

Companies lose P700B on lockdown



BUSINESSES have suffered about P700 billion in revenue losses so far as strict lockdown measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) forced companies to halt operations since mid-March, the National Economic and Development

Authority (NEDA) said on Thursday.

“Based on the surveys we gathered, the effect of COVID-19, primarily because of the ECQ (enhanced community quarantine), is some P700 billion,” NEDA Acting Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua said at a Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (FOCAP) online briefing.

NEDA has conducted three surveys with about 44,000 total responses. The surveys assessed the impact of the pandemic and ECQ on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); agriculture and fisheries; and consumers.

N E D A Undersecretary Rosemarie G. Edillon in a mobile phone message said the P700-billion losses were from businesses including those in the agriculture sector.

Mr. Chua said the NEDA is preparing more surveys that will assess the impact of the coronavirus crisis on larger enterprises.

NEDA has yet to release the official survey results.

Based on the country’s P18.6-trillion gross domestic product (GDP), Mr. Chua estimated that the economy stands to

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GOVERNMENT EYES TO RESTORE 1-M LOST JOBS IN 'POST-COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN'

MANILA, Philippines — As the economy slowly reopens starting Friday, the Duterte administration has also begun crafting a P25-billion job restoration program which aims to revive 1 million jobs displaced by the coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The “recovery plan,” Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said on Thursday, will be targeted on workers in the provinces as part of the government’s “Balik-Probinsya program” aimed at encouraging people to relocate outside the capital to decongest Metro Manila.

“The focus of the program will be restoration of



lost jobs first, before creation of new ones,” Marianito Roque, former labor chief serving as special consultant to Bello, said in an online briefing.

As it is however, the program is already looking insufficient to help all displaced employees by the out-

break and the local and national lockdowns that shuttered businesses. Labor data showed a total of 2.3 million workers let out of their jobs as of Tuesday, although not all of them are seen to remain jobless after the pandemic.

Under the program,
See Page 7...

Gov’t eyes 30,000 tests a day by end-May with 4 mega swabbing centers planned for Mega Manila



The Philippine government is set to put up four mega swabbing centers across Mega Manila to expand the country’s testing capacity amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

According to a 24 Oras report by Ian Cruz on Thursday, the swabbing centers will be located at the Philippine Sports Stadium in Bulacan (North sector), Mall

City (East sector), and Palacio Tent in Roxas Boulevard (West sector).

Mega Manila includes Metro Manila and the regions of Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Mimaropa.

“Magkakaroon po tayo ng tinatawag na massive swabbing kasi ang gagawin po natin ‘yong ating of Asia Arena in Pasay City (South sector), Enderun Tent McKinley Hill in Taguig

mga laboratories ay minomodernize natin kasama po ang Philippine Red Cross para magkaroon po tayo ng testing capacity na 10,000 and later on by May 15, 15,000, then May 30, 30,000,” Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr. said.

“Through the help of the Department of Transportation, ‘yong mga kababayan natin ay dadalhin through buses dito sa mga mega swabbing center na ito para sila’y mai-swab at ipapadala ‘yong mga specimen nila sa ating mga testing labs,” Bases Conversion and Development Authority president Vince Dizon added.

Aside from the national government’s 19 COVID-19 testing laboratories, eight private laboratories are expected to be used by the end of May.

DOST TO TEST VIRGIN COCONUT OIL ON COVID-19 PATIENTS

Patients are being selected for the clinical trial of virgin coconut oil (VCO) as treatment for new coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Science Secretary Fortunato de la Peña said on Thursday.

De la Peña said that following the ethics board approval of the trial, the personnel of Santa Rosa Community Hospital underwent training for the endeavor while agreements were drawn up with the Santa Rosa local government and other parties involved.

The enrollment of patients for the 28-day trial in Santa Rosa City, Laguna province, is also under way, he said in the televised news briefing.

45 patients



The trial will involve 45 patients, including suspected cases where the patients are showing symptoms of COVID-19, the severe respiratory disease caused by the new coronavirus.

Another 45 will serve as the control group, or those who will not be given virgin coconut oil, De la Peña said.

The Food and Nutri-

tion Institute will provide the meals for the patients, while the Philippine Coconut Authority will supply the unbranded VCO, aside from helping fund the research. The meals of those enrolled in the trial will be mixed with three tablespoons of VCO, De la Peña said.

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COCONUT OIL.....

