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- Amy Jo Martin

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Cavite Gov Remulla to prioritize COVID-19 mass testing

Hontiveros urges faster release of cash aid to poor families in COVID-hit areas

"Hunger is just as deadly as COVID-19, especially to those who have less in life. Government has to act faster in sending relief to poor families not just in Metro Manila but in all parts of the country, because many are growing hungry as we speak."

This was how Senator Risa Hontiveros today urged government to expedite the handover of cash aid under the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) and other relief initiatives in Luzon and other parts of the country affected by the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

The senator made her statement after Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles acknowledged the presence of "concerns to the prompt distribution of aid" to qualified beneficiaries under the SAP.

>> P3



TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, Apr. 13 (PIA) -- In the spirit of transparency, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla declared the Provincial Government of Cavite will receive an estimate of Php200M from the National Government Disbursement Program.

The Governor revealed he intends to use the amount to fund the mass testing of the groups of people most vulnerable to the coronavirus disease (COVID)-19.

"Mass testing is the key to jumpstart the economy," the Governor said in an earlier statement.

He cited testing almost two million residents of the province, with the cost of testing to be shouldered by the PGC for

PUIs in the province, medical frontliners, public utility vehicle drivers, Senior Citizens, public school teachers and students and those who work in public facilities.

Meanwhile, the owners of private schools, factories and commercial establishments will have to pay for their employees' COVID-19 testing that costs Php2,000 for each test. "I cannot speak for the employers in

>> P2

Bacoor City reports more recoveries from COVID-19

BACOOOR CITY, Cavite Apr. 11 (PIA) -- The latest report from the Department of Health and the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit showed 31 confirmed positive cases in the city as of yesterday April 10, 2020.

Despite the increase in the confirmed cases, the city government reported several recoveries over the past two days.

The 54-year old female from Panapaan 8 who was reported confirmed of the COVID-19 on March 24, 2020 had recovered from the disease last Thursday, April 9, 2020.

A succession of recoveries were also reported on Good Friday, April 10, 2020 with patient #6 - a 68-year old male from Molino 4, patient #11 - a 48-year old man from Molino 6, and patient

>> P2

Cavite's mass testing starts April 14

JONVIC REMULLA GOVERNOR



TAPAT SA BAYAN. TAPAT SA USAPAN!

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, Apr. 14 (PIA) -- The province of Cavite got its go signal for the mass testing program with the Department of Health's granting of the level 4 status for the De La Salle University-Health Science Institute (DLSU-HIS).

Governor Jonvic Remulla was ecstatic with this development giving a shout out for the DLSU medical team's hard work for the facility's

>> P2

DAR-Cavite ARBO distributes, sells cheap agri products



NAIC, Cavite, April 15, (PIA) - A Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)-assisted farmer's cooperative here has initiated a move to provide assistance to their community and nearby areas by distributing and selling agricultural products at a much lower price to help the people affected by the enhanced community quaran-

tine (ECQ) with continuous supply of their basic necessities.

DAR-Cavite Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) James Arthur T. Dubongco said Palangue Agrarian Reform Cooperative (PARC) is the only member of agrarian reform

>> P3

APRI, SacaSun provide food support to its host communities



Amidst the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine in Luzon, APRI and AFI ensure that its neighboring communities have a sufficient supply of food.

FOOD SECURITY AMIDST COVID-19 - Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. (AFI), through the Aboitiz-Power subsidiaries AP Renewables Inc. (APRI) and San Carlos Sun Power, Inc. (SacaSun), continued to assist its host communities in its fight against COVID-19

>> P3

DTI 4-A's SSF for Garments Production manufactures PPE coveralls for healthcare workers

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A through its Shared Service Facilities for Garments Production operated by the Reliance Producers Cooperative in Carmona, Cavite is manufacturing laboratory gowns, jump suits, and face masks for the country's healthcare workers. This is in response to the call of the Department of Health to work closely with the DTI, industry associations, and private firms to produce personal protective equipment (PPEs) locally.

Established on April 4, 2017, the Reliance Producers Cooperative is a member of the Confederation of Wearables Exporters of the Philippines (CONWEP), which has been tapped by the DOH to produce 10,000 PPE coveralls daily. The Cooperative is the first and only Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) Registered Cooperative that is authorized to engage in garment manufacturing and exporting in the Philippines. It has 2,300 member-workers, catering to a wide range products of international customers of distinguished brands.

