



P.2 DOH OKS corona virus testing lab in Cavite

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Metro Manila mayors mull another 15-day ECQ extension



Enchanted Kingdom Takes Part in the Call for 'Bayanihan' to Help Healthcare Workers

Though the enhanced quarantine may have halted operations for the first and only world-class theme park, Enchanted Kingdom took the initiative to support healthcare workers in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. A team from EK facilitated the distribution of raincoats as an alternative to Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and food items to several hospitals in Santa Rosa, Laguna and neighboring towns.

Rounding up the medical units that received these tokens of support are:

1. St. James Hospital
2. Santa Rosa Hospital & Medical Center
3. Medical City Santa Rosa
4. Qualimed
5. Ospital ng Biñan
6. Global Medical Center Cabuyao
7. New Sinai MDI Hospital
8. Perpetual Help Hospital- Biñan
9. Binan Doctors' Hospital
10. Unihealth Southwoods
11. 8 LB Hospitals
12. Community Hospital Santa Rosa
13. J.P Rizal Hospital
14. Las Piñas General Hospital

The Park's commitment to support local communities is one way to keep the magic alive, even during these overwhelming, unprecedented times.

To get more information and updates, please visit Enchanted Kingdom's official site : www.enchantedkingdom.ph or go to www.facebook.com/enchantedkingdom.ph. (EK PR)

Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC) sa mga kababayan natin ngayong panahon ng ECQ. Habang nasa extended ECQ pa, nagbigay ang Metro Pacific Investments Foundation ng 1,000 sako ng bigas at 1,000 grocery bags para sa Province of Cavite. Makikita sa larawan (sa kanan) si MPIF President Melody Del Rosario at si Governor Jonvic Remulla ng Cavite. Kasama nila sina PLDT Relationship Management Executive Arlyn Dungca - Del Prado at PLDT Business Head, CRB Mid Luzon, Michael Nolasco.



P.2 LGU Imus approves resolution, ordinances to help Imuseños amid crisis

BIR issues strict rules on reopening of POGOs, service providers P.8

CONCEPCION EXTENDS GO NEGOSYO PROJECT ARK ROLL OUTS IN ANTIPOLO, BATANGAS, QC, PASIG, TAGUIG AND MAKATI

P.3

EDITORIAL:

In what appears

Some seniors, by law those 60 years old and above, have raised a board in social media, arguing for protection, not isolation during the pandemic coronavirus which has infected thousands and killed hundreds in the Philippines.

"Do not shackle the healthy seniors," goes their first line of argument, adding the object of government policies should be "ensuring protection and ease of living and mobility, not restriction and isolation."

Their beef is there are still many—though figures were not raised for immediate appreciation by both sides—who are gainfully employed and physically fit.

They have also raised the line the assumption of "health vulnerability" by the Department of Health "is not based on conclusive study and research, and at best a cautionary assumption."

Their line, of course, is in and by itself an assumption, and an assumption without proof is an assumption denied.

On the other hand, the DOH, resting on research by medical experts and practitioners from the Geneva-based World Health Organization, including epidemiologists and microbiologists, have said, repeatedly, that older people are at high risk in contracting COVID-19 which have infected at least more than 8,000

and killed nearly 600 in the Philippines—and the numbers are still rising.

This is not agreeing they are the only ones at high risk, since younger people have been included in the horrifying statistics on infections and deaths. But it seems some seniors, if in fact gainfully employed, have glossed over the reality that their offices are closed—or if essential services were on stream they could work off site or work from home but intentionally concealed in their argument.

Medical experts—not the seniors eager to go out for a short-sighted definition of mobility—have underlined that older people have weaker lungs, making them an easy target for the virus which has clawed into the world's population.

And the elderly are higher likely to suffer from chronic inflammation which, in experts' views we endorse, undermines the body's ability to quickly respond to the virus.

Certainly the quarantine is not house arrest, which presupposes a crime, as some with jejune mental frames have described it.

The crime would be to allow unnecessary movements and let the healthy and working seniors in fact, or be infected unnecessarily—when the government and health authorities can protect them for the greater good.

DOH OKs...

FROM PAGE 1

The Department of Health (DOH) has certified the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLS-MHSI) in Dasmariñas, Cavite as a COVID-19 testing laboratory, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla said Saturday, raising the country's overall coronavirus testing capacity.

According to a certification from the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), the medical school and health institution can now perform independent tests for COVID-19 through reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), considered by experts as the gold standard in coronavirus testing.

The DLSMHSI will start testing COVID-19 frontline workers next week, Remulla said.

"Time to work. Time to implement our healing strategy. Next week, we will start testing the frontliners for free," he wrote on Facebook.

The province is about to receive some 300,000 test kits to start its "mass-targeted testing," Remulla earlier said.

To date, Cavite has recorded 205 COVID-19 cases, with Bacoor having the most number of infections at 63.

The Philippines has so far 24 COVID-19 laboratories, records from DOH showed.

