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IATF grants Bacoor City's appeal for Modified ECQ



The Regional Inter-Agency Task Force granted the local government's appeal for the reconsideration of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and placed the city under the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) effective today.

This was revealed by Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla as she addressed her constituents in a video post yesterday, a day before the lifting of the ECQ and moving to the GCQ status in the province.

Mayor Lani Revilla said that, "The move was for the best interest and safety of all the Bacooreños in the wake of the COVID-19 threat that is still very much present in our midst."

The MECQ brings not much difference because the same limitations on the movement of the residents remain in effect. Q-passes are still required for persons allowed to access food and essentials and to the employees/workers needed for establishments permitted to operate.

Mandatory wearing of face mask and social distancing will always be the rule when outside the residence.

Likewise, clustering of barangays and the clustering schedule of public markets, supermarkets, groceries and other establishments still remain in effect and curfew will be from 8pm - 5am with the exception of workers' duties beyond these hours.

Mass gatherings are strictly prohibited while meetings are limited to 5 persons only with social distancing strictly observed.

Outdoor exercises like walking, jogging, and biking are allowed within prescribed hours of 5am-7am and 4pm- 6pm while senior citizens will have to exercise within house premises or backyards.

Schools remain closed and transactions are limited to electronic transactions or online banking only.

The Barangay will issue new Q-passes to Q-pass holders who will return to work while Travel Pass are required for those transferring to new residences within the province and to job applicants for their job applications outside the city.

Mayor Revilla said, "It will be difficult because there is still no public transportation," as she pertains to IATF ruling on transportation limited to company and government shuttles and the allowance for social distancing in private vehicles allowed for Authorized Persons Outside of Residence (APOR).

Establishments and companies who are allowed to operate under IATF ruling will be controlled by IATF's operational procedures.

"Let us all be patient because in the right time we can move to GCQ and slowly start the city's economy," said Mayor Lani Revilla. (PIA)

implemented also on particular streets or sitios were COVID-19 incidents are alarming, but not on the entire barangay," he explained after a consultation with concerned barangay officials.

Immediately after isolating the patients in the said barangays, the city government would conduct rapid testing on 3,000 individuals on each of the barangays and conduct contact tracing. (Parañaque FB Page)

Gov't banks on fundamental reforms, recovery measures to revive economy



page 2



Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez directed last Saturday the City Health Office to immediately isolate persons infected with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) before placing the concerned barangays under "strict community quarantine (SCQ)."

Olivarez ordered Dr. Olga Virtusio, city health officer, to confine all confirmed COVID-19 patients, now reaching 635 cases as of May 15, at the isolation facilities designated by the city government.

Olivarez reported that the city recorded 40 fatalities and 259 recoveries, while 92 patients were discharged last Friday. The city recorded a total of 601

COVID-19 cases on May 13, then 624 cases on May 14, and 635 cases last May 15.

The mayor reminded Virtusio that the approach of the city is to isolate or place any individuals in a quarantine once found positive with the virus or those that are found to be probable or suspected cases.

He also announced that he would be issuing an executive order for the SCQ in barangays with the highest COVID-19 cases under the MECQ.

As of May 15, Barangay San Dionisio posted 82 cases; San Antonio, 79; BF Homes, 66; Don Bosco, 60; Moonwalk, 58; and Baclaran, recorded 49.

Olivarez disclosed that three barangays are under immediate concern—namely, San Dionisio, San Antonio, and Baclaran.

For the past 10 days, the COVID-19 cases in Barangay BF Homes remained at 66 cases, so the village will not be included in the lockdown. On the other hand, the cases in Barangay Baclaran hit 49 in just four days, from 41 cases.

"The COVID-19 cases in Barangays BF Homes and Don Bosco are stabilizing for one week, unlike in Barangay Baclaran," Olivarez pointed out.

He said that there will be a reasonable lockdown on the streets and sitios on the said three barangays.

