

Cavite LGUs distribute ECQ 'Cash Ayuda' to low income beneficiaries

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) -- The ECQ 'Cash Ayuda' from the national government with fund allocation of P3B for the province were distributed in several cities and municipalities in the province.

The fund were downloaded to the respective LGUs' accounts as early as April 5, 2021 with the inclusion of the master list of beneficiaries from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The municipality of Naic with fund allocation of P115,822,000 was the first LGU to hold the payout activity to qualified beneficiaries of Barangay Balsahan on April 8, 2021. Said barangay is the first to submit validated master list to the MSWDO pursuant to the first come first serve basis policy of the LGU.

Consequently, LGU Naic ordered for a P40M supplemental budget from its savings to augment the allocated funds to be able to help more families in the municipality.

The city of Tagaytay and the municipality of Indang held their payout on April 9 while the cities of Bacoor and Cavite City and the municipalities of Mendez-Nuñez and Carmona distributed the financial assistance over the weekend despite the challenges brought by employees undergoing quar-

antine and work-from-home arrangement.

However, according to the Department of Interior and Local Government's (DILG) Financial Accomplishment Report as of April 11, the province had only distributed 1% of the target 3,444,448 individuals entitled to the financial assistance.

Early this week, the cities of Dasmariñas, General Trias, and Trece Martires and the municipalities of Tanza and Noveleta conducted the payout of the financial assistance to qualified resident beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, the City Government of Imus launched the online registration for the ECQ cash aid and the augmentation program Lingap Imuseño. This is to expedite processing and validation of the financial assistance to be distributed to the ben-

eficiaries thru accredited electronic payment partners or online banking. Imus City is the first LGU to opt for cashless payout.

To keep the residents safe, the local government of Alfonso held house-to-house cash payouts to qualified beneficiaries in respective barangays thru the efforts of the employees of the local government, barangay officials, Barangay Health Workers, and Daycare Workers scheduled April 14-18, 2021. Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo-Bailen beneficiaries came out to claim their cash aid today while Mayor Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista released the schedule and list of beneficiaries yesterday after completion of validation to include excess from ECQ funds of P19,205,000.

Remaining municipalities of Amadeo, Maragondon, Ternate, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Silang and Kawit are still in the process of completing the validation of the beneficiaries to ensure that all residents will receive the financial aid in this time quarantine status. (Ruel Francisco



BAYAN NG SILANG, NAGSIMULA NA SA PAMAMAHAGI NG AYUDA

Ibinahagi ni Silang Mayor Corie Poblete ang pagsisimula ng pamamahagi ng ayuda sa mga mamamayan ng kanilang bayan na lubos na naapektuhan ng pandemya.

Batay sa kaniyang post, P1,000 ang matatanggap ng kada indibidwal at hanggang P4,000 sa may apat na miyembro ng pamilya o higit pa.

"Tuloy-tuloy naman po ang ating pag eencode at pag validate ng ibang mga barangays sa ating bayan. Antabayan po natin ang mga anunsyo ng skedul ng inyong barangay sa mga susunod na araw," saad ni Poblete.

Para naman sa mga may katanungan o reklamo tungkol sa ayuda, pwede kayong dumulog sa Grievance Committee Hotlines ng bayan:

09560335645 * 09686882382

No acceptance of new patients for a week - Cavite Gov. Remulla

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA) --Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla stated that eight (8) provincial and city hospitals will not accept new patients for a week.

This was declared in the wake of the CoViD-19 infection among several health care workers in medical facilities.

"One week kami nag-decide hindi muna (tatanggap ng pasyente) hangga't malaman namin ang sitwasyon," said Remulla.

(We decided not to accept patients for one week until we would know the situation.)

About 38 hospital medical staff located in

the cities of Bacoor, Dasmariñas, Trece Martires, and in the municipalities of Kawit, Maragondon, and General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) tested positive of CoViD-19 disease.

Due to this, medical facilities are now understaffed and remaining health care workers will be overwhelmed with the influx of patients if the hospitals continue to accept new patients.