The other licensed laboratories are:

- * Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center
* Bicol Regional Diagnostic and Reference Laboratory
* Chinese General Hospital
* Detoxicare Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory
* Lung Center of the Philippines
* Makati Medical Center
* Marikina Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory
* Philippine Red Cross
* PRC-PLMC
* Philippine Genome Center - UP Diliman
* Research Institute for Tropical Medicine
* San Lazaro Hospital
* Southern Philippines Medical Center
* St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City
* St. Luke's Medical Center in BGC
* The Medical City
* University of Philippines National Institutes of Health
* V. Luna Hospital
* Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center
* Western Visayas Medical Center

To become a licensed COVID-19 testing center, a laboratory must pass the 5-stage process, which includes assessment, validation or on-site assessment by experts, personnel training, proficiency testing or validation by RITM, and full-scale implementation. (ABSCB-NEWS.COM)

LGU Imus...

FROM PAGE 1

The local government of Imus recently approved a resolution and ordinances to address concerns and lessen the burden of fellow Imuseños pursuant to R.A. 11469 or the Bayanihan to Heal As One Act.

On April 30, 2020 the members of the Sangguniang Panglungsod (SP) approved Resolution No. 04-2020-72, a resolution extending the payment of 1st Quarter Real Property Tax (RPT), extending the grant of 10 percent discount on the Prompt Payment of Real Property Taxes and the Quarterly Payment of Business Tax including Franchise Tax until June 15, 2020.

Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi stated, "This resolution aims to support the welfare of our fellow Imuseños amid the health crisis that our country is facing."

Meanwhile, employees of the DSWD and volunteers from other offices are working double time to finish the first batch of SAP cash subsidy distribution until May 10, 2020 amid continuous complaints regarding discrepancies on the validation of beneficiaries with the DSWD list.

Thus, the Mayor ordered for the creation of the Imus Grievance and Redress Committee that will look into complaints about the SAP payout particularly for those who were qualified but did not receive any cash assistance and those unqualified but included in the payout.

On the testing and treatment of COVID-19 patients, the local government is exerting great effort for the accreditation of its own laboratory. LGU Imus also announced the immediate hiring of medical technologists and molecular biologists who will be part of the medical staff of the City Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory which the LGU plans to set-up in the City of Imus Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CIADAC) office.

"Actually it is intended to be a COVID-19 laboratory but officials and members of the SP decided to go with an extensive facility since there is enough fund allocated," shared Jay Saquilayan, City Information Officer. (PIA)

15-day ECQ extension...

FROM PAGE 1

THE Metro Manila Council (MMC) may recommend to the government another 15-day extension of the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the National Capital Region (NCR) in light of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

In a television interview on Friday, MMC Chairman and Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez, said the council may formalize the recommendation through a resolution during a virtual meeting on Saturday.

"Most likely yun ang tinitignan natin, yung magkaroon ng another 15 days extension (Most likely we are looking at another 15-ECQ extension)," Olivarez said, stressing this will prevent another wave of Covid-19 infections in the country.

Interior Secretary Eduardo Año and Presidential spokesman Harry Roque raised the idea of a shift to a general community quarantine (GCQ) for some Metro Manila cities which showed improvement

based on their responses to the Covid crisis. However, Olivarez said that the possibility of relaxing the lockdown in some Metro Manila cities while keeping others under strict quarantine was not an option since they were "very interconnected".

Still, Olivarez said that the decision on whether or not to extend the ECQ in Metro Manila would be up to the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID). Composed of mayors of Metro Manila cities and a municipality, the MMC is the governing board and policy-making body of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

As of Thursday, Department of Health (DoH) data showed that of the 10,343 confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country, 6,709 are in Metro Manila. (MTIMES)



Senator Win Gatchalian has urged the government and its contractors to ensure the safety and well-being of construction workers as the government eyes the resumption of the construction of big-ticket projects under the 'Build, Build, Build' flagship program of the Duterte administration.

Gatchalian made the call as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) announces that priority and essential construction work may be done in areas placed under General Community Quarantine (GCQ), in accordance with DPWH guidelines.

Gatchalian emphasized the need for the government to find a way of implementing these construction projects while maintaining a high level of safety measures for workers. The lawmaker likewise called on the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to issue guidelines that will provide direction to employers and workers in ensuring a safe environment in construction sites under

Gov't needs to issue construction workers' safety guidelines during GCQ

dire circumstances. According to Gatchalian, the guidelines should include the observance of social distancing in the construction area by clearly delineating spaces, staggering time schedule, and/or reducing the number of workers in specific working sites.

Contractors should also provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to workers and they should minimize the use of shared tools in order to ensure their safety, according to Gatchalian, adding that when these workers get back to work, they should be properly trained because this time around they will be doing construction work using PPE or a new set of safety tools and equipment.

