

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

- Amy Jo Martin



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Cavite Governor to pump up COVID-19 mitigation measures



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite Apr. 20 (PIA) -- Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla revealed plans of expanding the province's COVID Mitigation Infrastructure and other measures to defeat the pandemic. Gov. Remulla announced on Friday, "We have the capacity to test less than a 1,000 a day. To defeat this, we should target 15,000 a day to be tested," stated the Governor. He revealed plans of expanding

the COVID Mitigation Infrastructure targeting to put up 60 swab collection stations, 10 mobile collection stations, increase the number of PCR machines from the present 3 units to 20, and hopes to secure the accreditation of the Department of Health (DOH) for the DLSD-HIS molecular testing lab that could further shorten release of test results to 24 hours

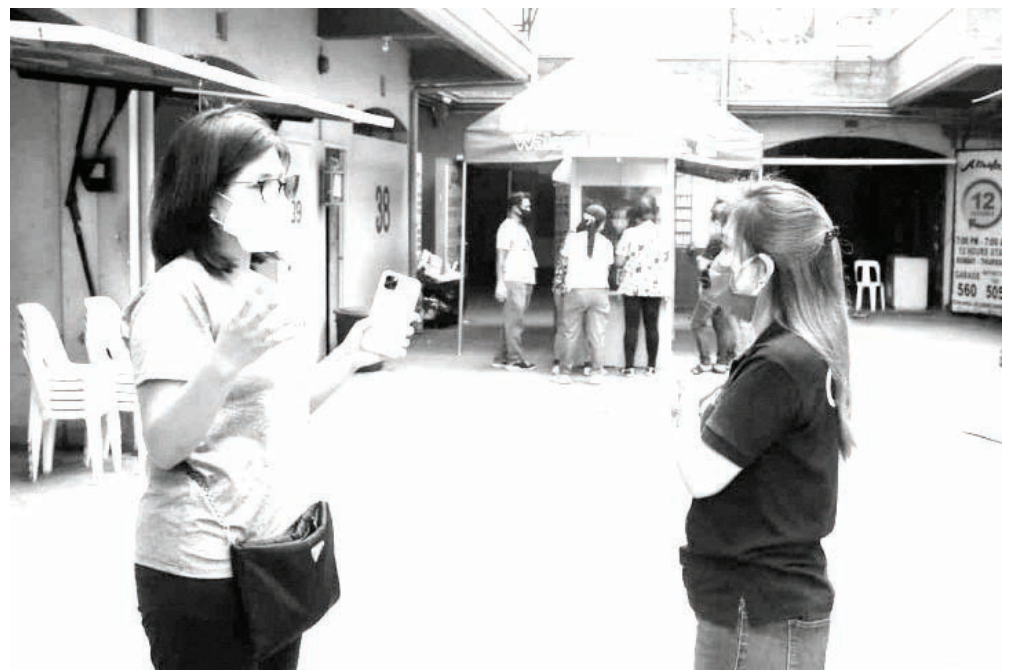
>> P2

Bo. Molino III in Bacoor to be placed under total lockdown

BACOR CITY, Cavite Apr. 23 (PIA) -- The city government of Bacoor thru the Bacoor Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (BDRRMO) has decided to place Barangay Molino III under total lockdown starting April 24 until April 30, 2020.

This developed after the increase in the number of cases of coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 in the area has reached an alarming status thus placing the barangay under total lockdown is a necessary measure to contain the spread of the deadly

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Intensify mass testing prior lifting or modification of ECQ - Hontiveros urges DOH

"Whether the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) is extended or modified, we cannot proceed without devoting more efforts towards mass testing of Filipinos. Kung mabilis ang pagkalat ng COVID-19, dapat ay mas mabilis ang pagtest at paggamot natin sa ating mga kababayan."

This was the remark of Senator Risa Hontiveros, who urged government anew to double its efforts towards mass testing for the 2019 nov-

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LGUs, DSWD distribute cash aid under SAP



Qualified beneficiaries of Imus receive Php 6,500 cash aid under the Social Amelioration Program of the national government. (Photo from Mayor Maliksi's FB page)

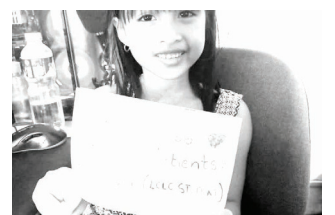
TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, Apr. 19 (PIA) -- Several local government units in the province had simultaneously commenced distribution of cash aid under the Social Amelioration Program of the national government April 16, 2020.

