.22 billion from the NDRRMF, which supported various disaster risk reduction and management projects, including infrastructure projects, such as flood control structures and seawalls.⁶⁷ Furthermore, we pursued the following:

- Refocusing of the Philippines-United States of America (US) Balikatan Exercises from external defense and maritime security to humanitarian assistance and disaster response, and combatting terrorism. The exercises involve mass casualty evacuation and urban search and rescue to be held in various areas of the country including Guiuan, Eastern Samar, where super typhoon Yolanda made its first landfall.⁶⁸
- Acquisition of four (4) out of the 10 units of 44-m Multi-Role Response Vessels committed by the Japanese Government to improve the capabilities of the PCG to quickly respond to coastal maritime incidents and disasters, enforce maritime law, and address coastal monitoring needs.⁶⁹
- Launching by the DSWD in August 2016 of the Emergency Operations Center for Disaster Response and its online version, the Virtual Operations Center Microsatellite. Through the Virtual Operations Center, we made available to the general public useful information on disasters that can promote their safety (e.g., evacuation centers and situational reports). The Center also promotes transparency and good governance as it makes available information on the status of relief resources and standby funds.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ OCD, undated, and DBM, 19 July 2017.

⁶⁸ DND, 30 May 2017.

⁶⁹ DOTr, 21 July 2017.

⁷⁰ DSWD, 22 July 2017.

- Provision of relief assistance to more than two (2) million families affected by various disasters since July 2016, including the following⁷¹:

Table 3: DSWD Assistance Provided to Victims of Disasters

| Natural Disaster* | Affected Population* | DSWD Assistance** |
|---|--|---|
| Magnitude 6.5 Ormoc City Earthquake (6 Jul 2017) | More than 4,100 families or 16,000 persons in Leyte | Provided almost PhP16 million worth of food and non-food items as of 21 July |
| Magnitude 6.7 Surigao City Earthquake (10 Feb 2017 with a 5.9 Magnitude Aftershock on 5 Mar 2017) | More than 10,300 families or 51,900 persons in Surigao del Norte | Provided almost PhP27 million worth of assistance, of which PhP2.7 million was from the LGUs concerned and PhP1.7 million was from NGOs |
| Typhoon Nina (Dec 2016) | More than 516,000 families or almost 2.30 million persons in Regions IV-A, IV-B, V, and VIII | Provided 36,518 households with an initial assistance of PhP5,000 each, amounting to PhP183 million |
| Super Typhoon Lawin (Oct 2016) | More than 271,000 families or about 1.21 million persons in Regions I, II, III, IV-A, V, and CAR | Provided PhP120.96 million worth of food and non-food items to 2.4 million persons |

*Source: NDRRMC

**Source: DSWD

Moving Towards Reducing Vulnerabilities to Natural Disasters

Our next agenda is to continue working towards making our communities safer and more resilient to natural hazards and disasters. This includes achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. We are currently developing the Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement, which shall be communicated to the United Nations before 2020. It shall contain our plans to manage the emission of greenhouse gases and measures to ensure our resilience.⁷²

We shall expand and enhance the NGP to cover an additional 1.46 million ha of unproductive, denuded, and degraded forestlands by 2022. This will be complemented by our sustained efforts to curb irresponsible business practices adversely affecting the environment, such as in the Laguna de Bay. We will ensure that small fishermen also benefit from the lake's resources, massive fish kills are addressed, and severe flooding around the lake is minimized.⁷³

We are addressing the rigid, long, and tedious bureaucratic processes that have made the NDRRMF unresponsive to the needs of calamity-affected communities by streamlining and reducing the processing time of funding requests particularly for post-disaster projects (i.e., relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction).

In the extraction and utilization of resources, extreme care must be exercised that we do not recklessly and needlessly harm the environment. As such, we need to implement and advocate responsible, regulated, and sustainable development.

⁷¹ DSWD, 22 July 2017.

⁷² CCC, 23 June 2017.

⁷³ DENR, 10 July 2017.

In the mining sector, operators and contractors must imbue in themselves that their profits come with the great responsibility of protecting the environment and sharing mining benefits to the people.⁷⁴ I am sternly warning all mining operators and contractors to refrain from the unbridled and irresponsible destruction of our watersheds, forests, and aquatic resources. I am holding all mining companies and their officials responsible for the full and quick clean-up, restoration, and rehabilitation of all areas damaged by mining activities, and the extension of all necessary support to the communities that have suffered mining's disastrous effects on their health, livelihood, and environment, among others. They must strictly follow our environmental and mining laws, rules, and regulations; adhere to responsible mining practices; and ensure that the highest standards of safety are observed. If they fail to do so, we will impose heavy taxes on them to fund the rehabilitation of the country's degraded and poisoned lands and waters.

I also urge the employees and officials of the LGUs responsible for monitoring these mining operations within their territorial jurisdictions to do their job without fear or favor. I shall hold them responsible for any misdeed or failure by the mining entities within their respective areas of responsibility. I mean it. Do not try to test my resolve.

The looming effects of climate change on water and food security are serious concerns. The droughts and long dry spells present a tremendous challenge. I have asked all agencies involved in water security and food production to look into and act on this urgent concern accordingly.

I am appealing to all our legislators to immediately pass the long-pending National Land Use Act or NALUA to ensure the rational and sustainable use of our land and physical resources, given the competing needs of water and food security, housing, businesses, infrastructure development, and environmental conservation.