The senator said that construction workers, even engineers, and safety officers should be provided sanitized accommodation near their project sites. He also emphasized the need for safety officers to enforce DOLE's occupational safety guidelines given the new normal situation.

Gatchalian himself has seen the plight of several workers in construction sites while distributing relief packages during the early stages of the implementation of the Luzon-wide Enhanced Com-

munity Quarantine (ECQ).

"Sa ating paglilibot-libot habang nagbibigay ng tulong sa mg tao, nakita ko ang kawawang kagalagan ng mga construction workers. Karamihan sa kanila ay na-stranded, hindi makauwi sa bahay nila dahil naka-lockdown at walang masakyan. Higit pa diyari, wala silang makain sa mga construction sites. Nananawagan ako sa mga construction companies at mga contractors na huwag naman natin silang pabayaan," Gatchalian said.

"Our skilled workers are our country's best asset. They are the backbone of the country's strong and resilient economy. Aside from providing them jobs at this time, let's not forget about their well-being and by issuing clear guidelines on a safe working environment, we will be able to ensure their safety. Tandaan natin na nakapaloob pa rin ito sa layunin nating maiwasang ikalat ang virus at dumami pa ang bilang ng mga namamatay," he emphasized.

Gatchalian, who is Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Economic Affairs, recognizes the importance of slowly opening economic activities to jump start the country's economy which is reeling from the ill effects of the pandemic

NIA IV-A resumes repair & construction works of irrigation facilities in CALABARZON

he National Irrigation Administration (NIA) recommenced its repair and construction activities of irrigation facilities in CALABARZON in consonance with NIA Memorandum Circular No. 53 s. 2020 released on April 23.

Said Memo is NIA's response to the Government's effort towards food security amid the state of public health emergency.

Thru the Memo, NIA instructed its field offices to issue skeletal work-force ID as a quarantine pass (QP) to contractors and its workers for purposes of maintaining and construction irrigation projects.

"The resumption of our repair and construction activities on our irrigation facilities portray our commitment to continually support our Filipino farmers in providing and securing food for the nation amid this health crisis", said Regional Manager Romeo Lopez.

In addition, NIA field offices must secure coordination with provincial and local government units (LGUs) to ensure smooth and unhampered project implementation.

The contractors/workers were told to submit a certification from a duly licensed physician to assure the personnel are physically fit to work and not exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.

The contractors are also responsible in providing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to their respective personnel and NIA field offices must

ensure the compliance with all appropriate safety protocols during the conduct of construction activities.

"Ang reminder lang sa atin sa pagpapatulong ng ating mga pagawain sa patubig, ay dapat hindi ma-apektuhan ang anumang farming activities ng ating mga magsasaka", he added.

(The reminder to us in continuing the irrigation works is that no farming activities should be affected while repair/construction activities are ongoing.)

RM Lopez instructed all field personnel to always coordinate with Irrigators Associations (IAs) and farmers to establish a win-win situation tak-

ing into consideration the improvement of irrigation facilities and early wet planting season.

The continuation of aforesaid activities is in line with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Advisory which states that movement of food and essential goods shall remain unhampered.

Repair and construction activities are also in response with Department of Agriculture (DA) Memo Circular No. 9 which emphasizes that all farming and fishing activities shall continue to ensure sufficient food supply across the country. (CPG, PIA-4A/NIA IV-A)

Guidelines set for establishments to operate in Trece Martires

The local government here recently issued the guidelines for operations of business establishments within the city while under enhance community quarantine (ECQ).

To be operational, business establishments are required to secure a Special Permit to Operate (SPO) from the City Hall free of charge and observe certain requirements pursuant to the IATF Resolution No. 30, DTI Guidelines, DOLE Memorandum and other city ordinance, resolution and executive orders.

Gyms and sports facilities; wellness & spa; en-

tertainment like cinemas, theaters, carnivals, arenas, pubs and bars; convention centers, events places and other businesses where there are mass gatherings; computer shops, gambling and betting sites; resorts, hotels and apartelles and travel agencies and tourism related businesses, and schools are not allowed to resume their operations.

However, restaurants and food chains will only accept delivery and take-out transactions.

Qualified businesses should be registered with the City Business and Licens-

CONCEPCION ...

FROM PAGE 1

Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion confirms more local government units in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will be joining the Project ARK (Antibody Rapid test Kits) initiative.

To date, Project ARK is working with LGUs of Antipolo, Batangas, Quezon City, Pasig, Taguig, and Makati to bring mass testing down to the community level. These will be conducted through the help of donors such as the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), Wilcon Depot, RFM Corp., Angkas, and the Aboitiz Group.

Launched last April 24, Project Ark's massive rapid testing initiative kicked off in Sampaloc, Manila, successfully conducting 854 tests out of the target 1,500 sampling size. From those tests, 31 persons were consequently identified as presumptive positive for COVID-19.

Another mass screening was conducted in District 1, Tondo, on May 3. A total of 1,409 successful tests were

done, using antibody rapid test kits donated by Angkas. From the tests conducted, 109 individuals were identified as presumptive positive.

