

Remulla asks DOH to guard OK of Covid-19 Vaccine

Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla on Thursday urged the Department of Health (DOH) to be cautious in the process of evaluating a vaccine for COVID-19.

Remulla expressed concern specifically on Russia's "Sputnik V" vaccine, which has been developed by the Gamaleya Research Institute in coordination with Russia's defense ministry. Russian President Vladimir Putin has offered to provide the Philippines with this vaccine. He pointed out that the data on Rus-

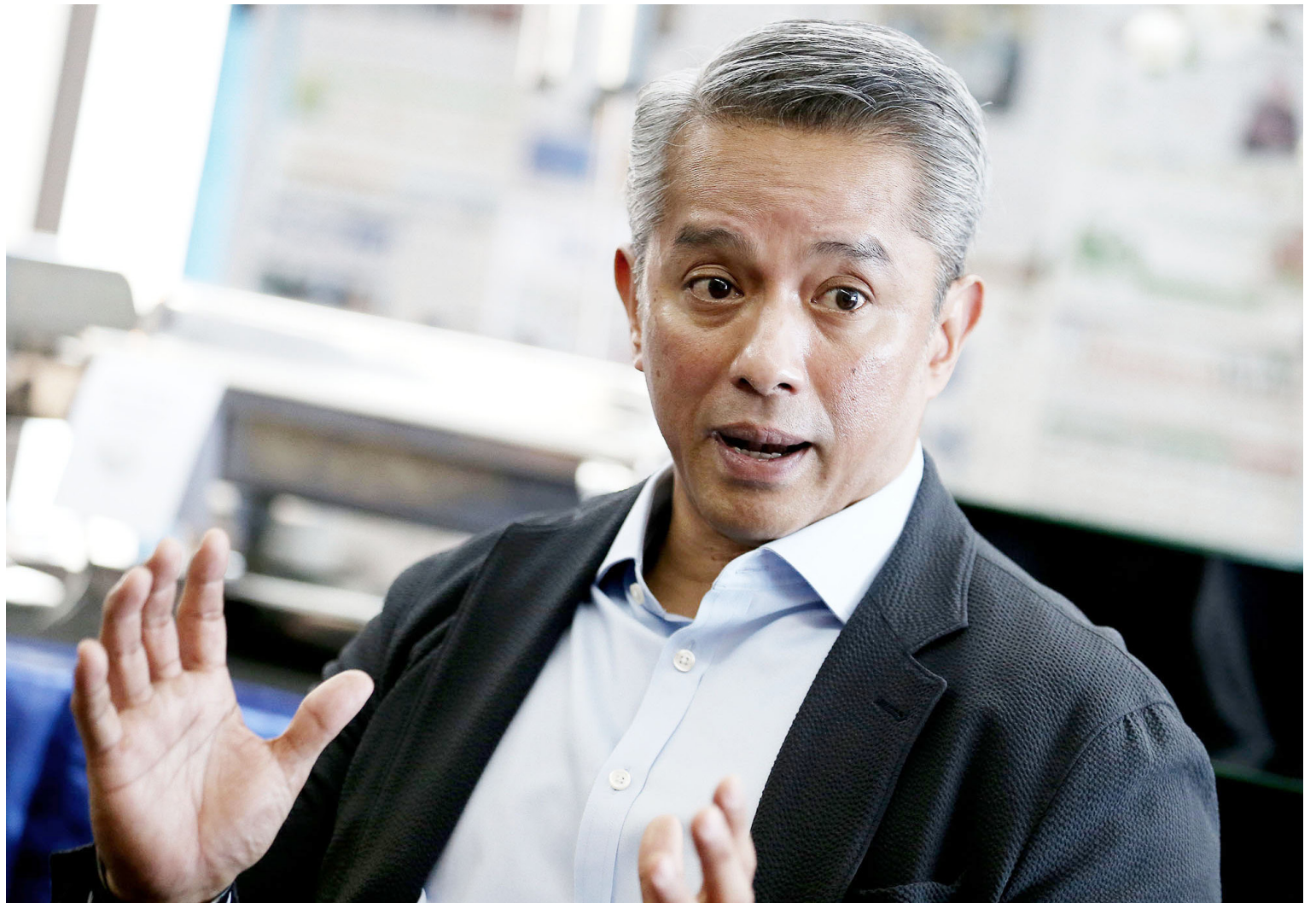
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Cavitex to close 'Fishbone Lanes' for electronic cashless booths

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite Aug 6 (PIA) -- The 10 extension modular booths along CAVITEX road will no longer serve cash transactions starting Saturday, August 15, 2020.

