



Cavite LGUs roll out BOSS for FY 2021 amid COVID-19 pandemic

By Ruel B. Francisco

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) - The local government units of the cities and municipalities in the province commenced the processing of the application of new and renewal of business permits and other transactions of government services thru their Business One Stop Shop (BOSS).

As directed by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) the BOSS established by the LGUs aims to provide frontline services and assist those who wish to apply for building permits and certificates of occupancy thereby easing bureaucratic red tape.

Starting their operations on Monday, January 4, 2021, the City Government of Trece Martires and the municipalities of Carmona, Indang, and Mendez-Nuñez started facilitating these services for a period of three weeks until January 20.

Other municipalities like the Gen. Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Alfonso, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo-Bailen started later on January 5 & 6 while the LGU Noveleta starts January 11 with applications accepted until February 15, 2021.

Doing business

in this time of pandemic, the number of applications accepted are limited to as many as 150 persons per day for the BPLO (Business Permits and Licensing Office) - Trece Martires, while the satellite BOSS of the Gen. Trias only accepts up to 180 persons on a first come first served basis with the venue located at the 3rd floor of Robinson's Place in the city that is big and comfortable enough to allow the observance of physical distancing.

Meanwhile, the City Government of Imus started as early as Sunday, January 3, 2021 and requires an online assessment for the renewal of business permits with the Imus BOSS located at the Imus Sports Complex.

The City Government of Bacoor's online registration starts with the

creation of an account in the boss.bacoor.gov.ph website to be able to set an appointment.

Also, to help the Bacooreños, the LGU extended the granting of 20% discount on the payment of current Real Property Taxes (RPT) with payment accepted until March 31, 2021, and had also announced the granting of amnesty to owners of real property for payment of interests and penalties for delinquent payees of RPT for taxable year 2019 and prior years.

The officials of the LGUs encourage all their resident constituents to be prompt with their payments to avoid incurring penalties and to avail of the discounts extended by the LGU as incentive for their cooperation, as well as for the processing of business permits and licenses to legalize their business operations to contribute to the economic recovery of the province and the whole country as well. (Ruel Francisco with reports from respective LGU FB pages)

Senators urged to keep an open mind on economic reforms

MANILA – The chairman of the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments on Monday urged senators to keep an open mind in the proposed amendments to certain economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution to attract foreign investments.



In a statement, Ako Bicol Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr. said the economic amendments are long overdue, noting that it would improve the investment climate and generate much-needed jobs to counteract the economic contraction caused by the pandemic.

He said the introduction of the phrase "unless otherwise provided by law" in the restrictive economic provisions would give Congress the flexibility and leeway to alter the restrictions when the economic situation requires it.

"For the first time in the 33-year history of our Constitution, we in the House see that economic Cha-cha can succeed if only our counterparts in the Senate will keep an open mind on it and agree to consider relevant proposals from us

and their own colleagues," he said.

Garbin allayed the fears of some senators that agreeing to economic Cha-cha might open the Charter to wholesale amendments that could lead to extending the term of office of incumbent elective officials and lifting of the term limits.

"We are not proposing to open the basic law of the land to revisions. We want to limit ourselves to provisions relating to the economy and national patrimony. We will not touch the political sections of the Charter," he said.

Garbin stressed that Speaker Lord Allan Velasco himself has committed that the House would confine itself to amending certain economic provisions in the Charter. "The Speaker's assurance will serve as our word (SEE page 7)

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Ni: George Arce

MGA PUNONG BARANGAY, KINAKALAMPAG NG MGA TAONG HINDI PA NAKATATANGGAP NG 2ND WAVE NG SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM

Hello po mga ka-barangay! Kumusta po ang isang linggong nagdaan sa inyong buhay? Alam po namin na ang ilan sa inyo, hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin nakatatanggap ng 2nd wave ng SAP o Social Amelioration Program ng DSWD. Ano nga ba ang nangyari? Lyon po ang ating tatalakayin ngayon. Dahil sa muling pag-ikot ng inyong lingkod sa kung saan-saang barangay ay ang SAP ang nagiging sentro ng usapan. Sa nagdaang linggo bago mag-bagong taon ay marami ang nakapansin na pila-pila ang mga tao sa Palawan at M-Lhuiller. Marami talagang nagtaka kaya't inalam nila kung ano ba ito at doon nalaman na SAP na pala ang mga kinukuha nila kaya't kinalampag na ng mga tao ang kani-kaniyang punong barangay at nagtanong kung bakit sila ay hanggang ngayon ay wala pa ring natatanggap na 2nd wave ng SAP. Marami ang nagtungo sa DSWD-NCR at nagtanong ukol dito.