Moreover, private hospitals in the province are also at a critical level with occupancy rate reaching 95 percent according to the governor.

Meanwhile, the CoViD-19 case tracker for the province as of 2pm April 15, 2021 recorded 568 new cases for a total confirmed cases almost at the 33K mark. Out of the total confirmed cases, 7,649 are active cases, 24,551 have recovered while 796 died of the disease. (Ruel Francisco with reports from GoCavite/PICAD-Cavite FB pages)



Statement condemning the conduct of genetic/genomic research with Indigenous Peoples by Dr. Maximilian Larena and his team without FPIC and the required ethical clearance

By National Commission on Indigenous Peoples

The NCIP, as the primary Philippine government agency mandated to protect the rights and well-being of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs), raises grave concern on the genetic/genomic research on Philippine ICCs/IPs conducted by Dr. Maximilian Larena of Uppsala University, Sweden and his team without the prescribed clearances as required by applicable laws and rules and regulations.

Dr. Larena and his team conducted their research and collected human samples from members of indigenous communities from 2015 to the present without compliance to the Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) despite clear and timely reminders of such a requirement. In particular, the researchers did not comply either to the NCIP Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSPs) and Customary Laws (CLs) Research and Documentation Guidelines of 2012 (Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2012) and/or the Revised Guidelines on the Exercise of Free and Prior Informed Consent and Related Processes of 2012 (NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2012).

Dr. Larena and his team did not, likewise, obtain the required ethical clearance from the National Ethics Committee, the review committee accredited by the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB), in utter disregard to the fundamental requirement for any human research in the Philippines as prescribed by the 2011 and 2017 National Guidelines for Health and Health-

Related Research.

This blatant disregard of critical policies governing scientific research in the Philippines, if unchecked, will have far-reaching adverse impact to the governance of scientific research in the country. Also, the continued publication of scientific results that have not undergone the appropriate FPIC process and community validation by ICCs/IPs can cause social, cultural, and legal harm to the communities, if not adequately interpreted and communicated to the general public. In addition, the lack of consent also offends the rights of the ICCs/IPs to self-determination, self-governance, humans rights, and social justice.

For these reasons, the Commission strongly condemns these acts of Dr. Larena and his team and demands from them and the Uppsala University of Sweden the following:

- (1) To stop using the data derived from the analysis of Philippine samples that had been unethically collected,
- (2) Removal of all genetic data from all databases, including those already shared with other groups,
- (3) Destruction of these samples to be overseen by a designated member of the Philippine delegation in Sweden,
- (4) Issuance of a public apology to the Filipino people, specifically the indigenous peoples, and
- (5) To take down all related publications including those shared in social media ecosystem. (NCIP) National Commission on Indigenous Peoples



DAR, NAGHANDOG NG WATER PUMP SA MGA VOLUNTEER NG 'BUHAY SA GULAY' SA CAVITE

Naghandog ang Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) ng water pump sa Barangay Baliwag sa bayan ng Magallanes na magagamit ng mga residente sa urban gardening at farming.

Sinabi ni DAR-Cavite provincial agrarian reform program officer James Arthur T. Dubongco na ang pagkabit ng water pump ay parte ng programang urban gardening ng

DAR para sa mga volunteer-gardeners ng Baliwag Farmers' Association (BFA).

"This is our way of showing our appreciation to our agrarian reform beneficiaries, who mostly make up the BFA. And we are willing to do it even when we are under strict quarantine measures because we need every hand to till the soil and keep food available on the table of every Filipino family especially at this time of the pandemic," pahayag ni Dubongco.

Nitong nakaraang taon, sinimulan ng BFA programang "Buhay sa Gulay" sa Cavite, na ginaya sa kauna-unahang urban vegetable garden city sa isang football field sa Saint John Bosco Parish Church sa Tondo, Manila.

Nitong Enero, sa tulong ng DAR, inilunsad ang harvest festival, kung saan kumita ang mga volunteer ng P20,000 sa 2-linggong ani.

