



THE 2022 PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS REPORT





OVERVIEW

Aspiring and veteran politicians across the Philippines vied for 18,180 elective positions in the May 9, 2022 national and local elections. More than 55.1 million out of ~67.4 million registered voters (82% turnout) have cast their votes.

President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. dominated the polls with 31.1 million votes (56%). Marcos’ Vice Presidential running-mate, Sara Duterte-Carpio, daughter of current President Rodrigo Duterte, also won by a landslide with 31.5 million votes (57%).

A smooth transition and policy continuity from President Duterte to Marcos is expected, with only a minimal shift in policy direction.

Marcos presented himself as a “unifying leader” who will get the Philippines out of a pandemic rut. His economic and foreign policy stances are similar to the outgoing Duterte administration. On a macro level, Marcos highlights his “Tawid COVID, Beyond COVID” program which is said to provide measures on how the Philippine economy can recover from the pandemic and strategies that will address problems in agriculture, energy, telecommunication, infrastructure, education, health, and other various sectors. The details of his plan are yet to be disclosed.

Election Results

Election Results

As 98.35% of precincts are already accounted for, Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. has become the country’s first majoritarian President since the election of the late President Manuel Quezon back in 1935; with Marcos Jr. securing a landslide win with a total of 31,104,175 votes as of the 13th of May. This win can be largely credited to his robust social media infrastructure with a network of online operators.^{[1][2]} Meanwhile, the presidential race’s runner-up and Marcos Jr.’s political rival, Vice President Leni Robredo, garnered 14,822,051 (27%) votes which are less than half of Marcos Jr.’s total.

Vice President Leni Robredo was followed by boxer turned politician Sen. Manny Pacquiao with 3,629,805 (7%); Manila City Mayor Isko Moreno with 1,900,010 (3%); and Sen. Ping Lacson at 882,236 (2%) votes.

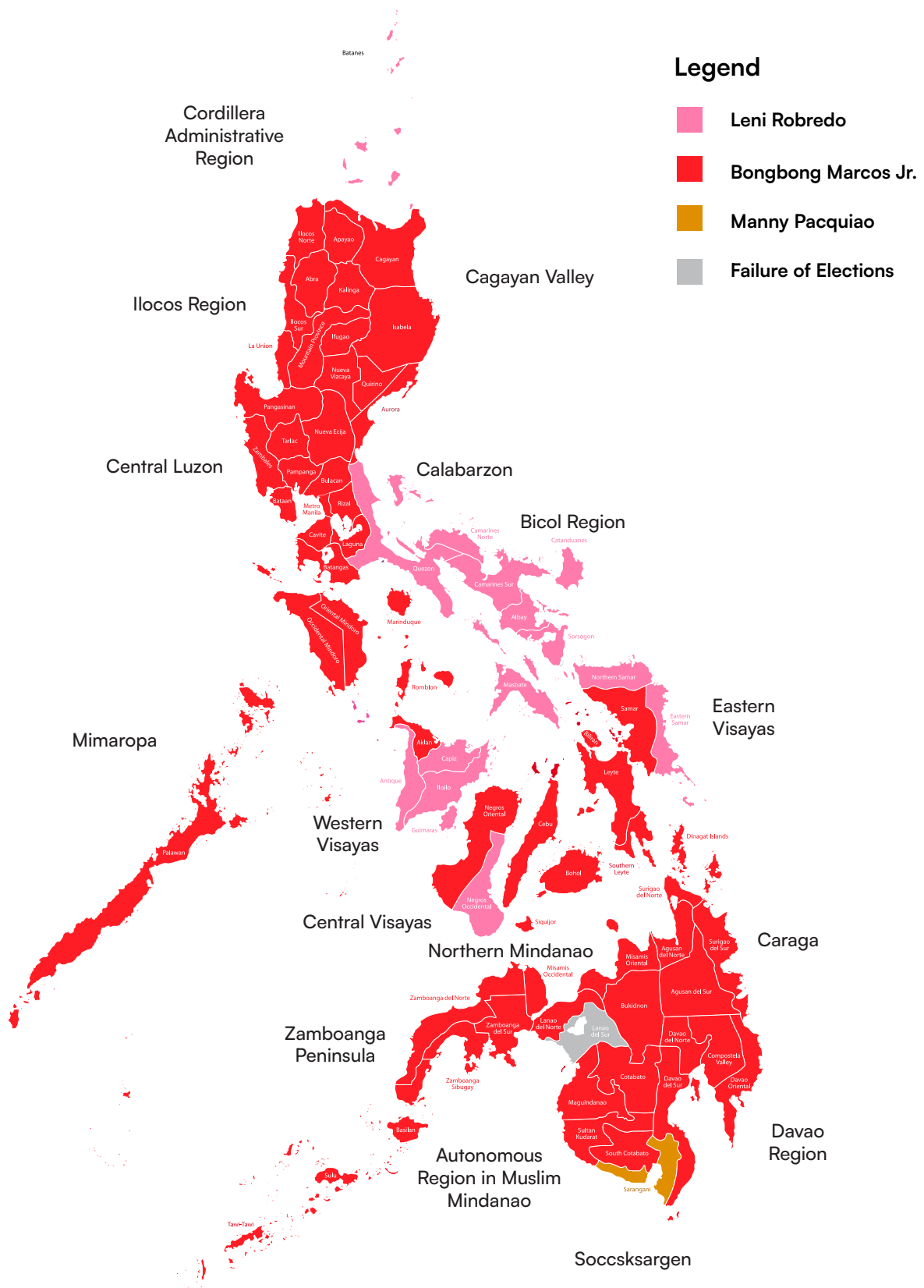
With the conclusion of the counting of votes, the role of local political alliances cannot be understated. Marcos’ landslide victory was delivered by endorsements from 64 out of 80 Provincial Governors and 18 out of 35 Independent City Mayors (including cities from the National Capital Region). Marcos Jr. was found to have won the most in the provinces of Cavite, Cebu, and Pampanga garnering a total of 3,472,907 electoral votes. These votes can be credited to the strong alliances Marcos Jr. have with local politicians; an example of such is former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo hailing from Pampanga.