These were the cities of Imus, Dasmariñas, Tagaytay and the municipalities of Naic, Maragondon, Mendez, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, and Ternate.

The city government of Bacoor was the first to conduct said distribution on April 11, 2020 since they were able to quickly expedite the processing of the

>> P3

Letters deliver loving thoughts to COVID-19 patients in Bacoor



The city government of Bacoor asked fellow Bacooreños recently to send love letters to COVID-19 patients in the city. In photo, a girl shows a get well soon greeting for COVID-19 patients. (Photo from Bacoor City Public Information Office)

BACOR CITY, Cavite Apr. 23 (PIA) -- Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla asked her fellow Baco-

>> P2

PGC implements stricter ECQ on its 6th week

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite, Apr. 22 (PIA) -- Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla requested the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año to deploy personnel and reservists of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for the stricter implementation of enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in the province.

In his previous FB post, the Governor said he was utterly dismayed of the 10% of the province's population that remain to be stubborn resulting in numerous arrests of ECQ violators.

"Wala po sa loob ko ang manakit. Gusto ko lang patuparin ang batas para yung 10% ay tumino at ang 90% ay maisalba," said Remulla.

(I don't like to hurt any-

body. I just want to carry out the law so the 10% will learn while the 90% will be saved.)

The Philippine National Police (PNP) was required to conduct rigid inspection to make sure that one quarantine pass for one person policy is followed while observance of strict social distancing in public markets continues.

The Governor also announced the PNP will now

enter the subdivisions and warned residents who continue to defy ECQ protocols that there will be no excuse once they are arrested.

Meanwhile, mass testing for target residents and other counter measure efforts of the PGC show the Governor's serious desire to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic the soonest time possible.

>> P3



Stricter implementation of the ECQ in the province of Cavite requires one quarantine pass for one person policy, and strict observance of social distancing in public places. (Photo from Carmona PCS)



Dear Atty. Batas: kontratang nakasulat kamay, may bisa

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "...Ganoon na lamang ang kanilang kagalakan nang makita ang bituin. Pagpasok sa bahay, nakita nila ang bata sa piling ni Maria na kanyang ina. Nagpatirapa sila at sinamba ang bata. Inihandog din nila sa kanya ang mga dala nilang ginto, insenso at mira..." (Mateo 2:10-11, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

KATANGAHAN O KATARANTADUHAN? Tungkol sa balitang ini-anunsiyo ni Secretary William Dar ang pamamahagi ng Department of Agriculture ng mga buto ng gulay bilang remedyo diumano ng ating mga kababayan laban sa kawalan ng makakain habang naka-enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) ang lahat dahil sa COVID 19, may Facebook reaction ang aking kapatid na si Atty. Leny L. Mauricio.

Sabi ni Atty. Leny: "May magic ba ang mga butong ito? Tutubo ba ang mga ito ng isang araw lang? Talaga naman itong isang ito. Ser, pagkain ang kailangan ng mga tao. Ano po ang gagawin nila habang nag-aantay na tumubo yang mga buto na yan? Nganganga at magkakamot ng b***g?"

"Ano ito, katangahan o katarantaduhan? Hindi yata alam nito na kaya lumalabas ang mga tao ay para maghanap ng makakain. Ano kakainin nila habang tumutubo yung buto?"

Juicecolored, bakit may mga ganitong tao sa panahong ganito? Grabe!..."

TANONG SA QC GOV'T: MAS MABUTI BANG MANG-HOLDAP NA LANG, O PUMATAY NA LANG? Ewan ko lang ha, mga kababayan, pero, mas ginusto pa yata ng mga humuli sa mga tindero ito na gumawa na lang sana silang mga tindero ng masama o tiwali, gaya ng nangholdap na lang o pumatay na lang, imbes na magtinda sa kalye sa ilalim ng matinding sikat ng araw, o magbanat ng buto, magpatulo ng pawis, at makatulong pa nga sa mga nakakulong na mamamayan sa Quezon City na hindi makalabas upang magremedyo ng kanilang makakain sa tindi ng higpit ng ECQ ngayon.