This was announced August 4 by Cavitex Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) President and General Manager, Mr. Roberto Bontia on the company's move to close the extension lanes, five lanes each on the northbound and southbound lane to give way to make all booths electronic by the end of the year.

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Meet Cavite's 'Dragon Fruit King'



Edliberto Silan tends to his dragon fruit plants. PHOTO FROM SILAN AGRI FARM

Dragon fruit farming is a lucrative business as exemplified by Silan Agri Farm in Indang, Cavite owned by Edilberto Silan and his family. Silan has been into dragon fruit farming for 20 years and is known as the "Dragon Fruit King" in Cavite and a pioneer in planting the crop in the country.

His wife Shirley, while gainfully employed at Senate

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Calabarzon hospitals nearing full capacity

Health officials in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) have warned that their treatment centers in the region

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GenTri LGU issues order on reporting of COVID cases, distributes food packs & face masks

Thru the Mayor's Action Team, the Gen. Trias city government distributed 4,390 food packs and face masks to the 11 clustered barangays in the Poblacion area. Other barangays that received food packs include: Barangay Pinagtupunan - 2,300 packs; Tapia - 1,600 packs; Manggahan - 5,300 packs; and Pasong Camachile - 1-8,700 packs while the remaining 18 barangays are scheduled to receive relief packs before the MECQ period ends on August 18, 2020. (Photo: Dennis Abrina)

GENERAL TRIAS CITY, Cavite Aug 11 (PIA) -- The city government here recently issued a directive to the City Health Office (CHO) to revise the public reporting format on the COVID-19 confirmed cases in the city.

Memorandum Circular 21-2020 dated August 6, 2020 declares that subsequent COVID-19 Bulletins to be released by the CHO, only the barangays in the Poblacion area consisting of 11 barangays will remain in

cluster to protect the patients and their families from discrimination.

On the other hand, confirmed cases in other barangays will be reported by the respective barangays.

Meanwhile, General Tri-

as Mayor Ony Ferrer issued a strong reminder to all city residents against discrimination of COVID-19 patients, their families and health workers.

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PH becomes Covid epicenter in SEAsia

The Philippines is now the Southeast Asian epicenter for the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), recording 3,561 new cases on Thursday for a 119,460 total case count.

The country has overtaken Indonesia, which has 118,753 Covid-19 cases.

Data from 89 out of 98 laboratories compiled by the Department of Health (DoH) showed 2,023 fresh cases and 1,538 late ones that had been validated, while 2,740 new cases were tallied from July 24 to August 6.

Metro Manila remained the Covid-19 hotspot with 2,041 cases, followed by Laguna, Cebu, Cavite and Rizal.

The DoH reported that 569 patients recovered, bringing the total to 66,837, while 28 patients have been added to the death toll, which stands at 2,150.

The total number of cases of coronavirus across the globe is nearing 18.6 million, with more than 701,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

One strategy that could boost the country's Covid-19 response is setting up a network of One Hospital Command (OHC) Centers nationwide to enhance coordination among

hospitals and treatment centers for coronavirus patients.

One such facility was opened Thursday at the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority gymnasium in Makati City.

The OHC Center is designed to be a seamless integration of hospital care

delivery systems," Health Secretary Francisco Duque 3rd said.

Treatment Czar and Health Undersecretary Leopoldo Vega said all hospital directors in Metro Manila agreed to transfer moderate and severe cases rather than queue them up in a room where mortality rates are high.

Vega added that the center would look out at other networks in different regions to make sure that patients would be given clinical treatment.

"It is really all about coordinated care" Vega said.

Dr. Bernadette Velasco, the operations head of the OHC Center, said "we will be able to allocate beds and prioritize Covid-19 cases according to their needs."

