



from 2018 to 2020 General Appropriations Act, a budget of Php 2 Billion has been allotted for the National ID System every year – totaling to only Php 6,096,329,000 budget allocation for three (3) years;

almost two years from its enactment into law and the approval of its IRR, there seems to be no significant headway on its implementation;

it was only on 02 September 2019 – a year after the supposed implementation that the first pilot testing for the national identification program was conducted by the PSA;<sup>1</sup>

based on the article published by the PSA on 02 September 2019, entitled *“Philippine ID System on Track for Registering Population by Mid-2020, ”* it was only on even date that the national ID program commenced its testing covering a small number of individuals from the National Capital Region;

amidst the COVID-19 outbreak, several elective officials are calling for a “full-blown” and immediate implementation of the National ID System as this would not only aid in the efficient distribution of the social amelioration program currently being implemented by different government agencies but would also help our law enforcement agencies in fighting crimes and facilitate key government services and transactions, among others;

no less than President Rodrigo Duterte has recently acknowledged that the National ID System would have avoided the unnecessary delay in the delivery of emergency subsidy program<sup>3</sup>;

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