

"While STRIDES are being made in the SOCIAL MEDIA, the NEWSPAPER and news business should continue to embrace social media"

- Amy Jo Martin

THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG

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HERALD CAVITE

APRIL 12-18, 2020 | VOL. XXV NO. 37

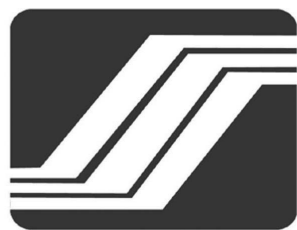
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SSS extends the contribution payments until June 1



SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

The Social Security System (SSS) on Friday announced that it is extending the deadline for the payment of monthly contributions of its members and employers until June 1, 2020

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora C. Ignacio said that SSS had extended the payment deadline for SSS contributions. SSS made this decision after the President placed the entire country under a state of calamity due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"For self-employed, voluntary, and non-working spouse members, they can pay their SSS contributions for the applicable months of January, February and March 2020, or the first quarter of 2020 until June 1, 2020. On the other hand, regular and household employers have until June 1, 2020 to pay for their employee's contribu-

tions from February to April May 2020 without incurring any penalties," Ignacio said.

Employers with approved installment proposals under the Contribution Penalty Condonation Program must deposit their post-dated checks due in February, March, April, and May 2020 on June 1, 2020. Ignacio added that contributions paid retroactively by self-employed, voluntary, and non-working spouse members will not be used as eligibility for any benefit claim if the payment date falls within or after the semester of contingency.

The Social Security Commission (SSC), the high-

est policy-making body of the SSS, revised the deadline for the payment of contributions for the said applicable months in response to the

restraint in the movement of the public, limited operations of some banks and skeletal workforces in SSS branches.

"As we all know, the en-

tire country was placed on community quarantine and enhanced community quarantine to limit the movement of the general public. We

recognize the difficulty encountered by our members and employers in paying SSS

Turn to P2

AboitizPower backs move allowing LGUs to use ER1-94 funds for COVID-19 response



Various AboitizPower business units, in partnership with Aboitiz Foundation, have been providing assistance to their host beneficiaries amid the pandemic situation. The ER 1-94 funds will augment these efforts to help the local government units have enough resources in their fight against COVID-19.

Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower) welcomes the recent move of the Department of Energy (DOE), allowing communities that host power generation projects to use their revenue shares from these facilities to help them combat the effects of COVID-19.

AboitizPower President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel V. Rubio said this development is a push in the right direction as it is expected to aid in strengthening local government response to the ongoing health crisis.

Turn to P2

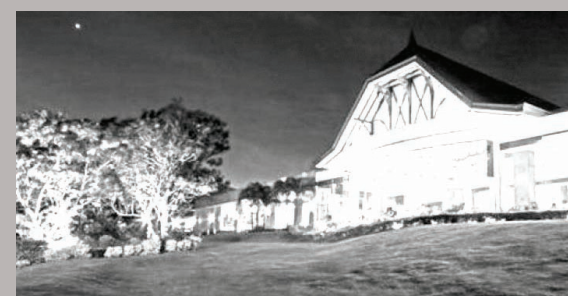
Imus LGU prepares for COVID-19 mass testing

CITY OF IMUS, Cavite Apr. 10 (PIA) --The city government has setup two isolation tents in the Ospital ng Imus grounds in anticipation of an increase in Persons Under Investigation (PUIs). These tents, Field Hospital, are air-conditioned with 10 hospital beds for each tent, a stand-by oxygen tank beside every bed, and a portable X-ray machine recently procured by the city government to equip the Field Hospital in the treatment of coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 positive

Turn to P2



Tagaytay City hotel to house OFW repatriates from Portugal



TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite Apr. 5 (PIA) --Taal Vista Hotel is accommodating 310 global mining professionals from Portugal who were repatriated through a special flight yesterday.

Turn to P3

President Duterte takes into consideration appeal for 'middle class'



lang 'yung iba or totally ilaglag na lang 'yung project, ilagay mo dito kasi ang uunahin natin ang tao, ang tiyan. Kasi 'pag wala ng kinakain, a human being can be violent. Especially makita niya anak niya wala ng makain.