"Possibly, a reasonable lockdown may be

EDITORIAL:

At the worst time

A leading broadcast network was ordered shut down by the government last week. The order was announced in the late afternoon, and in the early evening, after its primetime newscast, the network went off the air. It employs some 11,000 individuals.

This action on the part of the administration stokes fear in the hearts of many, especially among those in the media. If the government could order the closure of a big organization, what is to stop it from acting adversely against smaller ones?

The issue has polarized the public anew, and at a time when all differences should be cast aside so people could work together to fight the pandemic. On the one hand, people are crying suppression of press freedom. But those supporting the closure say the network had it coming because of its violations of the law.

It would be easier to assess the merits of the National Telecommunications Commission's case against ABS-CBN if we could safely divorce

the questions from the President's own interest. Unfortunately, at the outset, Mr. Duterte has been vocal about his dislike of the network. He felt slighted when it failed to air his political advertisement – which he had already paid for – during the campaign for the 2016 polls.

Comments and accusations between those who denounce and support the network's closure, especially on social media where trolls thrive, are also a sorry development when the conversations should only be about how to push the government to strive for a higher COVID-19 testing capacity. Only this will enable us to know the true extent of the virus' spread and guide our decisions as we balance protecting ourselves with opening up the economy.

The story is far from over. The next weeks and months will expose who exactly stands to benefit from the network's closure, who are to blame for the non-renewal of the franchise, and what awaits all those who dare catch a powerful man's ire. We will stay tuned.

DTI 4-A turns over PPE donations from Japanese companies to Cabuyao City



To help protect the frontline workers in the fight against the COVID-19, the Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A turned over 9,000 surgical masks and 50 face shields donations from Japanese companies Tsuneishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. and Taiheiyo Cement Corporation, respectively, to Cabuyao City Mayor Rommel A. Gecolea last May 9, 2020. With the help of Ilden Japan, the aids were shipped for free.

"We are very thankful for these generous donations of Tsuneishi and Taiheiyo to our health workers and front liners in the Cabuyao City Hospital and health

Gov't banks ...

The Duterte administration is banking on an array of recovery measures, plus fundamental reforms it has put in place to keep the economy resilient, to put the country back on its positive growth trajectory and let Filipinos get back to work as safely and as soon as possible under a post-quarantine environment, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III said Thursday.

Dominguez expressed confidence that the Philippines can bounce back from this unprecedented health crisis spawned by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), given President Duterte's prudent approach to fiscal management, which has placed the country in a strong position to weather the impact of the pandemic that has battered the global economy.

The President's conservative economic policies have also provided the government with the fiscal space it needs to fund cash-intensive programs that will help the economy and the people hurdle the current crisis, Dominguez added.

With the contraction of the economy expected to get worse during the April-June period as a result of the implementation of strict quarantine measures to contain the COVID-19 spread, Dominguez noted that experts from the World Bank and Yale University have advised people not to focus on quarter-to-quarter numbers because the pandemic is hurting not only the Philippines but the entire global economy.

The economy shrank 0.2 percent in the first quarter, which covered the period when the national government imposed an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon and local governments implemented similar containment measures in other parts of the country to prevent the further spread of the highly infectious virus.

"We need to focus on a smart combination of fundamental reforms and recovery measures to help ensure that we get the country back on its positive growth trajectory," said Dominguez at the opening of the first-ever 'Sulong Pilipinas' workshop held online in an electronic conference format.

Dominguez stressed that the government needs platforms like the annual Sulong consultative meetings to be able to engage all sectors in a collective effort to come up with more reforms and recovery measures responsive to the needs of the Filipino people in this time of the coronavirus crisis.

He said the active participation of the private sector in thae multiple Sulong workshops conducted since 2016 has resulted to several game-changing re-



centers. It is the unstinting support of the private sector, government, and partner agencies and organizations in and outside the country that help sustain the health and well-being of our frontline workers," said Mayor Gecolea.