The public can reach out to the OHC Center through the PureForce Citizens App that can be downloaded from different smartphone app stores, or by calling 02-8865 0500, 0919-977-3333 or 0915-777-7777.

At a press briefing during the OHC facility in Makati Thursday, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is also chairman of the National Task Force Covid-19 (NTF), stressed the need to open similar centers after several patients were turned away by hospitals that are almost at full capacity.

Lorenzana recalled the time when officials of NTF received calls from patients who were crying because no hospital wanted to admit them.

The situation reached a

point where medical frontliners appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to give them time to rest because hospitals were being overwhelmed by the number of Covid patients.

"This is a good thing actually because we can avoid scenarios where patients cannot go to hospitals," Lorenzana said, adding that the command center will be accessible 24/7.

Lorenzana also assured that he would deploy troops if necessary. The Covid-19 task force is also considering building isolation facilities for workers in industrial parks. The task force met with local government officials in Laguna to dis-

cuss how to check the spread of the virus not only in the province but also in Bulacan, Cavite and Metro Manila, where a modified enhanced community quarantine has been reimposed.

NTF's chief implementer Carlito Galvez Jr. said at least five Coordinated Operations to Defeat Pandemic teams will be mobilized to make regular visits to local government units.

Vega also revealed that the country's first integrated Covid-19 facility at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City would be operational by August 17, and that the Quirino Memorial Medical Center would open within the month. A mod-



FREE TEST Health workers check residents at a free swab testing center in Navotas City on Aug. 6, 2020. The Philippines added 3,561 new virus cases on the same day as more Covid-19 tests are conducted. AP PHOTO

ular hospital will be built in the Quezon Institute for moderate and severe cases, Vega added.

Meet Cavite's Dragon Fruit king << P1

of the Philippines, serves as in-charge of the farm's book of accounts and in processing the dragon fruit into vinegar, wine, jam and soap. Daughter Shella, a former instructor at the Cavite State University in Indang, is the farm manager. At present, three dragon fruit varieties sourced from abroad are being cultivated in the farm: Thailand's red royal is known for its sweetness; Vietnam white variety is rich in vitamin C and tastes somewhat sour; and

yellow variety from Australia, which was introduced by Silan in the market last year, has a blend of sweet and sour taste. The family's farming business earns substantial income from dragon fruit alone. During the 2019 cropping season, their 11-hectare dragon fruit farm yielded 10 tons per hectare. "Who says that dragon fruit farming has nothing to do with the country's agriculture," Silan said. The farm, with a total of 15 hectares, is also plant-

ed to tomato, bitter gourd (ampalaya), eggplant and other cash crops. Silan also practices intercropping with coconut and red lady papaya. The farm also produces MD2 pineapple — the sweet variety from Del Monte Corp. — and tissue-cultured lacatan banana and rambutan. Silan also sells vermicast per month to vegetable growers in Cavite and Batangas. Meanwhile, around 50 tons of vermicast is being used in the farm per year. In August

2018, Silan Agri Farm was transformed into a Science and Technology-based Convergence for Agriculture and Tourism model farm and, as such, is supervised by Cavite State University in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, Department of Tourism, and University of the Philippines' Institute of Small-Scale Industries.

Cavitex to close 'Fishbone lanes' << P1

"We are determined to implement 100% electronic toll collection to help our government lessen the spread of the COVID-19 by means of cashless transactions," Mr. Bontia said.

"Going fully electronic will ensure physical distancing at our toll lanes, as there would no longer be interactions between motorists and tollbooth cashiers," added Bontia.

This development would also contribute to the recovery of the nation's economy

through the provision of fast, seamless, and smooth movement of motorists and commodities, as well as providing a quick and safe passage of government vehicles and COVID-19 response personnel during this health crisis.

Mr. Bontia explained that, "Once our tollroads are fully electronic, motorists no longer have to queue at toll-booths to pay. This will result to fast passage through toll lanes." With the transition to full electronic toll collection set on November, the com-

pany reminds all motorists plying the CAVITEX road to avail of the Easytrip RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) sticker to avoid any inconvenience.

