

DATELINE

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Mayor Edwin L. Olivares

Sa pangunguna ng Punong Lungsod ng Parañaque Mayor Edwin L. Olivares at ng Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) ng lungsod ay tuloy-tuloy ang pagbibigay ng ayuda para sa mga Persons With Disability (PWD). At ngayon ay mas lalo ang pinadali eto sa pamamagitan ng House to house, ibinibigay ang food voucher na nagkakahalaga ng P1,000 para sa mga PWDs ng bawat barangay para maiwasan ang pagkakagulo sa pila at mapanatili ang social distancing sa patuloy na umiiral na Enhance Community Quarantine sa buong Pilipinas. "Patuloy tayong mag iingat, manatili sa bahay at maging alerto upang makaiwas sa COVID-19." Ani palagi ni Mayor Edwin.

(DATELINE NEWSPAPER TEAM)

Salamat sa bigay na 'mass testing facilities' Gov. Remulla



Nagpasalamat ang mga Bacooreño kay Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla sa pagbibigay ng mass testing facilities upang makapagsimula na ng mass testing sa mga pasyenteng pinaghihinalang nahawaan ng nakamamatay na coronavirus disease (COVID)-19.

Isa ang Bacoor City sa tatlong pangunahing siyudad sa Lalawigan ng Cavite na kasama sa mass testing program ng pamahalang panlalawigan ng Cavite na sinimulan noong Abril 14.

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DTI 4-A's SSF for Garments Production manufactures PPE coveralls for healthcare workers

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DUTERTE GIVES GO SIGNAL FOR MASSIVE RAPID TESTING TO RESTART ECONOMY

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PA JOEY CONCEPCION



Dominguez says "unequivocal" no to debt moratorium, PHL to honor its obligations through coronavirus crisis

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EDITORIAL: A matter of life and death

This pandemic has upended everybody's way of life. Here at home, the government has extended the enhanced community quarantine to keep people in their homes. Indeed, the need to prevent the spread of the virus trumps any other concerns, even though other issues like greatly diminished economic activity, resulting in the loss of jobs and earning opportunities especially for the poor, need to be addressed as well.

The numbers released Sunday by the Department of Health do not inspire much optimism. Four weeks into lockdown, it appears as though we are a long way from flattening the curve. The number of deaths—50—has by far been the biggest rise for a single day. Two hundred ninety-seven have died. There are 220 new cases, bringing the total number of confirmed COVID patients to 4,648. No downward trend appears to be in the horizon anytime soon.

The people are confused and scared, and insecure about what the future will bring. Millions are hungry. We need our leaders to be data-driven and deliberate. We need each decision to be made with foresight. We need them to be transparent.

The national government, for instance, should not engage in self-congratulation about what they are doing, or distort the truth about the action—or inaction—done in the past. They should not exaggerate the results of their efforts, play down threats, make faulty comparisons between our situation and that of others, or tell outright lies about applying the force of the law equally when it is plain that some individuals have it better, or

worse, than others.

They announced that mass testing will finally begin tomorrow—we await the details of this, because we believe that only mass testing will give us the true extent of COVID-19's effects and inform strategies on how to effectively deal with it while we wait for a cure.

Local executives should also be honest about how they procure goods and services during these extraordinary times, and how they deliver these to their constituents.

Hospitals and other institutions should not muzzle their staff who speak about about processes that need attention and improvement. This is not the time to prop up one's image. The lives of those who save lives are on the line.

Likewise, patients and their families should also be transparent about their travel history, exposure and symptoms. This is so those who are attending to them can take the necessary precautions, and those who may have interacted with them can isolate themselves.

This is not the time to compete with one another over who gets the job done. It's not the time to worry about stigma because all of us have been scarred already by the virus and the threat it brings. And while lying is unacceptable at any time, it is egregious during these extraordinary days.

The lack of transparency breeds confusion and encourages malicious minds to find ways to manipulate others, thus worsening the situation. Dishonesty weakens our ability to fight and fight well. Lies cost lives.

HE IS MY
Healer
EXODUS 15:26

MASS TESTING

BACOR CITY - Ngayong araw ay inumpisahan na ang mass testing sa Lungsod ng Bacoor. Ang mga suspected patients for Covid-19 na nasa quarantine facility ang mga naunang isinalang sa swab testing.

Tiniyak ng Lokal na Pamahalaan ng Lungsod ng Bacoor sa pangunguna ni Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla na agarang matapos ang mga isolation rooms sa Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital at makapagtaglaga ng mga quarantine facilities sa pamamagitan ng pag-convert ng mga motels, hotels at inns sa Bacoor.

Magkakaroon ng dalawang klase ng tests: Nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) at Oropharyngeal swab (OPS) na gagawin sa ating mga pasyente. Inaasahan na agad na malalaman ang resulta makalipas ang 2 hanggang 3 araw.

Pinangunahan ng City Health Office katuwang ang Provincial Health Office at Department of Health ang swab testing sa Lungsod.