"Our front liners are considered heroes in the battle against the pandemic, and these valuable donations of Tsuneishi and Taiheiyo will surely be of help to our heroes. We are deeply grateful for the benevolence and bravery of the people who continue to serve and help our nation despite the crisis," said DTI CALABARZON Director Marilou Q. Toledo.

forms, such as the 'Build, Build, Build program, the National ID System, comprehensive tax reform programs (CTRP), the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Act, the Universal Healthcare Law (UHC) and additional funding from so-called "sin" taxes.

"Participation and collaboration have always been at the heart of these consultative workshops since we first launched this series in 2016. Perhaps most importantly: we don't just listen to your recommendations, we actively implement them," Dominguez said.

Over 400 youth participants from 97 campuses and more than 42 organizations joined the online 'Sulong Pilipinas: Youth Partners for Progress' hosted jointly by the Department of Finance (DOF) and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to gather inputs on how the government and its citizens could work together to restart the economy and strengthen its resilience once the country contains the spread of COVID-19 and gradually transitions to a post-quarantine environment.

NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua provided a situationer on the economy and presented the government's bounce-back plan—the Philippine Program for Recovery With Equity and Solidarity (PH-PROGRESO)—making the Sulong participants among the first to learn about the economic managers' proposal to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Hide original message

In his opening remarks in the Sulong workshop, Dominguez said while recovering from the coronavirus-induced crisis will not happen instantly, the government continues to speed up the implementation of programs that will help businesses get back on track and Filipinos back to work safely as soon as possible.

He said President's Duterte's prudent fiscal management—as reflected in the Philippines' sovereign credit rating of "BBB+," which is the highest in the country's history; strong gross international reserves; low inflation and stable prices; and improved revenue flows from the CTRP—has allowed the government to promptly and effectively address the COVID-19 crisis.

"This 'saving-for-a-rainy-day' approach to economic management has gained for us the trust and confidence of the world's most respected credit rating agencies and development partners, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), allowing us to borrow money at lower interest rates and longer repayment periods," Dominguez said.

As a result, Dominguez said the government was able to implement its P205-billion Social Amelioration Program (SAP) to provide financial assistance to 18 million low-income and informal sector households during the ECQ, which is the largest social protection program in the country's history.

The government also implemented a P51-billion wage subsidy program for employees of small businesses, harnessing the power of automation and cloud computing to deliver the aid to 3.4 million targeted beneficiaries, he added.

More than 2.1 million employees have so far received their subsidies under this Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program.

To help revive the economy while protecting the health and well-being of Filipinos, Dominguez said he has recommended to the President the implementation of five priority measures.

These include: (1) the revival and acceleration of the "Build, Build, Build" infrastructure modernization program, subject to compliance with minimum health standards; (2) the hiring of contact tracers to boost our efforts to slow down viral transmission; and (3) attracting foreign investors in search of resilient, high-growth economies like ours by passing the Corporate Income Tax and Incentives Rationalization Act (CITIRA), which will be redesigned to include flexible tax and non-tax incentives so we can better target the investors the economy needs.

He has also recommended: (4) promoting the manufacturing of products that have strong, inelastic demand, such as food production and logistics, to stimulate demand; and (5) supporting their whole value chains, from inputs to packaging and logistics.

"We need to help businesses, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises, and consumers weather the economic storm together," Dominguez said. (DOF PR)

FROM PAGE 1



Following Congress' ratification of a bicameral conference committee report to establish the 'National Academy of Sports (NAS),' Senator Win Gatchalian said this means a significant boost in the development of sports in the country and develop world-class Filipino athletes.

On the part of the Senate, Senator Win Gatchalian, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, headed the bicameral conference which reconciled differences in both chambers' proposals. The bicam agreement seeks the creation and establishment of NAS, which will institutionalize an educational system within the framework of a national sustainable sports program.

The NAS will be implementing a quality and en-

'National Academy of Sports' bicam report ratified

hanced secondary education program, with a special curriculum on sports. This program will be geared towards early recognition and development of talented students, especially those who have shown potential to excel in sports. The curriculum's design will consider the students' training needs while providing for holistic quality education.

