

# PLEDS Cluster lays out counter-CTG plans towards a safer Cavite

The Peace, Law Enforcement and Development Support (PLEDS) Cluster of the Cavite Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (TF-ELCAC) convened its first meeting on February 26, 2020 at Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Cavite Provincial Police Office in the City of Imus to formulate plans and programs that will promote peace, security and public safety in line with the vision of a safer Cavite.

COL Alex S Rillera, Commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Philippine Army, and chair of the PLEDS Cluster called the meeting which was participated by the different units of Cavite Provincial Police Office headed by Provincial Director PCOL Marlon Santos, the 730th Combat Group of the Philippine Airforce under LTC Caesar Lubaton, the National Bureau of Investigation-Cavite with Mr. Arnold Lazaro and the Provincial Information and Community Affairs Department thru its Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Evelyn Reyes.

DILG-Cavite Provincial Director Lionel Dalope facilitated the meeting where updates on the activities of the AFP and the PNP against communist-terrorist groups (CTGs) were reported. Among these are the continuous awareness symposium for the youth, students and the labor sectors, coordination meetings, information campaigns and other related activities that address issues being exploited by the CTGs in their deceptive recruit-



ment scheme to the vulnerable groups of society. PMAJ Jonathan Asnan of Cavite PPO shared that the efforts in strengthening of Task Force ELCAC from the national down to the barangays have resulted to the activation of TF-ELCAC in all the 23 cities/municipalities in Cavite while 782 barangays have declared the CPP-NPA as Persona Non-Grata in contribution to the whole of nation approach to attaining sustainable peace.

CPT Eduardo Marasigan of the 202ndIB presented the proposed action plan of the Cavite PLEDS cluster to delegitimize and defeat CTGs and promote peace and public safety through

joint inter-agency operation approach. Aside from intensifying information campaigns on the evils of communism, legal offensives, Serbisyo Caravan and capacity-development initiatives, the cluster will tap partners

in the academe, other line agencies and local leaders to reach more sectors and communities in Cavite especially the youth and students who are the more vulnerable group in CTG propaganda.

In closing, Col. Rillera enjoined the participation and support and of all the members of the PLEDS cluster in order to successfully implement the planned activities pursuant to Executive Order No. 70.

Source: Provincial Information and Community Affairs Department



## Duterte set to issue new EO on Covid-19 Monday

MANILA – Malacañang on Sunday said President Rodrigo Duterte will be releasing an executive order to strengthen public health response after the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the first case of local transmission of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in the country.

“I will release the executive order tomorrow [on Monday] at the press briefing,” Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo said in an interview over DZIQ after Duterte approved the DOH recommendation to declare a state of public health emergency amid the surge in Covid-19 cases in the country.

He assured that government is ready to respond to any eventuality, stressing that the DOH has already called on Congress to approve the over PHP2-billion proposed supplemental budget to prevent the spread of the deadly disease.

“Nire-ready na ‘yun (It is being readied),” he said.

In a separate statement, Senator Sonny Angara, chair of the Senate finance committee, assured that Congress is ready to augment funds in the government’s response to contain the spread of Covid-19.

“There are funds contained in the 2020 General Appropriations Act that can

be tapped for this purpose and if these are not enough then the DOH should say so,” he said.

Panelo said the government could also tap tax collections from Philippine offshore gaming operations (POGOs) to fund response efforts versus Covid-19.

“Lahat ‘yun puwede kasi (All of this is possible) supposed to be ang pera na nakukuha natin (the money we get), the government can use that in any undertaking,” he said.

To date, the Philippines has six confirmed cases of Covid-19.

The three new Covid-19 patients in the country



President Rodrigo R. Duterte

include the 48-year-old man who previously visited Japan, and a couple -- a 62-year-old man and a 59-year-old woman -- who both had no travel history abroad.

Won’t limit engagements

Despite the Covid-19 threat, Panelo said Duterte would not limit his public engagements.

“I don’t think so dahil marami pa siyang naka-schedule (because he a lot of engagements scheduled),” he said.