Since April 8, 2020, the Cooperative is manufacturing 600 lab gowns, 500 jump suits, and 1,000 face masks per day with 300 member-workers. Upon the arrival of additional raw materials, they are targeting 5,000 pieces of PPE per day with added workforce.

The DTI 4-A provided ten units of single needle-lock stitch needle feed machine, ten units of single needle-direct drive lock stitch machine, six units of over lock five-threads machine, six units of cover stitch machine, four units of buttonhole machine, and four units of bar tack machine to the Cooperative June 1, 2016. Presently, these machines are being used to manufacture the PPEs, using raw materials that have met international standards for waterproofing and resistance to contaminants. "In this very difficult time, it is vital that we have enough PPEs for our healthcare workers to ensure their safety in this fight against COVID-19, and we are happy with the support that we are getting from different sectors. The use of our SSFs to produce more PPEs is our way of helping and protecting the healthcare workers and other

frontliners since they are the ones who are most exposed to dangers," said DTI CALABARZON Director Marilou Q. Toledo. The Shared Service Facilities (SSF) Project is a major component of the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) Development programs to improve and develop competitiveness of the MSMEs by giving them access to energy efficient technologies and more sophisticated equipment. Beneficiaries of the project are the actual and potential users of the SSF, which should be predominantly cooperatives, associations, or groups of MSMEs including MSMEs or individual entrepreneurs who may not be members of cooperatives, associations, corporations, or organizations.



Hontiveros warns of rise in domestic abuse during COVID-19 quarantine

"The quarantine is difficult for all of us. But it is a living nightmare for women who are trapped with their abusers behind closed doors." This was the statement of Senator Risa Hontiveros on Wednesday as she warned against the possible rise of domestic abuse cases in the country due to the COVID-19 quarantine.

"Because of the proximity in the home and added stress due to economic hardship brought by the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), Filipino women and children who are living with their abusers become more vulnerable to violence," Hontiveros said as the lockdown is extended until April 30. "This is extremely worrying," she added.

Hontiveros, who also serves as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Gender Equality, and Family Relations, cited global reports on the rising incidence of domestic

abuse in cities and countries that have implemented similar measures.

"There is a pattern. For places that have implemented a lockdown, from China to France, there is an increase of domestic violence in cases reported to the authorities," the Senator said.

The extension of the ECQ is necessary, according to the Senator, but authorities must work doubly-hard to ensure the protection of women and children. "The lockdown should not allow us to become lax in securing the safety of women and children," Hontiveros said, urging the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) to strengthen anti-domestic violence measures. "The challenge now is to make sure that channels are open and are readily-available to victims of domestic violence," she furthered.

Hontiveros also urged

the PNP to strengthen its ties with local government units [LGUs] and barangays in the campaign against domestic violence during the time of the quarantine. "We need the LGUs, the PNP, and PCW to remain vigilant. At-risk women and children should know that they can ask for help even during quarantine," the senator added.

Additionally, Hontiveros urged PCW to coordinate with LGUs in setting up a new domestic violence helpline in all barangays. To further protect women and children, the senator also suggested that LGUs consider preparing safehouses for vulnerable women and children. According to the

Philippine Statistics Authority's latest data, an alarming one in four women aged 15 to 49 has experienced sexual, physical, and emotional abuse from a husband or partner.

"There will be a surge of domestically-abused Filipino women if we turn a blind eye. We must take all necessary actions to stop any form of violence within the family," said Hontiveros. "Those who are living with domestic abusers are suffering from multiple forms of trauma during this pandemic. During this very difficult time of COVID-19, let us work harder in keeping our women and children safe," concluded Hontiveros.

Bacoor city reports more recoveries

<< P1

#4 - a 46-year old man from Queen's Row West who were reported positive during the period of March 27 and 28, 2020. Meanwhile, the latest survivor from COVID-19 was reported earlier today, patient #16 on the list of confirmed cases in the city, a 42-

year old man from Queen's Row East has just recovered from the dreaded disease.

All reported survivors are on home quarantine and continuously recovering until testing negative in a repeat COVID-19 lab test. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

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Cavite's mass testing starts << P1

accreditation. "Shout out to DLSU-HIS. They have been amazing with their work. I couldn't have asked for a better partner for Cavite. Thank you again," Gov. Remulla said. Elaborating on the procedures of the mass testing, the Governor gave explicit instruction that PUIs and targeted residents of the COVID-19 testing should

not proceed to DLSU. Instead, they must go to designated facilities that have been set up by their respective LGUs to accommodate them.

