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DTI, task force continue distribution of *libreng* masks para sa masa



Department of Trade and Industry-Competitiveness Bureau (DTI-CB) Director Lilian G. Salonga (second from left), with officials and representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), and Presidential Management Staff (PMS), turn over 1,125,000 face masks to the City of Manila led by Mayor Francisco M. Domagoso (center) last 23 February 2021.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), together with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), continues to lead the distribution of cloth face masks through the inter-agency Face Mask Distribution Project “*Libreng Mask Para sa Masa*.”

“*Ito pong proyekto na ito ay nagmula po sa pangako ng ating Pangulong Duterte na siya po ay mamimigay ng face mask sa atin pong mga kapos na mga kababayan,*” said **DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez** in his keynote message during the COVID-19 Coordinated Operations to Defeat Epidemic (CODE) Team visit in Antipolo, Rizal.

The project has reached other cities and provinces including Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Iloilo City, Davao City, Quezon City, Pateros, San Juan, Navotas, Muntinlupa, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Malabon, Valenzuela, Makati, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Caloocan, Taguig, Pasig and recently, the City of Manila, which received 1,125,000 washable face masks last 23 February 2021.

“*Maraming salamat sa PMS tsaka other agencies like DTI, DSWD at yung iba pang sub-agencies. We are very grateful,*” **Manila Mayor Francisco M. Domagoso** said during the turnover ceremony.

“*I know that you produce jobs and livelihood for those people, the same thing the City of Manila is producing our own masks and providing job opportunity regularly sa atin mga kababayan,*” he added.

Libreng Mask para sa Masa was launched last 12 August 2020 in Antipolo, Rizal, where Sec. Lopez, DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo M. Año, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre H. Bello and DSWD Secretary Rolando D. Bautista led the ceremonial distribution of face masks, hygiene kits and *negosyo* carts to Social Amelioration Program (SAP) beneficiaries.



Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez, together with Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, leads the distribution of masks during the visit of COVID-19 Coordinated Operations to Defeat Epidemic (CODE) Team in Antipolo, Rizal on 12 August 2020.

Since its launch, a total of 8,701,360 pieces of cloth masks have already been turned over to local government units (LGUs) in Regions III, IV-A, VI, XI and National Capital Region (NCR).

The “*Libreng Mask Para sa Masa*” project supports government’s strategic plan against COVID-19. It aims to produce 47 million face masks to contribute in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in local communities by providing them locally-made and manufactured, non-medical grade, washable face masks.

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from different regions were tapped to help in the production and manufacturing of masks distributed to families under the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps) from areas which are considered high-risk. This also aims to help participant-MSMEs recover from their losses brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“*Ang maganda po dito ay ang mga reusable mask ay gagawin po ng lahat po ng women’s cooperatives, mga SMEs na nabigyan po ng Shared Service Facilities (SSF) ng DTI ng mga sewing machines, at lahat po ng SMEs at mga network ng DTI, TESDA, PCW—so, tulung-tulong po lahat itong efforts na ito,*” Secretary Lopez said.

“*Tutulong din po ‘yung mga mananahi, from cooperatives around the country. Doon po kukunin itong mga reusable washable face masks na alinsunod din po sa standard ng World Health Organization—‘yang high quality reusable mask,*” he added.

As of 25 February 2021, 12,820,147 pieces of face masks have been produced. A total of 34,227,641 pieces are currently under bidding, with 17,115,563 pieces already waiting for notice to proceed production and remaining 17,112,078 pieces waiting to be awarded.