He said he expected the University of the Philippines (UP) Manila's ethics board to approve similar trials for the UP-Philippine General Hospital before Monday.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), De la Peña said, had also sent samples of the derivatives of the coconut oil to a laboratory abroad that has a collection of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. "We need to see if, in vitro trials, the materials we sent would have a strong effect and would weaken the [effectiveness] of the virus," he said.

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bling to find a vaccine for COVID-19, which has downed more than 3.19 million people in the world and killed over 226,000 of them.

276 new cases

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier offered a P50-million reward to Filipino scientists who would be able to develop a vaccine for the disease.

On Thursday, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 276 new coronavirus cases, raising the total to 8,488. It said 20 more patients had recovered, boosting the number of survivors to 1,043. But 10 more patients had died, bringing the toll to 568.

Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said coronavirus cases would rise in coming days as the DOH expanded its testing capacity. "We are doing expanded testing already in different areas of the country and we expect the numbers to increase because we de-

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tect more cases," Vergeire said in an online briefing.

Currently, the DOH has testing capacity of 6,300 tests a day.

It had aimed to raise that capacity to 8,000 by April 30, but failed. Vergeire, however, said the DOH would press to meet that target.

"I figure that the works will also be limited to manual labor so basically restricted to clean up/ de-clogging of drainage facilities, waterways and clearing metro streets with obstructions," Paulino told Philstar.com in a text message.

Be that as it may, Bello said the labor agency is prepared to pay the workers for three to four months equivalent to the "median" range of present minimum wages which will still be computed. Projects whose manpower will be augmented are also currently being determined with public works officials.

"We have to work with other departments... Also, there should be local recruitment through the LGUs (local government units)," Roque said.

The recovery plan is still also subject to approval by the interagency task force on emerging infectious diseases, which acts as the state policymaking body during the outbreak.

Immediate relief

So far, Bello said his agency has been focused on providing immediate relief assistance to workers through lump-sum cash aid. This includes the COVID-19 Adjustment Program, which has so far assisted "more than 400,000 workers", with "over 200,000" still awaiting aid. Earlier, the agency said about 650,000 will be assisted by CAMP.

For displaced migrant workers, Bello said about 150,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) would be assisted through the department's cumulative budget of P1.5 billion. On Wednesday, it was said around 70,000 had been subsidized, but Bello said there are already "300,000 plus" OFWs needing assistance.

"We will try our best to ask for additional funds but if that will not be granted, then we cannot do anything. Our funds are only limited," Bello said.

Informal workers are likewise getting aid through the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers where new funding of P1.5 billion was announced to help an additional 200,000 workers.

LOST JOBS.....from page 1....

Roque said employees of micro-, small- and medium- enterprises (MSMEs) will be prioritized for relocation to construction of public infrastructure projects expected to go in full-blast after the outbreak response.

MSMEs, including sari-sari stores and community pharmacies among others, account for 98% of to-

tal firms in the country, and employ a huge chunk of the labor force.

In particular, Bello said he will ask the public works department to "increase the manpower" on each state projects by "at least 10-20%", which will be done by ditching common machineries in construction and putting more people in

their place. This early however, Ibarra Paulino, executive director at Philippine Constructors Association, an industry group whose members claim to account for 80% of state projects, said the plan would likely go against social distancing measures foreseen to stay in place for months after the lockdown.

Ang pinaka-healthy na pagkaing Pinoy

Payo ni Doc Willie Ong

ALAM n'yo ba kung ano ang 10 pinakamasustansyang pagkain na mabuti sa ating kalusugan? Alam n'yo ba kung ano ang pinaka-healthy na pagkaing ginawa ng Diyos para sa tao? Hindi ko na kayo pasasabikin, heto ang unang parte ng aking listahan.

1. Maberde ng mga gulay – Ang gulay tulad ng repolyo, pechay, kangkong, spinach at iba pang mga talbos ay napakahalaga sa katawan. Sagana ito sa vitamins, minerals at iba pang healthy na kemikal. Kapag mahilig ka sa gulay, tingin ko ay puwede ka nang hindi mag-vitamins. Tipid pa! Ang gulay ay maganda rin sa maraming sakit tulad ng sakit sa puso, diabetes, sakit sa tiyan, pag-iwas sa colon cancer at iba pang kanser.