On the other hand, Robredo garnered a total of 2,059,269 electoral votes in the provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, and Iloilo. This can also be credited to her strong alliance with the local officials in Iloilo while the other two provinces are known to be her bailiwick.

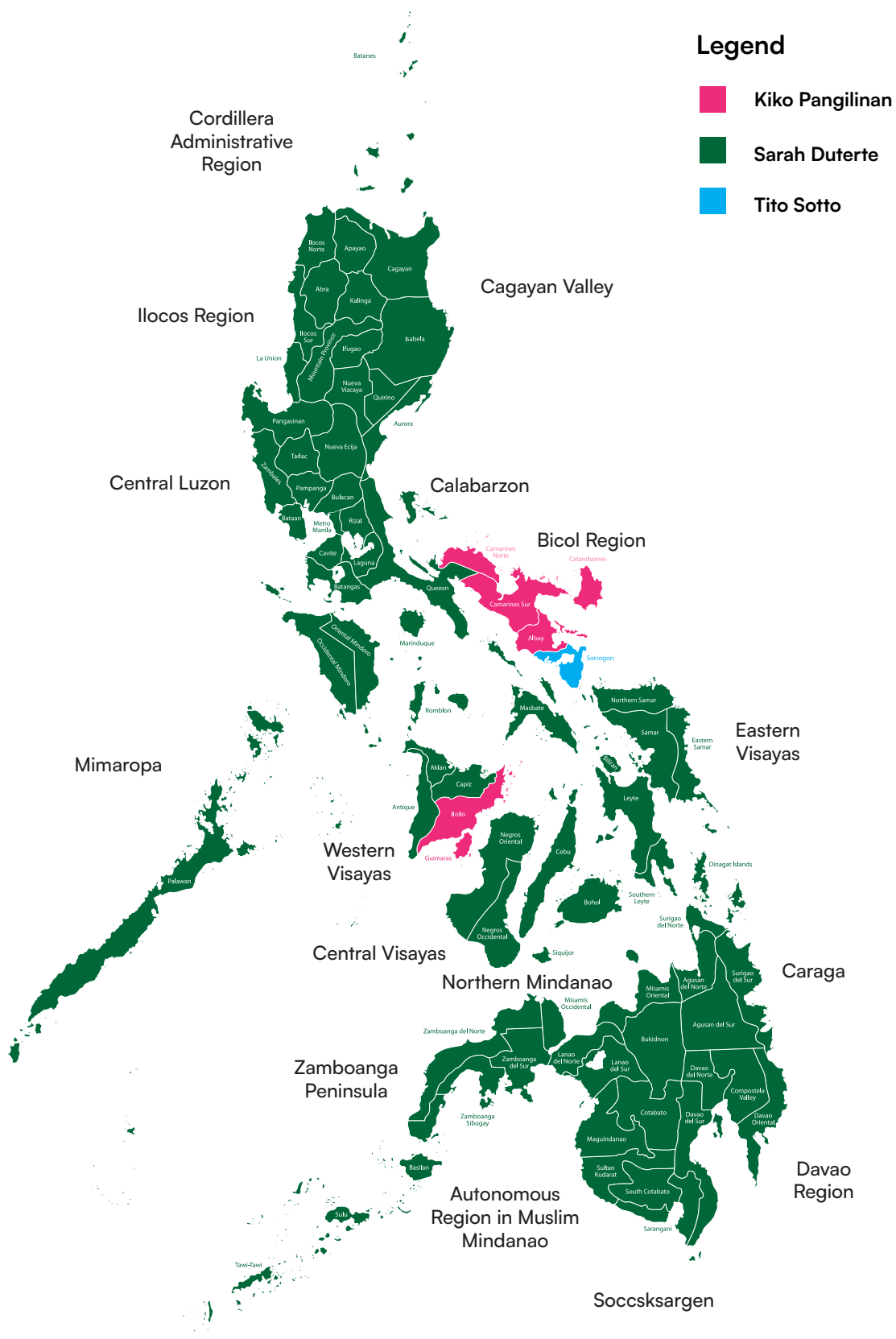
While Marcos Jr. has been the presidential frontrunner throughout the whole election period—with the president-elect consistently remaining above 50 points in almost all reputable pre-election surveys after the filing of candidacies—his consistent lead was only secured after the formalization of his alliance with the presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio running as his Vice President under the UniTeam banner. Prior to the tandem sealing their alliance and formally filing their candidacies, Duterte-Carpio was rumored to be aspiring for the presidency as well, which would have prompted a split between her and Marcos Jr. given the same demographic the two shared according to experts.^[3] This is apparent in Duterte-Carpio leading the pre-candidacy filing surveys by staying above 20 points and Marcos Jr. polling at around 17 points. The alliance between the country’s two most powerful political clans was said to have been brokered by no less than former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



Map: 2022 Presidential Election Results



Map: 2022 Vice-presidential Election Results



It is clear that Marcos Jr. won in all the Philippines' island groups (Luzon, Visayas, & Mindanao) including the national capital region. It was found that Marcos Jr. won 29 out of the 36 provinces in Luzon, 11 out of the 19 in the Visayas, and 24 out of 26 in Mindanao.

Inversely, Robredo only won 7 out of 36 provinces in Luzon, 8 out of 19 provinces in the Visayas, and garnered 0 out of 26 provinces in Mindanao, failing to capture any of the provinces there. It is also worth noting that the North of Luzon is the bailiwick of Marcos and Mindanao is the bailiwick of Duterte.