Concepcion emphasizes that in order for the economy to safely reopen and restart, mass testing must be done. "We are at war with an invisible enemy. That is why the key is visibility. We have to test, test, test! Mass testing is the key to reopening our economy and reinstating public confidence."

Project ARK - an initiative led by Concepcion that bands together the biggest economic players and business conglomerates in the country - aims to ramp up mass testing in order to safely revive the economy. With the data collected from the massive testing of Project Ark, the government and different industries can gain a better visibility of the pandemic and formulate better strategies to combat the virus.

Barangay implementation is part of Project ARK's bayanihan initiative. In addition to encouraging the screening of employees to ensure safety at work, Project ARK supports companies to lead the voluntary testing of barangay citizens.

As of date, Project ARK has generated 1,015,752 rapid test kits from 177 companies. 877,272 will be used by its partner companies while 138,480 will go to barangay donations. (GP NEGOSYO PR)

Businesses will be open from Mondays- Saturdays but 'Cluster Schedule' of residents must strictly be monitored to prevent overcrowding to give way for physical distancing among customers.

The local government reiterated that business establishments already operating prior to May 1-15, 2020 will remain operational and are not required to secure a SPO.

Meanwhile, local authorities and concerned government agencies warned that business owners caught operating without the necessary permit will be penalized and charged according to the law. (PIA)

DOST eyes more centers in community-based VCO trial

MANILA – Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato dela Peña said Friday he might include other centers aside from the Santa Rosa Community Hospital in Laguna in the community-based study on the effectiveness of virgin coconut oil (VCO) in the recovery of coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients.

In a virtual presser, dela Peña said seven patients have enrolled in the trial and he is confident that more would join the study in the coming days.

The target number of participants is 90. "We need that sample size. We may include other centers," he told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

Dela Peña said the study would take about a month, during which VCO would be incorporated in the food provided to the patients, as well as people they have contact with and other high-risk groups.

Apart from the community-based study, the DOST is also set to conduct a hospital-based clinical trial to assess the possible benefits of VCO if given to patients with moderate to severe Covid-19.

Meanwhile, dela Peña reported that the Department of Health (DOH) is using at least three DOST-developed or -funded technologies in hospitals.

These are the locally developed test kit for Covid-19, the RxBox, and the specimen collection booth (SCB).

The DOST has allotted PHP53.2 million for kits good for 26,000 tests, meant for distribution to various hospitals.

The RxBox, on the other hand, could monitor a patient's vital signs, pulse rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and even electrocardiogram readings. It helps doctors to minimize contact with patients during the pandemic. More than 100 units were already delivered to the Philippine General Hospital.

The SCB's design was based on testing booth designs in other countries. The DOH earlier requested the DOST to make 132 SCBs to be delivered to various hospitals across the country and select DOH offices. About half of the 132 units were already delivered as of Friday. (PNA)

#KAPITNANAY WITH MARIAN AND WALTERMART



Marian Rivera with her two moms: her lola whom she considers her nanay and puso ng tahanan and her mom whom she is very close with and considers her best friend. (Photo from Marian Rivera)

This Mom's Month, Marian Rivera-Dantes shares the story of the amazing moms who have molded her to become the person that she is today, and how she, as a mom, faces the challenges of our present situation with WalterMart.

Marian feels fortunate that she has two moms. She grew up with her lola, whom she fondly calls nanay, after her parents separated when she was two. It was her nanay, whom she considers the heart of the home (puso ng tahanan), who taught Marian that you can surpass anything if you have determination in life, faith in God, and believe in yourself and in the people, that surround you and love you – values that have contributed to her success.

And then, there is her mom, who she became close to when she returned, and now considers more of a best friend.



Marian personally prepares food for her family and frontliners using groceries from WalterMart Supermarket. (Photo from Marian Rivera)

This Mother's Day, Marian thanks all moms for taking care of and loving their families. While she feels sad about the current situation, she feels it is important that "we stay strong together, stay in touch, and inspire each other."

"Kung may kapitbahay na nagtutulungan sa oras ng kagipitan, tayong namang mga mommy ay magkakapit-nanay," she suggests.



Marian loves WalterMart Supermarket delivery services. Visit www.waltermart-delivery.com.ph

Like Marian, you can enjoy WalterMart's hassle-free grocery shopping experience through WalterMart Delivery service. Just visit www.waltermartdelivery.com.ph for all your grocery needs.

And those who wish to visit the supermarket need not worry as WalterMart implements its 4S program – Screening, Sanitation, Social Distancing and Service - across all WalterMart Community Malls. This is to ensure the well-being and safety of the families and communities it serves amid the coronavirus pandemic.



Marian and Zia enjoy baking together. (Photo from Marian Rivera)



Marian personally home-schools for Zia while we are on ECQ. (Photo from Marian Rivera)

As a mom in our current situation, Marian's priority is her kids. She comes up with activities for her 4-year-old daughter Zia to keep her busy - home-studying, doing fun art and craft activities and baking.