Ngayong 2021, balitang tuluy-tuloy pa rin daw ang pagbibigay ng 2nd wave ng SAP. Hintayin lamang daw ang text ng Palawan o M-Lhuiller. May aasahan pa raw ba ang mga tao na hindi pa nakatatanggap nito? Ano raw ba talaga ang dapat nilang gawin upang makuha nila ang bigay sa kanila ng gobyerno dahil sa pandemiya? Dapat daw ay sabihin na ng DSWD kung paano nila makukuha ang kanilang SAP upang magamit nila ito para sa kanilang pamilya.

Sa totoo lang, dapat ay last year pa nila ito naibigay sa mga tao dahil ang alam ng Pangulong Duterte ay natanggap na ng mga tao ang 2nd wave ng SAP. Sa 1st wave kasi ay marami pang hindi nakakakuha. Ano ba talaga ang tunay na nangyayari at bakit hanggang ngayon ay hindi nila natatanggap ang kanilang SAP? Totoo kaya ang haka-haka na talagang may nangyayari na anomalya sa pagbibigay ng SAP sa taumbayan?

Kung tutuusin, madali lang magbigay ng SAP. Idaan lang mismo ng mga taga-DSWD sa barangay upang personal itong iabot sa taumbayan. Huwag na padaanin pa sa punong barangay. Napakaraming social worker ang DSWD na puwedeng gamitin sa pamamahagi ng SAP. Bakit hindi nila ito gawin upang mapadali ang pagbibigay ng SAP? O baka naman totoo na talagang may magic na nangyayari diyan sa DSWD kaya ang pamamahagi ay mayroong problema. Sana naman bago matapos ang buwan ng Enero ay matanggap na ng taumbayan ang kanilang SAP.

Kapag pera talaga ang pag-uusapan, gobyerno man o hindi, talagang nagkakaroon ng magic. Sana naman ay matauhan kayo dahil marami ang naghihirap at umaasa sa bigay ng gobyerno. Sabagay, ang mga taong gumagawa ng masama sa kapwa ay may Karma. Kaya mga kababayan, abangan na lamang po natin kung darating ngayong Enero ang inaasahan ninyong SAP.

**(Kung may katanungan o komento,
mag-text po lamang sa 0961-063-9368)**

DOT to hotels: Cater to tourists or operate as isolation facility

By Rey Anthony H. Chiu

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol, (PIA) -- According to the Department of Tourism (DOT), under the Modified General Community Quarantine or General Community Quarantine, accommodation establishments can either operate as isolation facilities or as leisure stay, but not at the same time.

In an advisory on monitoring of accommodation establishments operating for quarantine and leisure purposes, DOT-7 Regional Director Shahlimar Hofer Tamano said "we urge you to choose between continuing to operate as quarantine or isolation facility or provide accommodation for business and leisure or staycation purposes."

At the beginning of the quarantine, local authorities tapped accommodation establishments that closed due to the pandemic to open as isolation or quarantine facilities for Returning Overseas Filipinos (ROFs) or as quarters for healthcare workers and medical frontliners.

Accommodation establishments offered to convert their leisure facilities to cater to the ROFs through the government repatriation program for locally stranded individuals who opt to spend their isolation in hotels and for authorized persons outside residence during their mandatory quarantine procedures.

But as the country continues to ease up on the stringent policies, the DOT allowed the accommodation establishments in MGCQ and GCQ areas to open at full operational capacity, subject to the hotel management's decision and compliance with the safety guidelines.

DOT stressed that hotels and other accommodation establishments still cannot operate for staycation and temporary quarantine facility at the

same time amid the health risks.

For added safety and security, DOT reminded these facilities operating under MGC as quarantine or isolation facilities for ROFs or as quarters for healthcare workers that they are prohibited from providing accommodation to guests for business and leisure purposes.

As stated in the DOT Administrative Order (AO) No. 2020-006, the only hotels that can accommodate guests for staycations are those that are not concurrently being used as quarantine or isolation facilities for repatriated OFWs or ROFs or as quarters for healthcare workers.

In the same AO, DOT defines staycations as referring to an activity involving a minimum of an overnight stay for leisure purposes in an accommodation establishment that is not utilized as a mandatory COVID-19 quarantine facility.