**President-Elect Ferdinand
“Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.
Views on Economy**

With Marcos Jr.'s camp yet to lay a clear economic plan for the country, the absence of a comprehensive economic platform leaves much to be uncertain about his future administration's policy direction.^[4] As of the end of March this year, the Marcos administration will inherit from the Duterte administration the country's outstanding debt which stood at Php 12.68 Trillion—making the projection for the Debt-to-GDP ratio to peak at 66.8% by 2024. Additionally, 23.7% of the Philippine population lived below the poverty line as of the first half of last year with a three-year high inflation rate of 4.9% as of April this year.^{[5][6]}

In contrast, however, the country's unemployment rate stood at 5.8% last March 2022, lower than the 7.1% rate of the same month last year.^[7] As a response, Marcos stressed that it will be their priority to create more jobs focused on business, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructures in line with the "Build, Build, Build" program of the Duterte administration. He said that his administration will ensure a lot of downstream activity that will employ many people in the agriculture sector as well as revitalize Philippine tourism to generate more jobs.^[8]



Source: AP

Platforms



Source: <https://politixx.today/bongbong-marcos-bbm-profile-platform-stands-on-issues/>

1. Labor

Marcos Jr.'s Jobs! Jobs! Jobs! Is aimed at creating more employment opportunities for Filipinos. He plans on drafting policies on work security, fair salary, and hope for progression aside from strengthening various sectors.

- Channeling Internal Revenue Allocation (IRA) through local government units (LGUs) to
- micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)
- Ending 'ENDO' or short-term contractualization
- Bringing back Private-Public Partnerships
- Strengthening the agriculture sector
- Lowering the taxes of small businesses with a better VAT exempt
- Streamlined labor for government offices
- Improving President Duterte's Build Build Build

2. Environment

It is part of the Marcos administration's agenda to enforce a stricter law on anti-illegal logging. Furthermore, Marcos Jr. believes that the administration should have a proper communication strategy for mining stakeholders in order not to be taken advantage of.

I. Balancing Economy and Nature

Marcos Jr. has announced to the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP) that he intends to create programs that preserve nature while making the Philippine economy stronger. He said that there should be a 'perfect balance' and 'harmony' between nature and the growing community.

II. Department of Disaster Resilience

Similar to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at Estados Unidos, Marcos Jr. plans on creating a program entitled 'Department of Disaster Resilience'. The objective is to integrate the program with different agencies to be more efficient: weather forecast with DOST, preparedness with the LGUs, response for DSWD, and rehabilitation with NEDA.

III. Department of Water and Resources Management

Marcos Jr. wants to establish a Department of Water and Resources Management to ensure that each individual in the country has access to a clean and safe water supply.^[9]

IV. Climate Change Adaptation Program

The Philippines is home to yearly typhoons and strong rains, primarily impacted by climate change. Marcos Jr. promises better policies for all agencies and sectors (i.e., agriculture, food security) to be more prepared.

- Promoting Sustainable Development
- Reforestation undertaking on a massive scale
- No-Build Zones: stricter implementations near shores
- Disaster preparedness infrastructure
- Formation of agencies with specific tasks
- Agricultural sector to research more climate-resilient crops
- Utilizing more renewable energy sources for power supply

3. Energy

Marcos Jr. states the relevance of electricity and the need to industrialize other sectors such as transport which could also help encourage foreign investments. Marcos Jr. said that the country must make technology and electricity better for natural and renewable sources, paving the way for energy security.

- World to Agri-Industrial Economy
- Strengthening digital infrastructure by utilizing available technology
- Constructing facilities that would create renewable energy
- Renewal and implementation of the nuclear energy program
- Growth of the transport sector, improving the Build Build Build Program

4. Healthcare

The COVID-19 pandemic further underscored the importance of a strong healthcare system. Marcos Jr. highlights the need for five bases to improve Philippine healthcare, which includes healthcare leadership, health information system, health financing, human resource, availability of medical products, and service delivery training.

Philippine healthcare will expand. Rural areas are prioritized and will have better access to healthcare. Doctors and nurses are to improve, and special hospitals such as heart centers will advance.

Marcos Jr. proposes building more infrastructures within communities and conducting additional research and development of vaccines and medicine. Healthcare workers are to be given further benefits.

- Construction of Rural Health Units (RHU)
- Through digital infrastructure, strengthening of healthcare systems
- Better compensations and benefits for health workers
- Senior citizens, and free healthcare
- A larger budget for medical research and development
 - Strengthening the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
 - Scholarship and training for medical professions

5. Agriculture and Food Security Program

Marcos Jr. believes that Philippine agriculture should have an overall program that protects farmer industries. The program involves creating a system that focuses on agricultural production, funding, research and development, irrigation, processing, and distribution. With technical support, Filipino farmers and fishermen will be prioritized, leading to an increase in profit and a decrease in food prices.

The objective of Marcos Jr. is to fix the agricultural system and ensure that the country does not depend on importation. Marcos aims to make the Philippines one of the top exporters worldwide once again.

- Suspension of Rice Tarrification Law and minimized imports
- Establishment of an Agricultural Production System to improve local production
- Installation of food terminals for product harvests
- Re-establishment of Kadiwa Stores for distribution
- Provisions for farm inputs, equipment, and facilities
- Better seedling with research programs
- Farmer training programs
- Continuation of Balik Probinsya Program

6. Tourism Program

Marcos Jr. believes that with the advancement of domestic tourism, the Philippine economy will move forward once again, and while the country's image is flourishing, works such as hotels, restaurants, recreation, and live events will shape up.

- Community-based sustainable tourism
- Protection and preservation of environmental and biodiversity
- Initiate agritourism and food tourism with the Agricultural Food Security Program
- Promotion of events industries
- Promotion of health tourism to ensure safe travels
- Prioritization of domestic tourism for immediate job creation

7. Infrastructure Program

Marcos Jr. intends to expand and improve the Build Build Build program of President Rodrigo Duterte. Given the changes of moving to an online platform, he also proposes giving importance to the digital infrastructure with the belief that the country should modernize and adopt new technologies.

- Continuation of the Build Build Program: development plans on urbanization and
- infrastructures that focuses on implementing seaports, railways, flood mitigation, airports, etc.

