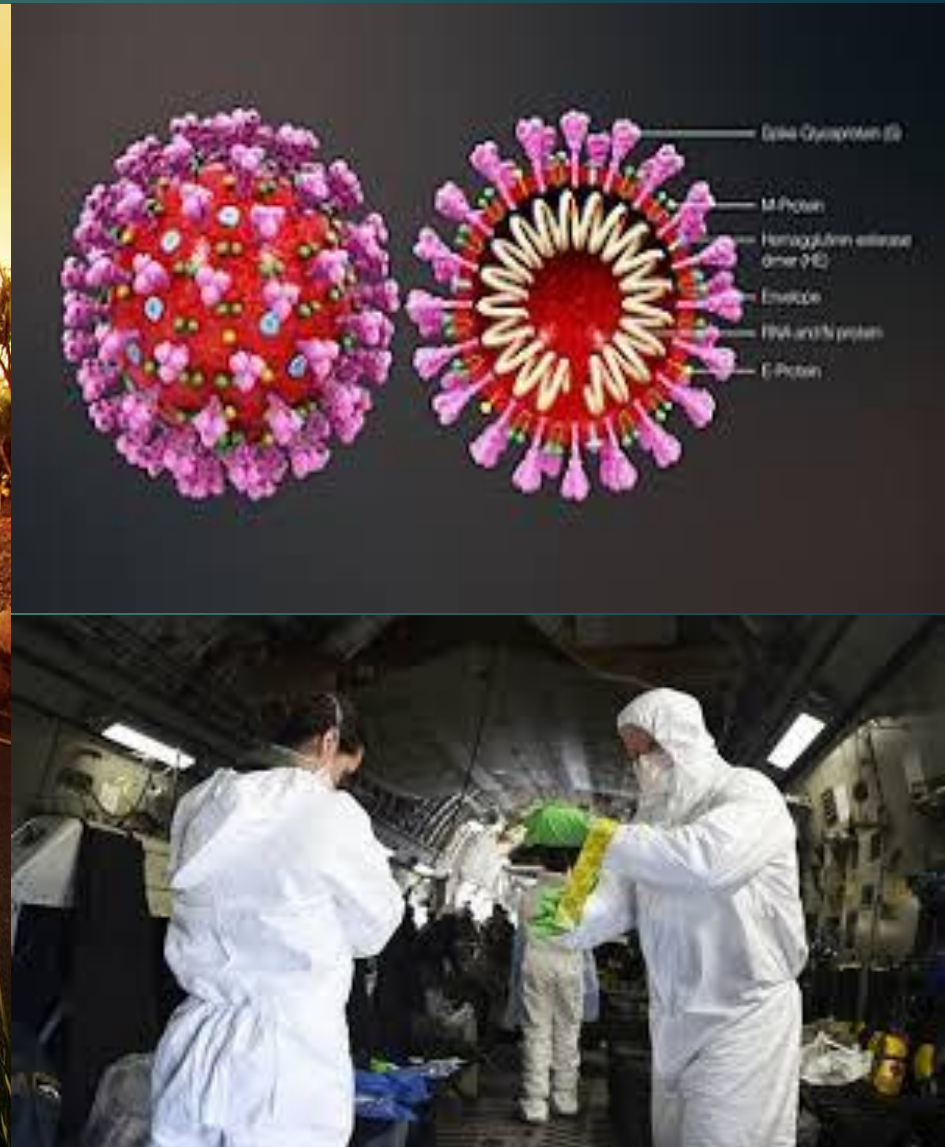


The PHILIPPINES' "Modern Day Heroes" and Covid-19



What I Will Talk About

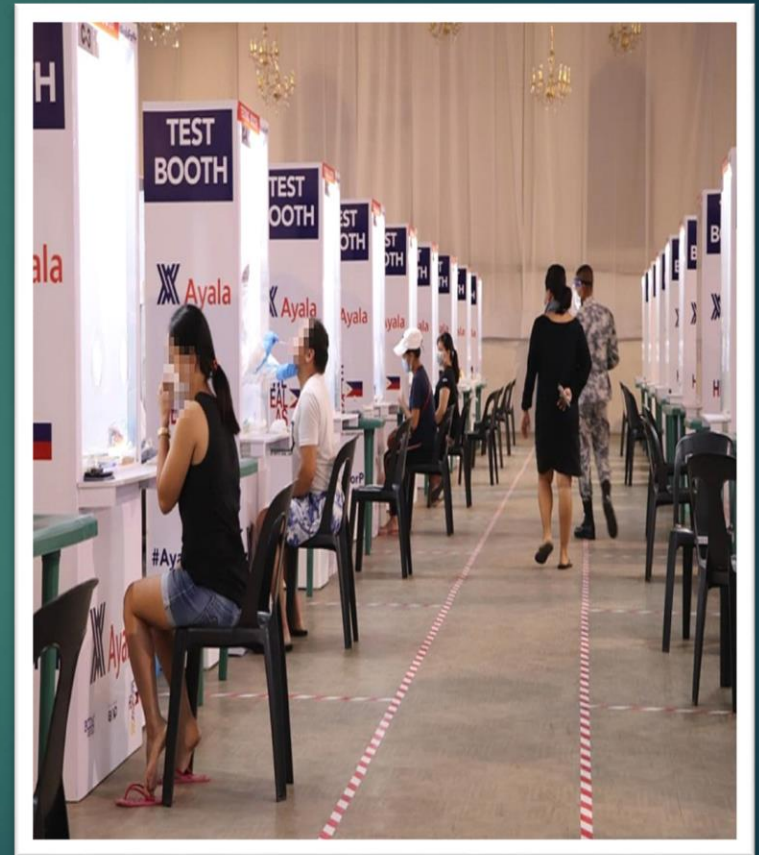
Brief on International Migration from the Philippines

COVID 19

Situation of Health Workers (Migrants and Locals)