The Easytrip RFID sticker is Free, and can be availed by paying the initial load of Php500.00 that is consumable and non-expiring.

The same with the Easytrip Stick-it-Yourself RFID, an innovation of CIC's partner Easytrip Services Corp. with both products that can be purchased 24/7 at the

Customer Service Centers located in both northbound and southbound direction of the CAVITEX before the Parañaque Toll Plaza or through online purchase via Shopee Mall.

CAVITEX is a 14-kilometer expressway that runs along Bacoor bay beginning on Roxas boulevard and exits in the cities of Bacoor and Kawit, that basically links the province to NCR. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with report from MPT-South Communications Office)

Remulla asks DOH to guard OK << P1

sia's vaccine is unavailable and that the methodology on how it is developed is not open to the public, adding that its effectiveness has supposedly not been subjected yet to a review.

"Ako po ay nababahala sa mainit na balita na ang Russia ay maglalabas na ng vaccine para sa COVID-19. I have nothing against the Russians nor am I connected to any preferred country or vaccine manufacturer," Remulla said in a Facebook post.

"I do not stand to gain on this but forgive me if my primary interest is to safeguard

the health and safety of my constituents in Cavite," he added. He cited dengue vaccine Dengvaxia as a "feasible example of a vaccine gone bad." It was in 2017 when Sanofi Pasteur announced that Dengvaxia may lead to "severe" dengue symptoms to seronegative person or those who have not had dengue before immunization.

"Many died from its misuse and because of this many became anti to the use of vaccines," Remulla said.

"In this regard, I am asking the Department of Health to please safeguard the process of review, ap-

proval, and appropriation of the COVID-19 vaccine," he added. "If we [do] not get the containment strategy right then let us ensure that the curative portion is done correctly. Please exercise caution and have the people's interest at heart," Remulla said.

The DOH has said more study and information is still needed with the Russian vaccine even President Rodrigo Duterte already said that he has accepted Putin's offer. He even said he is willing to try it during clinical trials.

Vaccine trial Meanwhile, Remulla bared that the province is set

to be subjected to a Phase 3 field trial of two pharmaceutical companies for a COVID-19 vaccine.

"Sa trial na gagawin, 5,000 dito ay tatanggap ng bakuna habang 5,000 ay placebo. Ang ibig sabihin po ng placebo, ang matatanggap ng kalahati ay walang therapeutic effect. Ito ay standard protocol sa lahat ng clinical trials na ginagawa sa buong mundo," he said.

He ensured that the process would undergo intense scrutiny as the scientific community will determine its validity and efficacy.— AOL, GMA News

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AND KNK tutulong sa online Internet learning ng DepEd

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Pinagpala ang mga gumagawa ng paraan para sa kapayapaan, sapagkat sila'y ituturing na mga anak ng Diyos..." (si Jesus sa Mateo 5:9, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

ONLINE BLENDED LEARNING, DAPAT SUPO-AN: Sana naman ay magtagumpay ang ikinakasang "blended learning" ng Department of Education (DepEd), sa ilalim ng pamamahala ni Education Secretary Leonor Briones, at ang iba pang tipo ng "online distance courses" ng Commission on Higher Education (CHED) at TESDA (Technical and Educational Skills Development Authority) ngayong panahon ng COVID 19 pandemic.

Bagamat maraming lumalabas na batikos sa mga sistemang ito, pangunahin na ang kawalan diumano ng kahan- daan ng mga guro at mga mag-aaral sa kalakaran ng paggamit ng Internet sa elementary, high school kolehiyo at tech-voc schools, marapat nating suportahan lahat ito dahil ang kinab- ukasan ng ating mga kabataan at ng buong bayan ang nakata- ya dito. \ AND KNK, TUTULONG SA ONLINE INTERNET LEARNING NG DEPED: Sa ganitong layunin, nais magbigay ng tulong ang Simbahang Anak Ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK) sa bagong pamamaraang ito ng pag-aaral. Ayon sa Media Committee ng AND KNK, ang mga estudyanteng nahihirapang kumonekta sa Internet sa kanilang lugar ay pu- puwedeng magabayan ng AND KNK sa pagtanggap ng mga Internet materials na kailangan nila sa pag-aaral.

