



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Communications Management Unit

Newspaper: MANILA STANDARD
Date: SEPT. 7, 2021
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15m fully vaccinated—Palace

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THE Philippines has at least 15 million people fully vaccinated against COVID-19, Malacañang said on Monday, as the country battled a surge in infections linked to the contagious Delta coronavirus variant.

Authorities have administered 35,838,964 COVID-19 shots, of which around 20.8 million were first jabs, said Palace spokesman Harry Roque.

At least 15,044,354 people have been fully immunized so far, he said in a press

briefing.

Government aims to vaccinate up to 70 million people before the year ends to achieve herd immunity and safely reopen the economy.

Meanwhile, private medical cold

chain firm Pharmaserv Express Inc. gave assurances Monday no COVID-19 vaccine was wasted since the inoculation's rollout earlier this year.

The firm made the statement after a Health department official mentioned during a Congressional hearing that 4,500 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been wasted but stressed that the "figure is still relatively low."

"As the national logistics partner of the Department of Health, Pharmaserv Express has ensured that no COVID-19 vaccine has been wasted from storage to careful packing and distribution to LGUs since April 2021," Pharmaserv President

Andrian Perez said in a statement.

The firm was tapped by the government as a cold chain facility and logistics partner in the vaccination program.

Meanwhile, a party-list lawmaker sought an investigation into what she called the "slow" acquisition of anti-COVID vaccines by the government.

AAMBIS-OWA Rep. Sharon Garin, in filing House Resolution 2154, noted that 53.911 million Filipinos had yet to be vaccinated. She added the figure proved the government had a long way into achieving its desired 70.851 million vaccinees needed to achieve herd immunity. *(See full story online at manilastandard.net)*