Marian instills in her family and kasambahay the importance of praying together and to have faith in God which her nanay taught her. (Photo from Marian Rivera)

Marian is also hands-on in planning and preparing food for her family. "Iyon ang pinakamahalaga na maihain ko sa kanila kung ano ang dapat at ligtas para sa kanila." She makes sure to get fresh ingredients and to complete her grocery list from WalterMart. And now because of the ECQ, WalterMart Supermarket delivery service is a big help for her.

Acknowledging, however, that she can't do everything herself, she believes that teamwork is important in families with husband Dingdong, daughter Zia, and of course, herself – taking on different tasks.



A special day in the kitchen as Marian prepares food packs for the frontliners. (Photo from Marian Rivera)

This Mother's Month, Marian gives a special salute to our "kapit-nanay frontliners - doctors, nurses, police at military. Mga government workers, food and grocery workers, OFWs, at lahat ng essential workers." She believes that together, "kaya natin ito dahil magtutulungan tayo. Mabuhay ang mga #KapitNanay.

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Treat your Mom with an extra serving of Gyoza (5pcs) for a minimum purchase of Php1500. Valid for delivery and take out transactions from May 8-10 only. Terms and conditions apply.

For orders, check us on Food Panda, Grab Food or Lala Food app. You may call our store nearest to you for pick-up orders.
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YOUR CLASSIC FAVORITES AT SM CITY BACOR FOR MOTHER'S DAY

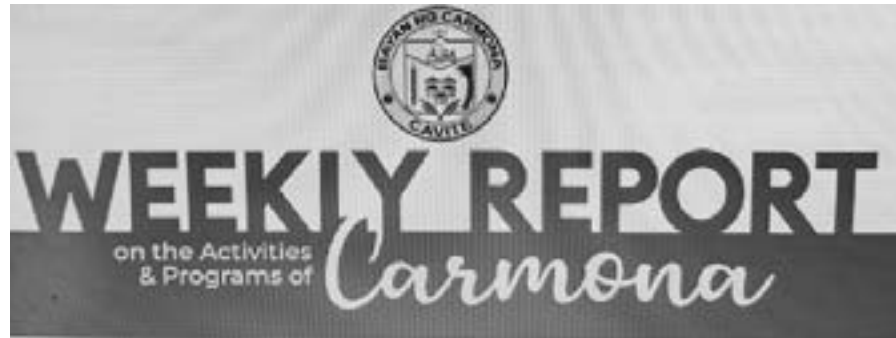
Classic Favorites for Takeout
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You may also reach your preferred rider here: <https://www.facebook.com/smcitybacoor/posts/3956760417668226>



Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola holds meeting with private school administrators: Municipal Mayor Roy Loyola conducted a meeting with private school administrators in Carmona on May 8, 2020 to discuss the updates, programs, and COVID-19 mitigation efforts of the local government.



Donors continue the spirit of #BayanihanMunaLagi this COVID-19 season: On May 8, 2020, donors from the public and private sectors continue to help Carmona residents and frontliners through various donations.



Carmona LGU conducts meeting regarding CCAP: The local government of Carmona held a meeting with the Sangguniang Bayan members on May 8, 2020 at the Municipal Penthouse to tackle the Carmona COVID-19 Assistance Program (CCAP). CCAP is the P2,000 financial assistance of the local government for households in Carmona who were not able to receive any cash subsidy from the national government such as the Social Amelioration Program (SAP).



Carmona LGU delivers situation reports through drone shots: In line with the local government's mitigation efforts to prevent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the community, drone shots situation reports at Carmona Public Market and Barangays 1 to 3 were released on May 8, 2020 for strict monitoring of the implementation of the local government's social distancing measures.

LGUs buy P1.58-billion worth of farmers' produce

The Department of Agriculture (DA) reports that to date local government units (LGUs) nationwide have bought tons of farm and fishery products worth more than P1.58 billion direct from farmers and fishers since the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) was imposed on March 15, 2020. "We are indeed happy to report that since the start of the enforcement of the ECQ, around 245 LGUs heeded our call to patronize the products of our farmers and fishers and make these part of food packs distributed to their constituents. This number is certainly growing as we speak," Agriculture Secretary William Dar said.

The agri-fishery products range from palay, milled rice, corn, vegetables, fruits, pork, chicken, fish, and spices.

Their sales were monitored by the DA's Regional Field Offices (RFOs) through their respective Agribusiness Marketing and Assistance Division (AMAD).

"The LGUs are our primary partners in cascading our sectoral interventions on production to consumption, marketing included. We would like to involve them in the entire value chain to make sure that our support mechanisms reach targeted beneficiaries," Dar said.

