MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 2021-035

TO

: ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LOCAL SANGGUNIANS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, BARMM CHIEF MINISTER, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS, BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

CHIEF, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

CHIEF, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

CHIEF, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE TO IATF RESOLUTION NOS. 98-A AND 101 ON UNIFORM TRAVEL PROTOCOLS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS/PERSONNEL AND OTHER TRAVELERS, AND ON THE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF MINIMUM HEALTH PROTOCOLS

1. Prefatory Statement

1.1. The Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) has adopted the Omnibus Guidelines in the Implementation of Community Quarantine in the Philippines, wherein government officials and government frontline personnel are classified as Authorized Persons Outside of Residences (APOR), whose movements across areas placed under any form of community quarantine shall be permitted.
1.2. The same IATF Guidelines provides that the movement within and across areas placed under any form of community quarantine of government officials and government frontline personnel, and anyone crossing zones for work permitted in the zone of destination, and going back home, shall be permitted.

1.3. The IATF has issued Resolution No. 98-A, dated February 04, 2021, to ensure the unhindered performance of critical government service being performed by government officials/personnel, and to address the need to establish unified protocols to be observed regarding their movement.

1.4. The IATF has issued Resolution No. 101, dated February 26, 2021, which approves the uniform travel protocols for land, air, and sea, as proposed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, League of Provinces of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

1.5. In view of the recent spike in the number of active COVID-19 cases as monitored by the Department of Health, and the newly-discovered strains of the coronavirus, a Memorandum dated March 5, 2021 was issued to reiterate the directive to LGUs to adopt measures that are lawful, and necessary to implement the minimum public health standards set by the DOH and other relevant national government agencies. The same Memorandum also emphasized the enforcement of penal provisions for non-compliance to health and safety protocols, as provided in the required local ordinances.

2. Purpose

2.1. This Memorandum Circular is issued to guide Local Government Units (LGUs) regarding IATF Resolution Nos. 98-A and 101, specifically on the unimpeded movement of government personnel carrying out critical government services, and the implementation of a uniform travel protocol for land, air, and sea.

2.2. This Circular also reiterates the directive to intensify the enforcement of minimum health standards in all LGUs.
3. Coverage

3.1. This Memorandum Circular applies to all LGUs in the entire country. This shall cover all Provincial Governors, City and Municipal Mayors, Presiding Officers of local Sanggunians, Punong Barangays, the DILG Regional Directors, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Chief Minister and BARMM Minister for Local Government, and all others concerned.

4. Policy Content and Guidelines

4.1. Strict Implementation of Minimum Public Health Standards - Minimum public health standards, to include, but not limited to, physical distancing, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and wearing of face masks and face shields, shall be strictly implemented in all LGUs, regardless of community quarantine classification.

4.2. Guidelines for Travelers (non-APORs) – All LGUs are directed to comply with the following guidelines on the testing, quarantine, and documentary requirements which may be imposed to any traveler who are not classified as Authorized Person Outside of Residence (APORs):

4.2.1. Clinical, and exposure assessment shall be strictly implemented in all ports of entry and exit to ensure that only asymptomatic, non-close contact individuals are allowed to travel or enter the local government unit of destination. Health assessment of passengers, supervised by medical doctors, shall be mandatory upon entry in the port/terminal and exit at point of destination.

4.2.2. Testing shall not be mandatory for travelers, EXCEPT when the LGU of destination (province with respect to their municipalities and component cities, and highly urbanized cities [HUCs] and independent component cities [ICC]) requires testing as a requirement prior to travel, and such shall either be limited to Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Test, or, if a Food and Drug Administration approved antigen test is to be used, require that if upon entry to the LGU,
the results yield positive, a confirmatory RT-PCR test shall be done while the traveler is under a twenty-four (24) hour quarantine. Such confirmatory test results, if not made available within the quarantine period, shall necessitate the release of the traveler subject to strict monitoring of the Barangay Health Emergency Response Team, and to the practicing of minimum public health protocols;

4.2.3. Travelers shall not be required to undergo quarantine unless in cases provided for under the previous section, or if they exhibit symptoms upon arrival at the LGU of destination; and

4.2.4. Travel Authority issued by the Joint Task Force COVID Shield, and health certificates shall no longer be required.

4.3. Right of Refusal of LGUs - LGUs may refuse the entry of persons who exhibit general symptoms of COVID-19 and/or refuse to follow the established testing, and quarantine protocols, provided that such person is not a returning resident of the LGU of destination.

A returning resident, for purposes of this Memorandum Circular, shall pertain to persons habitually residing in the LGU and/or whose residence is declared as such under any government issued identification card/I.D. The LGU shall also exercise its sound discretion in further determining the coverage and limitations of the same to allow for a balanced, and humane application of the provisions of this Circular without sacrificing its efforts in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

4.4. Review of Existing Policies and Ordinances - All LGUs are directed to review all existing issuances or ordinances relating to mandatory testing and quarantine protocols to comply with the IATF Resolutions and this Circular, and include therein appropriate fines and penalties in case of violations. Likewise, compliance to minimum safety and health standards shall be strictly enforced with corresponding penalties to violators.

4.5. Unimpeded Movement of Government Officials and Personnel and Requisites - To enable National Government Agencies, and their attached agencies, including Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, to fulfill their respective mandates, all government officials/personnel on official business, shall be allowed unimpeded travel to their place of
destination, and shall not undergo mandatory testing and/or quarantine protocols of the local government units of destination, provided they comply with the following pre-requisites, to wit:

4.5.1. Presentation of a valid ID issued by their respective government agencies;

4.5.2. Presentation of an original or certified true copy of their travel authority/order, issued by the head of their agency, or his/her authorized official;

4.5.3. They must pass a symptom screening at the port upon arrival, and in case of public transport, upon boarding thereon; and

4.5.4. They must strictly comply with existing minimum public health standards.

4.6. **No Imposition of Other Requirements** - No other requirements shall be imposed aside from those stated in the foregoing.

4.7. **General Directive for DILG, PNP, BFP, PJMP, and LGU Staff** - All concerned offices are directed to assist the LGUs in the implementation of minimum public health standards, curfews, and localized lockdown, as may be deemed necessary.

Further, all concerned officials and personnel shall be accountable for the cancellation of their trips/travel orders should they show any symptoms relating to COVID-19, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the set travel date specified under their issued travel authority.

4.8 **Dissemination.** – All DILG Regional Directors and the BARMM Minister of Local Government shall cause the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular.

5. **Monitoring of Compliance**

5.1. All Cities (HUC/ICC/CC) and Municipalities, to be assisted by their respective C/MLGOOs, shall accomplish the Survey Form to monitor compliance to IATF Resolution Nos. 98-A and 101, through the following link:

|https://tinyurl.com/lgusurveyiatfreso|
5.2. Initial report based on the completed surveys shall be submitted to the Bureau of Local Government Supervision not later than March 26, 2021 (Friday). Succeeding reports shall be submitted every 25th day of the month using the same link.

6. Effectivity

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

7. Approving Authority

UNDERSECRETARY BERNARDO C. FLORECE, JR.
Officer-In-Charge

8. Feedback

Inquiries or concerns regarding this MC shall be directed or addressed to the Bureau of Local Government Supervision, through any of the following: telephone no. (02) 8876-3454 local 4201, email at blgs.od2016@gmail.com or dilg.manilabaypmo@gmail.com or through mail at 25th Floor, DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.