Sa ngayon ay may 32 suspected patients na isasalang sa swab testing at maaaring magdagdag pa sa mga susunod na araw. Mananatili sa mga quarantine facilities at home quarantine ang mga probable and suspected patients habang hindi pa tapos ang araw na itinakda sa kanila. (BACOR PIO-PR)



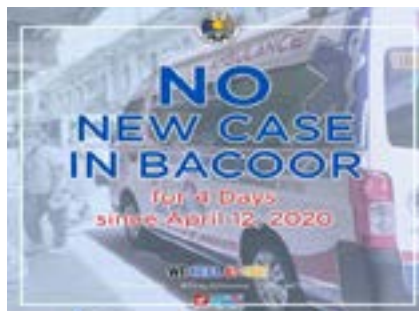
APAT NA ARAW NG WALANG NAITALANG BAGONG KASO NG COVID-19 SA LUNGSOD NG BACOR. CLUSTERED PALENGKE DAY EPEKTIBO.

tao ang Zapote Market noong nakaraang weekend, minabuti ni Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla na gawing by clusters na ang pagpunta sa Zapote Market. Ngayon ang ikatlong araw ng implementasyon na ito na nag-simula noong April 13.

May kanya-kanyang araw na schedule na ang 73 barangays sa lungsod, at kitang-ki-ta ang magandang epekto nito. Lumalabas na 10 hanggang 12 barangays na lamang ang pinahihintulutan sa isang araw. Nabawasan ang dami ng taong pumunta ngayon sa Zapote Market at patuloy pa din ang pagpapatupad ng Social Distancing. Lahat ay nakasuot ng face masks at may dalang mga quarantine pass.

Maganda ang nag-iing kooperasyong pinakita ng mga Bacoreño. Sa pagkakaisang ipinapakita ng bawat isa sigaradong malalagpasan natin ang lahat ng sigalot na dinuudlot ng COVID-19.

Sa ngayon ay walang bagong positibong kaso ng COVID-19 sa Lungsod mula noong ika-12 ng Abril. (BACOR PIO-PR)



Office (PHO) katuwang ang Department of Health (DOH).

Sinabi ni Bacoor City Information Officer Andrienne Ang na ang mga pasyenteng sumailalim sa swab testing ay mananatili sa quarantine facility at sasailalim ulit sa home quarantine hanggang sa matapos ang quarantine period.

Tiniyak naman ni Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla sa publiko ang agarang paglalagay ng isolation rooms sa Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital at binanggit din ang kanyang plano na gawing quarantine facilities ang ilang motel at hotel sa lungsod.

Samantala, nag-iing maganda ang epekto ng ginawang clustering ng mga barangay para sa pamamalengke ng mga residente sa Zapote Market.

Dahil sa palaging pagdagsa ng mga tao sa Zapote Market, ipinagutos ni Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla kamakailan na gawing by clusters na ang pamamalengke sa Zapote Market simula noong Abril 13.

May kanya-kanyang araw na schedule ang 73 barangay sa lungsod. Sa isang araw, pinapahintulutan lamang na pumunta sa palengke ang mga residente ng 10 hanggang 12 barangay.

Bunga nito,

KAPANALIG Ni Nelson Dimapilis

Potential spike in cybersex trafficking of children amid expanded ECQ

As the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic fuels fears of a cybersex trafficking surge among children in Southeast Asia, Senator Win Gatchalian called on the Department of Education (DepEd), Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) for increased vigilance and protective measures.

Gatchalian warned that since the community quarantine in the country gave children more time to spend online, traffickers would take advantage to target more victims. He emphasized that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) already identified the Philippines as the global epicenter of the livestream sexual abuse trade, with eight out of ten children and youth at risk of online sexual abuse.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Cybercrime Office reported that in 2018, it received 600,000 tips of images and videos of naked, sexualized, and abused Filipino children, an increase of more than 1,000 percent from 45,645 cases in 2017. The United States (US) Department of Labor's "2018 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor" also reported that at the direction of paying customers, victims in the Philippines were induced to perform sex acts for live internet broadcasts in small internet cafes, private homes, and "cybersex dens."

"Bago pa dumating ang banta ng COVID-19, isang hamon na sa atin kung paano natin lalabanan ang online sexual abuse sa mga kabataan. Ngayong mas nakatutok sa internet ang mga bata, kailangan nating palakasin ang mga hakbang upang mabigyan sila ng proteksyon at mapanagot ang gumagawa ng krimeng ito," said Gatchalian, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

Gatchalian urged DepEd to leverage its online learning platform 'DepEd Commons' to increase awareness on the dangers, prevention, and reporting of Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC). Aside from teaching children about these, the senator also said parents should monitor their children's online activities and ensure the strictest possible level of their privacy settings.

He also urged the DOJ and the PNP to use their communication platforms to likewise raise awareness while mobilizing their cybercrime units to track down predators. These efforts should also involve women and children protection units such as the PNP-Women and Children Protection Center and the NBI-Violence Against Women and Children Desk, the lawmaker said.

Gatchalian last year filed Senate Bill 735 or the Human Trafficking Preventive Education Program Act to orient Filipino children and youth about their rights, government protection measures, and the dangers posed by different forms of trafficking, including online sexual exploitation.

BACOR CITY--Ngayon ang ika-apat na araw ng implementasyon ng Clustered Palengke Day ng Lungsod ng Bacoor at nakita naman kung ano ang malaking epekto nito ngayon ng pagbawas ng kaso ng Covid-19. Pero hindi pa din nakuento ang Lokal na Pamahalaan sa sistemang ito, mas lalo pang hinigpitan ang pagpapatupad ng Social Distancing na nasabing lugar.