Government Response

Conclusion



International Migration from the Philippines

Colonial History

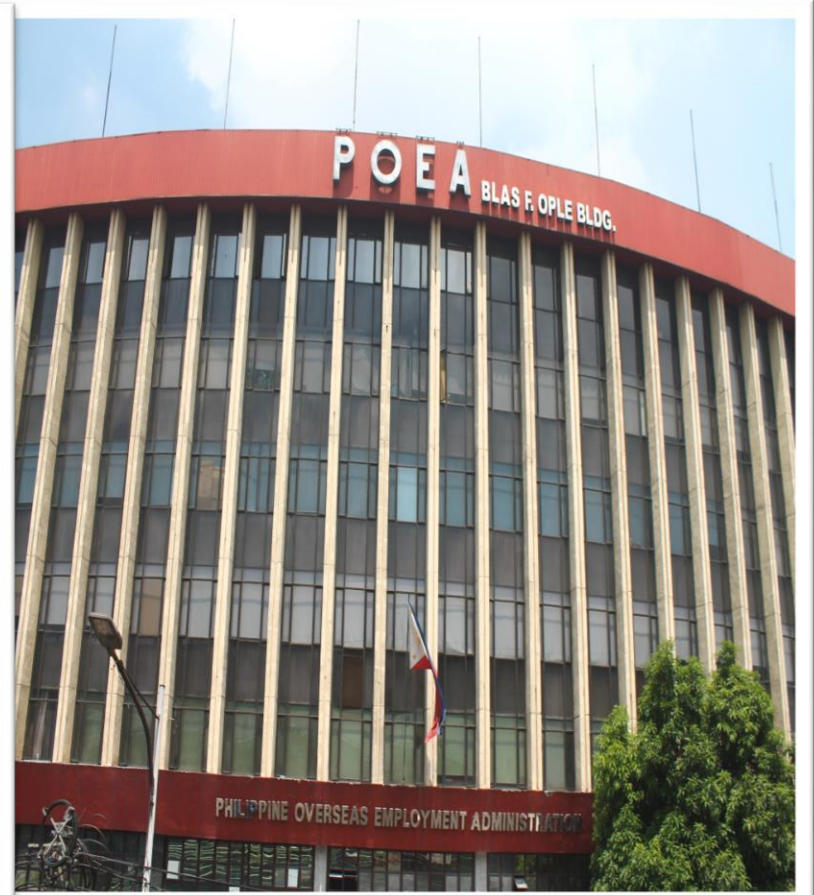
1974 Labor Code

Stop-gap measure

Bureaucracy



“Model” Migrant-sending Country



“You Are Our Modern-day Heroes”



