



## News Release

### LEAGUE OF CITIES APPEALS TO EXTEND STATE OF CALAMITY

BACOLOD CITY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 – The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) has appealed to the Office of the President for the extension of the declaration of the State of Calamity until 30 June 2022 to ensure that cities will be able to continue to mitigate the threats of the pandemic and facilitate local economic recovery.

In a letter addressed to President Rodrigo Duterte, LCP national president and Bacolod City Mayor Bing Leonardia expressed concern over the expiration of Presidential Proclamation No. 1021 this September 12, 2021, which will “cripple the ability of cities to respond to COVID-19.”

Under the state of Calamity, cities have the authority to utilize Development Funds, Special Education Funds, Disaster Risk and Reduction Funds, and other local resources to respond to and eliminate the threat of Covid-19 in their localities.

“The extension of the state of calamity across the country will allow cities to implement programs that can lower the current case rates of Covid-19, open more COVID wards and critical care units, contain the surge of the Delta variant, and could supplant the requirements of the ongoing vaccine rollout,” Leonardia said in the letter.

The LCP lauded the Office of the President in leading the government’s response to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In the same letter, Leonardia assured President Duterte that city mayors “are committed to working closely with the President’s Office and relevant national agencies to ensure that we will overcome this pandemic soonest.” ###

#### ABOUT THE LCP

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) is the official association of cities in the country mandated by the Local Government Code of 1991 to ventilate, articulate, and crystallize issues affecting cities. It is duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-stock, nonprofit organization and is currently headed by the LCP National President, Bacolod City Mayor Evelio (Bing) Leonardia.

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