

**Office of the President  
of the Philippines  
Malacañang**

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 85**

**ESTABLISHING THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY TO BE OBSERVED  
BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTRUMENTALITIES IN  
AREAS UNDER GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE UNTIL 04  
APRIL 2021, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, there has been an alarming increase in the daily number of COVID-19 cases in the country for the past few weeks, with a rate similar to those experienced in July and August of 2020, which almost paralyzed the country's health care system ;

**WHEREAS**, as of 18 March 2021, there are a total of Sixty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Seven (66,567) active COVID-19 cases in the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) issued Memorandum Circular No. 10 (s. 2020), providing for the Revised Interim Guidelines for Alternative Work Arrangements and Support Mechanisms for Workers in the Government During the Period of State of National Emergency Due to COVID-19 Pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, in order to address the current surge in COVID-19 cases, the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases recommended, among others, the reduction of on-site capacity in government offices located in General Community Quarantine (GCQ) areas; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to lay down the work arrangements that should be observed in government offices during these critical times to address the current surge in COVID-19 cases, while ensuring the continuous delivery of public services;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the following are hereby ordered:

**Section 1. Operational capacity.** Beginning 22 March 2021 until 04 April 2021, all government agencies and instrumentalities of the executive branch, including government –owned or –controlled corporations (GOCCs) located in areas under GCQ, shall observe a minimum of 30% up to a maximum of 50% operational capacity at any given time, unless a higher capacity is required in agencies providing health and emergency frontline services, border control, and other critical services.

As used herein, operational capacity refers to the number of employees or workers who are permitted or required to physically report to work in the premises of a particular agency of the government, expressed as a percentage of the total workforce in such agency.

**Section 2. Alternative work arrangements.** All agencies, including every office and unit therein, shall ensure that the delivery of their respective services are not hampered or impaired. Towards this end, all heads of agencies shall adopt the most appropriate operational capacity within the range provided in Section 1 hereof, together with the optimal alternative work arrangements for their respective agencies, in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the CSC.

**Section 3. Temporary Closure of Premises.** In the event that an agency or instrumentality is considering a temporary closure of its premises due to the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases therein, the head of agency shall submit to the Office of the President a request for clearance to shut down their premises, including the duration of such measure, which must be supported by verified data. No closure shall be implemented until such clearance is obtained from the Office of the President.

Any violation of this directive, including misrepresentation as to the data in support of the request for clearance, shall subject the head of agency to administrative sanctions.

This section shall apply regardless of the community quarantine classification and shall remain in effect beyond 04 April 2021.

**Section 4. Application to other agencies.** The offices of the legislative and judicial branches of government, independent constitutional commissions and bodies, and local government units in areas under GCQ, are strongly urged to adopt the provisions of this Circular.

**Section 5. Effectivity.** This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

**DONE**, in the City of Manila, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-one.

By Authority of the President:

  
**SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA**  
Executive Secretary