"Kailangan nating turuan ang ating mga kababayang Bacoreño ng disiplina. Kaya naman nagpalagay tayo ng markers sa kalsada kung saan sila

CARD MRI RBI holds Community Health Day during Kaunlaran Caravan in Sta. Maria, Laguna

"We are in the business of poverty eradication," highlighted Ms. Elma Valenzuela, president and chief Executive Officer of CARD MRI Rural Bank, Inc. during the Kaunlaran Caravan held on March 6, 2020 in Sta. Maria, Laguna.

Aside from financial freedom, Ms. Valenzuela reiterated the importance of physical health and wellness of CARD MRI's clients during her speech.

Through the caravan's Community Health Day (CHD) initiative, optical, dental, and medical check-ups were held in collaboration with CARD MRI's Microfinance and Health Protection (MaHP) Unit and other partner doctors and clinics.

The free optical service, for example, was made possible through the help of Aguilera-Mendoza Visual Care Clinic who also provided quality frames and lenses, sold at affordable prices during the program. On the farthest side of the town's covered court, children and adults availed the free dental checkup. Some also availed free tooth extraction, in which only Php 35 has to be paid for



anesthesia.

Medical consultations, breast examination, and checkup on women's reproductive health were also conducted by partner doctors. Dr. Michelle Anne Dy-Menil of the MaHP unit also led a timely awareness and prevention discussion regarding the recent Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak.

"Ang Coronavirus ay isang virus na maraming-maraming klase," said Dr. Dy-Menil, who discussed about the types of coronaviruses, among them MERS-Cov, that can be contract-

ed by both humans and animals through close contact. With this, proper handwashing with soap and water, sanitation, and an avoidance to physical contact like hugging or kissing, both humans and their pets, must be observed. Alongside this, Dr. Dy-Menil encouraged the attendees to avoid the discrimination against nationalities that contracted COVID-19.

To experience the full benefits from the health program, CARD MRI RBI members and non-members also had the chance to purchase vitamins, antibiotics, and other doctor prescribed

medicines discounted at 20% through BotiCARD, Inc., CARD MRI's pharmacy that offers safe and affordable generic medicines. Free massage, haircut, manicure, and pedicure were also organized to further enrich the total wellness of the community. A total of 448 clients, including members, their dependents, and non-members, were served during the Community Health Day. Among these, 210 attendees benefited from the medical checkup including four pregnant women. (CARD-BANK PR)

SOCIAL DISTANCING SA BACOR CITY PUBLIC MARKET MAS LALONG HINIGPITAN

ang mamamayan.

Nagtalaga na din ang Lokal na Pamahalaan ng mga Social Distancing Enforcers sa mga pampublikong lugar sa buong Lungsod para mabantayan kahit ang mga mamimili sa mga talipapa sa kanilang lugar. Nagpapatuloy din ang mga rolling stores sa iba't ibang barangay para maiwasan ng lumayo ng kanilang bahay ang mga mamimili.

Ayon kay Mayor Lani: "Sa ngayon ay wala pa din tayong naitatalang bagong positibong kaso ng Covid-19 sa Lungsod mula noong April 12. Nakakatuwang malaman na mga bubunga ang ating mga ginagawang hakbang at makita na sumusunod ang ating mga kababayan"

"Successful din ang inilunsad nating mass testing nitong



mga nakaraang araw at ipinagdadasal natin na sana ay walang magpositibo dito para magpatuloy ang ating ZERO NEW CASE record sa Lungsod" pagtatapos ni Mayor Revilla.

Kaya naman patuloy ang panawagan ng Lokal na Pamahalaan ng Lungsod ng Bacoor na manatili sa tahanan ang kanilang mga kababayan. Kung lalabas ng bahay siguraduhing dala ang mga quarantine passes at tiyaking may suot na face mask. Hindi na din pinahihintulutan

ang mga senior citizens na lumabas ng kanilang mga bahay. (Bacoor PIO PR)



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DUTERTE...

Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo Founder Joey Concepcion thanks President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for the immediate approval of the order and procurement of rapid test kits, which will be used in containing COVID-19.

In a meeting held at the Malacanang Palace, last April 13, Concepcion highlighted the key steps on how to revive the economy in a safe, secure, and sustainable manner. One of which was the initiative of the private sector to start massive rapid testing in Metro Manila and other provinces.

Recently, the President approved the

immediate procurement of vitally needed test kits from trusted suppliers. These are the antibody tests and the rt-PCR kits, which will be used by the government for public use. For the initial order, two million IgM IgG antibody kits will be purchased at a cost that has yet to be determined, and a budget of P3.2 billion will be used for 40,000 rt-PCR kits, good for 900,000 confirmatory tests.

The antibody tests will be used to detect the presence of IgG and IgM antibodies, which can help identify those who have built an immunity to the virus after recovering from it. The presence of

the IgM immunoglobulin is indicative of active disease, while the presence of the IgG immunoglobulin is indicative of recovery and immunity.

"I will take the risk. I will order the Health Department," Duterte said. "In the meantime, the private sector is doing it. I am clearing the way by ordering the purchase... What we are trying to buy outside has already been approved by the FDA of the United States of America."

This is in line with the private sector's initiative led by Concepcion to conduct massive screening of employees at the company's own

expense. The companies will also initiate testing of the residents of nearby barangays wherein they operate as part of their bayanihan efforts. The screening of residents will be on a voluntary basis.

"What is more important? Life or money? There is no doubt that life is more important. However, without money, how will people buy medicine? How will MSMEs recover? How do we bring back the economy in a sustainable way and still make it safe?" shared Concepcion during the meeting.