2. Matatabang isda – Ang mga oily na isda tulad ng salmon, tuna, mackerel at sardinas ay may Omega-3. Ang Omega-3 ay nag-aalaga ng puso, nagpapaiwas sa atake sa puso at istrok, at nagpapababa ng kolesterol sa katawan. Ang problema lang ay mahal ang mga isda na ito. Ayon sa pagsusuri, ang Omega-3 supplements tulad ng Vitahart ay punumpuno ng healthy na Omega-3.

3. Kamatis — Ang kamatis ay puno ng lycopene na tinatawag na anti-oxidants. Pang-alis ito ng dumi sa ating mga selula. Ang ketchup at tomato juice ay mainam din. Ang kamatis ay makatutulong din sa pag-iwas sa mga kanser.

4. Citrus fruits tulad ng calamansi, suha at dalan-dan — Masustansya ang mga prutas na ito dahil may Vitamin C. Ang Vitamin C ay panlaban sa mga sakit tulad ng sipon, hika, at arthritis.

5. Carrots — May naniniwala na ang carrots ay pan-laban sa kanser. Ito rin ay may Vitamin A na mabuti sa ating mga mata. Isa pa, nakakapayat ito dahil 35 calories lang ang kalaha-ting tasa ng carrots. Kaya turuan natin ang ating mga anak na kumain ng carrots.

6. Saging — Ito ang pi-na-ka-healthy na prutas para sa akin. Puwede itong ga-mot sa ulcer at panga-nga-sim ng sikmura. Ito'y dahil nata-tapalan ng saging ang mga sugat sa tiyan. Mabuti rin ito sa mga nag-tatae.

Ang saging ay lunas din sa mga nanghihina at may cramps dahil marami itong potassium. Kung lagi kayong pawisin at gusto ni-yong lumakas, mag-saging ka. Nakita n'yo na ba si Roger Federer, ang tanyag na tennis player? Kumakain siya ng saging sa gitna ng kanyang laban. Kailangan ni Federer ng lakas at sigla, at saging ang sagot.

Sa susunod, marami pang mga tips para sa mga heal-ty na pagkain.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All comments and opinions submitted by our contributing writers and herein published shall remain as personal opinion of our column writers. Viewliner shall not be held liable to any legal issues related to any commentaries that may appear herein.



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MEMBER

ERNA M. BALAGTAS
Publisher

DIOSAN MARUAL
KCEE NACION
Marketing & Circulation Manager

DIOSDADO ARIEL F. ALTO, JR.
Editor-In-Chief

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GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) Masaya ang buhay dahil sa favor na operational budget. Mabibili mo na ang pangangailangan, makakapag-save ka pa. Huwag lang makalimot na pasalamatan ang lahat ng tumulong sa'yo. Ingatan ang health. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 42, 51, 15, 33, 25 at mango orange.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) Ayusin ang gawain para mapanatiling nasa high quality ang products. Increasing ang income. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 25, 32, 46, 55, 11 at brandy yellow.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) Magiging maayos rin ang food business. Parami nang parami ang iyong customer. Masaya ang buhay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 32, 23, 12, 51 at scarlet red.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) Ang money making ideas ay magiging isang malaking negosyo. Mula rito ay marami pang business ang made-develop. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 25, 42, 33, 53, 12 at satin white.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) Ang iyong impulse na maglinis ng buhay ay magti-trigger ng progress movements sa iyong buhay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 42, 35, 53, 11, 22 at mocha brown.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21) Mararanasan ang financial freedom. Basta huwag magpabaya. Tigilan na ang sigarilyo at alak bago pa mapahamak. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 32, 45, 52, 11, 22 at cobalt blue.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) Sa mahinahon na paliwanag, magkaroon ng pagkakaunawaan, na magtatanggal sa hidwaan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 12, 52, 25, 36, 41 at bone brown.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) Merong matutuklasang business secret. Pero tiyakin na sa bawat hakbang ay walang pagsisihan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 42, 55, 35, 13, 21 at carrot orange.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) Kailangan na maging reasonable ang pag-gastos. Dahil bukod sa mahal ang bilingin, kaila-ngan mo magtipid. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 42, 13, 21, 22, 55 at cinnamon brown.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) Winner ka sa iyong educated emotional reactions. Naglalandas ang business opportunities. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 27, 12, 31, 52, 43 at cherry red.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) Excited ka sa iyong bagong negosyo. Increasing ang sales, kaya naman tataas din ang iyong kita. Keep it up! Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 12, 35, 21, 52, 46 at dollar green.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) Na-postpone ang appointment, pero blessing in disguise ito. Dahil darating ang taong magpapasaya sa iyo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 12, 35, 53, 45, 22 at cyan blue.