"We have increased our capacity to test from 1 PCR to 3. Ibig sabihin ay mas mabilis ang serbisyo natin para maibukod at pagalingin ang COVID-19 positive," the Governor said further.

"Dati isang linggo ang resulta, ngayon 24-48 hours ay alam na." (This means that it would be faster to segregate and treat the COVID-19 positive patients. Before it takes 1 week to get results, now you'll know in 24-48 hours)

The Governor also warned that the number of COVID-19 cases will increase, "Expect the positive

cases to increase but also expect the spread of the virus to decrease. We will exert all efforts to stop the spread of this virus." The mass testing have already commenced in the cities of Bacoor, Imus and Dasmariñas today while succeeding testing will be done in phases that will be rolled out tomorrow. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Cavite Gov Remulla to prioritize << P1

Metro Manila. They employ 300,000 Caviteños. I am asking them to assume the burden of testing their employees," Gov. Remulla stated.

He further added, "For the self-employed, we will find a way to help you."

To cover the whole program and make it successful, the Governor shared the provincial government will have to source an additional Pp500M.

Governor Remulla expressed his sincere appreciation to Senator Bong Go for his efforts to push for the ad-

ditional funding so that provincial LGUs could respond better to the needs of their constituents.

"Mass testing is the key to jumpstart the economy," Gov. Remulla said.

According to the Governor, almost two million of the province's population must undergo COVID-19 testing to be able to slowly give normalcy to people's lives and somehow startup the province's economy.

People need to be tested, the Gov said, are: factory workers especially in the eco-

nomie zone; students who can readily bring the virus and infect their parents; drivers of PUJ, bus, TODA, Padyak, Grab and Ankas who are responsible for bring people around; school officials, employees and teachers; frontline workers like healthworkers, nutrition scholars, barangay officials and police personnel; and those who work in commercial establishments like malls, supermarkets, groceries, pharmacies, public wet and dry markets.

The Governor clarified

that testing for those working in factories/manufacturing plants, private school employees and teachers, and employees of commercial establishments should be charged to their employers and company owners.

On the other hand, expenses for COVID-19 tests for all students, employees of public entities such as public schools, public markets, drivers and frontline workers should be shouldered by either the provincial or local government. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

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Salamat sa bigay na 'mass testing facilities' Gov. Remulla

Nagpasalamat ang mga Bacooreño kay Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla sa pagbibigay ng mass testing facilities upang makapagsimula na ng mass testing sa mga pasyenteng pinaghihinahinalang nahawaan ng nakamamatay na coronavirus disease (COVID)-19.

Isa ang Bacoor City sa tatlong pangunahing siyudad sa Lalawigan ng Cavite na kasama sa mass testing program ng pamahalang panlalawigan ng Cavite na sinimulan noong Abril 14.

Maliban dito, ang pamahalaang panlalawigan din ang sasagot sa lahat ng gastos sa pagsasagawa mass testing habang ang pamahalaang lungsod ng Bacoor ang magtitiyak na magkaroon ng mga quarantine facilities at isolation areas para sa mga suspected at probable patients, gayundin sa mga OFWs na dumarating sa lungsod.

Kaugnay nito may 32 pasyenteng pinagsususpetsahan na nahawaan ng coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 ang sumailalim sa swab testing sa unang araw, Abril 14, 2020 ng pagsasagawa ng



mass testing sa lungsod sa pangunguna ng Provincial Health Office (PHO) katuwang ang Department of Health (DOH).

Sinabi ni Bacoor City Information Officer Andrianne Ang na ang mga pasyenteng sumailalim sa swab testing ay mananatili sa quarantine facility at sasailalim ulit sa home quarantine hanggang sa matapos ang quarantine period.

Tiniyak naman ni Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla sa publiko ang agarang paglalagay ng isolation rooms sa Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital at binanggit din ang kanyang plano na gawing quarantine facilities ang ilang motel at hotel sa lungsod.

Samantala, naging maganda ang epekto ng ginawang clustering ng mga barangay para sa pamamanglangke ng mga residente sa

Zapote Market.

Dahil sa palaging pagdagsa ng mga tao sa Zapote Market, ipinag-utos ni Mayor Lani Mercado Revilla kamakailan na gawing by clusters na ang pamamanglangke sa Zapote Market simula noong Abril 13.

May kanya-kanyang araw na schedule ang 73 barangay sa lungsod. Sa isang araw, pinapahintulutan lamang na pumunta sa

palengke ang mga residente ng 10 hanggang 12 barangay.