Inaanyayahan po natin ang lahat ng mga mag-aaral (el- ementary, high school, o kolehiyo) na makipag-ugnayan sa AND KNK sa pamamagitan ng website nito na www.andknk.ph para sa mga hakbang na nakalahad doon para tyakin ang tagumpay ng kanilang online learning.

AND KNK: MGA ABA, PERO PINAGPAPALA NG DI- YOS: SSDSNNJ Amen. Bago po natin iwanan ng tuluyan ang ika-pitong patotoo ng Bibliya sa Simbahang Anak Ng Diyos Kadugo Ni Kristo (AND KNK) at sa mga kasapi nitong ti- natawag na mga Kadugo tungkol sa pagkakapili at pagsusu- go sa kanila bagamat sila ay aba ang mga katayuan sa buhay,

kailangan po nating tunghayan ang mga pahayag ng Diyos sa Kaniyang anyong si Jesus sa Mateo 5:3-12.

Ang mga bersikulong ito ay tumutukoy sa tinatawag na "beatitudes" sa wikang Ingles. Sa salin ng Bibliya sa Pilipino, ang tawag sa mga bersikulong ito sa Mateo 5 ay "ang mga pinagpala". Kung ating bubulay-bulaying mabuti ang mga bersikulong ito, makikita natin ang pagiging pinagpala ng mga taong maituturing na aba.

Basahin po natin ang mga ito: "Pinagpala ang mga taong walang inaasahan kundi ang Diyos, sapagkat kabilang sila sa kaharian ng langit. Pinagpala ang mga nagdadalamhati, sapa- gkat aaliwin sila ng Diyos. Pinagpala ang mga mapagpakum- baba, sapagkat mamanahin nila ang daigdig.

"Pinagpala ang mga may matinding hangarin na sumu- nod sa kalooban ng Diyos, sapagkat sila'y bibigyang kasiya- han ng Diyos. Pinagpala ang mga mahabagin, sapagkat ka- hahabagan sila ng Diyos. Pinagpala ang mga may malinis na puso, sapagkat makikita nila ang Diyos.

PASUBALI SA MGA WALANG KAPANGYARIHAN: PAGPAPALAIN KAYO NG DIYOS: "Pinagpala ang mga gu- magawa ng paraan para sa kapayapaan, sapagkat sila'y itutur- ing na mga anak ng Diyos. Pinagpala ang mga inuusig nang dahil sa kanilang pagsunod sa kalooban ng Diyos, sapagkat kabilang sila sa kaharian ng langit.

"Pinagpala ang mga nilalait at inuusig ng mga tao, at pinaparatangang ng lahat ng uri ng kasamaan [na pawang kasinungalingan] nang dahil sa akin. Magsaya kayo at maga- lak sapagkat malaki ang inyong gantimpala sa langit. Alalah- anin ninyong inusig din ang mga propetang nauna sa inyo."

Ano ang kaugnayan ng mga bersikulong ito ng mga pinagpalang tao sa pagiging aba ng mga Kadugo ng Simba- hang AND KNK? Malaki po, kasi kung bubulay-bulayin natin mabuti, makikita natin na ang mga tinutukoy ni Jesus na pinagpala sa Mateo 5:3-12 ay yung mga may abang katayuan sa buhay. Halimbawa, sa lipunang ginagalawan ng mga tao, tunay namang kaawa-awa ang mga walang kapangyarihan, ang mga walang yaman, ang mga walang karunungan, at



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ang mga walang lakas at walang impluwensiya sa lipunan, sa bayan, sa pamahalaan, at sa buong sanlibutan. Itinuturing sil- ang mga pagit at walang halaga.

Pero, yun pala, kung sa kabila ng kanilang kawalan ng lahat ng ito ay natutunan nila ang sumandal at tumawag at tumanggap at sumampalataya sa Diyos, nakikinig at sumusu- nod sa Kaniyang mga utos, mabibigyan sila ng kakaibang ka- tayuan sa buhay. Ituturing pa din silang kabilang sa kaharian ng langit, at magkakaroon pa din ng tatlong antas ng kalig- tasang mula sa Diyos.