To be able to operate as accommodation establishments catering to business and leisure, they have to obtain from the DOT Certificates of Authority to Operate for Staycations (CAOS). (rahc/PIA-7/Bohol)



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KUTOB NG KAPALARAN

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) Palagingisaisipna good energies angdapatnamangibabaw. Dahilitoangaakitngmagandangtransksiyonparasaiyong business. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 15, 51, 25, 32 at tulip pink.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) Manatilingmasaya at taglayinangpositibongpag-iisip, paraitorinanglumabassalahatngiyonggawain. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 32, 11, 51, 42 at turmeric yellow.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) Ang vibration ng happiness ay magpapalitawng money flow. Kaya make a good choice paratuloy-tuloyangdaloyrito. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 35, 53, 13, 25 at cyan blue.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) Anglahatnghina-hangad ay hindiimposiblengmakamtan, dahilsataglaynapagsisikap. Sinupinangiyongkita. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 15, 51, 33, 25, 42 at pearl white.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) Unangmahalinangsarili, paramagawamorinitosaiyongkapwa. Pakawalananganumanghinanakit. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 36, 44, 23, 45, 33 at fuchsia pink.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21) Mag-focus sapangarap. Planuhinanghakangparamaisakatuparanito at ma-enjoy angbuhay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 32, 41, 15, 51 at emerald green.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) Sa udyokngkalooban, bigyanng action angmgabinabalak. Dahil progressive abundance angmatatamomularito. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 412, 15, 25, 41, 41 at cyan blue.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) Piliinangmgabagaynamagpapasayasa'yo. Mag-focus saiyong imagination at iwasanangmagingemosyonal. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 55, 31, 12, 25, 43 at cobalt blue.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) Anglahatng wish ay mangyayari. Feeling good kasabuongarawdahilmakukumpletomoangiyongpagpapahinga. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 52, 46, 11, 21, 32 at vanilla brown.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) Sa low of attraction, pinakamatindiangnasaisip. Lilitawangpagka-eksperyensiyadosaiyongkarera. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 53, 22, 11, 43, 35 at crimson red.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) Ang focus mo ay nasakatuparanngiyongmgalayunin. Kaya hindiimposiblengmaabotmoangtagumpay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 53, 35, 13, 42, 25 at ube purple.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) Huwagiisantabiangpagpapahalagasakalusugan. Dalasanangpag-ngiti o magingmasayakahit may pinagdaraan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 53, 11, 42, 25, 35 at shocking pink.

PH signs deal to secure 30M doses of Covovax

MANILA – The Philippine government, represented by vaccine czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr., Serum Institute of India (SII), and Faberco Life Sciences, Inc. signed a term sheet on Saturday to secure 30 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine Covovax that will be available starting third quarter of this year.

“This is a significant milestone in relations between India and the Philippines. It shows that we don’t have to look far beyond Philippine shores to find friends who are willing to help each other out,” said Kishore Hemlani, founder of Faberco Life Sciences Inc., SII’s Philippine partner, after the signing with Galvez.

SII, the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer, partnered with Novavax, a US-based biotechnology company for the development and commercialization of the Covovax vaccine.

The vaccine has the recombinant coronavirus spike protein nanoparticle and a Novavax-patented Matrix-M adjuvant to enhance the immune response and stimulate high levels of neutralizing antibodies.

Covovax is in third-stage trials and expected to be approved for use by international regulators.

“The vaccine will be used to vaccinate 15 million vulnerable and poor Filipinos. The vaccine is stable at 2°C to 8°C, the standard temperature that is within the existing cold chain system in the Philippines, thus allowing its distribution to the remotest barangays,” said Faberco Life Sciences medical director Luningning Villa.

The candidate vaccine is thoroughly evaluated in different geographies, various age groups, groups that are most affected by Covid-19, including people living with HIV, and racial and ethnic minorities.

The clinical trials involve a sizeable population of around 50,000 subjects to ensure extreme robust



TERM SHEET. National Task Force on Covid-19 chief implementer and vaccine czar, Sec. Carlito Galvez Jr., and Faberco Life Sciences, Inc. founder Kishore Hemlani show the term sheet for 30 million doses of the Covovax vaccine on Saturday (Jan. 9, 2021). Covovax is expected to be approved for use by international regulators. (Contributed photo)

clinical data prior to approval by relevant regulatory bodies including the World Health Organization.

The vaccine underwent the initial phase of the clinical trials in Australia, South Africa and India.

Phase three trial is currently carried out in the United Kingdom with 15,000 subjects and also ongoing in the United States and Mexico with 30,000 subjects.

The price of the vac-

cine is expected to be finalized soon between the government and SII, which is noted for providing effective, safe and affordable vaccines across the globe through the decades.

Faberco Life Sciences, Inc., is also SII’s partner for key programs in the country such as the inactivated polio vaccine, rotavirus vaccine, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, aside from the Covid-19 vaccine. (PR)



Go to prioritize bills deferring PhilHealth contribution hike

MANILA – Senator Christopher “Bong” Go on Wednesday vowed to prioritize measures amending the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act and its implementing rules and regulations, particularly the scheduled increase in the contribution rates of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) this year.

In a statement, Go said he would act on the legislation “as soon as possible” once they are referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, which he chairs.

