



How much is the ERP worth?

The ERP is worth PhP330 billion. This amount is broken down as follows:

- a. PhP160 billion: amount of the increase in the 2009 budget; this funds small, community level infrastructure projects and social protection measures;
- b. PhP40 billion: tax cuts for low and middle income earners (PhP20 billion) and the scheduled cut in corporate income taxes (PhP20 billion) as provided in the Revised Value Added Tax Law.
- c. PhP100 billion: Part of the fund will be provided by government financial institutions and social security institutions to finance large infrastructure projects.
- d. PhP30 billion (US\$638 million): additional benefits to members by social security institutions. This will be taken from the gap between contributions and claims/benefits.

Where can I get more information on the ERP?

For quick and short inquiries, you may contact NEDA Director for Development Information Victoria V. Quimbo at +632-6313744. Her e-mail address is vquimbo@neda.gov.ph. You can also look for Michelle Ardales at +632-6313757. Her e-mail address is muardales@neda.gov.ph.

Kindly address your formal requests/letters to Rolando G. Tungpalan, Deputy Director General for Investment Programming and ERP Spokesman for NEDA.

For inquiries on specific programs and projects, kindly contact the implementing agency involved. Information on the 2009 budget is also available from the Department of Budget and Management.

Additional resources can also be downloaded at the NEDA website (<http://www.neda.gov.ph>) and the ERP Portal (<http://www.neda.gov.ph/erp>).



What is the Economic Resiliency Plan?

The Economic Resiliency Plan or ERP is the country's response to the global financial crisis. It aims to cushion the impact of the crisis on and jumpstart the economy through a mix of accelerated government spending, tax cuts and public-private sector investments in infrastructure projects. The ERP also seeks to prepare the country for the eventual global upturn. The world may be in a very difficult situation, but opportunities continue to abound, and the Philippines hopes to take advantage of them.

What are the objectives of the ERP?

The ERP has the following objectives:

- a. Ensure sustainable growth and attain the higher end of the growth targets;
- b. Save and create as many jobs as possible;
- c. Protect the most vulnerable sectors – poorest of the poor, returning overseas Filipino workers, and workers in export industries;
- d. Ensure low and stable prices; and
- e. Improve competitiveness in preparation for the global economic rebound.



“Agencies need to hit the ground running”

Sec. Ralph Recto
NEDA

How will these objectives be achieved?

To achieve these objectives, the ERP will adopt the following strategies:

- a. Implement budget interventions;
- b. Accelerate spending for small infrastructure projects;
- c. Expand social protection programs;
- d. Save and create jobs;
- e. Implement off-budget interventions; and
- f. Other measures.

How will the budget interventions be implemented?

The budget interventions will be implemented by:

- a. Scaling up quick-disbursing high impact projects (i.e., labor intensive, high local value added) such as construction, repair, or rehabilitation of irrigation systems (DA), other local infra like roads, asphalt overlay, etc., accessibility facilities for the Disabled (DPWH);
- b. Working with LGUs on infrastructure projects
- c. Closely monitoring project implementation; and
- d. Spending at least 60% of the productive portion of the implementing agencies' budget in the first semester.

How will spending for small infrastructure be accelerated?

Spending for small infrastructure projects will be accelerated by improving the capacity of government agencies to spend the allotted budget (also called absorptive capacity).

What are the off-budget interventions and how will these be implemented?

These interventions include putting up a PhP100-billion fund for large infrastructure projects and more investments for transport, tourism, power, water, and housing.

What are the other measures that will be undertaken?

Government is accelerating the implementation of its housing programs, working to expand trade with China and West Asia, and pursuing other strategies to boost investment growth. It is also implementing programs to encourage exporting firms to diversify, innovate and upgrade their products.





Projects under CLEEP
Bantay Gubat for upland workers
Farm to market road projects of the DA
Irrigation projects of the DA
Organic fertilizer production project of DA
Goat dispersal project of the DA
OYSTER roadside program
TUPAD and ISLA programs of DOLE
Laguna Water Lily development of DTI
DPWH
Repair of classrooms and school buildings
Total Number of Jobs

Under the ERP, contracts shall be awarded early to get construction going before the rainy season.