Companies lose P700B....

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lose about P1.1 trillion if the economy fails to grow this year.

In a March 19 report, NEDA estimated a cumulative loss of P428.7 billion to P1.35 trillion in gross value added (in current prices), equivalent to 2.1 to 6.6% of nominal gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

At that time, NEDA said a one-month lockdown in Luzon may result in a loss of gross value added of P298 billion to P1.1 trillion, and job losses of 61,000 to 1 million.

The one-and-a-half month Luzon-wide lockdown has brought over 70% of the Philippine economy to a standstill and forced many businesses to temporarily close or scale down. The strict lockdown was extended until May 15 in Metro Manila and other outbreak hotspots, while some provinces will gradually ease restrictions starting today (May 1).

Q1 GROWTH

Meanwhile, Mr. Chua said there is a "good potential" that the first-quarter GDP could post a growth.

However, downside risks may drag this to a lower-than-expected print largely due to "exogenous shocks" that happened in January-March, the NEDA chief added.

These "shocks" include the eruption of Taal Volcano in late January, the lockdown in China and travel bans that dampened trade and tourism, as well as the start of the Luzon-wide ECQ in mid-March.

"We have a good potential to see a positive growth [in the first quarter], but we shouldn't be surprised if the

numbers are not to our best favor," Mr. Chua said.

First-quarter GDP data will be released on May 7.

Mr. Chua sees the economy bouncing back in the second half as more parts of the country gradually ease lockdown restrictions to a general community quarantine (GCQ), where nonessential businesses can reopen provided they observe safety protocols.

"May 1, you will see many provinces transfer from the ECQ status to the GCQ status, that is I think a very clear indication that we are getting towards the end of the tunnel," he said.

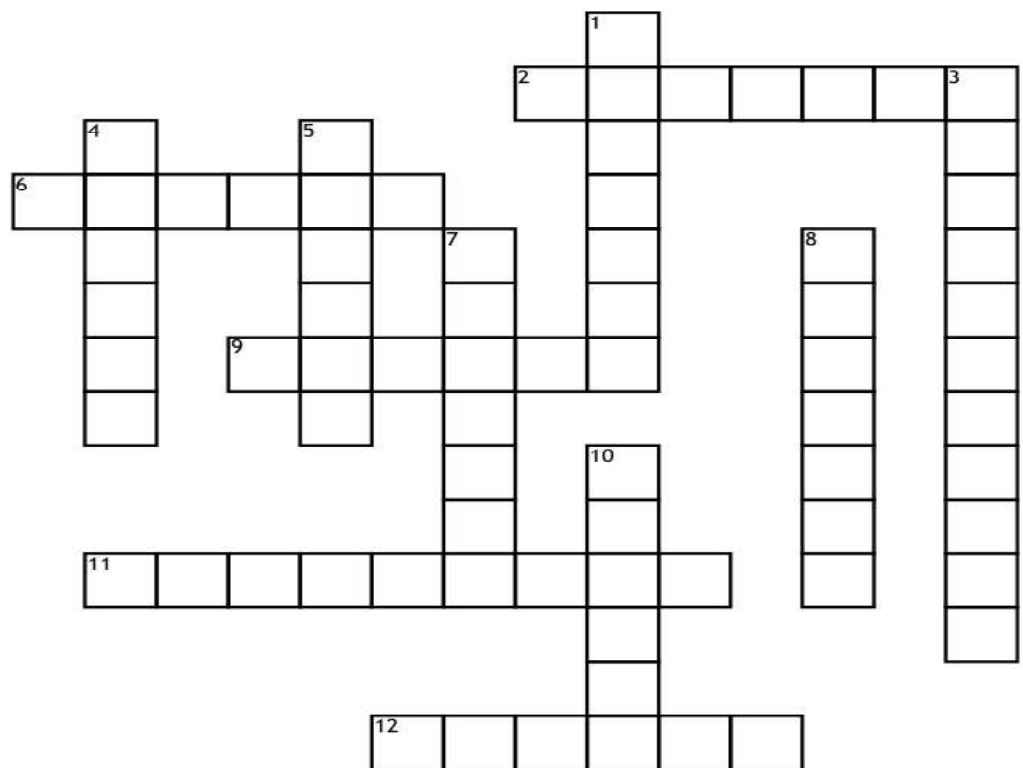
"I think there is a strong possibility of a rebound by June, so that we can begin with the recovery phase and we will prepare for that very well in the coming weeks," he added.