Aba eh, kaya may tumatangkilik na mga residente sa Quezon City sa mga tinderong ito kasi maliwanag na hindi sapat ang tinatanggap nilang ayuda mula sa pamahalaang lungsod o mula sa barangay na nakakasakop sa kanila habang sila ay nasa ECQ dahil COVID 19. Tapos, parurusahan pa

ang mga tindero, na kung tutuusin ay tiyak na mas mararanagal pa sa marami sa mga namumuno sa kasalukuyan na wala ng inatupad kundi ang magpayaman sa gitna ng sakuna ng COVID 19.

So, mga autoridad sa Quezon City, ngayong pinatigil niyo sa pagtitinda sa kalsada ang mga maliliit na taong ito, ngayong ginigipit pa niyo sila kasi kailangan pa nilang kumuha ngayon ng abogado dahil sa kasong ipinatong sa kanila, ano sa tingin niyo ang susunod na gagawain nila? Magpapakabanal pa ba yan mga yan?

Magbabanat pa ba ng buto yan mga yan? Tiyak, ang aral sa kanila ng ginawa sa kanila ng Lungsod Quezon, hindi pala okay ang gumawa ng mga bagay na may karangalan, ng mga bagay na kapuri-puri. Mananagot tiyak kayo sa ating Diyos at Tagapagligtas na ang Pangalan ay Jesus, kundi man dito sa daigdig na ito ay sa impiyerno ng uod at apoy sa buhay na walang hanggan. Kasama pa ang pamilya niyo. Patawarin nawa tayo ng Diyos at Tagapagligtas na ang Pangalan ay Jesus, na Siyang Diyos Ama, Anak, at Espiritu Santo.

DEAR ATTY. BATAS: KONTRATANG NAKASULAT KAMAY LANG, MAY BISA: "Gud am po. Ask ko lang po kung valid po b yung sulat kmay ng kasunduan between ng bumili ng kapisang lupa at ng ma-ari ng lupa pirmado po ito ng may-ari ng lupa na katunayan na nagkabilihan sila salamat po. 0948 491 2981."

0948 491 2981, salamat din po sa inyong tanong. Sa pananaw po ng BATAS (Buklod ng mga Abogadong Tagapagtaguyod ng Adhikaing Sambayanan) at LIGHT (Lawyers Instructed on Godliness, Humility, and Truth), may bisa po ang kasunduan bagamat ito ay sulat kamay lamang. Yung sulat kamay na kontrata ay kapantay sa bisa ng isang kontrata naka-makinilya o naka-computer, o naka-imprenta.

Ang mahalaga, may kasunduan. Sa totoo lang, kahit nga walang nilagdaang papel, kahit na berbalan lamang ang pagkakasundo ng magkabilang panig, magkakaroon ng bisa ang kasunduan, basta nandodoon ang mga kondisyones para sa isang balidong kontrata (pagpayag ng magkabilang panig,

may kaukulang bayad, at ang pinagkasunduan ay maliwanag).

MGA PANGYAYARI SA BIBLIYA NA NAGPAPATOTOO NA SI JESUS ANG DIYOS AT TAGAPAGLIGTAS, AMA, ANAK, AT ESPIRITU SANTO, NA BUMABA MULA SA LANGIT (PART 23): Patuloy po nating inilalahad dito ang kuwento ng pagsilang ng Diyos dito sa daigdig, sa anyo ng tao na may laman at dugo, at nagpakilalang ang Kaniyang Pangalan ay Jesus, mula sa Mateo 2:7-12 ng Bibliya. Matapos sabihan si Haring Herodes kung saan isinilang si Jesus, ganito ang mga sumunod na pangyayari:

"Nang mabatid ito, palihim na ipinatawag ni Herodes ang mga pantas at inusisa kung kailan lumitaw ang bituin. Pagkatapos, sila ay pinapunta niya sa Bethlehem na ganito ang bilin, 'Hanapin ninyong mabuti ang sanggol. Kapag natagpuan ninyo siya, ipagbigay-alam agad ninyo sa akin upang ako man ay pumunta roon at sumamba rin sa kanya.' Pagkarinig sa bilin ng hari, sila'y nagpatuloy sa paghahanap. Ang bituin na nanguna sa kanila mula pa sa silangan ay tumigil sa tapat ng kinaroroonan ng bata.