To focus and strengthen linkages between food producers and the markets, the DA

formed four food value chain clusters - Luzon A (CAR and Regions 1 to 3), Luzon B (Regions 4A, 4B, and 5), Visayas (Regions 6 to 8, and Mindanao (Regions 9 to 13).

"Through the clusters, we plan the availability, pre-positioning, and movement of products from the municipal to provincial level, then regional, and finally among clusters.

"The mobility plan looks into the movement of agri-fishery commodities from producers, to traders, processors, and wholesalers/retailers, down to the household consumers," the DA chief said.

The clusters, with the help of LGUs and other agencies, identify prime agri-fishery commodities and potential markets, monitor the markets, and coordinate relevant concerns to develop location-specific resiliency plans aimed at attaining higher levels of food sufficiency.

"It is the DA's job to ensure enough supply of food in the country. Our LGUs can count on us to link them to our food pro-

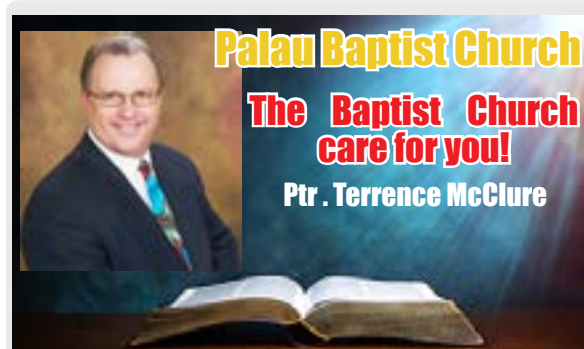
ducers, while they help us market farmers' produce and provide every household adequate and affordable food," Dar said.

Apart from this, the DA has been coordinating with the LGUs since the start of the ECQ in ensuring the unhampered movement of workers and stakeholders in various agriculture and fishery enterprises to ensure continued production and delivery of food, particularly those in highly urbanized areas.

"In all, in partnership with the LGUs, the private sector, and farmers' and fisherfolk's groups, we ensure farmers of a ready market and steady income, as well as provide consumers with affordable, healthy, and nutritious food. Along the process, we also help stabilize the prices of basic commodities," he said.

"We hope that more LGUs will follow suit and may this practice be institutionalized even after the COVID-19 crisis and move on to the 'new normal' era," the DA chief concluded. (Myriam Layaoen, DA StratComms)

HE IS MY Healer EXODUS 15:26



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. Mankind chose disobedience and now we see the results. God wanted us to live free from that. He warned us (Genesis 2 & 3) and commanded us to choose life. But we chose disobedience (sin) and death.

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.

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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.
4 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.

Kun ikaw o ang iyong mga kapamilya ay nagtatae o kaya naman ay pinahihirapan ng mga parasito sa tiyan tulad ng bulate, pwede mong gamitin ang halamang gamot na bayabas sa ganitong pamamaraan: Magpitang dahon ng bayabas, hugasan ito ng mabuti Pakuluan ang tinadad na dahon ng bayabas, apat o anim na kutsara sa bawat 18 onsa ng tubig Salain at hayaang lumamig Uminom ng 1/4 sa bawat tatlo o apat na oras hanggang sa bumiti na ang iyong pakiramdam.