He said Duterte will also observe safety precaution see page 7)



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# Covid-19 should unify the world **Duterte set to issue.....**

AS the Covid-19 virus jumps vast distances and oceans to other continents, we see how other countries are adopting lessons from China's responses, including mass "lockdowns" and other preemptive moves. The effectiveness of China's response has resulted in a reduction of the Covid-19 crisis after just three short months, unlike past epidemics that took almost a year before subsiding.

In the midst of fears that Covid-19 is jumping across continents to the Middle East and Europe, WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus has said, "... it's impossible to predict which direction this epidemic will take" but added, "the steps China has taken to contain the outbreak at its source appears to have bought the world time."

Paraphrasing John Donne, the lesson that has been engraved into the minds of all peoples and governments' minds, is "No one among us, no country in the world, is an island entire of itself, every man and country is ... part of the main... We are involved in mankind, ... ask not for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for us all."

Philippines all the wiser

As the Covid-19 scare slowly lifts away from China to other countries with whom the Philippines has extensive travel and trade ties, such as, South Korea and Japan, the country faces the same question on whether to ban travel to these destinations.

We are glad to see that overreactions are beginning to be corrected and more measured responses being made. WHO praised the Philippines alongside China. After an initial blanket travel ban on South Korea, the Bureau of Immigration now says: "... the scenario is different from when the Philippines implemented restrictions on travel to and from China, Hong Kong, and Macau. This time, the ban is imposed only on selected parts of South Korea." Now we are seeing a much more intelligent and wiser reaction from Filipinos to the epidemic scare.

America's in fright and profit

Previous months of Covid-19 information splurge notwithstanding, America simply was neither listening nor preparing. When the first "community infection" arrived, in early February "the Center for Disease Control (CDC) sent testing kits to labs across the US, but a glitch in the kits made it unusable... There's so much backlog now..."

House Nancy Pelosi lashed out at President Donald Trump for his delayed response and criticized Trump's anti-Covid-19 emergency budget requests of \$ 2.5-billion as "inadequate" and "anemic." The CDC expressed the same sentiment, fearing the "Community Spread of Covid-19 in the US and warned that disruptions could be "severe." Despite these warnings, however, political infighting prevails.

When asked about vaccines in a House hearing, Health Secretary Alez Azar said, "We can't control that price because we need the private sector to invest..." One news report commented, "... the new coronavirus doesn't care about profit margins... that attitude doesn't just put the poor at risk... it puts everyone at risk."

In America profit is first, before public welfare. Thank goodness that was and is not the case in China. Will America learn from China?

China to help neighbors in Covid-19 fight

China Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijiang announced that China is ready to "boost cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea in fighting the novel coronavirus disease (COVID 19) and willing to provide support and aid to the two countries..." In the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, China-Japan relations have been described as a "honeymoon" period.

The same may also be said for Philippines and Chi-

nese relations. A Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held on February 20, 2020, and co-chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin, has issued a communique on cooperation on cross-border health security.

What is significant is Wang Yi's statement that "China and ASEAN are like members of a family with a shared future" (and) hence must work together. The global COVID 19 challenge highlights this call of the "Community of Shared Future for Mankind," a constant message of China's government.

America and virus of another form

While China's continued positive and constructive approach in cooperating with the World in dealing with the Covid-19 challenge is praised repeatedly by all members of the WHO, the American and the West's war virus continued to sow intrigue and demonization of China to undermine its international reputation and credibility.

Steve Bannon –once President Trump chief White House strategist and peddler of the new Cold War with the twist, "Committee on the Present Danger: China"- continues to tout that "Covid-19 is out of control in China" – despite WHO's announcement that the COVID 19 new infections in China are already in decline.

Even the Wall Street Journal was forced to retract its published article "Sick Man of Asia" on China when 53 of its own reporters and editors demanded that the Journal make an apology to China and change the title of the article. (See NYT, Feb. 22, 2020).

A Lancet medical journal letter that described horrible conditions in Wuhan hospitals, which was allegedly informed by two Chinese nurses, was also retracted failing to prove authenticity.