"Ganoon na lamang ang kanilang kagalakan nang makita ang bituin. Pagpasok sa bahay, nakita nila ang bata sa piling ni Maria na kanyang ina. Nagpatirapa sila at sinamba ang bata. Inihandog din nila sa kanya ang mga dala nilang ginto, insenso at mira. Nang papauwi na ang mga pantas, nakatanggap sila ng babala sa pamamagitan ng panaginip na huwag nang bumalik kay Herodes, kaya't nag-iba na sila ng daan pauwi..."

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, ilitas mo ako, ang mga mahal ko sa buhay, at ang buong mundo, laban sa COVID 19, Amen."

BO Molino III in Bacoor << P1

virus. "Expanded testing and contact tracing will be immediately conducted," a CDRR-MO representative revealed.

The approved resolution encompasses protocols such as closure of all minor ingress and egress roads going in and out of Barangay Molino III with the checkpoint barricaded by the Bacoor-PNP, 24-hours curfew implementation, and issuance of new quarantine passes with very limited use. Only authorized personnel by the Inter-Agency Task Force Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-MEID); the

OFWs and government employees who will check-in at Bacoor's community quarantine facility; and suspected and confirmed cases being transported to community isolation facilities and referral hospitals will be allowed to leave the bounds of the barangay. Likewise, all public transportation vehicles (such as franchised tricycles, PUJs, PUVs, UV Express, etc.) shall not be allowed even for personal purposes.

Food and other basic essentials could be accessed thru the Molino Online Market delivery, Mercury Drug

delivery system, SM Watsons, Mobile Palengke, and other rolling stores in various subdivisions within Barangay Molino III. Stringent implementation of the liquor ban, prohibition of mass gatherings, illegal gambling and illegal activities will be observed.

Meanwhile, all suspected, probable, and confirmed cases will not be allowed to undergo home quarantine/isolation but should immediately be coordinated with the City Health Office (CHO) for proper assessment and action by the Barangay Health

Emergency Response Team (BHERT). These patients will be prioritized for admission in all Level 2 and Level 3 hospitals within Barangay Molino III upon the referral of CHO and the BHERT.

On the other hand, barangay officials and residents who are most affected by the lockdown will be assisted by the CSWDO and the Emergency Response Center thru programs and inventory logistics. Barangay Molino III will also be prioritized for SAP and relief packs distribution. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Cavite Governor to pump up << P1

or less. He revealed developments using technology like the Cavite Health Monitoring Card with a QR code that will identify residents' Test Status (whether tested or not, result and date of last test done); movement of the

person in Cavite, and violations of quarantine rules. Likewise, an Android/OS App that would give notifications for test results, COVID hotspots and information on areas with newly discovered COVID positive per-

son. These plans of the PGC are all in preparation for the partial if not full opening of the economy once the Enhanced Community Quarantine ends on April 30, 2020. Gov. Remulla said, "If the economy opens today, ex-

perts predict a range of 1%-4% (45,000 to 180,000) will be infected in Cavite without the adequate preparations. We hope to have everything in place in the next 30 days to reduce this number significantly."

Letter deliver loving thoughts << P1

oreños to send love letters for the COVID-19 patients and quarantine facilities in the city.

Hundreds of love letters were delivered to the office of Mayor Lani Revilla thru the City Information Office mostly from children to express support and care to these patients who are separated from their families and would not be able to see them until they are fully recovered from the co-

rona virus disease.

"Gusto nating ipinaramdam sa ating mga COVID-19 patients sa Bacoor na sa kabila ng kanilang pinagdadaanan, marami ang nagmamahal at namamalasakit sa kanila," pahayag ni Mayor Lani Revilla.

(We would like our COVID-19 patients in the city to feel despite what they are going through, there are people who care and are concerned for their

welfare, stated Mayor Lani Revilla)

"Napakahirap ng kanilang kalagayan sa kanilang isolation rooms. Kaya naman minabuti naming ipadala sa kanila ang mga love letters ng mga kababayan nating mga Bacooreño na patuloy na nagdadasal para sa kanilang pag-galing," dagdag ni Mayor Revilla.

("Their situation in the isolation rooms is really difficult. That is why we

thought it would help if we send them the love letters from our fellow Bacooreños who continue to pray for their complete recovery," added Mayor Revilla.)