HALAMANG GAMOT SIYENTIPIKONG MGA PAG-AARAL SA HALAMANG GAMOT NA BAYABAS

Narito ang ilang mga pag-aaral na isinagawa ng mga dalubhasa para patunayan ang potensyal ng bayabas bilang halamang gamot. Ang bayabas at ang kidney. Sa isang pag-aaral, sinubukan ng mga dalubhasa na tingnan ang kakayahan ng bayabas na protektahan ang mga bato o kidney ng mga dagang may diabetes. Ang resulta ng pananaliksik na ito ay malinaw na nagsasabi na ang bunga ng bayabas ay nakakatulong na mapangalagaan ang kidney laban sa pamaminsala ng sakit na diabetes dahil sa taglay nitong mga sangkap na antioxidant, laban sa pamamaga at pampababa ng blood sugar. Ang bayabas at ang diabetes. May isang pag-aaral na isinagawa para malaman kung ang pagkain ng bunga ng bayabas ay talaga nga bang nakakatulong sa pagpababa ng asukal sa dugo. Ang eksperimentong ito ay isinagawa sa mga daga. Ang resulta? Ipinapakita ng kinalabasan ng eksperimento na ang katas ng bayabas ay talagang nakapagpababa ng fasting blood sugar ng mga dagang may diabetes. Makikita lamang na ang bayabas ay isang potensyal kung pag control sa diabetes ang pag-uusapan. Antioxidant na nasa bayabas. Ipinapakita ng isang pagsusuri na ang bayabas na nagtataglay ng mga sangkap tulad ng flavonoids ay nakakatulong para hindi masira ang mga selula at tissues dahil sa mga free radicals. Ang katas ng bayabas ay tinitingnan ngayon ng mga dalubhasa bilang potensyal na antioxidant na pwedeng panlaban sa mga sakit na dala ng free radicals. Bayabas bilang pamatay mikrobyo, laban sa pagtatae. Layunin ng isang pag-aaral na matiyak ang mga ulat na nagsasabing nakagagamot daw ng pagtatae ang bayabas. Kung sa bagay, ang bayabas ay matagal nang ginagamit bilang pamatay mikrobyo kaya parang may basehan naman talaga ang mga ulat na ito ay mabisang halamang gamot laban sa pagtatae. Sampung uri ng mga mikrobyo ang pinatubo sa laboratoryo gamit ang mga agar plates. Nag ito ay malalagan na, pinatakan ito ng katas ng bayabas na may halong tubig. Ang resulta ay nagpapakita na ang pagdami ng mga mikrobyong ito ay nahadalangan ng aktibong mga sangkap ng bayabas. Ipinapakita lang nito na ang bayabas ay maaaring gamitin bilang halamang gamot sa pagtatae. PAGHAHANDA NG BAYABAS: PAANO GAMITIN ANG BAYABAS BILANG ANTISEPTIC? Narito ang mga pamamaraan kung paano gagamitin ang bayabas bilang panghugas sa mga sugat sa balat ng tao. Magpitang dahon ng bayabas at siguraduhing ito ay malinis sa pamamagitan ng panghugas nito Pakuluan ang isang tasa ng dahon ng bayabas sa tatlong tasa ng tubig sa loob ng sampung minuto Salain at hayaang lumamig Gamitin bilang mouthwash o pang mumog Para gamitin bilang panghugas sa sugat, ihugas sa apektadong bahagi ng dalawa o tatlong beses kada araw Pwede rin itong gamiting panghugas sa pwerta pagkapanganak ng nanay Ang dahon ng bayabas ay pwede ring nguyain ng hilaw bilang lunas sa masakit na ngipin at pamamaga ng gilagid Para mapabilis ang gang paggaling ng sugat, pwede kang magdikdik ng pr5eskong dahon ng bayabas at ilagay sa mismong sugat. Kapag mapansin mong lalong lumala ang mga sintomas, itigil mo ang paggamit ng bayabas at kumunsulta agad sa doktor. Paggamit sa bayabas bilang halamang gamot sa pagtatae at mga bulate

Initial P10.1-B in wage subsidies credited to accounts of more than 1.2 million workers -DOF

Cash grants totaling P10.1 billion have been credited to more than 1.2 million employees of small businesses so far under the Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program as part of the Duterte administration's efforts to provide relief to poor and low-middle-income families along with other vulnerable sectors hardest-hit by the economic fallout from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said, "according to a report from the SBWS inter-agency task force, the first tranche of subsidies has been credited to a total of 1,261,044 beneficiary employees as of May 6. The amount of P10.1 billion has been deposited to the employees' bank or PayMaya accounts and sent to MLhuillier, for those who chose to receive the subsidy via money remittance."

MLhuillier Kwarta Padala, through the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), is the partner-remittance center

of the SSS in the disbursement of wage subsidies to unbanked beneficiaries.

The SBWS inter-agency task force is chaired by the Department of Finance (DOF), represented by Assistant Secretary Antonio Lambino II, and with Social Security System (SSS) President and CEO Aurora Ignacio and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa as members.

Approximately 183,677 more beneficiaries were expected to receive their cash subsidies by May 7, Dominguez added.

He said, "The SSS has partnered with the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to automate the payout of the subsidy, which has allowed the distribution to scale up in a short span of time."

Many employers and employees took to social media to acknowledge that they have received the subsidy from government. Some were featured by the DOF, SSS, and BIR on their Facebook pages:

Anthony Gaw, the owner of a company that specializes in large-format printing, said, "Nais naming magpasalamat sa tulong ng pamahalaan. Sa dalawang buwan na lockdown, imposibleng mabuhay ang mga tauhan namin ng walang support. Salamat at natulungan niyo ang sambayanang manggagawa. (We would like to thank government for the assistance. During this two-month lockdown, it is impossible for our employees to survive without support. Thank you for helping the working people.)"

"Napakalaking tulong nito lalo na sa tulad kong single parent, para maitawid ang pangangailangan ng pamilya ko hanggang sa matapos ang ECQ, (This will really help single parents like myself supply the needs of our families until the ECQ ends,)" said Rona Espinosa, Human Resource Assistant at Brand Ambassadors Corporation.

Meanwhile, Josefina Perido, Authorized Managing Officer of

EJB Okawa Construction Corp., said that she is "masayang masaya na kahit papaano 'yung mga [nasa] private [sector] hindi nakakalimutan. Like, in our case, nahinto lahat ng production namin. Natutuwa kami na na-recognize ang [aming sitwasyon]. (happy that the government has not forgotten those in the private sector. In our case, all production was halted. We are just happy that the government has recognized our situation.)"