KUNG MAHIRAP AT ABA ANG BUHAY, DAPAT MA- TUTONG MAKINIG AT SUMUNOD SA DIYOS: Ganun- din, kung sila ay mamimighati dahil sa kanilang mga naga- wang kasalanan, nagsisi at natutong tumalikod sa pagkakasala at nagsusumikap ng makinig at sumunod sa Diyos, mapag- kakalooban pa din sila ng Kaniyang kapatawaran. Kasabay ng pagtanggap ng kapatawaran ng Diyos, ang mga nagsisi at tumalikod sa kasalanan ay magagawaran din ng mas magin- hawa at matagumpay na buhay.

Samantala, kung ang mga tao ay marunong magpakum- baba sa Diyos at sa kaniyang kapwa, at magiging tapat sila sa kanilang pananampalataya at pakikinig at pagsunod sa mga utos ng Diyos, kasama na ang utos na dapat nilang mama- halin ang ibang tao katulad ng pagmamahal nila sa kanilang sarili, kasama sila sa tatanggap ng lahat ng yaman sa mundo.

Sa lahat ng ito, makikita nating ang pagiging aba ng isang Kadugo ay nag-aakay sa kaniya upang magpakatotoo sa pa- giging Kadugo, nagbabasa at nag-aaral ng Mga Batayang Aral ng AND KNK, sumusunod sa mga utos ng Diyos at ng mga pinunong itinalaga ng Diyos sa AND KNK.

Ito ang magiging daan upang makamitan nila ang tatlong antas ng kaligtasan. Ito din ang magsisilbing tuntungan nila upang ganapin ang mga gawain at tuparin ang layunin ng Diyos sa huling kapanahunan. Salamat Sa Diyos Sa Ngalan Niyang Jesus, Amen.

CALABARZON Hospitals nearing << P1

would hit full capacity in two weeks should the recent spike in new coronavirus disease (COVID-19) infection continues.

But instead of calling for a break and restrict econom- ic activities anew, Cavite's health officer said the prov- ince would rather have more isolation and monitoring units.

Nelson Soriano also wel- comed any "reinforcement" of health-care workers from other regions as Cavite's doc- tors and front-liners have been taking turns in report- ing for 14-day hospital duty in coping with the rising

number of patients.

Laguna's health chief Rene Bagamasbad said among the problems of the province was the lack of quarantine centers, with the situation expected to get worse once the Department of Education (DepEd) starts recalling public schools re- purposed into isolation hubs. Classes are set to resume on Aug 24.

As of Aug. 4, Calabar- zon recorded 6,090 active COVID-19 cases, putting it next to Metro Manila, the outbreak's epicenter. It had 539 new cases or just a little more than the 513 recorded

in Central Visayas. Metro workers Metro Manila and the nearby provinces of Bu- lacan in Central Luzon, and Laguna, Cavite, and Rizal in Calabarzon were placed on modified enhanced com- munity quarantine for two weeks starting on Aug. 4 due to the surge in cases and fol- lowing an appeal from the medical community.

The majority of the ac- tive cases in Calabarzon, or 90.3 percent, according to the Department of Health (DOH), are "mild" and thus placed in quarantine centers rather than having them ad- mitted to hospitals treating

patients with severe or criti- cal conditions.

"Most [of the new cases] are those working in NCR but naturally admitted [to facilities] here where they are residents," Soriano said.

In Cavite, 73 percent of its 916-bed capacity is oc- cupied. The province has 32 community isolation units that are mostly hotels.

In the 35 hospitals, 73.02 percent of bed wards, 67.12 percent of isolation beds, and 80 percent of intensive care units are filled up, the DOH said.

"It's the same situation as with other provinces and

if the numbers don't slow down, we'll be full in two weeks," Soriano said.

Schools as quarantines DepEd regional director Wil-fredo Cabral said the depart- ment granted the request of at least 29 local governments to extend the use of schools as quarantines until Aug.15.

Even without in-person classes, "the schools will be used as operation centers [to conduct distance learning]," Cabral said.

