

A BRIEFER ON THE
**STATE OF THE
NATION 2021**

A review of President Duterte's Final State of the Nation Address plus a closer look at possible implications of his administration, and the 18th Congress' legislative priorities.

TRACKING THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ENACTED

- Anti-Terror Law
- Universal Health Care Law
- Malasakit Center Act
- Alternative Learning System Act
- Universal Access to Quality Education Act
- CREATE Act
- FIST Act
- Rice Tariffication Law
- Coconut Trust Fund Law

PENDING

- National Disease Prevention and Management Authority
- Passive Income Financial Intermediary Taxation Act
- Real Property Valuation Reform
- Advanced Nursing Education Act
- Death Penalty Law
- Easing of Bank Secrecy Law

REQUESTS TO CONGRESS

- Military and Uniformed Personnel Pension Reform Bill
- Free legal assistance for AFP and PNP members
- Amendments to the Public Service Act, Foreign Investments Act, and Retail Trade Liberalization Act
- Creation of the Center for Disease Prevention and Control and the Virology and Vaccine Institute of the Philippines

PRESIDENT DUTERTE'S 2021 STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, DIRECTIVES & PRONOUNCEMENTS

AN OVERVIEW

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte delivered his 6th and final State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Batasang Pambansa, Quezon City on July 26, 2021. He only addressed around 350 people in the house plenary due to special security and public health protocols. Other officials, including Vice President Leni Robredo, stay tuned virtually together with the rest of the nation.

This year's SONA was covered by Presidential Broadcast Staff-Radio Television Malacañang (PBS-RTVM) under the direction of RTVM director Danny Abad. His speech lasted two hours and 45 minutes which is the longest Post-EDSA SONA, covering what he considered as his administration's accomplishments.

As usual, President Duterte allotted a significant amount of time on his drug war and the insurgency in the country. Government plans on economic recovery and COVID-19 mitigation efforts were not comprehensively discussed.

HIGHLIGHTS

As President Duterte marks his last term in office, he looked back at what his administration has done over the last five years and tackled different issues with *"less visions, but more remembrances."*



Peace and Order by strengthening the institution and boosting the morale of armed services to address the twin ogres of illegal drugs and corruption. Amidst the war against drugs, drug dependents are being supported to reintegrate themselves to the society.



COVID Response made possible with Social Protection Program, ramped up testing capacity, and the generosity of China and the private sector who came to the government's aid.



Build! Build! Build! with the increase in infrastructure spending to an average of 5% of the GDP and the comprehensive tax reform program, setting the restoration of Marawi as priority alongside with other infrastructure projects to improve transportation.



One of world's fastest growing **economy** until 'COVID-19 stole everything', therefore reiterating government's commitment to assist the private sector especially the MSMEs to regain commercial vibrance.



Environment Protection through the rehabilitation of Manila bay and forcing establishments to comply with environmental laws and ordinances.



Proper governance through fast tracking and streamlining government transactions. The administration has been promoting transparency as well with the the order on Freedom of Information and the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission.



Free Education that has already been passed in 2017 for college students in state universities and there is the promotion of uninterrupted learning through the Basic Education Learning Continuity Plan.

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MISSED OPPORTUNITY AND WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEENS

Leading to the last SONA, the communications team of the President launched various campaigns to foreshadow the final speech of the President. While it all boils down to framing and posturing, this is a missed opportunity highlight this administration's achievements and inspire the Filipino people during this trying time. Instead, the President stuck to his messaging of combating drugs, maintaining peace and order, and deconstructing oligarchs. Here are some of the achievements that the communications team of the President prepared which were not discussed, or was barely touched in the SONA.

229,289

Hectares of Land Distributed
(2016-2021)

1,623,628

Students Given Free Tuition
(2020-2021)

P59.93B

Worth of Seized Illegal Drugs
(July 2016 - May 2021)

PUBLICUS Asia Inc.

65%

Approval Rating

3,736

Children Rescued During
Anti-Drug Operations
(July 2016 - May 2021)

2020 World Bank.

95TH

In Ease of Doing Business Out
of 190 Economies

55%

Trust Rating
(April 2021)

29,264

Kilometers of roads completed
(2016 - June 2021)

64%

Lower Crime Volume
(July 2016 - June 2021)

2M

Individuals Assisted
Through Malasakit Centers
(July 2021)

1,223,195

Drug Surrenders
(As of June 2021)

203,715

Anti-Illegal Drugs Operations
Conducted
(July 2016 - May 2021)

451

Seaport Projects Completed
(July 2016 - June 2021)

22,093

Drug-Cleared Barangays
(July 2016 - May 2021)

150,149

Classrooms Completed
(July 2016 - June 2021)

214

Airport Projects Completed
(July 2016 - June 2021)

807

Dismantled Drug Dens
(July 2016 - May 2021)

12,356

High-Value Targets Arrested
(July 2016 - May 2021)

PH Ranked
25TH

Best Place to live and work
(HSBC 2020)

10TH

NAIA - Most Improved Airport
Worldwide (2018)

Source: NEDA

6M

Filipinos Lifted Out of Poverty
(2018)

5,950

Bridges Completed
(July 2016 - June 2021)