Source and Photo: PIA Cavite

FamilyMart

DTI: Over 30M face masks produced for 'Libreng Face Mask Para sa Masa' Project

By DTI

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported that the Free Mask project has produced and delivered 30,808,518 pieces of free cloth washable face masks for the benefit of the "Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino" Program (4Ps) beneficiaries and other marginalized sectors in COVID-19 high-risk areas.

DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said that the consistent efforts of all the agency partners not only to ensure the supply of high-quality face masks to vulnerable sectors but also to generate livelihood to those adversely affected by the pandemic contributed to the impressive completion of 65.48% of the total target of 47 million face masks for the Community Face Mask Project of 2020-2021 implementation.

"With the growing numbers of active cases in the country and its effect on our economy, we continue to give high importance in producing and distributing the much-needed washable masks in the poor communities, while linking as well the production of said masks with the various community-based sewers and MSMEs," Sec. Lopez said.

The trade chief further said that the Department is expecting an additional one million face masks to be completed this week.

Including 1,242,900 pieces donated from the private sector, a total of 13,699,437 pieces of locally-produced face masks were already distributed to the different cities and municipalities in the National Capital Region and Regions 3, 4A, 6, 7, and 11 through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Mask distribution is ongoing each week.


DTI is the lead implementing and coordinating agency relative to the production and procurement of face masks for the "Libreng Mask Para sa Masa" Project, an initiative of the Office of the President (OP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project is being done in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), OP, Office of Executive Secretary (OES), the Presidential Management Staff (PMS), DSWD, the Office of the Civil Defense of the Department of National Defense (DND-OCD), the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI), the Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management (PS-DBM), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The aim of this project is to produce and distribute domestically-manufactured non-medical grade, reusable, and washable face masks to vulnerable sectors. Sec. Lopez said, "With DTI laying down plans for a modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) that will push for a calibrated reopening of low-risk, essential sectors, these masks will become integral in our efforts to mitigate the impact of the imposed lockdown. (DTI)

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POC EYES LAGUNA, TAGUIG, TAGAYTAY AS SEA GAMES TRAINING BUBBLES

It's the final countdown as Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino declared that Laguna, Taguig, and Tagaytay will be hosting the bubble training for various sports in preparation for the upcoming 31st Southeast Asian Games (SEAG), verified on Tuesday, April 20.

Besides, Taguig City Mayor Lino Cayetano approved to serve as the godfather of volleyball and table tennis, as Tagaytay Mayor Agnes Tolentino will be the contributor of kickboxing and cycling, and Santa Rosa, Laguna Mayor Arlene Arcillas Nazareno to accommodate 50 athletes.

"Besides their passion for sports, they want to be of service to the country by supporting our national athletes," expressed Tolentino during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) conference.

The training camps are set to begin on the first week of July. These are the athletes who will be participating in the 31st SEAG that will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from November 21 until December 2.

"It's not easy because the expenses can run up to millions of pesos, but they agreed to shoulder the expenses for the food, accommodation and training facilities of our athletes," explained Tolentino.

Also, the abovementioned LGUs have extended their helping hands for the athletes to support them until the

Philippine delegation proceeds to the competition, with Santa Rosa assisting sports such as wrestling, judo, and kurash, along with others.

"We thank them (mayors) for supporting our athletes. I'm still talking to some of our LGU friends with one of them willing to accommodate up to a hundred athletes," stated Tolentino.

Other than that, sports officials have reached out to the LGUs after the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) facilities have announced undergoing lockdown and temporary quarantine areas due to the hike of COVID-19 cases.

As mentioned, the idea of reaching out for LGU support was initiated by fencing, weightlifting, and archery sports teams. Apart from this, there are also LGUs that accommodate other sports, including Ormoc Mayor Richard Gomez, who allocated bubble training for fencing, Dumaguete LGU for archery sport, and weightlifting training camps in Cebu, Bohol, and Zamboanga City.