“Once these proposed measures are referred to the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, I, as chair, will act on these as soon as possible. Senate President (Vicente) Sotto also identified the proposed measures to defer the increase in PhilHealth contribution rates this year as a priority,” he said.

Go said he has discussed with

Duterte the plan to suspend PhilHealth’s collection of higher contributions, which the former supported.

“Sinabi niya na kung may maipapasang batas ang Lehislatibo na naglalayong ipatupad ang deferment, o kung may kailangang aprubahan na dagdag na pondo mula gobyerno para hindi maantala ang serbisyo ng PhilHealth, pipirmahan niya ito pagkatapos mapagaralan ng mabuti (He said if the legislative body passes a law that seeks to implement the deferment, or if there is a need to approve additional funding from the government so as not to delay PhilHealth’s service, he would sign it after careful study),” he said.

Go assured that the government would see to it that PhilHealth services would not be hampered despite the contribution hike deferment.

“Base rin sa pag-uusap namin ni Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado at PhilHealth CEO Dante Gierran, ginagawan na rin ng paraan upang masigurong hindi apektado ang mga serbisyo ng PhilHealth kapag naisabatas na ang pag-defer ng pagsingil ng dagdag na kontribusyon (Based on our talks with Budget Secretary Wendel Avisado and

PhilHealth CEO Dante Gierran, a way is being made to ensure that PhilHealth services are not affected once the deferral of additional contribution billing is enacted),” he said.

Go also said his committee would prioritize efforts to reorganize PhilHealth and review Republic Act 11223 or the UHC Act.

Meanwhile, he guaranteed that public funds would be spent correctly.

“Habang ginagawan ng paraan na magkaroon ng sapat na pondo ang PhilHealth, sisiguraduhin rin natin na hindi mananakaw ang pera ng bayan at maisaayos dapat ang serbisyo sa taumbayan, lalo na sa panahon ng kanilang pangangailangan (While efforts are being made to give PhilHealth adequate funding, we will also ensure that the people’s money would not be stolen and that service to the people would be improved, especially in times of need),” Go said.

Instead of imposing an additional burden on Filipinos, PhilHealth officials should also work on regaining public trust in the state insurer, he said.

“Ang dagdag na bayarin ang mas lalong nagpapahirap sa mga

Pilipino sa ngayon. Kung meron mang dapat dagdagan, iyon ay ang tiwala ng taumbayan sa PhilHealth. Kung malinis diyan at walang magnanakaw, hindi magkukulang ang pondo at



mas masisigurong ang bawat piso ay makakabenepisyo sa bawat Pilipino (These additional payments are making it even more difficult for Filipinos today. If anything is to be added, it should be the people’s trust in PhilHealth. If it is clean and free from thieves, there would be no shortage of funds and it is more certain that every peso would benefit each Filipino),” Go said.

In a taped speech late Monday night, Duterte ordered PhilHealth to defer the scheduled increase in the contribution rates this year to reduce the burden of Filipinos affected by the quarantine restrictions imposed to contain the pandemic.

PhilHealth earlier announced its plan to push through with the collection of higher monthly premiums, which will increase by 0.5 percent in the new year.

The present contribution is 3 percent of monthly income.

Under the UHC law, those who have a monthly basic salary of PHP10,000 and below will have a fixed contribution of PHP350 a month starting January 2021.

Those earning PHP10,000.01 to PHP69,999.99 have a monthly premium of PHP350 to PHP2,449.99,

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DOST chief confident on FDA's say on Covid-19 vaccines

MANILA – Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato de la Peña expressed confidence in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) decision to approve the appropriate Covid-19 vaccine candidates in the country.

He said this amid the public's concern on Sinopharm vaccine, which was reported to cause more than 70 side effects.

"Hindi naman siguro bibigyan ng go-signal ng FDA kung hindi s'ya karapat-dapat (The FDA will not give this a go-signal if this is not worthy)," he said during the Laging Handa

public briefing.

The DOST chief said vaccination would give confidence to the public that a person would not be contagious.

At least 60 percent of the population must be inoculated to achieve a herd immunity, he said.

In the same briefing, DOST Undersecretary Leah Buendia said Sinopharm is yet to decide whether it will conduct a clinical trial in the Philippines, or if it will apply for emergency use authorization (EUA).

"Hindi pa final (It is not yet final) as of the moment," she said. (PNA)

Miss Flawless

for

FLAWLESS FRESH FRAGRANCE

Perfume

"FLAWLESS sa BANGO. Bangong SOSYAL. Masang PRESYO"

MS. ANGELICA JONES ALARVA

Actress/Public Servant

while those earning PHP70,000 and higher per month will pay a fixed rate of PHP2,450 monthly.

The premium rate shall increase every year starting 2021 until it reaches 5 percent in 2025. (PNA)

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