"Mr. President, you did the right thing when you placed Luzon

under immediate lockdown, as it was an emergency situation. I would also like to thank Senator Bong Go, Defense Sec. Delfin Lorenzana, National Action Plan (NAP) Chief Implementer Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr., and Cab. Sec. Karlo Nograles for their efforts.

They have been instrumental in approving our initiative. We are close to finishing one month of ECQ. Now, depending on the number and location of the confirmed cases per area, we should consider implementing Barangay Quarantines, moving up to City/ Municipality Quarantines and Provincial Quarantines, should

a wider scale lockdown be necessary." Concepcion added.

Concepcion also recommends for the government to set up a system for returning overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and balikbayans. Upon arrival, they are recommended to undergo proper testing and screening.

As of today, the conglomerates, businesses, and major business organizations that had attended the meetings convened by the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship have confirmed to take part in this initiative. (GO NEGOSYO PR)

DTI 4-A's SSF...

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A through its Shared Service Facilities for Garments Production operated by the Reliance Producers Cooperative in Carmona, Cavite is manufacturing laboratory gowns, jump suits, and face masks for the country's healthcare workers. This is in response to the call of the Department of Health to work closely with the DTI, industry associations, and private firms to produce personal protective equipment (PPEs) locally.

Established on April 4, 2017, the Reliance Producers Cooperative is a member of the Confederation of Wearables Exporters of the Philippines (CONWEP), which has been tapped by the DOH to produce 10,000 PPE coveralls daily. The Cooperative is the first and only Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Registered Cooperative that is authorized to engage in garment manufacturing and exporting in the Philippines. It has 2,300 member-workers, catering to a

wide range products of international customers of distinguished brands.

Since April 8, 2020, the Cooperative is manufacturing 600 lab gowns, 500 jump suits, and 1,000 face masks per day with 300 member-workers. Upon the arrival of additional raw materials, they are targeting 5,000 pieces of PPE per day with added workforce.

The DTI 4-A provided ten units of single needle-lock stitch needle feed machine, ten units of single needle-direct drive lock stitch machine, six units of over lock five-threaders machine, six units of cover stitch machine, four units of buttonhole machine, and four units of bar tack machine to the Cooperative on June 1, 2016. Presently, these machines are being used to manufacture the PPEs, using raw materials that have met international standards for waterproofing and resistance to contaminants.

"In this very difficult time, it is vital that we have enough PPEs for

our healthcare workers to ensure their safety in this fight against COVID-19, and we are happy that we are getting from different sectors. The use of our SSFs to produce more PPEs is our way of helping and protecting the healthcare workers and other frontliners since they are the ones who are most exposed to dangers," said DTI CALABARZON Director Marilou Q. Toledo.

The Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project is a major component of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development programs to improve and develop competitiveness of the MSMEs by giving them access to energy efficient technologies and more sophisticated equipment. Beneficiaries of the project are the actual and potential users of the SSF, which should be predominantly cooperatives, associations, or groups of MSMEs including MSMEs or individual entrepreneurs who may not be members of cooperatives, associations, corporations, or organizations.

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Dominguez says...

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has emphatically stated that the Philippines "has not and will not consider a moratorium on the national government's debt obligations despite the 2019 coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"Debt moratori-

um has not crossed our mind. It was never entertained or will ever be a part of our crisis response measures," Dominguez said.

The Finance chief made the statement in reaction to what he called "narrow-sighted" suggestions that the Phil-

ippines request for a moratorium on debt payment to its creditors and use such interest payments in the national budget to partly fund the country's COVID-19 response.

"The strongest pillar of the Philippines' standing in the global economic community is that

the country honors its financial obligations—and, for that reason, investor confidence in our economy is broad and deep. Integral to our country's remarkable turnaround story is how credible and responsible a borrower it has become since 1986. Back then, our total debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio hit as high as 78.3 percent. By 1991, this ratio had gone down to 65.2 percent."

The Philippines' total debt-to-GDP ratio stood at 44.2 percent in 2019, the product of decades of sound fiscal stewardship across administrations, and President Duterte's resolve to remain conservative with our finances and in our approach to debt management, for the benefit of the present and future generations of Filipinos. Actual debt-to-GDP ratio, which excludes guarantees, was down to 41.5 percent in 2019.

Dominguez explained that the country "cannot wish away our obligations at this critical time when the reliability of our word secures our economy's capacity to bounce back once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. More favorable options are available for financing our emergency and recovery programs. If we lose our credibility among international lenders, we will lose our ability to access low-interest, concessional financing for our recovery and stimulus programs."

"For this reason, a moratorium was nev-

er considered or entertained as a tool to address COVID-19. The country's fundamentals are strong, and the willingness of investors and creditors to partner with the Philippines means we can negotiate new loans from a position of strength," he added.

In response to Senator Imee Marcos's suggestion that the Philippines use interest payments in the national budget for COVID-19 response programs, Dominguez said "the figure Senator Marcos cites includes debt servicing for loans from domestic creditors, including pensioners and small depositors. Around two-thirds of our debts are from local creditors." Senior citizen pensioners, for instance, rely on their investments in government debt instruments for their income.