"Through the National Academy of Sports, we are institutionalizing mechanisms, fundamentals, and government support to instill excellence among our athletes, who are a source of both national pride and unity for our country. We want to support aspiring athletes at the earliest possible opportunities so we would look for those who have the potential and train them in world-class facilities," said Gatchalian

"We are also giving importance to how these aspiring athletes can achieve academic excellence while preparing them for stellar performances in the world stage," he added.

Gatchalian also thanked the bill's co-authors

and co-sponsors: Senators Sonny Angara, Bong Go, and Pia Cayetano for pushing the measure's passage.

The bill eyes the establishment of the academy's main campus at the existing New Clark City Sports Complex in Capas, Tarlac, which will be constructed by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA). This will give the students priority access to facilities at the New Clark City Sports Complex. The proposal also mandates the organization of future nationally-funded regional high schools for sports.

The NAS will be attached to the Department of Education (DepEd), in close coordination with the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). The incumbent Secretary will be the Chairperson of the academy's Board of Trustees. An Executive Director, as appointed by the DepEd Secretary, will head the NAS and will be responsible for the academy's administration and operation. The bill gives preference to an Executive Director who hails from the field of sports.

INDOOR SUMMER FUN AT TOY KINGDOM

With more kids staying home this summer, it's the perfect opportunity to take a break, rest and spend some quality time with the whole family. Stay at home and let Toy Kingdom bring the fun into your doorstep with their wide variety of amazing toy finds now available for purchase at Lazada.

Little chefs will love the Kid's Dough Cooking Set, Ice Cream Set and Motion Air Sand Deluxe Cookie Maker. Ryan's World Treasure Chest, on the other hand, will surely thrill the little pirates.

Keep your kids' minds creative and inspired with games from Cogo in city and farm themes. Board games like Uno, Monopoly, and Pictionary Air are great for family bonding and fun;



Aspiring little chefs will surely love this Kid's Dough Cooking playset from Toy Kingdom. Available at Lazada.

while table games like Air Spring's pinball shoot and air soccer will keep kids active and sporty.



Your kids can play it cool this summer with the Motion Air Sand's Ice Cream Maker. Available at Lazada.



Groom your own little pet with Crayola's Scribble Scrubbie Salon Set from Toy Kingdom.



An enjoyable home entertainment awaits kids and kids at heart with Toy Kingdom's PS4 Mega Pack which includes three bestselling games and three-month subscription to PS4 plus. Get yours now at Lazada.

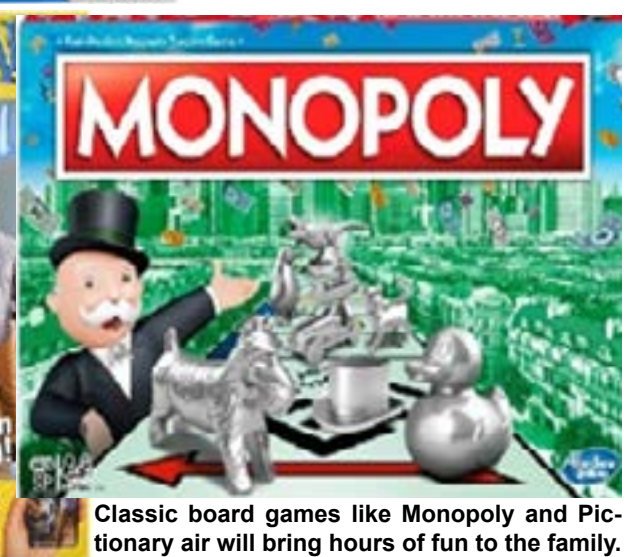


Ryan's World Treasure Chest will bring fun and adventure to young pirates. available at Lazada.

Keep your kids' mind active with this Cogo's City playset. Available at Lazada.



Farming is more fun with Cogo's farm themed playset from Toy Kingdom.



Classic board games like Monopoly and Pictionary air will bring hours of fun to the family.

Tech-savvy kids, on the other hand, can also enjoy an ultimate home entertainment experience with Toy Kingdom's PS4 mega pack and various home video games.