In the Philippines we see that same virus taking constant potshots at President Duterte for distancing the Philippines from the warmongering West and taking the non-aligned path with ASEAN. There remains constant sniping at long-dead issues of territorial rivalries despite the presence of ongoing dialogues to shore up the seas and resources that are plain for all to see.

World unified in efforts to develop vaccine

In a paradigm of global effort to solve a common problem, scientists of many nations are both collaborating and competing to find the vaccine for the Covid-19 disease in the fastest way possible.

Within hours of COVID 19 discovery, China was able to release the virus' genetic code for sharing with the global scientific community. Unlike previous outbreaks where vaccines took years to develop, we have now reports of COVID 19 vaccines that will be offered for human trials within months.

Such a mode of openness and cooperation conforms to China's "Community of Shared Future for Mankind." This openness is focusing global energies against existential threats, such as pandemics, other very real universal dangers of asteroids crashing into Earth, and tectonic, volcanic and tsunami extinction events. These do not exist only in the movies; they are very real.

Going with the 'Community of Shared Future'

Our World's experience with the Covid-19 reminds us of John Donne's poem which I paraphrase here, "No man or country is an island entire of itself; every man and country is a piece of the continent, a part of the main... and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for us."

Covid-19 may be a mutation of the H1N1 virus that spread in the US in 2009. After all, as reported by the National Centre for

tions such frequent handwashing and avoid crowded areas to ensure his good health.

There was no need to consider a lockdown of Malacañang Complex to undergo disinfection protocols, he said.

Earlier, the Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat said Duterte will be visiting Boracay on March 12 to join efforts in lifting the public's mood to travel around the Philippines.

Aside from promotions, the Chief Executive will also inspect what has been done on the island since it was rehabilitated.

School's discretion

Panelo said the Palace is leaving it to the discretion of private schools to suspend classes as part of efforts to contain the disease.

He said private schools have the authority to suspend classes and eventually reschedule makeup classes.

"Discretion sa kanila 'yan (That's their discretion). If they feel their schoolchildren are safe [that way], they can do that," he said.

However, he said he does not see a need for the national government to call off work anytime soon.

"I don't think we have reached that level. We should not panic," he said.

Some cities have suspended classes this week including Navotas City (no classes on Monday); Cainta, Rizal (no classes until Tuesday); and Taytay, Rizal (no classes on Monday).

Authorities confirmed the first local case was a resident of Cainta.

Face the problem

He also assured that the country's economic managers are ready to respond to the possible economic impact of Covid-19 to the country.

"That problem is not local, international 'yan, global 'yan (it's international, global) so we have to face it," he said.

Losses were expected but he said Duterte's economic team is "trying to do something about it."

"Saying we can stop the losses, I don't think we can," he said.

On Friday, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said the Philippine economy could lose between USD669 million and USD1.94 billion and lose 87,000 to 252,000 jobs due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

In a report titled "The Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Developing Asia," the ADB said that among its member-countries, expected to be "significantly affected" by the disease's economic impact are those "with strong trade and production linkages with China."

China was the Philippines' top trade partner last year. (PNA)

Infectious Diseases of the National University of Singapore, "Covid-19: transmission more similar to H1N1". Given the outbreaks elsewhere, China's "hero" epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan also thinks the virus could have originated outside of China.

The World is truly getting smaller today: no person and no country can escape this connectedness anymore. It is not just epidemiology: We have seen how the global economy now teeters on the brink as the Chinese economy slowed to a crawl and the U.S. stock market suffered its biggest one-day fall ever.

These are all signs that as one song says, "We are the world, we are the children, we are the ones who make a brighter day... There's a choice we're making... We're saving our own lives ... let us realize that change can only come when we stand together as one."

## Carmona PESO conducts Orientation for Free Japanese Language Training

The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of the Municipal Government of Carmona, in partnership with Plastone Language School, Inc., held the Orientation for Free Japanese Language Training on February 27, 2020 at the Municipal Penthouse with 40 participants. This is to help increase their competence and skills on the Japanese language that will give them more opportunities both local and overseas.