Once again, I am asking the utmost cooperation of the public in these trying times. Let us heed the needs of our poor brothers and sisters who are hit most by the pandemic. We are also trying to perfect this. Gusto ko bigyan 'yung poorest of the poor.

- President Rodrigo Duterte

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, Apr. 8 (PIA) -- President Rodrigo Roa Duterte responded to Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla's appeal for the middle income families during his address to the nation recently.

The President said the appeal of Gov. Remulla to include the middle class in the Social Amelioration Pro-

gram (SAP) is valid but is not yet feasible at the moment.

"Yung poorest of the poor, eto yung walang kita sa isang araw, di na makakain. Or, wala talagang trabaho," the President emphasized.

This was in answer to Gov. Remulla's letter to President Duterte on April 5, 2020 requesting to include the middle income class fam-

ilies in the granting of the Social Amelioration Program.

Gov. Remulla wrote, "I come from a province that is over 70% migrants. People who have climbed their way up in life: buying a house on mortgage; sending their children through college; having

their 1st car or motorcycle on a 5-year instalment basis," stressing his point.

"As grand as their gated villages sound, they are middle class people who see their paychecks every month

Turn to P3



Walang panlaban sa COVID 19 ang mga dalubhasa

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... kung ang bayang ito na nagtataglay ng aking Pangalan ay magpakumbaba, manalangin, hanapin ako, at talikuran ang kanilang kasamaan, pakinggan ko sila mula sa langit, patatawarin ko sila sa kanilang mga kasalanan, at papawiin ko ang mga salot sa kanilang lupain, na muli kong pasasaganain..." (2 Cronica 7:14, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

SA MARAMING TAO, MAS MAHALAGA ANG SOCIAL MEDIA GAMES KAYSA SA BIBLIYA: Sa napakadelinkuenteng panahon ngayon kung saan milyon-milyong katao ang puwersahang nasa loob lamang ng kanilang mga tahanan sa Pilipinas at sa buong mundo upang mapigilan ang pananalasa ng COVID 19, tunay na nakakalungkot isipin na mas pinipili pa ng marami ang magbilang ng mga trianggulo at mga parisukat na makikita sa ilang social media games.

Imbes na maghanap ng maaaring pagmulan ng pagpapagaling, kapangyarihan, at pag-ibig mula sa Bibliya, o ang natatanging Aklat na naglalaman ng mga mahahalagang impormasyong ito, minamatamis pa ng marami na sayangin lamang ang kanilang mga oras sa mga walang-katuturang mga gawain sa social media.

Ang ganitong mga pangyayari ay hindi na bago. Mayroon ng mga prediksiyon o hula na isinulat noong unang panahon pa na magaganap nga ang ganitong pagkahilig ng mga tao sa mga bagay na malalayo sa Diyos, o sa mga bagay na walang kahalagahan sa ikabubuti ng buhay ng tao, dito sa mundo o sa buhay na walang hanggan.

BAKIT MAY COVID 19? ETO ANG DAHILAN: Ayon sa mga nauna ng naisulat, sinasabing ang mga tao ay hindi na makikinig sa mga aral na ang dulot ay kabutihan at katatagan ng buhay. Sa halip, nanaisin na lamang nila ang mga bagay at mga aral o katuruan na magbibigay sa kanila ng kasiyahan ang maka-sanlibutan, bagamat ang mga ito ay malayo na sa katotohanan. Sa aking pananaw, ito ang eksaktong dahilan kung bakit nananalasa sa mundo ngayon ang COVID 19, na bagamat isang maliit at halos di-makitang virus lamang ay nagawa naman nitong lubhang katawa-tawa, at tila mga mangmang at walang nalalaman, ang mga pinagpipitaganan at mga iginagalang na mga lider ng daigdig.

Nagawa din ng COVID 19 na alisin ng buong-buo ang kahalagahan ng yaman, siyensiya, teknolohiya, at kapangyarihan sa buhay ng mga tao, ngayong 2020 at, kung paniniwalaan natin ang mga sinasabi ng mga dalubhasa sa medisina, sa maraming mga susunod na taon pa. Ang COVID 19 ay maliwanag na sumpa ng Diyos sa tao, dahil ayaw na nilang makinig at sumunod sa Kaniyang mga utos. Patawaring tayo ng Diyos sa ating pagtalikod sa Kaniya.