"We have built a 34-year track record, beginning with the Cory Aquino administration, of honoring our country's obligations. Honoring our word has allowed us to remain as one of the most attractive investment destinations and one of the world's favorite bond issuers. Rather than take an option that will tank our long-term investment and borrowing prospects, we should burnish our reputation as a borrower and a business partner with integrity and palabra de honor because this ultimately benefits the Filipino people." Dominguez said

"In the developing world, we are among

SM PR FOR BAYANIHAN THE SM APPLIANCE CENTER'S WAY

The Bayanihan Spirit was alive and well when SM Appliance Center and its brand partners recently brought positivity, hope and inspiration to the front liners and patients of the hospitals in the Philippines with donations of electric fans, mosquito zappers, and washing machines.

With summer days ahead electric fans from Imarflex, Asahi and 3D will bring cool comfort to front liners and patients. These were donated to the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital's (Tala Hospital), Philippine General Hospital, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Children's Medical Center and Mary Chiles Hospital.

SM Appliance Center also provided environmentally friendly mosquito zappers from Daimaru to keep hospitals safe and free from harmful insects and flies. Insect killers from Imarflex and 3D brands were also given for further protection and assistance.

In order to help hospitals with their heavy wash load, SM Appliance Center partnered with

Whirlpool to donate inverter front load washing machines. The MegaTransport Logistics Corporation delivered these to the Rizal Medical Center, Las Piñas General Hospital, Jose Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, San Juan De Dios Hospital, Ospital ng Maynila, San Lazaro Hospital, Mary Chiles Hospital and Jose Reyes Medical Center.

Tyson's Global Exchange Inc. also joined in SM Appliance Center's initiatives with donations of Speed Queen heavy duty washers for the Lung Center of the Philippines and Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center. For more updates on SM Appliance Center and its CSR initiatives, you may want to visit our SM Appliance Center website at www.smappliance.com or like us at [facebook.com/smappliances](https://www.facebook.com/smappliances)



SM Appliance Center's donation of Imarflex insect killers to the Philippine Children's Medical Center will help keep their rooms free from harmful insects.



Cool comfort. SM Appliance Center donated Asahi stand fans to the Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital's (Tala Hospital).



The National Kidney and Transplant Institute received additional assistance from SM Appliance Center with innovative mosquito zappers from Daimaru Neutron Industries Inc.



These 3D Insect Killers received by the National Kidney and Transplant Institute from SM Appliance Center will help to alleviate their situation within their COVID-19 complex tents. It uses ultra-violet light tubes to effectively kill flying insects anytime and anywhere.



The bayanihan spirit was alive and well when SM Appliance Center and Whirlpool donated washing machines to the Rizal Medical Center. These were delivered by MegaTransport Logistics Corporation.



SM Appliance Center and Whirlpool donated inverter front load washers to support health workers with superior wash results to the San Juan De Dios Hospital.

SM FOUNDATION DISTRIBUTES PPE'S AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN SOUTHERN TAGALOG HOSPITALS

SM CITY BACOR, CAVITE – After the successful distribution of SM Foundation to over 50 hospitals nationwide, Southern Tagalog Hospitals were also gifted PPEs and medical supplies to aid them in protecting their hero front liners in the battle against COVID-19. Among the hospitals that received the donations is Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital in Bacoor, Cavite which was formerly upgraded into a General Hospital, recognizing the health needs and aspiring to make health services readily available and accessible 24/7 to the residents of the whole province.



Other hospitals who were also recipient of the said donations are General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, Binakayan Hospital and Medical Center, San Pedro Calungsod Medical Center-Kawit, and De La Salle-Dasma Hospital.

WEEKLY REPORT on the Activities & Programs of Carmona



Carmona LGU starts free COVID-19 swab testing: Municipal Mayor Roy Loyola announced on April 14, 2020 through an interview in DZBB Super Radyo the conduct of free COVID-19 swab testing in Carmona.

Carmona LGU conducts free flu immunization for senior citizens: The Carmona Municipal Health Office (MHO) went house-to-house to implement a flu immunization program for senior citizens on April 14, 2020.



Carmona MHO conducts free prenatal check-ups: The Carmona Municipal Health Office (MHO) visited pregnant women in the community in each of their households to do prenatal check-ups on April 14, 2020.



Carmona MHO launches Operation Manhood on Wheels: In line with the Municipal Government's health programs, the conduct of Operation Manhood on Wheels started on April 14, 2020 which will run for the whole months of April and May.



swab testing which are: (1) patients or healthcare workers with severe/critical symptoms and had contact with other persons or traveled at a place with confirmed COVID-19 cases, and patients or healthcare workers with mild symptoms, had contact with other persons or traveled at a place with confirmed COVID-19 cases; and (3) patients or healthcare

workers without symptoms but had contact with other persons or traveled at a place with confirmed COVID-19 cases. The said announcement was also featured in PTV News as delivered by Carmona's Municipal Health Officer Dr. Homer Aguineldo.

DA appeals to LGUs to ensure unhampered food production, transport and trade

The Department of Agriculture (DA) reiterates its appeal to local chief executives (LCEs) to reconsider policies that counter efforts of the national government to ensure continued operations related to food production, processing, transport and trade aimed at preventing supply disruptions and price spikes, during this period of national state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We urge the provincial governors, city and municipal mayors in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, to allow their respective farmers, fishers, and workers in food processing and manufacturing facilities to continue to do their jobs, provided they strictly observe physical distancing, health and sanitation measures," said Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

He made the appeal on reports that some LGUs have issued directives preventing farmers and workers to do their jobs, as plantations and sugar mills were shut down.