But Mr. Chua said the government will take a "very conservative and careful" approach in terms of opening up the economy to avoid a second wave of COVID-19 cases.

"We already know the regrets of some countries in the region and the world when they opened up too soon, so we would rather be conservative, and use this time wisely to prepare the health sector, flatten the curve and get ready. So when we do actually fully open up, we will never regret, and we will not see a spike or second wave [of infections]," he said.

Economic managers have said GDP growth may be flat this year at best, or contract by 1% at worst.

CROSSWORDS!!



Across

- 2. Persuading someone
- 6. He was quietly smoking his _____ on the porch.
- 9. Antonym of loud, lokingly
- 11. To be aggravated
- 12. A uniform worn by servants

Down

- 1. A servant who attends the door
- 3. Antonym of rude, unfriendly
- 4. His mother couldn't hear him because of his _____ voice.
- 5. Something to hold items

- 7. The British term for molasses
- 8. The duke asked the _____ to get the newspaper.
- 10. Lacking physical strength






Pinaalalahanan ni Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla ang mga kawani ng pamahalaang lungsod ukol sa tatlong


katangian ng isang mabuting public servant.

Aniya, "Unang M, masayahin. Ibig sabihin, laging nakangiti, bawal ang nakasimangot, may galak sa pagtulong at pagbigay ng suporta at ayuda sa ating mga constituents. Pangalawang M ay masipag. Ibig sabihin, lagi tayong handang maglingkod kahit pa nga beyond the call of duty, o kahit pagod na. Pangatlong M, mapagmalasakit. Ang ating paglilingkod bayan ay ginagawa natin hindi lamang bilang isang tungkulin o obligasyon kungdi bunga ng ating sinserong hangarin na makatulong at makapag-ambag sa pagpapagaan at pagpapabuti ng kalagayan sa buhay ng taumbayan na ating pinaglilingkuran."




PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE


**The VIRUS doesn't take a holiday.
Please observe safety protocols.**




WEAR MASK




WASH HANDS



SOCIAL DISTANCING



WEAR FACESHIELD



PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE
PROVINCIAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

ADVISORY!

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 46 – SERIES 2020


AN ORDER PROHIBITING THE CONDUCT OF CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND OTHER SIMILAR GATHERINGS BY ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, INCLUDING BARANGAYS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES/AGENCIES IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE DURING THE MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Sgd. JUANITO VICTOR C. REMULLA

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A reminder to protect ourselves from COVID-19 during the holiday seasons.



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Kabitenya

In God We Trust

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PIA CALABARZON earns PRAISE 2020 digital, finance awards

By Patricia T. Bermudez

CALAMBA CITY, (PIA)—In a virtual ceremony of this year’s Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Awards, the Philippine Information Agency – Calabarzon (PIA 4-A) has proven that times of uncertainties and difficulties is not a hindrance in providing timely, accurate and relevant information to the community.

The PRAISE Awards, which recognizes employees who showed hard work and dedication to the agency, also commended PIA 4-A for exemplifying accountability and responsibility, in a bid to fulfill its mandate.

CALABARZON swept various accolades, ranging from digitization and financial management during the recently held PRAISE Awards.

This year, the agency owed its Digital Innovation Award to its strengthened social media

platforms, which provides easy to understand community updates, straight from the local government.

Meanwhile, outstanding employees such as Administrative Assistant Cecilia Maloles - who was this year’s MASINOP Awardee for effectively managing the agency’s finances- and photojournalist and Public Information Assistant Shimie Taclino- who nominated for the Best Online Photo- were also recognized for their work and dedication to the

agency.

“The awards received by PIA Calabarzon, whether individually or as a group, are testaments of dedication by its personnel in its mandate to provide timely, accurate and relevant information to the communities we serve.” Regional Director Ma. Cristina Arzadon wrote in her yearend message.

She continues, “It is comforting that after nine long months of restricted movements, we remain standing and in the company of our colleagues, friends, families, loved ones, pets included.”

Next year, PIA Calabarzon is looking to further strengthening its digital presence next year. (PB)




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