- Inclusion of Digital Infrastructure in the Build Build Build Program
- Internet connection to be more advanced, extensive, and faster
- Expansion of the Build Build Build Program to have a bigger economic blueprint
- Developing smart ports to plan and manage operations
- Continuing the modernization of military assets of the AFP

8. Education

Marcos Jr. expresses his intentions of giving recognition and support to teachers, by providing higher salaries, proper training, protection, and other necessities. Students will be provided with materials and nutrition needed for school as well.

Meanwhile, public school athletes are to be taken care of, ensuring that they reach their potential and be able to represent the country well. Ample support will also be given to aspiring Filipino inventors since they may help in research and development for the country to progress.

- Teacher development programs, training, and refresher courses
- Salary increase for public school teachers
- Grassroots sports development
 - Gintong Alay - athlete 'adoption' support program
- Increase in scholarship programs and grants based on in-demand jobs
- Government support for educational investors
- National Education Portal (NEP) implementation
 - NEP - online platform accessible to all students and teachers to simplify e-learning for public and private institutes
- Free internet access in public schools
- Assistance in school supplies and feeding programs

9. Socio-Economic Development Program

The Bagong Lipunan Improvement of Sites and Services started during the administration of former President Ferdinand Marcos Sr. He aimed to prioritize basic human needs and his son Marcos Jr. wants to do the same. Programs of President Duterte, NFT-ELCAC, and Balik Loob programs are expected to be improved.

- Enhancing NFT-ELCAC and Balik Loob programs
- Creating more programs for rebels to come back to society
- Strengthening LGUs and barangays
- A holistic approach to human settlement communities
- Removal of mandatory retirement for senior citizens
- Continuation of war on drugs with a rehabilitation component being considered to be added^[10]

10. OFW Programs

Marcos wants to give more importance to OFWs especially since remittances continue to help the Philippine economy to prosper.

- Operation of the Department of Migrants Workers
- Provision of more efficient responsive onsite assistance
- Creations of OFW hospitals in every region
- Better health insurance and retirement plan
- Retention of workers for reunification and/or upgrade of skills
- Strengthening bilateral ties
- Scholarship for OFW dependents^[11]

Key Timeline

ACTIVITY	MAY			JUNE			
	W2	W3	W4				
Election Proper (D)	9						
Resumption of Congressional Session (D + 1-2 Weeks)			23				
Beginning of Canvassing of Votes (D + 1-2 Weeks)			24				
Proclamation of President-elect (D + 1-2 Weeks)			27				
Announcement of Cabinet Positions (D + 3-4 Weeks)							
Presidential Inauguration (D + 7 Weeks)							30

Economic Policies Under Marcos' Administration



Source: <https://www.microsave.net/2020/08/04/philippines-impact-of-covid-19-on-micro-small-and-medium-enterprises-msmes/>

As with the rest of the world, the Philippines continues to suffer economically as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the country having close to P12 trillion in debt, the incoming administration is faced with unique challenges, including reinvigorating the slowly reopening economy while ensuring the needs of the general public, especially those that were greatly affected by the pandemic, are adequately met.

In Congress, presumptive House Speaker Martin Romualdez disclosed its plans for a new stimulus package, dubbed “Bayan Bangon Muli” (BBM) program. The program, which aims to provide the incoming administration with additional resources to stimulate the economy, considers cost-cutting proposals, such as the postponement of the Barangay elections slated in December of this year. While more details have yet to be disclosed by the proponents, critics have cited the lack of potential sources for this proposal, as well as the political impact of further postponing the barangay elections.^{[12][13]}

On his part, incumbent House Ways and Committees Chairperson Rep. Joey Salceda stated that the administration can look into the following sources of revenue to fund the proposed stimulus package.^[14] These include a “cash sweep” via executive order, a “supplemental appropriations bill with unprogrammed allocations,” the use of “unused funds in Special Purpose Funds,” and adopting another Bayanihan that will place under moratorium “wasteful projects.”

The soon-to-be Marcos Jr. administration made statements concerning the focal points of their administration. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSMEs) are the backbone of economies in Asia and are considered their driving force. MSMEs comprise around 99 percent of businesses in the country. In 2020, MSMEs generated a total of 5,380,815 jobs, or 62.66% of the country’s total employment. They account for 25% of the country’s total export revenue according to the Philippine Statistics Authority and were responsible for 40% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the past years. Therefore, it is no surprise that the main target of Marcos Jr.’s administration’s economic revitalization program is the revival of MSMEs.^{[15][16][17]}

Marcos Jr. is looking into local government units allocating portions of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to MSMEs while guiding them in their business plans. This has been made possible by the Mandanas ruling which increased the IRA of all LGUs.^[18] In addition to Marcos’ economic plans, his Vice President, Sara Duterte-Carpio, has also mentioned increasing foreign direct investments (FDI) through ‘policy making’; the Marcos-Duterte administration is yet to remedy the lack of clarity on the specifics of the policies and initiatives that they are slated to undertake once the transfer of power is done.

It is worth noting that the projected increase in FDIs is around Php 299 billion in the next five years with the amended Public Service Act (PSA). With the redefinition of “public utility”, the law now allows non-Filipinos to completely own businesses considered public services and eases the restrictions of foreign ownership. It aims to motivate more capital inflows, which provides employment, resource development, the value of export increase and supports the fuel overall economy.^{[19][20]}

As Marcos’ economic policy has not been unveiled yet, businesses and investors should be on the lookout for his selection of economic managers for now. This will be crucial for them to truly focus on critical areas his camp discussed during the campaign like the price of energy, lack of jobs, and infrastructure. International Investment Banker Stephen Cuunjieng underscored the importance of the next Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary as they would gain the confidence and trust of the business community, specifically praising Sonny Dominguez as the most ideal chief Finance Chief for this unquestionable wisdom in the field.^[21]

Two consequential bodies under the DOF tasked with the responsibility of raising the government’s revenue for state goods and services are the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and the Bureau of Customs (BoC), contributing to a combined total of Php 889.7 Billion in revenue during the first quarter of last year.^[22] However, Marcos Jr.’s evasion of debates and lack of concrete plans prevent stakeholders to gauge how he would manage the present economic conditions of the country.