"Such LGU policies counter the DA Memorandum Circular No. 7, issued on March 17, 2020, implementing a Food Resiliency Protocol approved by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID)," said Secretary Dar.

In particular, he appeals to Bukidnon Gov-

ernor Jose Maria Zubiri, Jr., who issued a directive, placing the entire province of Bukidnon under total lockdown from April 13 to April 26, 2020, after the province's first positive case of Covid-19.

The provincial executive order imposes a strict home quarantine for all residents, and allows essential establishments to operate under strict safety precautions, but some agri-related businesses — including sugar mills, pineapple, and banana plantations — were told to shut down operations for two weeks, from April 13 to 26.

In his letter to Governor Zubiri, Secretary Dar said, "such restrictive policy would only result in artificial shortage and thus price spikes."

"I laud your efforts to regulate the spread of COVID-19 in your province, the highland paradise in the heart of Mindanao. However, when acting to protect the health and well-being of their citizens, we should ensure that any health-related measures will not disrupt the food supply chain," he said.

"Thus, we appeal for your deeper understanding of the importance of the unhampered movement of food and agricultural workers in minimizing the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic," he added.

Two major sugar mills — Crystal Sugar Company Inc. and

Bukidnon Sugar Milling Co. — have shut down operations as a result of the provincial directive. Combined, they produce 82 percent (%) of Mindanao's total sugar output, and 16% of the country's total production.

Banana and pineapple plantations were also barred from operating during the two-week lockdown.

"Subsequently, disruption in the operations will have a negative impact on the supply chain and will ultimately result

32 patients undergo COVID-19 swab testing in Bacoor City

About 32 patients suspected to be infected with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) who were isolated in a quarantine facility were subjected to swab testing on April 14, 2020.

"The suspected and probable patients will remain in the quarantine facility and undergo home quarantine until the declared quarantine period ends," City Information Officer Andrienne Ang said.

Meanwhile, Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla assured the public of early completion of isolation rooms at the Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital.

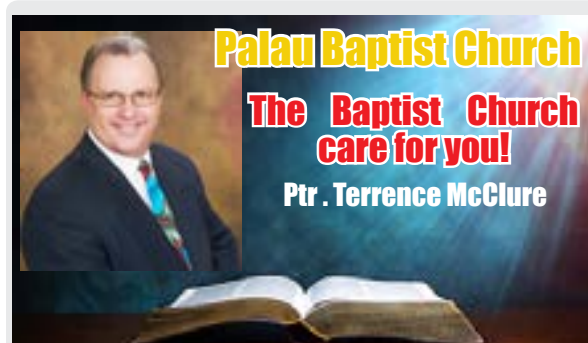
The Mayor also revealed plans of converting existing inns, motels, and hotels in the city into designated quarantine fa-

ciilities. Bacoor City was one of the three major cities in the province which participated in the mass testing program of the provincial government of Cavite that commenced April 14, 2020.

The swab testing program was facilitated by the City Health Office together with the Provincial Health Office and the Department of Health (DOH).

According to the DOH, there are two kinds of swab testing: the Nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) and the Oropharyngeal swab (OPS) with results known after two or three days.

As of April 14, the city has recorded a total of 39 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the highest number recorded in the entire province. (PIA)



MORE IMPORTANT FACTS

A Loving God created you and He gave you His Law to follow so you could live with Him eternally. But here is where the "VIRUS" of sin takes control, God allowed people to choose to obey or disobey His Law. If you obey, you live eternally with Him in a perfect world. If you disobey then you have chosen sickness and pain to work in our body until you die.

Even after turning away from God, He still loves you and wants to give you a second chance. He wants to forgive you. But you have to come to Him for the cure. The only cure for your sin is God's blood. That's why Jesus came and died for sinners (you and me).

Sickness, Pain and Death touch everyone. No one is exempt because everyone's a sinner. Jesus came to earth and died, but He said that He was dying to pay for your sins and mine. To prove He has the power to do this, He said that He would arise alive again. Easter is celebrated by Christians every year remembering these FACTS.

Jesus did arise again, just like He said. No other religion or person has done this. This means we can trust Him when in Mark 2:17 Jesus said "... They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." People who are perfectly righteous don't need Jesus. But sinners do. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth (showed) His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ (Jesus) died for us." Romans 6:23 explains, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God wants you to have life with Him. It's a free gift but you personally must realize your need and ask for it with a repentant heart and He will give you eternal life.

Sta. Maria couples tie knot during CARD MBA's mass wedding



On March 6, 2020, ten couples from Sta. Maria, Laguna said their vows during the mass wedding hosted by CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA) and facilitated by Municipality Mayor Atty. Ma. Rocelle Carlino.

According to the CARD MBA Chief Executive Officer May S. Dawat, "One of our core values is family spirit. This means that we cannot leave anyone behind. This is why we encourage marriage among our microfinance clients with live-in partners so that they too can be covered by our microinsurance products." A total of

HERE'S 4 STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ETERNAL DANGER!

- 1 Now friend, do you realize the danger you're in? Do you know, God made you and gave you rules to follow and you've broken them? Remember the 10 Commandments (Exodus 20: lies, greed, lust, hate)? Now, you're personally responsible for paying the consequences. Romans 6:23 explains, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." God wants to give you eternal life, a second chance, to be eternally with Him instead of Hell.
2 Will you turn to God today with a repentant heart to get the cure for your sin and turn from the sin that's dooming you to eternal danger?
3 You can't earn God's forgiveness. Reject that idea. It's a gift Jesus paid for.