WALANG PANLABAN SA COVID 19 ANG MGA DALUBHASA: Ano ang magagawa ng tao kung ganoon upang mapatigil na ang pagkalat at pamiminsala ng COVID 19? Ang nakakatakot, walang aklat sa siyensiya sa buong mundo ang makakasagot ng tanong na ito. Kaya napakarami na ng namatay dahil sa COVID 19 ay dahil walang nalalaman ang kahit na mga pinakamatalinong mga dalubhasa kung papaano patitigilin ang COVID 19.

Magkaganunman, kung nais talaga nating humanap ng solusyon, marapat lamang na bigyang-pansin na ng buong mundo ang sinasabi ng isang bahagi ng Bibliya kung paanong maaalis ang salot, gaya ng COVID 19. Mababasa ito sa 2 Cronica 7:14, na kung saan ang Diyos ang nagsasalita.

Ganito ang sinasabi ng Diyos: "... kung ang bayang ito na nagtataglay ng aking Pangalan ay magpakumbaba, mana-

langin, hanapin ako, at talikuran ang kanilang kasamaan, pakinggan ko sila mula sa langit, patatawarin ko sila sa kanilang mga kasalanan, at papawiin ko ang mga salot sa kanilang lupain, na muli kong pasasaganain..."

Maliwanag po ang remedyo laban sa COVID 19: pagpakumbaba, panalangin, paghahanap sa Diyos, at pagtalikod sa kasalanan. Masasabing mukhang simple lang pala ito. Oo naman, mukhang simple lang, pero nasanay na ang tao sa kasalanan, nagpakalayo-layo na sa Diyos, at puro kasiyahan na ng sanlibutan ang hinahangad. Ang isa pang problema, hindi naman natin pupuwedeng lokohin ang Diyos sa mga bagay na ito. Pero, panahon na upang piliin natin ang Diyos.

PANALANGING MAGLILIGTAS SA MGA PINOY VS. COVID 19: Manalangin po tayo: "Panginoong Jesus, tinatanggap at pinananampalatayaan kita na Ikaw ang aking Diyos at Tagapagligtas na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo, na bumaba mula sa langit, tumungo sa lupa sa anyo ng tao, at tinanggap ang parusa sa aking mga kasalanan. Naniniwala ako na nagpakilala kang ang Iyong Pangalan ay Jesus, at sa Iyong Pangalan lamang magkakaroon ako ng kaligtasan sa buhay, lalo na sa COVID 19. Sa iyong Pangalang Jesus, iligtas mo ako, ang mga mahal ko sa buhay, at ang buong mundo, sa COVID 19, Amen."

SSS extends the contribution.. from P1

contributions since tellering services in SSS branches are temporarily suspended, and some banks are implementing limited operations. Thus, we have decided to extend the payment deadlines for SSS contributions for the mutual protection of our members and personnel," Ignacio explained.

Ignacio also reminded employers that the payment deadline for the applicable months after April 2020 should again follow the regular payment schedule. For self-employed, voluntary, and non-working spouse members, the payment deadline for the applicable months

or quarters after March 2020 shall follow the regular payment schedule.

Likewise, SSS urged members and employers to use alternative online and mobile payment facilities in paying SSS contributions. For individual paying members, they can pay their contributions using the Bayad Center mobile app, Moneygment through My.SSS and PayMaya through the SSS Mobile App. On the other hand, members can pay their contributions using the internet banking facility of the Security Bank as long as they have an existing deposit account with the bank.

Meanwhile, regular and household employers can pay SSS contributions through the following bank web facilities: BPI Bizlink, Security Bank Corporation DigiBanker, and UnionBank OneHUB. Employers can also pay their SSS obligations using the eGov BancNet Online. The online payment facility includes the following banks: Asia United Bank, Bank of Commerce, China Bank, CTBC Bank, Metropolitan Bank, and Trust Company, MUFG Bank, Philippine Bank of Communication, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation, Robinsons Bank and Standard

Chartered. Employers must have an existing account with any of these banks to use their online services.

