



NCR, Cavite, Rizal at 'moderate risk' for COVID-19 -OCTA

Cavite Province - The risk classification of the National Capital Region (NCR), Cavite, and Batangas is at moderate for COVID-19 based on Covid Act Now, independent monitoring group OCTA Research said on Sunday.

In a tweet, OCTA Research fellow Dr. Guido David noted that the average daily attack rate (ADAR) in NCR is at 23.01.

Meanwhile, ADAR in Cavite is at 20.30, while Rizal is at 15.09.

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CHIZ: SORSOGON IS NOW HOME TO NEW FACILITIES FOR ANIMAL CARE AND WELFARE

Sorsogon Gov. Chiz Escudero said the province has opened three new facilities to treat, test and shelter animals as part of the provincial government's commitment to strengthen animal care in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act. The newly inaugurated Provincial Veterinary Office, the Animal Shelter Building and the

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© Danny Pata People living in high-rise condominiums as well as in small residential houses in Makati City stay in their homes on Monday, April 5, 2021, as the enhanced community quarantine in NCR Plus is extended for another week, or from April 5 to 11, 2021. The ECQ was imposed on NCR Plus (Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite, Rizal and Bulacan) to limit movement after the number of COVID-19 cases spiked. DANNY PATA

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Minors below 18 allowed in Cavite malls under Alert Level 2

CAVITE - Individuals 17 years old and below, even if unvaccinated, are now allowed in malls as the province reverts back to a less-restrictive Alert Level 2 starting Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Under Executive Order No. 4, Series of 2022, signed by Governor Jonvic Remulla on Jan. 31, malls are allowed to operate with a maximum of 50 percent indoor venue capacity and 70 percent of outdoor venue capacity for

January tax deadlines extended in areas Alert Level 3



TAX PAYMENT deadlines for January in areas that observed the Alert Level 3 quarantine setting have been extended, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) said.

The bureau, in Revenue Regulations No. 1-2022 issued on Jan. 27, said the deadlines for filing tax returns and paying the corresponding taxes have been extended by 30 calendar days from their original due dates.

The extension also applies to the filing of position papers, replies, protests, and other documents related to audit investigations, while

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DOT to keep 'close watch' as PH opens to int'l tourists



An official of the Department of Tourism (DOT) on Monday said the government would ensure that tourists and tourism establishments adhere to minimum public health standards as the

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SSS reminds contribution payment deadlines

State-owned Social Security System (SSS) is reminding employers and individual members not to miss their contribution payments to enjoy the pension fund's benefit programs.

Aurora C. Ignacio, SSS president and CEO said that payment of contributions is one of the requirements to avail of social security benefit programs such as sickness, maternity, unemployment, retirement, disability, death, and funeral, as well as loan privileges.

"During this period of uncertainty, SSS remains to be one of the most trusted government institutions that helps private sector workers against the adverse effects of the pandemic," Ignacio said in a statement on Monday, Jan. 31.

"In times of contingencies such as sickness or unemployment, they can get financial assistance from

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Senate grants franchises to more telcos, broadcast firms

The Senate on Monday approved on third and final reading numerous bills granting telecommunication and broadcast companies legislative franchises.

Sponsored by Senate Public Services Committee chairperson Senator Grace Poe, the approved House bills sought the grant and renewal of legislative franchises to institutions and companies to be able to operate in various parts of the country.

These include House Bill No. (HBN) 9384, which proposes to expand the franchise granted to the Davao City government for its radio broadcasting stations; as well

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“Mapaghiganti at vengatibo ang panawagan ng presidentiable”

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: “... Mga minamahal, huwag kayong maghihiganti; ipaubaya ninyo sa galit ng Diyos. Sapagkat nasusulat, ‘Akin ang paghihiganti, ako ang gaganti, sabi ng Panginoon.’ Sa halip, ‘Kung nagugutom ang iyong kaaway, pakainin mo; kung nauhaw, painumin mo; sa gayon ay magbubunton ka ng mga baga sa kanyang ulo.’ Huwag kayong magpadaig sa masama, kundi daigin ninyo ng mabuti ang masama...” (Roma 12:19-21, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

PANAWAGAN NG ISANG PRESIDENTIABLE SA PAG-UUSIG NG MGA NAKALABAN NIYA SA HALALAN 2022 PAG SIYA ANG NANALO, MAPAGHIGANTI AT VENGATIBO: Isang mapaghiganti at vengatibong panawagan ang ipinahayag ng isang presidential candidate sa Halalan 2022, noong sabihin nitong “walang pagkakaisa hanggang walang pagtanggap ng mga kasalanan”.