## Carmona Fire Station holds Fire Safety Awareness and Advocacy Contest

In line with the celebration of the Fire Prevention Month this March, the Carmona Fire Station initiated a Fire Safety Awareness and Advocacy contest on February 27, 2020 where various categories were joined by students such as the Photo, Drawing, and Poster-Making Categories. The objective of the program is to continue raising awareness on the prevention of fire in the household as well as the safety measures to be done during the event of fire in the community.



## Carmona MHO recognizes Smoke Free Homes

On February 28, 2020, the local government of Carmona, as spearheaded by the Municipal Health Office (MHO), labeled 11 smoke free homes at Barangay Milagrosa with Sangguniang Bayan members, Barangay Officials, Dr. Homer Aguinaldo, and other MHO staff. The identified homes passed the criteria of not having smokers in their family and continuously promotes the Smoke Free Campaign of the local government.



## The Much-Awaited Hot Air Balloon Festival Is Back And It's Happening at Carmona Cavite

(SPOT.ph) Since it started in 1994, the annual Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta has always found a home in Central Luzon—specifically Clark Freeport Zone in Pampanga—except in 2019. The skies of Pampanga was a bit empty as the "Weekend of Everything that Flies" was cancelled a month before its opening date in February. But it looks like a display of colorful hot air balloons, cool airplane exhibitions, and radio-controlled aircrafts will be back this year as the Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta returns with a new name in a new location—one that's just an hour away from the Metro. Flying Carnival 2020: A Weekend of Almost Everything That Flies runs from March 6 to 8 at San



Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

For three full days, you can watch the sunrise and sunset as balloons of all shapes and sizes fly in the air, tick off your bucket list and ride a hot air balloon, defy your fears and try tandem paragliding, attend a seminar in aviation, and eat and shop

at the bazaar (on land, of course). Fireworks are set to cap off the night.

Flying Carnival 2020 is from March 6 to 8 at San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Gates open at 4:30 a.m. Tickets, which start at P500/day, are available through the

## Good fortune in scrapes of plastic

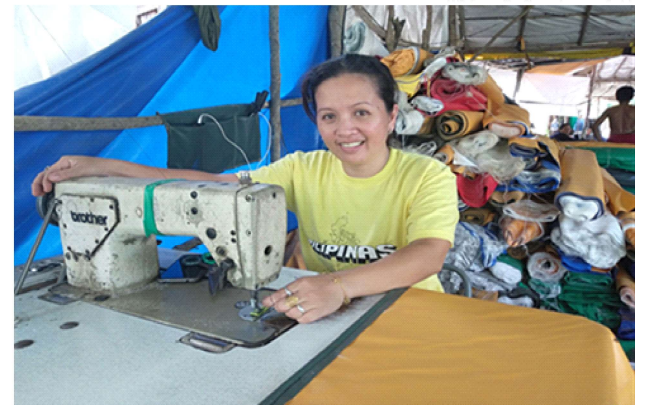
Mirasol Ramiso, being hands on in her junkshop business and now, her venture, tent sewing.

Venturing in junk shop business is not as easy as it seems. This business requires expertise in various skills for it to be successful. This is what Mirasol Ramiso, a resident of Trece Martires, Cavite, always shares to the people who want to try this kind of business.

Sewing billboards vinyl was Mirasol's job before she was persuaded by an Account Officer of CARD SME Bank and upon joining, she enjoyed the benefits of being a CARD member. The money she availed on her first loan helped her make her business stable.

"CARD didn't judge me for who I am or what my background is. It helped me grow my business," Mirasol said.

But because of new technologies developing,



like LED monitors, that are now in demand in some establishments, her billboard-making business had to stop. She then ventured into an-

other business – the junk shop business. CARD SME Bank continued to be her partner as it lends her capital to make her business become more stable.

Mirasol didn't know

how to run this kind of business and how it will work, but her husband was eager to

(see page 2)