SSS President and CEO Ignacio said that "more than 101,400 employers have submitted applications for the SBWS program as of May 7, 7 AM. These applications, all submitted electronically, are being processed by the SSS. So far, the applications for around 2.2 million employees have been approved according to program criteria. This represents around 65 percent of the program's target of 3.4 million beneficiary employees."

The SBWS aims to provide a month-



ly wage subsidy of P5,000 to P8,000 for two months to around 3.4 million eligible employees of small businesses affected by the work stoppages resulting from the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon and similar containment measures in other parts of the country that were imposed last March to curb the spread of COVID-19.

The initial payouts, which represent the first tranche of the SBWS subsidies, began on April 30, one day ahead of the announced May 1 to 15 schedule of release. Payouts for the second tranche are scheduled for May 16 to 31.

The SBWS program is part of the government's COVID-19-related

interventions to support vulnerable groups and individuals, including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that employ the majority of Filipino workers.

Other ongoing efforts include: [1] The extension of tax filing and payment deadlines; [2] a 30-day grace period for the payment of all loans, including credit card payments and pawnshop loans, falling due within the ECQ period, without imposition of interest on interest or any additional charges, fees or penalties; [3] a credit guarantee program to cover P120 billion-worth of loans to small businesses, and [4] proposals to the Congress to provide stimulus to the economy. (DOF PR)

BIR issues strict rules on reopening of POGOs, service providers

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) is making sure that Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs) and their respective service providers are properly registered and will pay the correct amount of income taxes and franchise fees to the government before they are allowed to resume operations during the quarantine period, a report to Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III showed.

According to the set of guidelines and requirements issued by the BIR, all POGO licensees or operators should first show proof that they have already paid their 2019 franchise taxes, their withholding taxes due for the months of January to April this year, as well as the first quarter payments of their 2020 franchise tax, before they would be given tax clearances allowing them to resume operations.

POGO service providers, meanwhile, are similarly required to submit proof that they have paid their 2019 income taxes; and remitted and paid withholding taxes for the months of January to April this year, including the 25 percent final withholding tax due from their foreign employees, before the BIR would give

them tax clearances to reopen for business.

Tax compliant POGO service providers would not be issued tax clearances by the BIR should their POGO operators or licensees fail to comply with the bureau's new requirements.

All POGO licensees, operators and service providers should also submit a notarized undertaking affirming their commitment to pay all tax arrears for prior years of their operations and should be registered with the respective Revenue District Office (RDOs) having jurisdiction over their places of business.

"Failure to comply with any of the (requirements) will result in the denial of the issuance of a BIR Clearance for resumption of operations," states the Guidelines & Requirements issued by the BIR's POGO Task Force headed by Revenue Deputy Commissioner Arnel Guballa.

The Guidelines & Requirements issued on May 6 also state that "the application of a Service Provider for the issuance of a BIR Clearance shall not be approved in case its POGO Licensee failed to comply with the BIR requirements for BIR Clear-

ance."

Dominguez earlier made it clear that no POGO operator or service provider would be allowed to operate again "unless they are compliant with all government laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, those involving health and taxation."

For POGO licensees and operators, the BIR has required the submission of the following documentary requirements: [1] Copy of Application for Registration of Corporations, et al. duly received by the concerned RDO (BIR Form No. 1903) or BIR Certificate of Registration (COR), if already registered; [2] Copies of Franchise Tax Returns (BIR Form No. 2553) for the taxable quarters of 2019 and 1st quarter

of 2020 together with proof of payments; [3] Copies of Monthly Remittance Form for Income Taxes Withheld (BIR Form Nos. 1601C and 0619-E and F), Quarterly Remittance Return of Income Taxes Withheld (BIR Form 1601-EQ and FQ) or Payment Form (BIR Form No. 0605) for January to April, 2020; and [4] Notarized Undertaking to pay all tax arrears for prior years.

POGO service providers will have to submit the following: [1] Copy of BIR Application for Registration duly received by the concerned RDO (BIR Form No. 1901 or 1903) or BIR Certificate of Registration (COR), if already registered; [2] Copy of 2019 Income Tax Return or ITR (BIR Form No. 1701 or 1702) and proof of payments; [3] Copies of Monthly Remittance Form

for Income Taxes Withheld (BIR Form Nos. 1601C and 0619-E and F), Quarterly Remittance Return of Income Taxes Withheld (BIR Form 1601-EQ and FQ) or Payment Form (BIR Form No. 0605) for the months of January to April, 2020; and [4] Notarized Undertaking to pay all tax arrears for prior years.

Aside from securing a clearance from the BIR, all POGOs and their service providers must also strictly adhere to the government's safety and health protocols such as limited operations per shift, shuttle services for employees, regular body temperature checks and disinfection within the workplace, social distancing and wearing of masks, among other measures to prevent transmission of the novel coronavirus. (DOF PR)

FOR WITH
GOD
ALL THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

i am
with you
always

MATTHEW 28:20