Bunga nito, nabawasan ang dami ng taong pumupunta sa Zapote Market alinsabay ng mahigpit na pagpatupad ng social o physical distancing, at 'no face mask, no quarantine pass policy' sa loob ng palengke.

Sa pinakabagong post

sa City Government of Bacoor FB Page, nasa 39 ang kabuuan ng naitalang COVID-19 confirmed cases sa lungsod ngunit ang napakagandang balita, simula Abril 13 hanggang Abril 17, walang naitalang karagdang kaso ng COVID-19 sa loob ng limang araw. (Carlo P. Gonzaga, PIA-4A)

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

Sama-sama nating iwasan ang **COVID-19!**

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Hontiveros urges faster release << P1

According to Hontiveros, government must fix bureaucratic obstacles to ensure that subsidies will immediately reach poor families who can no longer afford basic necessities due to the ongoing quarantine protocols.

"Every day of delay or inaction translates to families who will not eat or who will not be able to buy the medicine they need. The national government must use

updated information and coordinate closely with local officials to make sure that all vulnerable households will get actual cash assistance at the soonest," she said.

Hontiveros also proposed the expansion of benefits under the SAP for poor households with six (6) or more members, and those with immunocompromised persons like senior citizens and people with ex-

isting medical conditions. "The P5,000 cash assistance may not be enough for large households with many family members, or for households with elderly or sick members who require regular and costly medication," she pointed out.

Government should also study the provision of basic food needs along with cash subsidies, Hontiveros said, following an earlier re-

port by economists from the University of the Philippines that food, more than cash, is urgently needed by 18 million low-income households during the ongoing quarantine.

Hontiveros then said she is open to expanding the enhanced community quarantine to provinces outside of Luzon with growing cases of COVID-19, provided that "ample funds are secured

so that assistance programs are not only continued, but even expanded to better help Filipinos in every part of the country." "To flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19, we have to isolate cases wherever they may be - especially in provinces where medical services are already strained. However, the national government must extend a helping hand to communities who will be affected by the imposition of quarantine procedures," she said. Hontiveros said

that the ongoing quarantine must be accompanied by a campaign for mass testing in every part of the country: "Efforts to isolate cases and quarantine people will not work if we don't know who is carrying this infectious disease. We should follow the lead of progressive cities like Pasig, Valenzuela and Iloilo and work towards mass testing of populations against COVID-19. That is how we will one as one country against this menace," she said.

DAR Cavite ARBO distributes << P1

beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) among the Cavite ARBOs who initiated action and showed commitment to sell and provide basic food necessities at a much lower price.

"The Palangue ARC, aside from its vegetable crops also supplies rice to Cavite cooperatives and other nearby Luzon areas with a very minimal interest to support those areas, who at the moment cannot avail of their ba-

sic necessities, due to ECQ," Dubongco said.

PARC manager Joselito Tibayan said their store is open and ready to supply the people's basic needs in Luzon and other parts of the country who are affected by the lockdown due to ECQ to avert the spread of the novel coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19).

The Palangue Agrarian Reform Cooperative (PARC) is the only member of agrar-

ian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) among the Cavite ARBOs who initiated action and showed commitment to sell and provide basic food necessities at a much lower price in their community and nearby areas. (Photo from DAR Cavite FB page)

So far, PARC has sold 500 kilograms of corn, 1,000 kgs of wheat, 1,000 kgs of tomatoes, 1,500 kgs. tobacco, 420 kgs rice, 9,580 kgs. pota-

ble water-1,134 container (20 L per container) and 1,500 pcs patola per week in various areas.

Tibayan said the cooperative also has a water refilling station funded under the Village Level Farm Enterprise Development (VLFED) project of the DAR.

"The cooperative understands the people's plight that most of them are unable to make money because of the quarantine period and

covid19-scare which has affected their livelihood situation.

In response to their needs, we decided to reduce our profits during this crisis," Tibayan said.

Dubongco added that as their direct assistance to their community, PARC also distributed a total of 25 sacks of rice and Php 25,000.00 Community Development Fund to serve as their donation to Barangays 1 and 2 of Naic, Cavite.

PARC has also provided financial assistance to nine

(9) senior citizens in their area by giving Php 2,000.00 each intended for their necessities such as food, medicine and others.

The cooperative also distributed 3 kgs of rice to its 167 regular members.