"We urged the public to follow the instruction of the national government and stay at home until the quarantine period is over. Don't worry about the deadlines of your contribution payments. Payment schedules have been extended for you and your family's safety," Ignacio said. SSS added that the extension of contribution payment deadlines is part of SSS' assistance package to help members and pensioners affected by the health crisis brought by COVID-19.

Aboitiz power backs move.. from P1

"We thank Secretary Cusi and the DOE for this proactive initiative. We stand ready to collaborate with them and our local government units (LGUs) to facilitate the quick disbursement of these funds in the fight against COVID-19," he added.

The DOE on April 6 issued Department Circular No. 2020-04-00080, which laid down rules on the targeted use of communities' share in electricity sales for the Energy Regulations 1-94 (ER

1-94) Program funds. The ER 1-94 Program is a policy under the DOE Act of 1992 and the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA), which stipulates that host communities will get a share of one centavo for every kilowatt-hour (P0.01/kWh) generated by power plants operating in its area. The fund can be used by host beneficiaries for the electrification of areas or households that have no access to power, development and livelihood programs, as well as reforestation, watershed

management, health, and environmental enhancement initiatives.

With the new circular covering ER 1-94 funds, host LGUs can now use these shares to help manage the effects of the new virus, in accordance with the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. This includes the facilitation of mass testing by providing and constructing facilities, as well as acquiring proper medical testing kits.

AboitizPower is currently downloading to around 130 host beneficiaries across

Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao P146 million worth of funds generated as of December 25, 2019.

Another P338 million from various AboitizPower-led generating companies, accumulated as of 2018, is also currently being remitted by DOE to the host beneficiaries. "This is our contribution to the government's efforts to ensure that all LGUs have enough resources to help contain, mitigate, and eventually eliminate the spread of COVID-19 in their areas," Rubio added.

Imus LGU prepares for covid-19.. from P1

patients. The city government led by Imus Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi formulated plans for the accommodation of the city's PUIs and possible COVID-19 positive patients in line with the provincial government's plan to initiate the 1st rapid testing facility in the province. Aside from setting up the Field Hospital, the ABC Hall will also be used as isolation room that could accommodate about 15 COVID-19 positive patients while the City of Imus Anti-Drug Abuse Council (CIADAC) office is being converted to house

the DOH-accredited testing facility for the mass testing of PUIs and PUMs. The city government of Imus has set-up two isolation tents in the Ospital ng Imus grounds in anticipation of an increase in Persons Under Investigation (PUIs). These tents, Field Hospital, are air-conditioned with 10 hospital beds for each tent, a stand-by oxygen tank beside every bed, and a portable X-ray machine recently procured by the city government to equip the Field Hospital in the treatment of coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 positive patients. (Photo from

Imus CIO FB page) "We have put up seven staging areas in the city which are manned by a nurse, emergency responder, police personnel, Barangay official/tanod, reservist, stand-by ambulance, and ambassador for the coordination of all COVID related patients," Imus Information Officer and Anti-COVID Spokesman Edgardo Jay D. Saquillayan explained. "Sa responde naman, activated ang aming Incident Command System (ICS) para matulungan ang CESU. Kapag CESU kasi, taga City Health Office lang sila. Limited lang ang tao nila,"

he added. (On the response, the Incident Command System (ICS) has already been activated to help the CESU. The CESU is from the City Health Office and have limited personnel.) "Hindi natin ninanais na dumami pa ang kaso ng COVID-19 sa ating lungsod ngunit kailangan nating maging handa para sa kapakanan ng ating mga kababayan," Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi on the other hand said. (We do not wish that COVID-19 cases in the city add up but we need to prepare for the sake of our residents.) (Ruel Francisco)

THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG
HERALD
CAVITE

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Inilalathala tuwing araw ng Linggo at may sirkulasyon sa Lalawigan ng Cavite.
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Cavite Provincial, LGU heads clarify nat'l gov't's subsidy program

Province of Cavite, Apr. 6 (PIA) -- Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla and several LGU chiefs recently clarified issues on the implementation of the Emergency Subsidy Program or the Social Amelioration Program of the national government.