With that, Tolentino assured that they would ask for clearance from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID) for the bubble training camps in Santa Rosa, Taguig, and Tagaytay since these municipalities are located inside the NCR Plus Bubble.

Moreover, there will be 626 SEAG-bound athletes from 39 sports who are about to compete and bear the flag of the country in the prestigious tournament, as stated by the Team Philippines chef de mission and PSC Commissioner Ramon Fernandez.

DOH Calabarzon urges seniors, persons with comorbidities to register to get COVID-19 vax

By PIA LAGUNA

BIDABAKUNATION. Following the Food and Drug Administration's approval to expand the use of China's Sinovac vaccine on the elderly, local government units across the Calabarzon region began vaccinating senior citizens alongside healthcare workers and persons with comorbidities. According to DOH CHD 4A, a total of 7,313 senior citizens already received their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine.



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna, Apr. 19 (PIA) – The Department of Health Center for Health Development Calabarzon on Monday called on all senior citizens and persons with comorbidities to register now in order to avail the government's free Covid-19 vaccine.

"We urge all senior citizens and persons with comorbidities to participate and register in our government's Covid-19 vaccination program to ensure added protection against the Covid-19 vi-

rus. The registration is voluntary and the vaccine is free," Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo stated.

"Once registered, an individual will undergo careful evaluation of health status and exposure risk. Only after due assessment can a person be vaccinated at their respective LGUs," he emphasized.

According to DOH CHD 4A, the online registration of priority groups A2 (senior citizens) and A3 (persons with comorbidities) is essential to ensure a smooth rollout of COVID-19 vaccines among the target population.

"Considering the

limited supply of available vaccines, we also need to provide protection to our elderly due to the rising cases of Covid in the country," Janairo added.

As of April 15, 2021, a total of 106,513 individuals have already received their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine in the region.

A total of 7,313 senior citizens and 8,428 persons with comorbidities already received their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine.

All target groups are advised to register online through the Facebook page or pre-registration websites of their respective LGUs. Those who do not have access to the internet may coordinate with their barangay health workers for the vaccination registration.

After completing the registration, wait for text message or call from health workers for the next instruction. For other priority groups, wait for the announcement of the date of registration and vaccination. For further details on the government's vaccination program, visit the <https://doh.gov.ph/vaccines>. (DOH CHD 4A/PIA4A-SMT)

Vaccination of 791,000 Teachers may start in June

The vaccination of about 791,000 teachers, considered as "frontline personnel in basic education and higher education institutions and agencies" may start by June, Education Secretary Leonor Briones said Monday.

Teachers have moved up in the COVID-19 priority list from the previous B1 category to the A4 category.

This number already excludes teachers who are senior citizens and have comorbidities who are already vaccinated or already set for vaccination against severe respiratory illness.

"Siguro mga June ito mag-umpisa kasi by that time mag-start na ng enrollment, marami nang activities sa eskwelahan at saka kailangan protektado ang mga teachers," she said in a Palace briefing.

She said teachers may no longer need to register for vaccination since the government already has a list.

"Napakalaking jump nito para sa mga teachers, magandang magandang balita para sa lahat. Matagal na namin itong kinakausap at kinakampanya para masama ang



teachers sa mauna na mabakunahan sa A-list at galing sa B," Briones said. Last week, the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) announced that education workers have been included in the A4 cluster, which is next in line for COVID-19 vaccination after medical frontliners, senior citizens, and persons with comorbidities.



Bong Go lauds grant of one-time financial assistance to Employees' Compensation pensioners amid the additional burden imposed on them by the pandemic

By OSBG

Senator Christopher "Bong" Go lauded President Rodrigo Duterte for issuing Administrative Order No. 39 which grants a one-time financial assistance of P20,000.00 to Employees' Compensation (EC) pensioners for permanent partial or total disability and survivorship, in both the private and public sectors.

"Malaki ang negatibong epekto ng pandemya sa mga kababayan nating may kapansanan, lalo na iyong mga pensioners na apektado ang pamumuhay dahil sa community quarantine restrictions," said Go.

