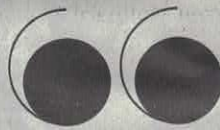




40 million Pfizer doses key to herd immunity



**Finally, the
government has
made the right
decision. Let's
move quickly**

FROM A1

By Maricar Cinco
@maricarcincoINQ

The government has sealed what is so far its biggest COVID-19 vaccine purchase deal, with the signing of an agreement for the delivery of 40 million doses of the vaccine developed by American multinational Pfizer Inc. and German biotechnology company BioNTech SE.

In a statement on Sunday, vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said he and Health Secretary Francisco Duque III signed a supply agreement with representatives of Pfizer on Saturday.

Galvez called this the "biggest and most decisive deal we ha[ve] for 2021."

"The vaccines from Pfizer will significantly boost our national immunization program and will enable us to realize our goal of achieving herd immunity by year-end," said the chief implementer of the National Task Force Against COVID-19.

To achieve herd immunity, the government aims to vaccinate up to 70 percent of the country's estimated 110 million population.

Tony Leachon
Former government adviser

the 26 million CoronaVac, 10 million Sputnik V, 20 million Moderna and 17 million AstraZeneca doses.

The COVAX global vaccine pool has also committed to ship in 44 million doses, which brings the total number of expected doses to 157 million—past the number of doses needed to achieve herd immunity.

The country has so far received 9 million CoronaVac, 2.6 million AstraZeneca, 2.5 million Pfizer and 180,000 Sputnik V vaccine doses.

Furthermore, negotiations are ongoing for the supply of an estimated total of 16 million doses from US companies Novavax and Johnson & Johnson.

Virus case update

"Finally, the government has made the right decision. Let's move quickly," former government adviser Dr. Tony Leachon said when reached for comment.

More than 8 million Filipinos have so far been inoculated, but only 2.1 million have received their second dose, according to the National Vaccination Operations Center.

Galvez said the target is to increase the daily vaccination rate from the current 322,929 to 500,000 in the next few months.

The Department of Health (DOH) on Sunday

ADB loan

Galvez said the delivery of the Pfizer doses will begin in October.

Officials of the task force did not disclose the purchase cost when asked, but said Pfizer would be paid directly by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), from which the Philippines borrowed \$400 million for the purchase of vaccines.

Galvez said the Philippines has purchased 113 million vaccine doses this year, including

A4