Quezon province has also reimposed strict border control to contain the spread of the virus after local author- ities eased restrictions under the more relaxed modified general community quaran-

tine. In Central Luzon, police on Tuesday installed check- points in the boundaries be- tween Bulacan and the cities of Caloocan, Valenzuela, and Malabon in Metro Manila, and the provinces of Pam- pang and Nueva Ecija.

Checkpoints were also placed in 13 entry and exit points along the North Lu- zon Expressway. In Baguio City, public access to the City Hall was restricted to essen- tial personnel after 16 new cases were recorded on Tues- day. —REPORTS FROM MARICAR CINCO, DEL- FIN MALLARI JR., CAR- MELA REYES-ESTROPE, TONETTE OREJAS, AND VINCENT CABREZA

IATF allows limited movement of SAP beneficiaries to avail subsidy

Limited movement of beneficiaries of the social amelioration program (SAP) have been allowed to enable the un- impeded distribution of cash subsidies despite the modified enhanced community quarantine (MECQ) placed over sev- eral areas. Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite are under MECQ until August 18. "Beneficiaries of the So-

cial Amelioration Program not otherwise restricted shall be allowed the limited movement to avail of and receive such benefits," read the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) for the Management of Emerging Diseases' Resolution No 61 dated August 6 and released Friday. The second tranche of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) SAP

is still ongoing with over 10 million families receiving aid so far. The IATF also allowed the full operations of DSWD's partner financial service providers to "ensure uninterrupted distribution of social amelioration to the most vulnerable" in areas under MECQ. In an earlier statement, DSWD said its financial service providers for the second tranche of SAP are GCash, RCBC, Robinsons Bank, PayMaya, Starpay, and Unionbank. The DSWD shifted to digital disbursement of cash aid to eliminate crowding and mass gatherings during distribution.

GenTri LGU issues order on reporting << P1

"I strongly remind ev- eryone, we should avoid dis- crimination. Instead, let us take care of each other and pray for the health and wel- fare of everyone," Mayor Fer- rer said.

"Whether there is a case or not in our barangay, we must continue to be careful and stay disciplined. Let us unite so that we may over-

come this pandemic," the Mayor added.

The city government with the implementation of a much stricter quarantine pro- tocols under the MECQ pe- riod, immediately responded to address the basic needs of the residents especially those areas under lockdown. Thru the Mayor's Action Team, a total of 4,390 food packs and

face masks were distributed in the 11 barangays in the Poblacion area. Other baran- gays that received food packs include: Barangay Pinagti- punan - 2,300 packs; Tapia - 1,600 packs; Manggahan - 5,300 packs; and Pasong Camachile 1 -8,700 packs.

The remaining 18 ba- rangays are scheduled to re- ceive relief packs from the

local government before the MECQ period ends on Au- gust 18, 2020.

Based on the latest COVID-19 Update, the city has recorded a total of 608 COVID-19 Confirmed cases as of August 9, 2020 in which 429 are Active cases. It also recorded 165 recoveries and 14 deaths. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite/Dennis Abrina)





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DTI CALABARZON distributes P440K worth of starter kits to Cavite MSMEs

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite Aug 11 (PIA) --The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) CALABARZON recently distributed P440,000 worth of starter kits to 55 Medium, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the province thru its Livelihood Seedling Program-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (LSP-NSB).

DTI-Regional Operations Group Assistant Secretary Dominic Tolentino, Jr. and DTI IV-A Director Marilou Q. Toledo led the distribution of the starter kits to the MSMEs beneficiaries in two separate occasions in the municipalities of Amadeo, July 29 with 20 beneficiaries, and Magallanes, Aug 3 with 35 beneficiaries. Starter kits for sari-sari store, carinderia, food manufacturing, salon and barbershop, laun-



DTI-Regional Operations Group Assistant Secretary Dominic Tolentino, Jr. and DTI IV-A Director Marilou Q. Toledo led the distribution of the starter kits to the 55 MSMEs beneficiaries in two separate occasions recently in the municipalities of Amadeo and Magallanes, Cavite. Starter kits for sari-sari store, carinderia, food manufacturing, salon and barbershop, laundry, baking, tailoring and printing supplies were handed over to the MSMEs beneficiaries. (Photo: DTI Region IV-A)

dry, baking, tailoring and printing supplies were handed over to the MSMEs beneficiaries. In her message, Director Toledo emphasized her hopes for the success success of the LSP-NSB program, underscoring its positive effect in the barangay-level economy. "Ang layunin ng DTI, sa pamamagitan ng LSP-NSB, ay makapag-umpisa sa community ng maliliit na negosyo. At mula sa maliliit na negosyo na ito, doon mag-uumpisa ang entrepreneurial journey ng ating mga ka-barangay," Dir. Toledo said.