The local government of Bacoor hopes that through this small act of care and concern from fellow Bacooreños would somehow lighten the loneliness and give strength and courage to the COVID-19 patients in isolation. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

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Inilalathala tuwing araw ng Linggo at may sirkulasyon sa Lalawigan ng Cavite.
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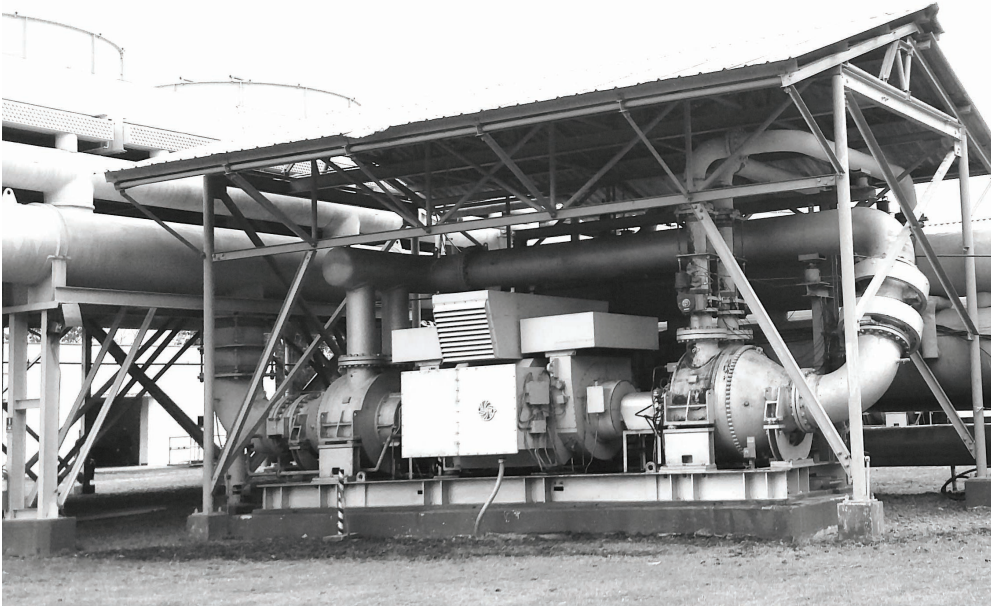
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APRI resumes operation of Binary Plant 11 adding 2.1 MW net of power to the Grid



This is one of the two turbines at the Binary Plant 11 of APRI MakBan. Currently, due to the brine supply, only one turbine is in operation.

At the height of the nationwide Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) where keeping the lights on is essential, AP Renewables Inc. (APRI) MakBan Geothermal Power Plant managed to resume operation of its Binary Power Plant 11, located at Barangay Sta. Elena, Sto. Tomas City, Batangas, again contributing an additional 2.1 MW net of power to the Grid.

The Binary Plant 11, which was producing 1.45 MW of power was recommended for shutdown last March 6, 2019, as its operation resulted in a 7-MW decrease in the overall performance of the MakBan complex load. Operating the Binary Plant 11 causes a pressure drop in the system which curtails the production of steam for the entire geothermal network.

A binary plant, unlike a conventional geothermal power plant that runs on steam, utilizes waste heat from spent geothermal brine to run the turbine prior to the injection of the brine to the underground reservoir.

APRI MakBan Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Asset Management (AMT) teams coordinated their efforts to ensure the conversion of the waste heat energy in the brine fluids is optimized to a value that is commercially reliable.

"I'm glad we were able to address the pressure drop problem and resume operations again. This 2.1MW of power is sufficient to power one barangay. This is needed to keep the lights on in homes and in health centers during the ECQ," Janaurio Maralit, Vice President for MakBan Facilities said.

APRI continues to implement specialized geothermal technology, including steam path modification and gas removal system to improve steam usage at the plant level.

APRI's geothermal facilities have generally operated at par or better than industry standards. The company routinely evaluates and implements various projects while improving coordination with its steam supplier, the Philippine Geothermal Production Company to improve efficiency levels and counteract the challenges of a declining steam supply.

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 with two facilities that it operates in Tiwi, Albay; Bay and Calauan, Laguna; and Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

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Access to Anti-Retroviral Drugs and Other Services during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ)

In the duration of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) being implemented in most parts of the country, the HIV treatment hubs and primary HIV care facilities must ensure that people living with HIV (PLHIVs) enrolled in their facilities are able to access needed health services especially anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs). It is essential then that alternative modes of delivery of ARVs, such as through courier or parcel services, be considered at this time of the ECQ, and that such cost of services may be charged to the PhilHealth Outpatient HIV/AIDS Treatment (OHAT) Package reimbursement.