Experience an enjoyable summer fun at home with these toys from Toy Kingdom. Check out these amazing finds and more available at <https://www.lazada.com.ph/> and wait for your items to be delivered right into your doorsteps. Also, don't forget to stay home to help in the fight against COVID-19.

For more updates visit www.toykingdom.ph and follow ToyKingdomPH at Facebook and Instagram.



Let your kids create sweet desserts with Kid's Dough Ice Cream playset from Toy Kingdom.

PROJECT ARK GOES TO ANTIPOLO CITY, TEST RESULTS SUPPORT CITY'S MOVE TOWARDS GCQ!

MAY 13, 2020 - Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion confirms the launch of Project ARK (Antibody Rapid test Kits) in Antipolo City, Rizal, with the support of Mayor Andrea Ynares.

Also present at the virtual presser were Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) President Henry Lim Bon Liong, City Health Officer Dr. Concepcion Lat, ARK Project Lead Josephine Romero, Medical Team Leader Dr. Minguita Padilla, Project ARK Pilot Lead for LGU Ginggay Hontiveros-Malvar, and George Royeca of Angkas.

Project ARK's massive rapid testing initiative in Antipolo, held

May 8 to 12, successfully conducted 1,486 tests out of the target 1,700 sampling size, utilizing antibody rapid test kits donated by FFCCCII.

From those tested, 0.5% were deemed presumptive positive for COVID-19. This number is significantly low and supports the city's move towards General Community Quarantine (GCQ). Those who were identified as positive were immediately directed to the appropriate hospital facilities for treatment.

Mayor Ynares also expressed her gratitude for Project ARK: "Starting May 15, we will be under GCQ. Dahil sa ginawa po ng siyudad ng Antipolo, mas kampante po kami para sa GCQ dahil natest na po ang iba sa aming mga kasamahan.

Kulang po ang mga salita para pasalamatan kayong lahat."

Concepcion emphasizes that in order for the economy to safely reopen and restart, mass testing must be done. "We are in a war with an invisible enemy. Gaining visibility is key to successfully overcoming this pandemic. Our goal at Project ARK is to bring testing to everybody.

"Just recently, President Duterte approved the move for some regions to shift from ECQ to Modified ECQ (MECQ), which is an improvement and it takes us one step closer to GCQ. To completely lift the lockdowns, however, we have to test, test, test! Massive testing, tracing and isolation of affected individuals is key to reopening the economy.

With this, we can reinstate public confidence."

"I hope that more businesses will be allowed to operate under the MECQ. Congress has already proposed a very generous stimulus package, but we must go back to the 'real normal' of helping our people by bringing back jobs and livelihoods.

The task of balancing buhay and kabuhayan is very challenging. Though we cannot achieve that perfect balance, we must strive to save as many lives and livelihoods as possible," he adds.

Project ARK - an initiative led by Concepcion that bands together the biggest economic players and business conglomerates in the country - aims to ramp up