Just because it's a free gift, it doesn't do you any good unless you receive it without mixing anything with it. Jesus alone died for your sins and you have to accept Him as 100% all you need.

That if thou (you) shalt confess with thy (your) mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine (your) heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou (you) shalt be saved." Romans 10:9 If you have any questions or if you have done this please call us because we care for you, Phone # _____



HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

- 1 Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or a 70% or more alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2 Stay six feet away from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
3 Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands.
4 Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your bent elbow when you cough or sneeze.
5 Stay home if you feel unwell.
6 Instead of shaking hands, give a thumbs up and a nod.
7 Keep up with the latest information about the truth of COVID-19 from cdc.gov rather than listening to hearsay.

1,357 couples all over the country have benefited from the institution's mass weddings.

The recently concluded mass wedding in Sta. Maria is one of the programs during the Kaunlaran Caravan, a quarterly activity of CARD MRI that brings community development programs to different provinces in the Philippines. The caravan also offers free medical, optical, dental and pre-natal check-ups; financial literacy activity for kids; and livelihood trainings, among others.

As the microinsurance arm of CARD MRI, CARD MBA provides life insurance products to socio-economically challenged communities. As of January 2020, it has insured a total of 20, 588, 648 individuals nationwide.

TRIVIA PANSIT-PANSITAN



Scientific name: Peperomia bilineata Miq.; Peperomia pellucida Linn.; Peperomia hymenophylla Miq. Common name: Pansit-pansitan (Tagalog); Shiny bush, Clear weed (Ingles)

Ang pansit-pansitan ay isang karaniwan at maliit lamang na halaman na karaniwang tumutubo sa mga tabi-tabi at bakanteng lupa. Ito ay itinuturing na damong ligaw (weeds) sa maraming lugar. Ito ay may dahon na hugis puso, malambot na mga sanga at may maliit na mga buto na nakadikit sa isang sanga. Ang halaman ay karaniwan sa buong bansang Pilipinas pati na sa iba pang mga bansa sa buong mundo. Maaari ding kainin ang halaman bilang gulay.

ANO ANG MGA SUSTANSYAAT KEMIKAL NAMAAARING MAKUHA SA PANSIT-PANSITAN?

Ang mga sanga ng halaman ay may taglay na carbohydrates, alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids, steroids, at triterpenoids.

May taglay din na mga mineral, bagaman mababa lamang, tulad ng manganese, iron, zinc at copper, sa dahon ng pansit-pansitan. Ngunit mataas naman ito sa sodium.

ANONG BAHAGI NG HALAMAN ANG GINAGAMIT BILANG GAMOT, AT PAANO GINAGAMIT ANG MGA ITO?

Dahon. Karaniwang ginagamit sa panggamot ang dahon ng pansit-pansitan. Kadalasang inilalaga ito at pinapainom sa may sakit.

Sanga. Ang sanga ay karaniwang hinahalo din sa paglalaga ng mga dahon at pinainom din sa may sakit.

ANO ANG MGA SAKIT AT KONDISYON NA MAAARING MAGAMOT NG PANSIT-PANSITAN?

1. Rayuma. Mabisa laban sa nanakit na mga kasukasan dahil sa rayuma ang pag-inom sa pinaglagagan ng dahon ng pansit-pansitan. Ang pagkain mismo sa dahon ang pansit-pansitan na parang gulay ay mabisang pang-alis sa kondisyong nararamdaman kaugnay ng rayuma.

2. Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). Pinaipainom naman ng pinaglagagan ng dahon ang taong dumadanas ng impeksyon sa daluyon ng ihi.

3. Hindi pantay na kutis ng balat. Ang pagkakaroon ng kaibahan sa kulay ng kutis ay maaaring banlawan gamit ang pinaglagagan ng dahon ng pansit-pansitan.

4. Pigsa. Ang pigsa naman ay maaaring matulungan ng pagtatapat ng dinikdik na dahon at sanga ng pansit-pansitan.

5. Iritasyon sa mata. Ipinangpapakat sa mata na dumadanas ng iritasyon o implamasyon ang katas ng dahon at sanga ng pansit-pansitan.

6. Mataas na cholesterol. Nakatutulong din sa pagpapababa ng kolesterol sa dugo ang pagkain sa mga dahon ng pansit-pansitan.

7. Tagihawat. Para naman sa kondisyon ng pagtatagihawat, pinangtatapat sa apektadong bahagi ng balat ang dinikdik na dahon at sanga ng pansit-pansitan.



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PHL, World Bank sign US\$500-M loan accord to fight COVID-19

The Philippines and the World Bank signed over the weekend a US\$500-million loan agreement that would enable the Duterte administration to augment the government's urgent financing requirements arising from the crisis spawned by the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III, on behalf of the Philippine government, and Mr. Achim Fock, the World Bank Acting Country Director for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand, signed this agreement on the Third Risk Management Development Policy Loan (TRMDPL) that aims to strengthen the country's capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, natural disasters, including health emergencies like the COVID-19 crisis.

The loan accord, which was signed on Friday (April 10), follows

two earlier Risk Management Development Policy Loans (RMDPL) signed in 2012 and 2015 between the Philippines and the World Bank.