This came after the announcement of President Duterte for the subsidy grant of P5k to P8k that will come from the allocated amount of P200B worth of aid for low-income house-

holds, farmers and fisher-folks amid the corona virus (COVID)-19 pandemic.

Barrage of queries regarding the financial aid flooded the local governments hotlines and official websites which prompted the provincial chief and LGU heads to address these issues.

Gov. Jonvic and the local chiefs pointed out that the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has been tasked to implement the said program.

"Ang DSWD po ang inatasan na piliin kung sino ang makakakuha ng form. Kasama lang po ang taga barangay. Wala pong binigay na authority sa mga barangay kung sino ang makakakuha ng form," the Governor reiterated.

Each cities and municipalities have their total number of household target beneficiaries based on the DSWD Memorandum Circular no. 04 ss. of 2020 (Special Guidelines on the Provi-

sion of Social Amelioration Measures by the DSWD to the Most Affected Residents of the Areas Under Community Quarantine..) which is not by individual but per household.

Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan said, "Ang lahat ay naglalayon makatanggap ng Social Amelioration Program subalit ang pamamahagi ay naayon sa lebel ng pangangailangan."

(Everyone is aiming to receive the Social Amelioration Program but granting is based on the level of need.)

The Social Amelioration Card forms have been printed and distributed in barangays in most cities and municipalities in the province and will be validated by the DSWD for the granting of the financial aid.

Meanwhile, the provincial chief and LGU heads were one in their request for patience and understanding because they are doing their best efforts to help each and every constituents. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from Facebook pages of Governor Jonvic Remulla and other LGUs)



DOST Continuously Enhancing Production of FaceShields



DOST steps up face shield production for COVID frontliners Shifting to high gear in supporting the Philippines' frontliners in battling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Science and Technology accelerated its production of face shields to be distributed in various hospitals in the country. Two research and development institutes of DOST and one research laboratory in a state university have devoted their resources in creating the face shields. The DOST Metals Industry Research and Development Center (DOST-MIRDC), led by its Executive Director Engr. Robert O. Dizon, is now doing mass production of face shields using injection mold. "Initially, we produced 3D printed face shields as our stop-gap measure. But we wanted to help meet the high demand for face shields that is why we geared up for mass production. We fabricated the mold for the face shield frames at the DOST-MIRDC, and we mass produce using a technology called the plastic injection. The frame and the acetate together make up the face shield, these are secured with a garter. We have technology partners who joined us in this cause, and so now we are able to ramp up our production to around 5000 face shields per day," said Executive Director Dizon. MIRDC initially produced 40-50 face shields per day through the Additive Manufacturing Center that used five (5) 3D printers. Increased production volume of these face shields is also made possible through DOST-MIRDC's technology partners; the Omnifab, which fabricated another injection mold and the Megasamsotite Plant in San Pedro, Laguna that offered its facility as site for mass production of 2,500 face shields per day. This complements DOST-MIRDC's own production of 2,500 face shields per day, thus bringing the total production of 5,000 face shields per day. The Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI), another DOST research and development institute, has already delivered to the Philippine Heart Center 100 3D printed face shields. Led by ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, the agency worked 24 hours to produce the face shields and more will be produced by the Philippine Science High School Main Campus with the materials provided by DOST-ITDI. The Bataan Peninsula State University - Additive Manufacturing Research Laboratory (BPSU-AMREL) created a process that combines 3D printing and injection molding in creating face shields at a faster pace but in a more customizable manner. This project is funded by the Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development led by its Executive Director Dr. Enrico Paringit. AMREL Project Leader Dr. John Ray Dizon said that they are looking at the process of using 3D printing, for creating customizable molds, and injection molding, for mass production of the face shields. He further said that this process can be used as well for other items that needs customization but in a smaller quantity. DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Dr. Rowena Cristina Guevara revealed that the agency has found innovations to decrease the production time of face shields, a vital consideration in protecting frontliners facing the global pandemic. "As we make change happen through research and development, we find ways in helping out our new heroes facing COVID-19. We shall continue to look for better means to support our frontliners through research and development," Usec. Guevara said. April 30 is still a far date to go. Many untoward scenario might catch up or exist. But the S&T community is firm in its noble mission to pursue all that they have started during this COVID 19 pandemic. -DrDLR-



Cavite officials discuss viability of COVID-19 testing facility in the province; LGU readiness

Province of Cavite, Apr. 4 (PIA) -- Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla yesterday, met with heads of cities and municipalities, PNP Chiefs, City and Municipal Health Officers and the De La Salle-Dasmariñas medical team to discuss the viability of the province's COVID-19 testing facility and the readiness of each LGU in facing the challenge.