Just recently, Marcos Jr. announced the appointment of incumbent Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Benjamin Diokno as the country’s next Finance Secretary. A graduate of UP Diliman with an MA in Public Administration (1970) and Economics (1974), Diokno has also served as the country’s Department of Budget and Management (DBM) secretary under the administrations of Former Pres. Estrada (1998-2001) and Pres. Duterte (2016-2019) as well as an Undersecretary of the same department during the administration of the late Pres. Cory Aquino.^{[23][24]}

In order to deal with the country’s debt, Marcos Jr. and Diokno are reportedly tasked with raising around P326 billion in new revenues each year in order to cover the interest and principal payments of said debt; a task that the DOF believes may be remedied through the imposition of various tax reforms and increases. As a result of the country’s debt and economic situation, Fitch’s outlook for the country is now negative with a ‘Triple B’ rating.^{[25][26][27]}

Marcos has not shared any specific fiscal plans thus far. It should be noted, however, that President Duterte’s chief economic manager Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III urged him to build on the fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan that the current government will turn over to his administration. This will most likely involve higher or new taxes while cutting non-priority spending.

It is crucial for the Marcos admin to increase government revenues while eliminating wasteful expenditures to ultimately overcome the country’s debt problem. It should be noted that the national government debt as of the end of January 2022 is more than 60% of the 2021 GDP. In a recent interview with Marcos’ spokesperson, Attorney Vic Rodriguez, he said that everyone should just wait for the official assumption into office by president-elect Marcos when asked about how he intends to generate new revenues.^[28]

Meanwhile, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua suggested that the next administration revisit “sin” tax rates, as well as remove all exemptions from the 12-percent value-added tax (VAT) to more efficiently collect the levy. In consideration of the economic crisis the country is in, the Marcos administration is expected to focus on ironing out plans to curb inflation and secure more investors by reviewing the implementing policies in place.^[29]

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the recent implementation of the Supreme Court ruling over the petition of Batangas Governor Herminigildo Mandanas (Mandanas Ruling) puts added fiscal strain on the national government budget, as local governments will have an increased share of the national government income. This will be at the expense of the national government having fewer funds for its operational expenses.

Policy Forecasts for Economic Sectors

1. Labor

The country's labor export force - a legacy of the first Marcos administration - continues to be among the significant contributors to the Philippine economy. Close to 9% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) comes from remittances by Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). In fact, despite the pandemic, \$31.4 billion in cash remittances were recorded in 2021, representing a 5.1% growth from \$29.9 billion in 2020.^[30] This influx of remittances has helped the Philippine economy amidst the challenges brought about by COVID-19. With the gradual easing of cross-border restrictions, it is expected that more Filipinos will once again seek employment opportunities abroad.

Marcos has already stated his desire to copy the labor export policy of his father where there would be a retraining program for OFWs who have ended their contracts and have come back to the country. However, this labor export policy is opposed by many sectors due to its social and economic impacts, also easing the pressure on the government to create more jobs. With this, the newly-created Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is expected to find its footing by the time the Marcos administration comes into power.

Contractualization is the practice of businesses hiring employees under a fixed-term contract, which President Duterte promised to end and improve labor conditions for all. In the said arrangement, employers rehire employees for another fixed term after five months, and the cycle continues.^[31]

Staying true to the expected policy continuity of the Marcos administration, he is also using President Duterte's campaign promise of ending contractualization or "endo" which is short for "end-of-contract". In a discussion with the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) and Associated Labor Unions (ALU), he said that ensuring better labor conditions is going to be one of his priorities. However, the labor agenda is still to be solidified and shared with the public.

When asked about his next steps regarding the demolition of endo, he said that his team will study how to amend the concerned law, streamline labor-related government agencies, and talk to company owners whom he regards as "friends". However, business groups have once voiced their opposition to "endo" as they deem it is impractical and lead to unintended adverse consequences like business closures. Marcos Jr. has also acknowledged that there is a lot to be fixed and that he is yet to put the labor layout in detail.^{[32][33]}

Many officials have already attempted to end endo. It can be speculated that Marcos Jr. might be able to actually achieve this feat in consideration of his several affiliations and established authority with his available resources.

It can be expected that the Security of Tenure Act will become a priority bill that aims to amend the Labor Code to further protect workers' rights by prohibiting labor-only contracting in the private sector.^[34]

2. Environment

There is limited information on the Marcos administration's plans for the environment but has promised the creation of an ecology-based disaster risk reduction program that is said to address environmental degradation. Since he did not attend most of the debates, he lost the opportunity to bare his climate crisis plans. Though, considering how he is carrying on with the ways of the current administration, it can be expected that his policies will also focus more on mitigation which largely involves the use of green energy and better enforcement of the key provisions of the Mining Act of 1995.

The UniTeam envisions a "national government that shall uphold environmental protection and promote sustainable development; to ensure that the environment is protected and the country's natural resources are utilized in a sustainable manner. The national government shall also undertake reforestation on a massive scale, enhance forest conservation, and manage remaining forests according to strict standards." Prioritizing environment protection and preservation can help address adverse economic consequences that threaten the Philippines's prospects for sustainable development in the coming years.^{[35][36]}

3. Energy

There is a plethora of problems that the Duterte administration will be leaving, including the depletion of the Malampaya gas reserves and the country's commitment to rid its energy mix of coal. The former now presents an unwarranted risk to the country's long-term energy security which has prompted more developments of liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities in the country. Being unable to produce its own natural gas, the Philippines would be more dependent on foreign energy. Rotational brownouts and blackouts are to be expected by 2024 should there be a failure to address the Malampaya gas field depletion.

Aside from the persisting high cost of electricity which could be attributed to the 12% VAT generation charge, over 1.06 million households are still under DOE's radar for electrification. It is the government's ultimate goal to shift to renewable energy use but more investments are needed in order for the country to afford it and establish the power plants.^{[37][38][39]}

Marcos intends to increase government investment in infrastructures that would ensure sufficiency as well as lower power and fuel costs while giving equal importance to environmental protection. He has been considering full exploration of renewable-energy (RE) resources but is yet to provide a comprehensive plan on how to go about it. In the meantime, he is fossil gas as a "transition fuel" to renewable energy.^[40] He also said that his administration will strive to achieve 100 percent household electrification as he moves from coal and fossil fuel use to renewable forms of energy. He believes that capitalizing on the potential of RE sources would help the government to better control the prices of basic commodities.