April 1988

Pres. Corazon Aquino

Before overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong, mostly domestic workers

Historical and Catholic discourses of “suffering and sacrifice”

Discourse and practices (awards, movies, banks, telecommunications)

Legitimizing tool

“Heroes” And Remittances



Located in more than 200 countries & territories

US\$30 billion

8-10 % of GDP

Estimates of more than 12 million migrants

Welfare (food, education, health needs)

Politics of Labor Export

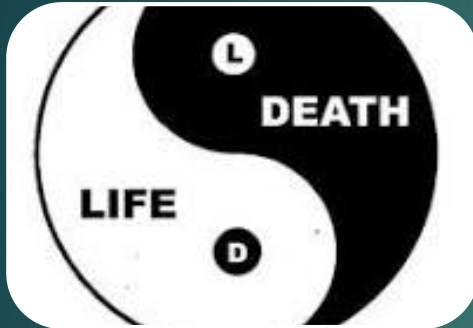


Competing state interests in maximizing remittances and the need to be perceived as a “protector”

Inherent contradictions
perennial justification

Highly political issue that the government has to skillfully manage.

Crisis-Prone



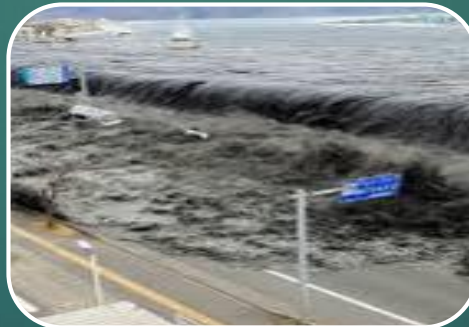
Life and Death
Situations



Conflict, Wars



Diseases (SARS,
MERS-COV)



Natural
Disasters

COVID-19: Philippines

4:00PM, 23 June 2020

31,825

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES

Confirmed Cases

June 23

FRESH CASES

Test results released
to patient within
last 3 days

789

NCR: 207, Region 7: 288
Others: 294

LATE CASES

Test results released to
patient 4 days ago
or more

361

NCR: 110, Region 7 : 32
Others: 219

TOTAL CONFIRMED

Cases Reported Today

1,150

RECOVERIES

8,442

299 recoveries
reported today

DEATHS

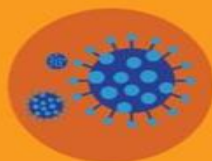
1,186

9 deaths
reported today

Note: Of the 9 reported deaths, 7 (78%) occurred in June (June 01-17, 2020). Five duplicates