We have seen the terrible toll that typhoons Yolanda, Nina, Ondoy, Lawin, Sendong, Pablo and the succeeding typhoons exacted on our country in terms of human life and property, and we still have to recover from the beating that we got both during and in the aftermath of these disasters. We are also facing threats from earthquakes, which according to the DOST-PHIVOLCS, is no longer just a distant possibility but a probability. The series of damaging quakes in Leyte, Surigao, Bohol, and nearby provinces and islands attest to this. It is no longer a question of if, but a matter of when.

I am aware that the OP-PMS, MMDA, DILG, DPWH, DBM, OCD, DepEd, DOE, CHED, and MWSS had been working together to come up with a joint action plan to enhance the earthquake resiliency of Metro Manila and surrounding areas. I thank these agencies for their initiative. However, the immensity of the challenge requires us to go beyond these initial efforts.

Thus, we need to act decisively and fast because the threat is huge, real, and imminent. I am calling on both houses of Congress to expeditiously craft a law establishing a new authority or department that is truly empowered to respond to the prevailing 21st century conditions and the "new normal," which is characterized by stronger and more frequent occurrence of natural disasters. We need a strong new agency empowered to deliver on two highly critical and intertwined functions that are best lodged under one body for unity of command: enhancing disaster resiliency and quick disaster management. In this connection, we may adopt the best practices of Japan, Korea, Turkey, USA, and Chile, among others, on disaster resiliency and response. Incorporating the hard and painful lessons learned from our experience with typhoons, storm surges, droughts, landslides, and earthquakes, the proposed agency shall focus on enhancing our country's disaster resiliency

⁷⁴ DENR, 10 July 2017.

and capability to marshal all resources to facilitate quick and effective response to disasters anywhere in the Philippine archipelago. This could entail the overhauling or repeal of several existing laws that were written in the context of the past century, and the crafting of a new one that is anchored on the challenges of the “new normal.”

While the law is being crafted with extreme urgency, we need to undertake immediate action to ensure disaster resiliency and effective response in the greater Metro Manila area, which is our country’s seat of governance, and center of business, commerce, and the academe. The disaster resiliency of Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces is a matter of urgent concern.

As such, I have directed the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management to immediately work hand in hand with the concerned LGUs, the private sector, and the affected communities themselves, in undertaking urgent disaster resiliency measures. The Cluster can build on the initial efforts and action plan of the national agencies I had earlier cited. We all need to act fast.

In this light, we shall continue to enhance our government’s risk identification and assessment and forecasting, and disaster response capacities. We are developing the Philippines’ second microsatellite, DIWATA-2, under the Philippine Scientific Earth Observation Micro-Satellite (PHL-Microsat) Program or DIWATA. Our target is to complete and launch into orbit the DIWATA-2 in 2018, which is designed and being developed by Filipino scientists and engineers in collaboration with Japanese Universities. It shall provide us specialized photos and images of the country, which we can use to assess the extent of damage during disasters, monitor bodies of water and vegetation, and observe large-scale weather patterns, among others.⁷⁵

We will pursue the completion of ongoing rehabilitation efforts in disaster-stricken areas, particularly that of super typhoon Yolanda.⁷⁶

We shall carry on strengthening the resilience of our infrastructures including our flood control and transport structures. Under the Flood Management Master Plan for Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas, we shall complete the PhP7.55 billion Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase III by December 2017 to decrease flood inundation levels by 18 percent and flood damages by PhP14.3 billion.⁷⁷

We shall also pursue the PhP23.45 billion-Metro Manila Flood Management Project Phase I. It will reduce flood risks in flood-prone areas of Metro Manila, benefiting about two (2) million people.⁷⁸

Furthermore, we are constructing and rehabilitating flood mitigation structures along major river basins and principal rivers nationwide, which include the following:⁷⁹

- The Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project, which involves the construction of the San Juan River and Maalimango Diversion Channels, and improvement of tributary rivers (e.g., Ylang-Ylang River), among others. This will mitigate damages due to flooding caused by the overflow of the San Juan River and the poor drainage of the Maalimango Creek in Cavite Province. About 7,000 houses in the area of 556 ha will be protected from flooding.

⁷⁵ DOST, 20 July 2017.

⁷⁶ Office of the Presidential Assistant for Special Concerns, 11 April 2017.

⁷⁷ DPWH, 19 July 2017.

⁷⁸ DPWH, 19 July 2017.

⁷⁹ DPWH, 19 July 2017.

- The Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Measures in the Low Lying Areas of Pampanga Bay, which will reduce flood depth from 1.4-2.9 m to 0.6-1.4 m and shorten flood duration from 66 days to 17 days. The PhP4.22 billion project will be completed in August 2020.
- The PhP6.18 billion Flood Risk Management Project for the Cagayan, Tagoloan, and Imus Rivers shall put up river dikes and other structures to address erosion and flooding in the targeted areas. This shall be completed by August 2019.
- The PhP8.55 billion Flood Risk Management Project in the Cagayan de Oro River is targeted to be completed in April 2022. It involves the construction of dikes, flood walls, and other structures as well as improvement of the Kagayan Bridge. It will reduce the number of people affected by flooding from 281,740 in 2011 (Tropical Storm Sendong), to 31,873 people, based on a 25-year flood return period. It will also protect a 290-ha area and 18,100 structures in Cagayan de Oro City.

To strengthen the resilience of transport networks in Metro Manila, we will replace the Lambingan and Guadalupe Bridges at a cost of PhP4.29 billion. Improvements shall ensure the safety of almost 400,000 motorists who use the Guadalupe and Lambingan Bridges everyday.⁸⁰

⁸⁰ DPWH, 19 July 2017. [This is broken down as follows: a) About 365,000 motorists use the Guadalupe Bridge; and b) 30,257 motorists ply the Lambingan Bridge daily.]