"Nararapat lamang natin silang suportahan at bigyan ng alternatibong mapagkukunan ng panggastos para sa kanilang pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan. Kaya naman nagpapasalamat at kinokomendahan natin si Pangulong Duterte sa pag-issue n'ya ng AO na ito," he added.

The issuance of the AO came after the Employees' Compensation Commission approved the proposal to grant the said assistance due to undue financial hardships and prolonged economic impact of the pandemic on the pensioners.

The ECC is mandated to implement the Employees' Compensation Program which provides a package of ben-

efits for public and private sector employees and their dependents in the event of work-connected sickness, injury, disability or death. In addition, the ECC may also upgrade benefits and add new ones, subject to approval of the President.

Under the AO, the ECC will be authorized to grant a one-time financial assistance of PhP20,000.00 to EC pensioners for permanent partial disability, permanent total disability and survivorship, both in the private and public sectors.

Notably, the amounts necessary to cover the one-time financial assistance shall be sourced from the reserves of the EC State Insurance Fund that the Social Security System and Government Services Insurance System administer under the country's EC Program.

The AO also directs the ECC, SSS and GSIS to issue the implementing rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

As the pandemic heightens the vulnerabili-

ties of persons with disabilities, Go urged the government to further consider other interventions and strengthen efforts to address their needs and concerns.

"Sa panahong ito ng pandemya, dapat lamang paigtingin ng gobyerno ang suporta nito sa mga PWDs dahil isa sila sa mga pinaka-apektado ng mga social and economic impacts ng COVID-19," noted Go.

To support PWDs amid the pandemic, Go stressed the need to ensure accessibility of public health measures and services to them. He also emphasized the need to promote inclusivity and equity in the government's efforts and responses to COVID-19.

The Senator also emphasized the need to ensure that government offices and their services are PWD-friendly. He also asked the government to improve the delivery of its services by using assistive technology that would further improve the access of Filipinos with disabilities to public services. On the other hand, Go also urged the private sector to provide reasonable work arrangements for their employees with disabilities and conduct reasonable adjustments in the workplace to protect their welfare. "Huwag po nating papabayaang mga kababayan nating PWDs. Tuparin natin ang ating pangako sa kanila na walang Pilipinong mapag-iwanan sa landas tungo sa pag-ahon ng bansa mula sa COVID-19," said Go. (OSBG)



DOH-CALABARZON reports 644 new COVID-19 cases

By DOH CALABARZON

-Department of Health (DOH) - CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) today reported a total of 644 new cases of Covid-19 recorded in the region.

There is now a total of 106,750 cases with 18,952 active cases and 84,961 recoveries. Recorded deaths are at 2,837.

The province of Cavite has the highest recorded case with 30,901 followed by the province of Laguna with 25,021, Rizal province with 23,911, Batangas province with 18,369 and Lucena city with 1,720 Covid-19 cases.

Regional Director Eduardo C. Janairo disclosed that a total of 2,186 beds have been occupied by Covid patients and there are 842 remaining vacant beds available in various health facilities in the region.

"The province of Batangas have 397 occupied beds and 132 available vacant beds, Cavite with 475 occupied beds and 196 vacant beds, Laguna with 566 occupied beds and 251 vacant beds, Quezon with 305 occupied beds and 143 vacant beds and Rizal with 443 occupied beds and 120 vacant beds," he enumerated.

Janairo added that the modular tents in San Juan District Hospital and Laguna Medical Center are now complete and

ready for occupancy.

He strongly emphasized to residents of the region the need to follow health protocols and to stay at home as possible to avoid getting infected by the Covid virus/

"Huwag po tayong maging kampante dahil matagal pa ang mass vaccination na gagawin. Kailangan munang mabakunahan natin ang mga frontliners, senior citizens na nasa priority list upang mapangalagaan ang kanilang kalusugan at maiwasan pa ang pagkalat ng Covid sa bansa."

"We all have to make sacrifices in these challenging times and the best things to do is to follow the health regulations imposed by our government in order to stay safe," he concluded