Please bear in mind that the objective of the PhilHealth OHAT Package is for PLHIVs to have access to effective HIV/AIDS management and treatment. Thus, PhilHealth Circular 011-2015 -(**Outpatient HIV/AIDS Treatment Package - Revision 1**) provides that **80%** of the Package for the facility shall be used for the delivery of required services including drugs, supplies and laboratory, and **other services necessary for the delivery of required services.**

BGEN. RICARDO C. MORALES, AFP (RET) FICD
President and Chief Executive Officer

PGC implements stricter << P1

sible for the economy to open soon and the province to be back on its feet. The Governor pleaded, "Konting tiis na lang po at matatapos din ito. Now is the time to show that we are together in fighting COVID-19. When the economy opens, tayo po ay

naghahanda na sa sunod na hakbang para hindi lumagana ang sakuna na ito."

(Just a little patience and this will end. We are now preparing for the next step to stop the spread of this pandemic.)

The Governor assures

to update the people of the province on what the best measures and options of local chief executives and concerned agency officials concurred for a unified effort to stop the further spread of COVID-19 in the province. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

Intensify mass testing prior << P1

el coronavirus (COVID-19), as the government considers modification or extension of the Luzon-wide ECQ.

"I hope the Department of Health (DOH) takes heed of the ever-growing calls of our health experts, advocates and local officials on the ground for urgent, free and widespread testing in our communities.

Quarantines and social distancing, while important, are clearly only part of the solution. We can only end this pandemic if we identify, isolate and treat every person infected with COVID-19,"

she said.

The senator made the statement after testing operations in Valenzuela City, and Sitio Zapatera in Cebu City, recently revealed that a number of individuals had been infected with COVID-19 but were 'asymptomatic,' or showed no symptoms of the disease. This has led local leaders like Valenzuela City Mayor Rex Gatchalian and Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto to call for mass testing of all persons to improve government efforts against the pandemic.

Test asymptomatic cas-

es, too

"Malinaw na hindi dapat limitado sa mga taong may malalang sintomas ng COVID-19 ang ginagawang testing ng pamahalaan para matigil ang pagkalat ng sakit na ito. Our testing protocols need to be updated to adapt to emerging realities on the ground, especially if the ECQ is extended to May.

Our testing objectives must be expanded to service entire communities, frontliners, the elderly and immunocompromised persons," she said.

"Given what we now

know, government should not be prevented from testing asymptomatic persons, since it is clear that even people without symptoms of COVID-19 can carry and spread the disease among their families and communities. We have to test as many people as we can, as soon as we can," she added.

At least 10,000 tests a day To make mass testing possible, Hontiveros said she hopes that government is "inching closer" to its previously stated goal of conducting 10,000 tests per day by the end of April, since

the DOH had announced last April 14 that it had been conducting 3,000 tests per day. "Mass testing requires ramped up local production of testing kits and capacitated regional testing centers in the Visayas and Mindanao," the Senator detailed.

Capacitate regional testing centers

"Everyday, government should be expanding our testing capacity, especially our regional testing centers servicing suspected COVID-19 cases outside of Metro Manila. Now that more cases are being reported in the Visayas and Mindanao, we should prepare and anticipate the increased demand for tests,"

she further explained.

She also urged government to closely monitor, and test if possible, people in emerging "disease hotspots" such as prisons, markets and urban poor communities.

"Kapag nagkaroon ng kaso ng COVID-19 sa mga kulungan, palengke, masisikip at matataong lugar kung saan nakatira ang marami nating mahihirap na kababayan, mabilis ang pagkalat ng sakit dahil dikit-dikit ang mga tao.

We should stop the disease at the onset by closing in on early cases so that they can be isolated and treated to prevent further transmission," she said.