She added, "Let us help ourselves, so we can help our economy to move forward. Magtulong-tulong po tayo at huwag nating hayaang maging hadlang ang pandemic sa ating kabuhayan."

On the hand, Asec. Tolentino delivered an inspirational message highlighting the importance of business opportunities grandted by the government in this time of pandemic.

"During COVID-19, ang ating mga kababayan ay binibigyan pa rin ng pagkakataon upang magkaroon ng kabuhayan at mapalakas pa ang mga tinatawag nating micro, small, and medium enterprises," Asec. Tolentino said.

In Amadeo, External Affairs Administrator Victor Dihan, representing Mayor Redel John Dionisio welcomed the DTI Team and acknowledged Dir. Toledo's service to the Cavitenos' for a significant amount of time.

Dihan also acknowledged Maynard Maynard Ambion of the Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO), Lynette BAYot of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), and the Barangay Captains of Minantok Kanluran, Minantok Silangan, Maymangga, and Bucal for their cooperation in the execution of the project.

Magallanes Mayor Jasmin Angelli Maligaya-Bautista expressed gratitude to DTI for providing livelihood assistance to their community.

"The unwavering support of DTI to Magallanes is very much appreciated. We hope that our beneficiaries will make use of the starter kits well and eventually grow their businesses," Mayor Bautista said.

DTI developed the LSP-NSB in accordance with the di-



SENATE REPRIMANDS PHILHEALTH'S ADVANCE PAYMENT SCHEME AS TICKET FOR CORRUPTION

Senators have expressed their dismay as the funds which is supposed to be allotted for "fortuitous events" such as a pandemic, appears to become a tool for politics or corruption within the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

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rective of President Rodrigo R. Duterte to help the country's base of the pyramid and to support a grassroots approach for enterprise development, increase the awareness of barangay officials on the different services offered by the Department through the Negosyo Centers, and conduct business development assistance and services in barangays.

MSME beneficiaries of the program may include sole proprietors, cooperatives, or sectoral associations that are located in identified barangays, including those in Local Communist

Armed Conflict (LCAC) affected areas, vulnerable communities like the indigenous people, refugees, and stateless persons with priority assistance given to small businesses affected by natural and human-induced calamities including health crisis arising from epidemics and pandemics.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the LSP-NSB program targets to benefit 27 barangays in the 4th and 5th class municipalities in Cavite this year. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from DTI-Cavite)

Preperasyon ng pagbubukas ng klase ngayong August 24, apektado dahil sa MECQ

Inihayag ni Undersecretary Nepomuceno Malaluan ng Department of Education (DepEd) na apektado ang mga preperasyon ng ilang pampublikong paaralan

para sa pagbubukas ng klase sa August 24, 2020 dahil sa pagpatupad ng Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ).

Sa ginawang virtual

press conference ng DepEd kaninang umaga, sinabi nito na isa sa mga apektado ay ang pag-produce ng mga learning material.

Apektado rin ang logis-

tic operation, tulad ng pagdadala ng mga learning materials at iba pang mga gamit para distance learning.

Sa kabila nito aniya, hindi pa rin ito makakaapekto sa kabuuan ng pagbubukas ng klase sa August 24, 2020 para sa susunod na school year.

Kahit limitado ang mga tao sa ilang division offices at mga paaralan ng DepEd na sakop ng mga lugar kung saan ipinatupad ang MECQ, ginawa-gawa pa rin ng ahen-sya ang lahat na paraan upang maipatupad ng maayos ang distance learning kahit nasa gitna pa ito ng pandemya.

Maliban sa Metro Manila, nasa ilalim din ng MECQ ang Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, at Rizal na tatagal hanggang August 18, 2020.