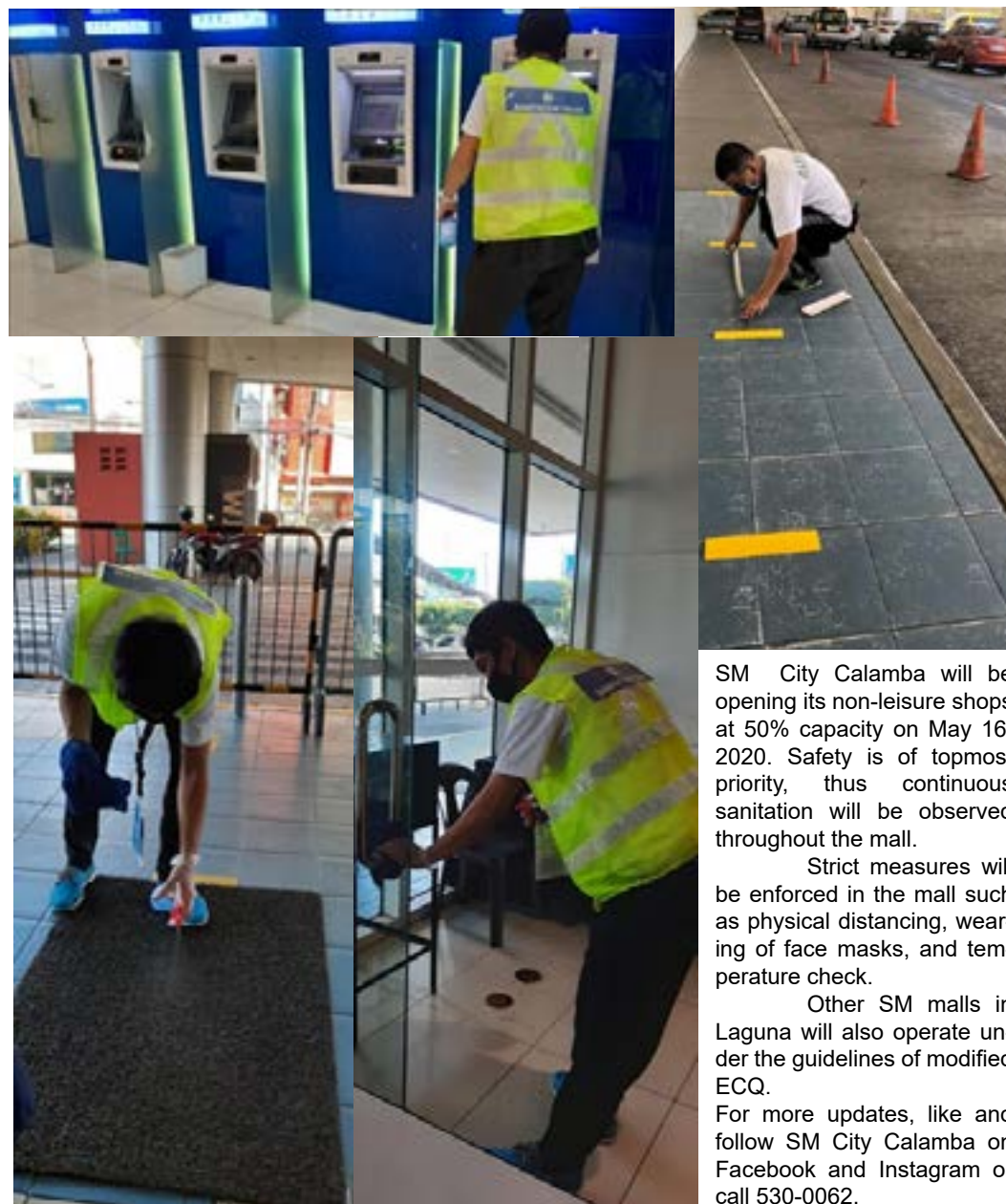
mass testing in the country. With the data collected from these efforts, the government and different industries can gain a better visibility of the enemy and develop better strategies to combat the virus.

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, the project has generated 1,021,293 rapid test kits from 186 companies. Of these test kits, 880,693 will be used by partner companies, while 140,600 will go to barangay donations. Project ARK is working with LGUs such as Pasig, Taguig, Quezon City, and Makati to bring mass testing down to the community level. (GO NEGOSYO PR)

SM City Calamba prepares to reopen its doors to mall goers



SM City Calamba will be opening its non-leisure shops at 50% capacity on May 16, 2020. Safety is of topmost priority, thus continuous sanitation will be observed throughout the mall.

Strict measures will be enforced in the mall such as physical distancing, wearing of face masks, and temperature check.

Other SM malls in Laguna will also operate under the guidelines of modified ECQ.

For more updates, like and follow SM City Calamba on Facebook and Instagram or call 530-0062.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM SM CENTER IMUS!



Congratulations to KENT MELVIN MIRANDA for winning our Food Styling Challenge. Send us a PM for details on how to claim your prize. #CelebrateMomsDayWithSM #WeGotYouMOM