During the meeting, the following data were established to get a clear view of what are needed to fully capacitate the province for this undertaking.

As of April 2, there are already 1,200 PUIs in the

province which could be tested within five days because the province has its own PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) testing machine.

It is also taken into consideration that there are only 125 ventilators available in all hospitals (both public and private) in the province and an estimate of 5,000 units are needed once the designated holding areas for COVID-19 PUIs and positive patients which are being prepared by the LGUs in their respective cities and municipalities start accommodating them.

Meanwhile, Gov. Jonvic pointed out that it is very depressing when one is a sus-

pected PUI much more so if tested positive of COVID-19.

He surmised that, "Pag sila ay nandoon ay bawal ang sino man bumisita. Ito ay para di na kumalat lalo ang sakit. Ang LGU na ang mag-papakain at mag aalaga."

The medical team of the De La Salle-Dasmariñas reported that they are currently working on the accreditation of their facility as a Bio-Hazard safety certified laboratory

by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) until April 12, 2020.

The Governor requested everyone to pray for the success of the team, "Ipagdasal natin ang mga taga DLSU na pumasa at gumana na ang laboratory," Remulla said. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from the official FB page of Gov. Jonvic Remulla)

*It is not enough just to wish well;
we must also do well
- St. Ambrose*

President Duterte takes into consideration.. from P1

deducted of their SSS, GSIS, Pag-ibig and salary loans, and the largest part-income taxes," Gov. Jonvic wrote to further justify his appeal.

In consolation, the President calmly said, "I agree sa letter ni Gov. Remulla. I

know the political horizon of the country. Kung maari lang isali ko sila. But can they be included in the P270B? Hindi pa sa ngayon," giving finality to the issue.

Meanwhile, he revealed his administration's plans of

realigning the original budget.

"We are exploring options to adjust the earlier budget (the 2020 General Appropriations Act), realign or cancel ibang projects kase hindi pwede magutom ang

tao," prioritizing subsidy programs for the people during this time of emergency crisis. The President appealed to all for cooperation and understanding to overcome this challenge. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Tagaytay city hotel to house OFW.. from P1

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III, in a letter to City Mayor Agnes Tolentino, said Taal Vista Ho-

tel will provide 110 rooms for the 14-day self quarantine of the repatriates and requested the city government to provide the necessary assistance to ensure safe passage to the ho-

tel. USEC Densing also informed Mayor Tolentino that all the repatriates have been certified 'healthy' to travel and tested negative for coronavirus disease (COVID)-19.

"Their quarantine at sea according to the Portuguese Government have been properly observed and completed. Pursuant to the latest DOH/BOQ guidelines, they

are required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival in the Philippines," Densing added.

The DILG official reiterated IATF Resolution 18 Section F which states that the LGUs are strongly enjoined to allow the unhampered

transit of OFWs who have been issued with DOH or LGU certificate of completion of 14-day facility-based quarantine, or those who may be required by DOH or the LGUs to undergo a 14-day home quarantine. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Keep your feet on
 the GROUND,
 your heart on the CROSS,
 and your mind on
 HEAVEN.

DOST-PCAARRD provides IEC materials in support of the Bayanihan Act

The Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-PCAARRD) recently turned over its stock of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on vegetable production to the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI).

This is in support of DA's Plant, Plant, Plant Program's Urban Agriculture Project, which aims to disperse vegetable seeds to households nationwide.

A total of 1,000 copies of production guide IEC flyers of pole sitao, patola, tomato, ampalaya, and cucumber were shared to DA-BPI. These flyers will be distributed together with the vegetable seeds to households and other recipients.

Aside from these flyers, DOST-PCAARRD will be sending electronic copies of its IEC materials to DA-BPI for dispersal and greater reach.