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AMONG FILIPINOS ABROAD

AS OF 19 JUNE 2020



6,128

**TOTAL
CONFIRMED CASES**

**1,117 DOH IHR verified*



2,796

**UNDERGOING
TREATMENT**



2,849

**RECOVERED /
DISCHARGED**



483

DEATHS



53

**COUNTRIES / REGIONS WITH
FILIPINO COVID-19 CASES**



www.dfa.gov.ph



/DFAPHL



@DFAPHL

#DFAinACTION

NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AMONG FILIPINOS ABROAD

AS OF 18 JUNE 2020

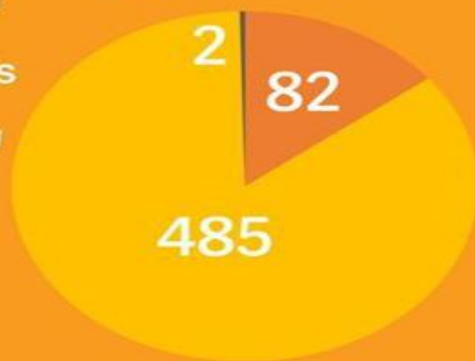
Asia Pacific Region

13 countries

569 cases

*617 DOH

IHR verified



Middle East / Africa

18 countries

3,926 cases

*401 DOH

IHR verified



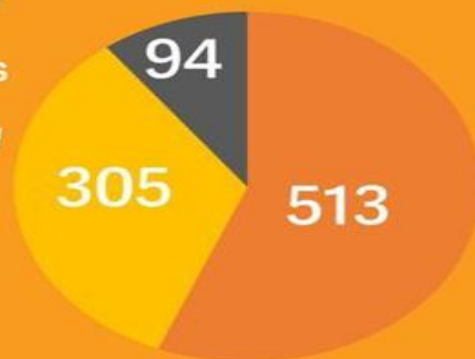
Europe

16 countries

912 cases

*57 DOH

IHR verified



Americas

6 countries

684 cases

*33 DOH

IHR verified



LEGEND:



Undergoing
Treatment



Recovered /
Discharged



Deaths



www.dfa.gov.ph



/DFAPHL



@DFAPHL

#DFAinACTION

Filipino Nurses

US Colonial experience

Curriculum

World's top exporter

Emigration to US and Europe to respond to the need of the health systems

“Bamboo ceiling”

Not just wage differentials



Source: <https://www.bworldonline.com/philippine-health-workers-barred-from-leaving-amid-pandemic/>

Filipino Nurses

Annual Salary Scale for RNs in different countries

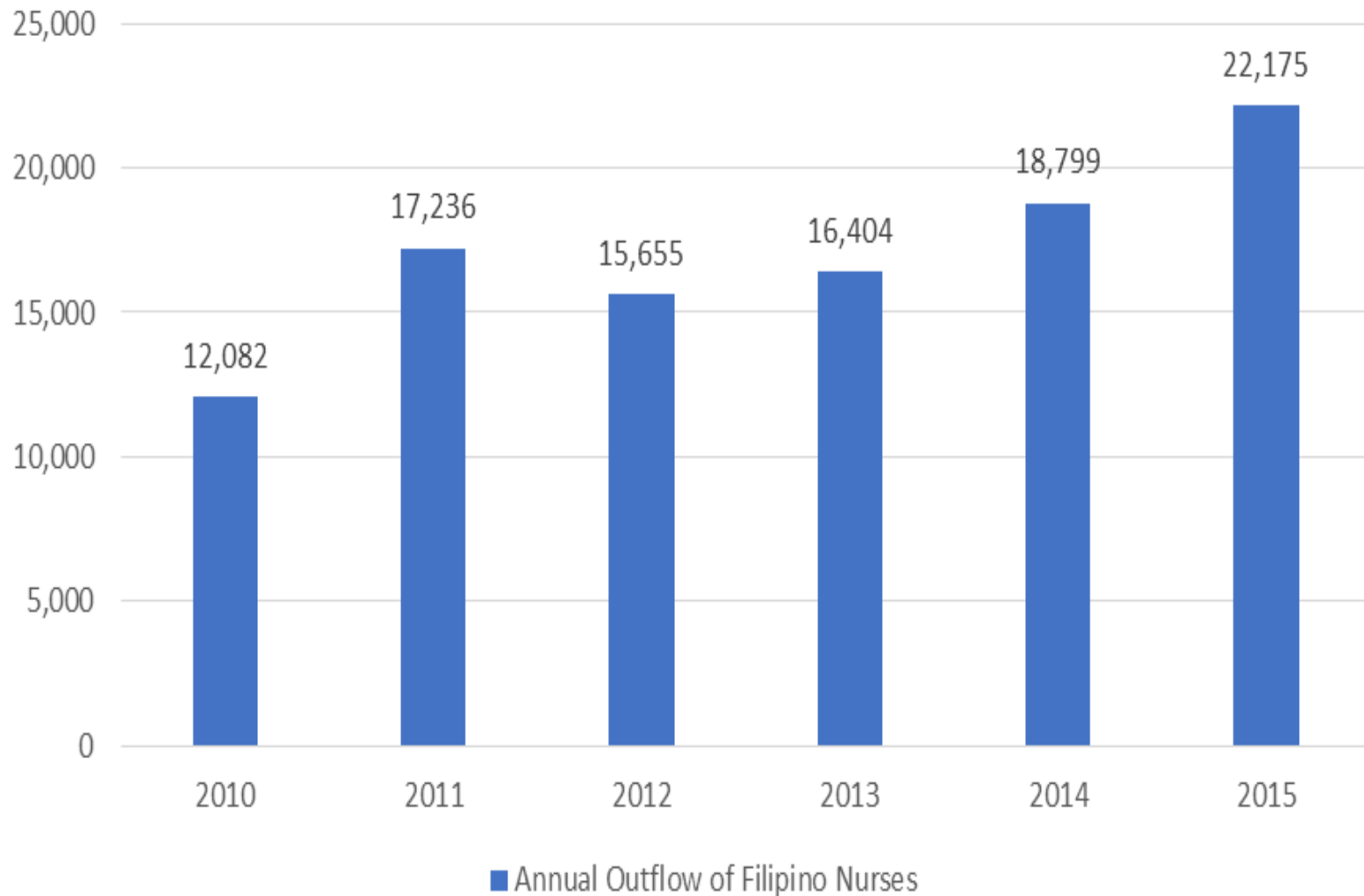
PHILIPPINES	PHP 183,723
CANADA	\$58,832
NEW ZEALAND	\$45,000
AUSTRALIA	\$65,000
USA	\$67,930