Dubongco said the DAR-Cavite was able to continually monitor the status of (ARBOs) under the work from home scheme and through selected employees who serve as the skeletal workforce of the provincial office. (CPG PIA-4A/DAR Cavite)

APRI, SacaSun provide food support << P1

pandemic. A total of 6,350 kilos of rice was turned over to APRI and SacaSun's host communities in Laguna, Batangas, Albay, and Negros Occidental before the Holy Week public holidays.

Residents of Bitin, Bay and Limao, Calauan were the beneficiaries of food supplies in Laguna. In Batangas, the

provisions of rice were received by the residents of Sta. Elena, San Felix, San Jose, San Pedro, and San Vicente in Sto. Tomas City. Meanwhile 150 frontliners in the Local Government Unit of Tiwi, Albay were the recipients of the premium-grade rice. In Negros Occidental, the rice donation augmented

the relief efforts of San Carlos City. Overall, it was estimated that roughly 1,965 families or 9,875 individuals in Laguna, Batangas, Albay, and Negros Occidental benefitted from this initiative.

In the first wave of APRI's relief operations during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ)

period, the company also provided financial assistance and medical supplies to its host communities and the PNP. The medical supplies and PPEs from AFI consist of alcohol, IR thermometers, nitrile gloves, surgical and N95 masks, and folding beds.

APRI Vice President for Corporate Services Noemi

Sebastian said, "This ongoing crisis has not only threatened us healthwise but has also affected all of us economically. And though we too have challenges to face, we cannot ignore that our very neighbors may be having difficulty sourcing food because of the lockdown. And in the spirit of 'Bayanihan', we would like

to do our share in helping them." APRI, a wholly owned subsidiary of AboitizPower, is one of the leading geothermal energy producers in the country. It delivers clean and renewable baseload power uninterruptedly even with the Luzon-wide ECQ strictly being imposed. SacaSun, on the other hand, is AboitizPower's first foray into solar power generation and operates a 59MW peak solar power facility.

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

32 patients undergo COVID-19 swab testing in Bacoor City



Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla talks to Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado during the turn-over and setting-up of mass testing facilities donated by the provincial government to the city government of Bacoor. (Photo from City Government of Bacoor FB Page)

CITY OF BACOOR, Cavite Apr. 17 (PIA) --About 32 patients suspected to be infected with the coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 who were isolated in a quarantine facility were subjected to swab testing on April 14, 2020.

"The suspected and probable patients will remain in the quarantine facility and undergo home quarantine until the declared quarantine period ends," City Information Officer Andrienne Ang said.

Meanwhile, Bacoor City Mayor Lani Revilla assured the public of early completion of isolation rooms at the Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital.

The Mayor also revealed

plans of converting existing inns, motels, and hotels in the city into designated quarantine facilities.

Bacoor City was one of the three major cities in the province which participated in the mass testing program of the provincial government of Cavite that commenced April 14, 2020.

The swab testing program was facilitated by the City Health Office together with the Provincial Health

Office and the Department of Health (DOH).

According to the DOH, there are two kinds of swab testing: the Nasopharyngeal swab (NPS) and the Oropharyngeal swab (OPS) with results known after two or three days.

As of April 14, the city has recorded a total of 39 confirmed cases of COVID-19, the highest number recorded in the entire province. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Clustered Palengke Day mitigates spread of COVID-19 in Bacoor



BACOOR CITY, Cavite Apr. 17 (PIA) --The city government of Bacoor has reported that no new cases of coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 was recorded for the past four days from April 12 to April 16, 2020.

This was attributed to the Clustered Palengke Day scheme recently implemented by the local government to control the flow of city residents trooping the Zapote market to buy food and basic everyday needs. The clustering measure came about when the Zapote Market was jampacked with residents who went out to buy food and basic essentials during the weekend right after Good Friday. The total 73 barangays in the city were clustered in 10 to 12 barangays with each cluster scheduled/allowed in the Zapote Market every day. This measure of the local

government proved to be effective, as result, the number of people in the Zapote market lessened and the ECQ protocols like the mandatory wearing of face mask, bringing of Quarantine Pass, and social distancing were properly monitored and observed. Mayor Lani Revilla was more than happy and optimistic to report, "Maganda ang naging kooperasyong ipinakita ng mga Bacooreño. Sa pagka-

kaisang ipinapakita ng bawat isa siguradong malalagpasan natin ang lahat ng sigalot na dinudulot ng COVID-19," said the Mayor.

(My fellow Bacooreños showed much cooperation for the local government's measure. With this kind of unity we surely could surpass all the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.)

(Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

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