109,035,343

Filipinos Covered by Universal
Healthcare
(2019 - 2021)

653

COVID-19 Facilities Built
(As of July 2021)

937,040

Farmers Who Benefitted From the
Free Irrigation Act
(As of May 2021)



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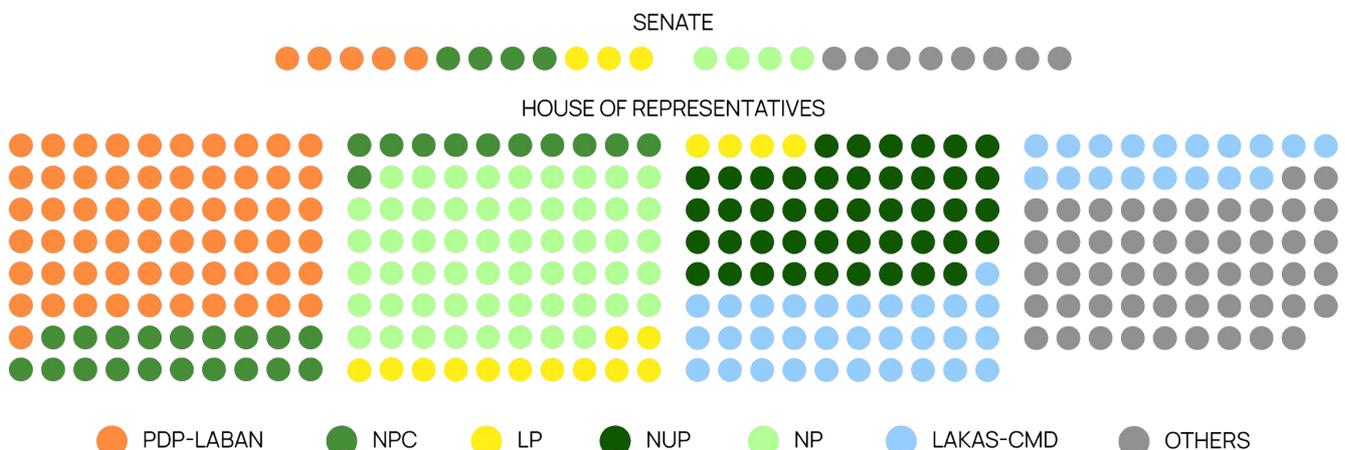
AFFILIATIONS AND POLITICAL PLAY

Aside from the achievements of the administration under his leadership, Duterte continued to harp on the enemies that he was able to combat in his term. This has become the strategy of the President since Day 1 to **maintain the President's strong man leadership**. This us-versus-them type of messaging has worked and seems to continue to work to his base supporters.

- **The Fight Against The Reds.** Duterte admits to be in bed with the Communist Party of The Philippines in the past, but the tables have turned when he assumed office and started to demonize the left-wing group. In his SONA, he claimed that he was able to destroy about 15 apparatus of the group because the CPP is out to destabilize his government. He even praised the former PNP Chief, and now Senator Bato Dela Rosa for successfully hunting down communists in the mountains in the past.
- **The Fourth Estate.** Duterte once again took a swipe against ABS CBN. He talked about how he did not have any ill feelings towards ABS CBN, rather he is just enforcing the law of our land. He reasoned that ABS CBN failed to declare taxes to the government citing a real property tax infraction of ABS CBN. He boasted that it is only his administration that had the courage to confront the then TV network.
- **Enemies of the Oligarchs.** Without naming the water concessionaires, Duterte included in his list of enemies the water utilities. He cried foul to the supposed **contracts that is disadvantageous to the public** that these water concessionaires are benefitting from. He warned the concessionaires that he will confiscate their assets and turn it over to the military.
- **The Territorial Dispute.** Duterte took it to the podium his hatred to the "intellectuals" who are advocating to assert our country's claim to the West Philippines Sea. He argued that the **arbitration that awarded the ownership of the West Philippine Sea to the Philippines is non-binding** and thus pushing for our right to the disputed territory would only result to us going to war with China in which we are not ready for.

On the flipside, Duterte gave a **special mention** to individuals, a province, and other government agencies to praise them of their contributions to the government.

- With every mention of a legislative measure that is passed, Duterte would not fail to thank Congress for their work. He said that the **good working relationship of the executive and the legislative branches** gave way to these legislations being passed.
- Early in the speech, Duterte thanks the **NTF-ECLAC** for addressing the root cause of communism in the Philippines. Remember that NTF-ECLAC is marred with controversies of red-tagging and questionable budget usage.
- Duterte allotted some time praising **Senate President Tito Sotto**. He said that the Senate President is a good man who can be a good Vice President.
- He highlighted how he asked **DPWH to prioritize the Sorsogon Bypass Road**, and said that he did that because he loves the Bikolanos. As we know, Bikol is a stronghold of Vice President Robredo and Duterte lost in the entire region last 2016.
- No SONA is complete without giving airtime to **Senator Bong Go**, the former aid of the President. He highlighted the work of Sen. Go in the creation of Malasakit Centers in the country which makes public health more accessible to the people.



Current Party Affiliations of the Senate and the House of Representatives



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