Secretary Dominguez said this third budget-support loan is programmed for accelerated disbursement by April 30, 2020 to help support the immediate financing requirements of the government resulting from the impact of the COVID-induced crisis.

"We thank the World Bank for its swift action on this facility in support of disaster risk management, coming at this critical time when the Philippines, like most other countries worldwide, is struggling to cope with the devastating health, social and economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic," Dominguez said.

"This \$500-million facility, which is just one of several financial assistance programs made available to the Philippines by the World Bank during this global health

crisis, bolsters the Duterte administration's overall efforts to provide instant relief to the poor and other hardest-hit sectors, and strengthen our healthcare system," he added.

In an earlier statement following the Bank's approval of the loan last April 9, Mr. Fock said: "The World Bank is committed to supporting efforts to strengthen the Philippines' capacity to prepare for, and respond to, natural disasters as well as health and economic shocks like COVID-19."

The loan is payable in 29 years, inclusive of a 10-and-a-half-year grace period.

According to the World Bank, the loan will support policy reforms undertaken by the Philippine government in the area of disaster risk management, including the implementation of an emergency cash transfer program during times of crises.

The loan also aims to support the adoption and implementation

of a unified disaster rehabilitation and recovery planning framework by the national government and local government units (LGUs); the development of multi-year investment plans for seismic risk reduction and retrofitting of important government buildings; and the promotion of integrated hazard and risk analysis in physical planning, and in support of policy development.

On top of this financing package, the World Bank has also earmarked a US\$100 million fast-track loan to the Philippines to enable the Department of Health (DOH) to procure personal protective equipment (PPEs) for medical frontliners, along with testing and laboratory materials, quarantine areas, isolation rooms and other essential equipment to fight COVID-19.

The loan is under the World Bank's recently launched US\$14-billion Fast Track COVID-19 Facility.

According to the



World Bank website, the Fast-Track facility "will help developing countries strengthen health systems, including better access to health services to safeguard people from the epidemic, strengthen disease surveillance, bolster public health interventions, and work with the private sector to reduce the impact on economies."

The COVID-19 Fast Track Facility will be financed as follows: \$2.7 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), \$1.3 billion from the International Development Association (IDA), \$6 billion from the International Finance Corporation (IFC)

(including \$2 billion from existing trade facilities), complemented by re-prioritization of \$2 billion of the Bank Group's existing portfolio.

It will also include policy advice and technical assistance drawing on global expertise and country-level knowledge.

The Philippines is eligible for US\$100 million at IBRD regular terms, with a waiver of the first year of commitment fees.

As an IBRD member-country, the Philippines is also eligible to receive further financing assistance from IBRD within its normal exposure limits. (DOF PR)

DOST-funded CSU lab develops innovative filter for face mask

The problem of the lack of effective face masks motivated the team of Dr. Rey Capangpangan from Caraga State University (CSU) to develop the nanocellulose filter material which is sourced from waste materials to produce face masks that are now very important for frontliners battling COVID-19.

Cloth face masks are especially in demand now. But are the ordinary face masks really effective against coronavirus? Sadly, no. These cannot filter larger droplets containing the virus because of the large pores in the material. However, with the shortage of commercial masks like surgical and N95 masks, people opted to use washable cloth face masks.

This problem motivated the team of Dr. Rey Capangpangan from Caraga State University to develop a filter material that can be inserted in the cloth face mask to efficiently filter out contaminants – the nanocellulose film which is sourced from waste materials.

The team embarked on the research project last March 27, 2020 and developed the prototype at the Material Science and Polymer Chemistry Laboratory in CSU, a project funded

by the DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technologies Research and Development (PCIEERD). The lab serves as a facility, not just for researchers who are into materials development, but also for local industries. The team's current work is on cellulose biopolymer where they saw the potential in developing a filter material from it while integrating nanotechnology.

The team used paper wastes, acid, base, and bleaching reagents to produce nanocrystals then integrated with nanocellulose film to increase the filtering capability of the product. According to Dr. Capangpangan, the nanocellulose crystals can also be extracted from agricultural wastes such as pineapple leaves and water hyacinth.



Research team testing the material with CSU President Dr. Anthony Penaso



Shredded paper wastes and trial tests of the film material

The research is in collaboration with the College of Engineering and Geosciences (CEGS) and Caraga Fabrication Laboratory in CSU in developing the 3D printed face masks. The lab also collaborated with Dr. Arnold Alguno from the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)

for the nanocellulose extraction.

The nanocellulose filter will cost around Php15.00 per piece, while the 3D printed face mask will cost Php300.00 per piece. Costs can still be lowered if mass produced. The face mask



3D printed face mask produced by Caraga Fablab with the nanocellulose filter

can be reused while the filter material can be sun dried before reusing. The team continues to modify and test the product for its longevity.

Results from the flame and wettability tests show that the nanocellulose filter performs well

as much as the commercial face masks. The team emphasized that the research project does not aim to replace the masks used by health and medical practitioners but to provide innovation to effectively reduce contamination using washable low cost nanocellulose films.



For now, the laboratory is in need of raw materials and reagents to continue its production. The team of researchers are appealing for further assistance to manufacture more face masks. Interested parties who want to help can contact DOST-Caraga or the project leader, Dr. Rey Capangpangan at Caraga State University, Butuan City.

Incidentally, Dr. Capangpangan is an active member of the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRC) of the Department of Science and Technology.