While economic growth has been the focal point of Marcos Jr, queries concerning the energy sector have also been one of the agendas that Marcos-Duterte's tandem is slated to tackle. During this time, Marcos Jr. has made his intention clear in reviving the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP) and the reinvestment into renewable forms of energy. Aside from continuing the incoming partnership with a Korean energy enterprise for the assessment of the BNPP, Marcos Jr. aims to invest in the assessment of natural resources available to the Department of Energy to utilize in expanding the energy mix of the country. It is also noted that there seems to be a preference for Wind and Solar among the renewable forms of energy. He further emphasizes the need for the industry players and stakeholders in the renewable energy sector to cooperate not only amongst themselves but with the government as well.^{[41][42]}

4. Healthcare

The Philippine healthcare system remains fragmented as around 90 million Filipinos still have no access to basic care. There is also an ongoing shortage of medical equipment and human medical professionals exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Government leaders have been put under public scrutiny as they continue to scramble to implement necessary measures in combating and mitigating healthcare issues. During his campaign, Marcos Jr. vowed to reorganize the country's healthcare system with his abovementioned platforms.^{[43][44]}

Marcos Jr. plans to increase the budget for healthcare and medical research as part of his recovery plans. However, despite the pandemic running for more than two years already, he deems that everything is still new. He wants to establish more health facilities, especially regional health units which he championed in Ilocos Norte during his stint as governor of the province. Policy forecasts for the healthcare sector are as follows.

I. Higher budget for healthcare and medical research

As part of his recovery plans, Bongbong Marcos Jr. aims for higher healthcare and medical research budget. The Tawid-Covid program will prioritize improvements on the conditions favoring medical workers which includes an increase in salary and benefits.

Marcos also cited the need for strengthened support for medical research, this includes the development of the country's main COVID-19 laboratory, the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). The University of the Philippines' National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology is also included among the laboratories that he wants to have more budget. Marcos said that the "country should be able to produce its own vaccine." He then briefly called for the Department of Education to deploy teachers who were already vaccinated as he deemed that it would help prevent the spread of COVID-19.^[45]

II. Immunization Registry System

Bongbong Marcos Jr. wants to push the registry system for vaccination to all local government units. He says that this will enable easier and quicker digital access to data of all immunized Filipinos contrary to the usual physical identification card that is currently in use. Marcos stated that this method will "provide measures and strategies on how Filipinos can improve their lives and how the Philippine economy can rebound while amid the pandemic and even beyond it".^[46]

III. Reorganize National Health Insurance System

In an interview aired on PTV, Marcos Jr. expressed his goal to overhaul the healthcare system in the country. This is due to the constantly arising issue involving PhilHealth. Reorganizing and replacing the state insurer are some of his plans for the organization, expressing his disappointment with the management system through the years. One of the most pressing issues at the height of the pandemic is the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) being unable to pay reimbursement claims has prompted private hospitals to signify that they will no longer seek accreditation with the state issuer. This has warranted a congressional investigation in 2021.^{[47][48][49]}

Marcos expressed his ideas for allowing non-board passers to be given the opportunity in the field wherein they can earn, gain hands-on experiences, and contribute to healthcare as they prepare for the boards. He shared plans of giving scholarships to healthcare professionals which according to him will amplify their desire to stay and practice their professions in the country instead of working abroad.

A. Non-board passers for health workforce

Marcos expressed his ideas for allowing non-board passers to be given the opportunity in the field wherein they can earn, gain hands-on experiences, and contribute to healthcare as they prepare for the boards. He shared plans of giving scholarships to healthcare professionals which according to him will amplify their desire to stay and practice their professions in the country instead of working abroad.^[52]

IV. Healthcare insurance

Another plan laid down by the incoming administration is pushing for family-based health insurance to help Filipinos have easier access to basic healthcare services. Marcos also wants to boost the concept of rural health units (RHU) for the benefit of far-flung areas where doctors, nurses, and midwives can visit at least three times a week.

A. Republic Act No. 11223

Marcos expresses goals of pushing for the full implementation of the Universal Health Care Act mandating the institutionalization of health technology assessment (HTA) as a fair and transparent priority-setting mechanism that shall be recommendatory to the DOH and PhilHealth for the development of policies and programs, regulation, and the determination of a range of entitlements such as drugs, medicines, pharmaceutical products, other devices, procedures, and services. He also highlights that healthy citizens would be the foundation of a healthy economy.^{[53][54]}

5. Information and Communication Technologies

Aside from prioritizing digital infrastructure to improve the country's internet speed, Marcos has not expressed any other plans concerning the information and communication technology sector. The establishment of better digital infrastructures will be incorporated under the continuation of the Build, Build, Build program. His camp has also called on telecommunication companies "to focus on improving parameters such as coverage and stability of [internet] connection."

Additionally, Marcos is looking into port automation, computerization, and using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to increase efficiency and prevent port congestion which can possibly lead to lower shipping costs. He strongly believes that modernizing the Philippines' infrastructure (i.e., seaports, airports, and railways) can make the country a smart logistics hub in Asia that can serve as a steady revenue generator for the government.

Support for broadcasting efforts is yet to be explored but given the not-so-warm relationship between his camp and the mainstream media, there might be some restrictions to be implemented once he assumes office. There are also no available plans yet to foster growth in of the 4th industrial revolution industries and the construction of hyper-connected networks using big data and blockchain.^{[55][56][57]}

6. International Trade

There is a glaring close relationship between Marcos and Beijing (which may suggest the continuation of the country's foreign policy towards being closer to China). In fact, Chinese President Xi Jinping regarded Marcos as "a builder, supporter, and promoter of" the two countries' friendship. The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and U.S. President Joe Biden have also recognized his presumptive win for his election bid.