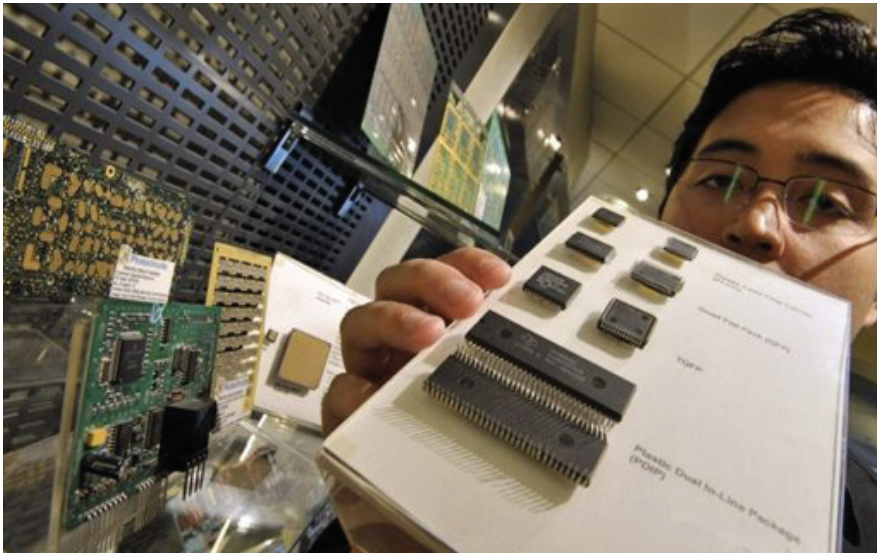
Budgets from projects that may be difficult to implement (i.e., right of way issues, no detailed engineering plans) will be realigned to fast moving projects.

The administration may also downscale or defer the implementation of projects that do not have Investment Coordination Committee/NEDA Board approval and will instead focus on projects that are quick disbursing, high impact and labor intensive.

What are the social protection programs that will be expanded under the ERP?

The following social protection programs will be expanded under the ERP:

- a. Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs) for the poorest of the poor.
The budget for CCTs will be doubled. Under the initiative, 321,000 poor households will be given a maximum cash grant of PhP9,000 a year.
- b. PhilHealth indigent program.
The ERP adds PhP1 billion to PhilHealth, representing the full contribution of the national government to the national insurance program.
- c. Training for Work Scholarships program.
About PhP 5.66 billion will be added for Training for Work scholarships to help equip more Filipinos with skills that can help them take advantage of opportunities for income generation.
- d. Department of Health (DOH) program for primary and secondary hospitals.
The ERP added PhP1.97 billion to the DOH's budget to improve the facilities and manpower of primary and secondary hospitals.
- e. Other programs
Expanding social protection also involves the following interventions:
 - NARS program where nurses are deployed to underserved areas in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals
 - Matching grants to local government units
 - Student loans



To save and create jobs, the ERP is responding with a comprehensive livelihood and emergency employment program (CLEEP). The CLEEP aims to hire for emergency employment and fund and supervise livelihood projects. Under this program, the livelihood and public works projects have been aligned with the respective priorities of the Super Regions and the needs of the 12 poorest provinces, and the most food-poor areas.

With CLEEP, green-collar jobs will be created for upland workers, more jobs in building farm to market roads, and irrigation projects. Work will be available in projects like fertilizer production, goat raising, and other productive home-based activities. All in all, this effort will create more than 400,000 jobs.

There will also be programs for overseas workers and those in the merchandise export sector, as these two groups are vulnerable in the global crisis.

Interventions by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for returning overseas Filipinos include the following:

- a. Monitor overseas labor market displacements;
- b. Monitor contracts of job orders to determine any decrease in overseas labor demand;
- c. Establish worker registration services;

- d. Redeploy workers to other emerging markets;
- e. Identify and develop new market niches;
- f. Assist in repatriation services;
- g. Expand livelihood/business formation programs;
- h. Strengthen reintegration and business counseling services; and
- i. Establish skills upgrading and retooling services.

For export workers, DOLE created quick response teams in its regional offices. Together with local companies, these teams have established an early warning system to know which firms are likely to shut down or shed workers. Affected workers get assistance in claiming unpaid salaries, job placement and/or livelihood programs.

DOLE is pushing for alternatives to laying off workers, including shortened work shifts, maximized vacation leaves and rotating forced leaves, among others.