* The values are approximate and may tend to vary with changing norms



Source:
inscol.com

Annual Outflow of Filipino Nurses, 2010-2015



► Source: POEA

Background

Not necessarily poorest of the poor

Access to surplus income

Multigenerational household of nurses

Second generation migrants

9 out of 10 are females



Filipino Nurses & COVID-19

HEALTH

Nursing ranks are filled with Filipino Americans. The pandemic is taking an outsized toll on them

By USHA LEE MCFARLING / APRIL 28, 2020

[Reprints](#)



Gem Scorp in Queens, N.Y., where he works as a nurse and has been treating Covid-19



“Heroes” and “Frontliners”

Lack of PPEs

Poor working
conditions

Long working
hours

Discrimination

Cultural pre-disposition



De-politicizes the plight of nurses

Veers from structural conditions

Race, gender and state policies

Racial selectivity in hiring and recruitment

De-skilling due to non-recognition of skills

“Invisible” Nurses

De-skilling (nurses turned care-givers in destination countries)

BAME in the UK COVID deaths and govt response (undocumented)

Local nurses are de-skilled too

Not in the medical fields (BPOs, spas)

State Policies

State promotion of nurses

Demand from receiving states come and go

“World-class”

“English-speaking schools”

State discourses “caring”, “attentive”, “respect for the elderly”

BLAs (unequal relationship between receiving and sending state)

Receiving states: cheap labor; submissive due to visa status

Who Cares for the Carers?



Both local and migrant Filipino nurses have long been the frontliners in the health systems of the Philippines and the rest of the world.

Their plights are inter-linked in the global political economy of health governance that usually does not result in a “win-win” situation

Duterte's COVID Response

Ban on deployment of nurses and other health professionals

Backtracked

US\$200 upon repatriation

US\$20,000 COVID death

Deployed “heroic” discourse on local nurses for the first time!

Massive recruitment of local nurses but meagre salary



Finding their voices

Philippine Nurses
Association

Unions

Balikbayani in the
UK



Conclusion



Transnational

Historical, colonial

State practices and policies

“Heroes” and “front liners”

Valuing care work

Intersectionality: inclusive



Maraming salamat!
JEFRANCO@UP.EDU.PH

Source of Photos

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<http://www.poea.gov.ph/>
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<https://www.dfa.gov.ph/>