In lieu of the international backlash when his presidency was expected after the first few days of the election. Questions arose regarding his would-be international policies and how he will be able to navigate the diplomatic playing field abroad. While his relationship with the United States is contemptuous due to multiple warrants for his arrests, there is a possibility for Marcos Jr. to revive the diplomatic talks with China.^[58]

The Philippines is a relatively small player in international trade. The value of Filipino exports represents a tiny 0.3% of total world exports of \$21.513 trillion for 2021. Among its top trading partners include the United States (15.9% of total Filipino exports), China (15.5%), Japan (14.4%), Hong Kong (13.3%), and Singapore (5.6%).^[59]

While there are also no clear plans on how the Marcos administration will approach trade relations, Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez recently conveyed the country's support for Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) initiative to strengthen trade and investment ties with the US. The Department of Trade and Industry is remaining hopeful as well that the Senate will concur with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) for the country to reap the benefits of the free trade agreement and help manage the quickening inflation.^{[60][61]}

Possible Cabinet Appointees

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT		
DESIGNATION	APPOINTEE	NOTES
Vice President (confirmed)	Sarah Duterte-Carpio	Vice-President Elect; Former Davao City Mayor
Executive Secretary (confirmed)	Victor Rodriguez	Former Marcos Chief of Staff and Campaign
Presidential Management Secretary (confirmed)	Zenaida Angping	Former Manila Representative & previous executive assistant of former Ambassador Benjamin Romualdez
Special Assistant to the President (confirmed)	Anton Lagdameo	Former Davao del-Norte Congressman
DEPARTMENT	APPOINTEE	NOTES
PCOO (Presidential Communications and Operations Office) (confirmed)	Trixie Cruz Angeles	Former consultant to then-PCOO Asst. Sec. Mocha Uson, and previous Politiko publisher
Presidential Spokesperson (tentatively reported)	Karen Jimeno	Former DPWH Undersecretary
	Rigoberto Tiglao	Manila Times Columnist and former Arroyo Cabinet Secretary
Office of the Solicitor General (tentatively reported)	Rodante Marcoleta	Incumbent SAGIP partylist Representative
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (tentatively reported)	Jose Jaime Policarpio Jr.	Former consultant to then PCOO Asst. Sec. Mocha Uson and previous Politiko publisher

CABINET-LEVEL AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPOINTEE	NOTES
 Department of Migrant Workers (confirmed)	Susan "Toots" Ople	Head of Blas Ople Policy Center, daughter of former Senator and Secretary/Minister for Labor, Blas Ople, during Ferdinand Marcos' administration
 Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) (confirmed)	Manuel M. Bonoan	Former SMC Tollways CEO and former DPWH Undersecretary under the Arroyo Administration
 Department of Justice (DOJ) (confirmed)	Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla	Incumbent Deputy Majority Leader and Cavite 7th District Representative
 Department of Information and Communications (DICT) (confirmed)	Ivan John Enrila Uy	Former Agency Executive of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology
 Department of Tourism (DOT) (confirmed)	Christina Garcia Frasco	Incumbent Liloan Mayor and daughter of Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia
 Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) (confirmed)	Bienvenido Laguesma	Former DOLE Secretary during the Estrada administration

CABINET-LEVEL AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPOINTEE	NOTES
 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) (confirmed)	Erwin Tulfo	Broadcast personality and former PTV news anchor
 Department of Finance (confirmed)	Benjamin Diokno	Incumbent BSP Chief, Former Budget Secretary (Estrada and Duterte administrations)
 Department of Budget (DBM) (confirmed)	Amenah Pangandaman	Former Department of Budget and Management Assistant Secretary
 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) (confirmed)	Fred Pascual	Current head of the Management Association of the Philippines; Former President of UP
 Department of National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) (confirmed)	Arsenio M. Balisacan	Incumbent Chairperson of the Philippine Competition Commission. Aquino appointee.
 Department of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) (confirmed)	Felipe Medalla	Incumbent member of BSP; Socio-Economic Planning Secretary and Director-General of NEDA (Estrada administration)

CABINET-LEVEL AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPOINTEE	NOTES
 Department of Tourism (DOT) (confirmed)	Manuel M. Bonoan	Former SMC Tollways CEO and former DPWH Undersecretary under the Arroyo Administration
 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) (tentatively reported)	Benjamin Abalos Jr.	Incumbent Chairperson of the MMDA and former Mayor of Mandaluyong.
 Committee on Higher Education (CHED) (tentatively reported)	Clarita Reyes Carlos	Former Political Science Professor of the University of the Philippines and currently the executive director of StratSearch Foundation Inc.
 Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) (tentatively reported)	Rosario Manalo	Philippine Ambassador and current member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
 Department of National Defense (DND) (tentatively reported)	Gen. Jose Calingasan Faustino Jr.	Former 56th Chief of Staff of the AFP and Commander of the Joint Task Force Mindanao
	Benjamin Defensor	Former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines
	Ariel Kerubin	Retired Marine Corps Officer and a recipient of the AFP Medal of Valor - the highest military award in the Philippines.
	Antonio Parlade, Jr.	Former NTF-ELCAC Spokesperson and Retired Commander of the AFP's Southern Luzon Command

CABINET-LEVEL AGENCIES

AGENCY	APPOINTEE	NOTES
 Department of Health (DOH) (tentatively reported)	Edsel M. Salvana	Infectious Disease Expert & Incumbent Member of the DOH Technical Advisory Group
	Ted Herbosa	Former Health Undersecretary under the PNoy Administration and current Adviser for COVID-19 NTF
 Department of Transportation (DOTr) (tentatively reported)	Vivencio Bringas Dizon	Former CEO of the BCDA and the Deputy Chief Implementor of the NTFA-COVID-19
	Arthur P. Tugade	Incumbent DOTr Secretary and Founder of Perry's Holding Corporation
 Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (tentatively reported)	Rodrigo Duterte	Outgoing President of the Republic of the Philippines and Former Davao City Mayor
 Department of Energy (tentatively reported)	Mikey Arroyo	Incumbent (and outgoing) Chairperson of House Energy Committee
	Agnes Devanadera	Former ERC Chairperson, Former Solicitor General
	Rodante Marcoleta	Incumbent SAGIP partylist Representative

Supermajority in Congress

It is expected that the incoming Marcos administration will have a strong alliance with the 19th Congress, composed of newly elected legislators in both chambers and some incumbent senators. Marcos Jr. will also have strong allies, in the form of influential relatives seated in both chambers of Congress, who can exert more influence over legislative and political matters.