LGUs, DSWD distribute cash aid << P1

Social Amelioration Card forms. Qualified beneficiaries per household received Php6,500.00 from DSWD personnel while CSWDs and Barangay officials of

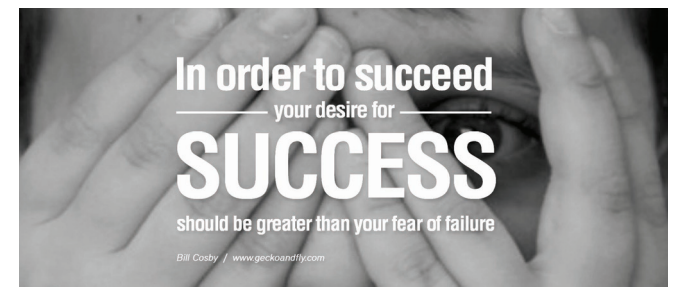
LGUs facilitated the distribution. Distribution were done by clustering of two or three barangays to make distribution properly organized.

During the distribution,

PNP personnel helped oversee that Enhanced Quarantine Protocols like social distancing, wearing of face masks and disinfection measures were observed at all

times during the activity.

The city of Trece Martires and the municipality of Rosario held the SAP distribution on April 17. (Ruel Francisco PIA-Cavite)



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Gov Remulla announces plan for mass testing of target residents

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite, Apr. 20 (PIA) --Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla in his announcement in his official Facebook Page April 18, laid out the procedures for the target testing in the province for the coming days

"Para sa mas efficient and effective ang target testing natin, eto po ang plano kung sino at kailan para sa mga susunod na araw," said the governor.

COVID-19 swab collection booths were set up in cities and municipalities with cases of the corona virus. (Photo from Dasmariñas City website) About 80% of the total PUIs were already tested and awaits results. If tested positive then everyone in the PUIs household and all who live in the house will undergo testing.

Critical medical and frontliners, pertaining to doctors, nurses and hospital staff, quarantine personnel and testing center

workers who are exposed to COVID-19 patients must all be tested. Next on the list are the wet market food handlers, grocery, drug store, and pawnshop employees because the nature of their jobs entail movement of food and basic essentials that could easily spread the virus.

Likewise, PNP personnel who are needed to provide security, ensure peace and order, and oversee strict implementation of ECQ protocols will undergo testing.

Costs of testing for the above target residents except those who are working in private companies will be shouldered by the provincial government. If in case the said private employee target

resident tested positive, then all members of his family must be tested with expenses to be paid for by the provincial government.

Residents not included in the list of target residents are assured to be tested as soon as all high risk, high contact residents are already tested. The Governor requests everyone's cooperation and patience saying, "Inuulit ko, don't panic, para sa kagaangan ng inyong loob ang lahat ng dapat mai-test ay darating ang panahon." (Once again, don't panic, for everyone's peace of mind, those who need to be tested, will be tested at the right time.) (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)



(For the target testing to be more efficient and effective, here are the plans on whom and when the tests will be done in the coming days.)

Bacoor LGU moves to expand isolation, quarantine facilities

BACOOR CITY, Cavite Apr. 22 (PIA) -- Bacoor City Mayor Lani Mercado-Revilla reported on the status of the city's COVID-19 isolation and quarantine facilities in a press statement issued April 21.

The Mayor reported there were 63 confirmed cases in the city as of April 20, 2020 and most of these are those working in NCR as health workers putting them at a higher risk of being infected. They are currently confined in the hospitals where they work. The city government is still awaiting the results of the mass testing done last week and hopes that no additional new cases of the corona virus disease will develop.

"Kami ay nananawagan sa mga kababayan natin na makiisa sa mga hakbangin at panuntunan ng Lokal na Pamahalaan dahil para din ito sa ating kaligtasan. Maaaring magkaroon tayo ng ilang mga karagdagang paghihigpit sa mga barangay na may mataas na kaso ng COVID-19," pakiusap ni Mayor Lani sa mga taga Bacoor.

(I am requesting everyone to cooperate and follow the steps and policies of the local government for every-



Additional isolation and quarantine facilities in the Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital with a capacity of 50 beds are currently being constructed. (Photo from STRH FB Page)

one's safety. We might even be implementing a few stern measures and strict protocols in barangays with high number of COVID-19 confirmed cases, Mayor Lani pleaded the constituents.)

Meanwhile the Mayor stated the city's designated isolation and quarantine facilities like the Golden Oasys Hotel being used as quarantine facility for OFW residents of Bacoor and the

Aliw Inn where suspected and probable patients undergo self-quarantine are almost full.

On the other hand, additional isolation and quarantine facilities in the Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital with a capacity of 50 beds are currently being constructed while freight containers will be converted to put up a 20-room isolation facility. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)

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 invarious 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 com-

bines 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.