IEC materials on vegetable production guide turned over to DA-BPI (Image credit: Marita A. Carlos, Applied Communication Division (ACD), PCAARRD)

"Through these IEC materials, we hope that Filipinos will have a better appreciation of urban agriculture and have the skills and knowledge on growing their own food," said Dr. Reynaldo V. Ebor, PCAARRD Executive Director.

DA's Urban Agriculture Project aims to secure safe food for families in the urban areas especially while strict quarantine is being implemented due to COVID-19.

PCAARRD is one of the sectoral councils of the DOST, which is mandated to formulate policies, plans, and programs for science and technology-based R&D in the different sectors under its concern. It coordinates, evaluates, and monitors the national R&D efforts in the agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources (AANR) sector. It also allocates government and external funds for R&D and generates resources to support its program (Rose Anne M. Aya, DOST-PCAARRD S&T Media Services).



PCAARRD-Applied Communication Division (ACD) staff members assisting in packaging the IEC materials (Image credit: Marita A. Carlos, ACD, PCAARRD)

Cavite to launch testing program for PUIs

end of next week.

- These are to be used to screen ALL THE PUI's in Cavite.

- Expect the Positive Cases to surge because of a wider and comprehensive testing program.

- 12 days is unrealistic for the quarantine to end.

- The disinfectant program continues with the help of the Fire Department"



Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla announces action plans for the province's COVID-19 response. (Photo courtesy of Cavite Connect)

Province of Cavite, Apr. 2 (PIA) -- In line with the province's efforts against coronavirus disease (COVID)-19, the provincial government is set to launch testing program for persons under investigation (PUIs).

"The province will launch its own Testing Program by the end of next week which will be used to screen all PUIs in Cavite," Gov. Remulla announced.

The testing program is

in accordance with the Department of Health's requirements that testing should be done in a hospital facility though there is no statement as to which hospital yet.

Gov. Remulla further explained that with this new development the number of positive cases in the province will surge because more PUIs will be tested.

This is a good news as this will result to more recoveries because more patients will be treated properly with the right care and medication.

On the other hand, Gov. Jonvic expressed his concern

that, "12 days is unrealistic for the quarantine to end," with the quarantine period now on the third week.

Meanwhile, other measures like the disinfectant program are still being conducted thru the Bureau of Fire Protection in all the cities and municipalities in the province.

Talking about the issue of the National Government's Social Amelioration Program, the Governor stated that there are still no guidelines to implement the program. Nevertheless, he assured that everyone would be included, even the middle

Until a new case rate package is introduced:

We will pay "full cost of treatment" for CoViD-19 patients – PhilHealth

In the midst of growing public concern over the financial costs of getting treatment for the Coronavirus Disease 2019, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) once again assured the public that it will "shoulder the full cost of treatment of CoViD-19 cases until April 14, 2020."

In its Advisory No. 2020-022 addressed to all accredited hospitals and health facilities in the country, PhilHealth clarified that "after the (said) date, we shall continue to provide financial coverage to CoViD cases thru a recomputed case rate.", citing that "the reason for this accommodation window is due to the novelty and the wide range of severity of the disease in the country for which no existing case rate or package based on accepted protocols has yet been established."

The state agency said that it "is confident that by (April 14, 2020), more about the behavior of the disease in the Philippines can be learned, a final protocol established, and an appropriate case rate can be developed that will provide adequacy and sustainability to the anti-CoViD-19 campaign."

PhilHealth is scheduled to release a new set of guidelines for CoViD-19 cases, which will include the appropriate case rate based on accepted protocols in dealing with the disease.

Meanwhile, under R. A. 11469 also known as the Bayanihan We Heal As One Act, all health workers will be covered even beyond the April 14, 2020 cut-off date for all work and CoViD-19 related health services. This will also include all other personnel necessary for the operation of a health facility.

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964



class residing in subdivisions could avail of this benefit from the government.

"Pinaglalaman ko po na

lahat, kahit nakatira sa subdivision, ay recipient ng pangako ng national government," Gov. Remulla declared. (Ruel

Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from the official Facebook page of Governor Jonvic Remulla)