Having their chairperson and presidential candidate as the next President of the Philippines, it is expected that Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP) will play a prominent role in the political dynamics for the next six years. This is akin to the experience of PDP-Laban, President Duterte's political party, which has enjoyed its dominance for the most part of Duterte's term. Given that Marcos' new political party has been vocal about its advocacy to change the Philippine government into a federal system, it is expected that charter change will be a key agenda under the Marcos presidency. However, it should be noted that numerous administrations have failed to push this initiative. As such, it is important to monitor how it might be pushed in the next six years, starting with Marcos' inaugural State of the Nation Address (SONA) to be held on the 25th of July.

At the House of Representatives, there has been overwhelming support for incumbent House Majority Floor Leader and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez to become the next Speaker of the House.

Romualdez, a cousin of Marcos Jr., received numerous expressions of support from former and current House leaders, including incumbent House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and incoming Party-list Foundation Coalition Inc. President and Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co, among others.

In the Senate, it is important to note that, aside from the "supermajority" being in alliance with the incoming administration, the dynamics will be more complex compared to the House of Representatives. Senators tend to vote along personal advocacies and popular opinion. **Further, at least four (4) senators, both incoming and incumbent, have expressed their interest in vying for the Senate Presidency. These would include incumbent Senator Cynthia Villar, current Senate Majority Floor Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, incumbent Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, and returning Senator Loren Legarda.**

It is expected as with all preceding Presidents that the first few months of their term will be in a state called the "honeymoon stage", wherein the new administration will have more inertia when it comes to pursuing its agenda. Moreover, given there are far fewer opposition legislators sitting in the incoming 19th Congress and the leadership of both chambers are in close affinity with the President-elect, there is a high possibility that the administration and its allies in the legislature will breeze through most of its legislative pursuits.

While the incoming 19th Congress is similar to the "supermajority" during the time of President Duterte, there is no guarantee that the administration's legislative agenda will be completely passed. This has been evident in one of President Duterte's key legislative measures—the Federalism initiative. It remains to be seen if incoming President Marcos will have a stronger sway over the legislative branch, compared to his predecessor.

Finally, it must be stated that the fluid dynamics among Marcos' allies in both the executive and the legislative branches should be monitored. For instance, Vice President-elect Duterte-Carpio initially wanted the position of Secretary of National Defense under the Marcos cabinet but was later given the role of Secretary of Education instead. Also, former President and Pampanga Representative Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was vying for the House leadership but ended up with Marcos' cousin and Leyte Representative Martin Romualdez unofficially being proclaimed as the next Speaker of the House.^{[62][63]}

While the alliance behind the Marcos administration remains solid, it is important to note that there remain strong factions that will struggle for control and influence in the coming years.

SUMMARY

More than 31 million Filipinos voted for Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., making him the country’s first majoritarian President since the 1935 elections. Local political alliances delivered the victory of the BBM-Sara tandem with endorsements from 64 out of 80 Provincial Governors and 18 out of 35 Independent City Mayors. Marcos Jr.’s consistent lead in the whole election period was solidified after finalizing his alliance with presidential daughter and Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio as his Vice President. The announcement of all cabinet positions and the presidential inauguration is expected to happen by the end of June.

Policy continuity is expected from Duterte’s administration to Marcos Jr.’s as the latter aims to carry on his predecessor’s key programs such as Build, Build, Build, and the war on drugs. Marcos Jr. will continue President Duterte’s campaign promise of ending contractualization, especially with his affiliations; and copy his father’s labor export policy of retraining OFWs.

Marcos Jr. has platforms on labor, environment, energy, healthcare, agriculture and food security, tourism, infrastructure, education, socio-economic development, and OFW programs. He intends to strengthen various sectors but is yet to build a comprehensive plan with his economic team. The creation of jobs focused on business, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructures will be prioritized by the Marcos administration.

The “Bayan Bangon Muli” (BBM) stimulus package proposed by Marcos’ allies in Congress aims to provide the administration with additional resources to stimulate the economy but critics cited a lack of potential sources for this proposal. More support for medium, small, and micro enterprises (MSMEs) and increasing foreign direct investments are to be expected from the incoming administration. While Marcos has not shared a specific fiscal plan so far, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III urged him to build on the fiscal consolidation and resource mobilization plan that will be turned over to his administration.

There is also limited information on environmental plans but the incoming administration has promised the creation of an ecology-based disaster risk reduction program. Moreover, the next administration should promptly address the Malampaya gas field depletion and a looming energy crisis. Marcos Jr. has been considering full exploration of nuclear and renewable energy sources while eyeing fossil gas as a transition fuel.

Meanwhile, Marcos Jr. promised to reorganize the country’s healthcare system, establish more health facilities, push for family-based health insurance, and increase the budget for medical research. Aside from improving digital infrastructures to make the internet faster, Marcos Jr. also envisions the country being a smart logistics hub in Asia that can serve as a steady revenue generator. Close ties with the Chinese government are expected to be sustained while trade relations plans are yet to be disclosed.

Marcos Jr. will have strong allies with influential relatives seated in both chambers of Congress. Despite the supermajority in congress, there is no guarantee that the administration’s legislative agenda will be completely passed. The Filipino people should continue to be on the lookout for how the Marcos administration will conduct itself and improve the country’s overall standing with the best interests of the citizens in mind.

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This Buod report filters and summarizes the most relevant news and pronouncements related to the expected Marcos administration and its plans for the economic sectors of the Philippines.

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