Maliwanag lamang din na ang pahayag na ito ay muling pagbuhay ng linya ng mga puwersahang nang-agaw ng kapangyarihan at pamumuno ng bansa noong 1986. Nakita na ito ng sambayanan noong mga panahong iyon, at nararasan din ng higit na nakararami ang paghihirap ng mga mamamayan dahil dito.

Ito ang pananaw ng maraming mga netizens na nakipag-usap sa Kakampi Mo Ang Batas, matapos maglabasan sa social media ang mga ulat sa inihayag ng nasabing presidentiable noong umaga ng Huwebes, Pebrero 03, 2022.

Ayon sa mga netizens, pag nanalo ang presidentiable na ito, tiyak na masasadlak na naman sa hirap at sumpa ang buhay ng mga Pilipino, gaya ng pagkakasadlak sa hirap at sumpa ng sambayanan sa anim na taon na namuno ang mga nagkudeta at nakapang-agaw ng kapangyarihan noong 1986, matapos maging polisiya ng mga pumalit sa kapangyarihan noong 1986 ang pagiging mapaghiganti.

Sinuman ang manalo bilang pangulo ng Pilipinas sa 2022 elections, dapat nilang ipagpilitan ang pagkakaroon ng sambayanan ng landasin tungo sa pagkaka-isa, kahit sa mga pinakamatitinding kalaban sa pulitika ng mananalo, dagdag ng mga netizens.

SUMPA AT HIRAP ANG MULING DADANASIN NG MGA PILIPINO KUNG MGA MAPAGHIGANTI ANG MANANALO SA ELEKSIYON: Ito ang magdudulot ng tinaguriang “national healing and unity”, upang ang lahat ng sektor ng lipunang Pilipino mula sa hanay ng administrasyon o ng mga nakaluklok sa kapangyarihan at sa hanay ng mga oposisyon, o yung hindi nagtagumpay sa halalan, ay makapag-tulongan sa pagpapaunlad ng bayan.

Kung nagkakaisa kasi ang lahat ng sektor at kumikilos sila sa layuning ang kapakanan at interest muna ng sambayanan at ng bansa ang inuunang isusulong, magiging mas malakas ang hakbang tungo sa pagbabagong makabuluhan at

nagbibigay ng tunay na pakinabang sa lahat.

Magiging magandang halimbawa din ang pagkakaisang ito ng mga nagtutunggali sa pulitika sa mga mamamayan, at maaaring gayahin din nila ito sa kanilang mga kaaway, upang mamayani ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa iba’t ibang dako.

Magkaganunman, hindi ito mangangahulugan na kakalimutan na lamang ng ganoon lamang ang mga krimen o katiwalian ginanap ng sinuman, kalaban man o kakampi.

PAGKAKAISA ANG DAPAT ISULONG, AT PAG-UUSIG KUNG MAY EBIDENSIYA, ANG DAPAT MAKITA SA MGA MAMUMUNO NG BANSA: Kung makikitang may pantay na batayan upang ang sinuman ay iharap at usigin sa mga hukuman, hindi din naman dapat mangingimi o mag-aatubili ang mga nasa kapangyarihan na magsampa ng mga usapin upang sila ay litisin.

Kaya lamang, ang kondisyon sa mga pag-uusig at paglilitis na ito, at maging sa pagpapasya ng mga hukom o mahistrado, kailangang nakikita ng buong bayan na parehas ang



**Kakampi
mo ang
BATAS**
ni Atty. Batas Mauricio

paglilitis, at hindi nakakiling sa mga nakaupo sa kapangyarihan, at hindi din naman dumidiin lamang sa mga isinakdal.

Kailangan ng parehas na paglilitis at pagpapasya sa mga kasong isasampa sa mga kalaban ng mga nasa kapangyarihan upang mapanatili ang tiwala ng mga tao at ng mga kalaban ng nasa kapangyarihan sa sistemang legal at sistema ng katarungan sa bansa.

Sa ganitong paraan, mapapaghilom ang pagkaka-watak-watak at pagkakahati-hati ng mamamayang Pilipino, kasama na ang mga pulitiko. Sa paghihilom ng mga hidwaan ng sambayanan, matututo ang lahat na mag-ambag ng kanilang makakayanan upang mapabuti ang mga negosyo o hanapbuhay, ang kalikasan, at ang pamumuno sa paraang matuwid sa lahat ng antas ng pamamahala.

Magiging kalugod-lugod ang mga tao, hindi na lamang sa mata ng bawat isa, kundi sa mata ng Diyos. Tiyak ang pagbuti ng buhay ng mamamayan sa ganitong pagbabago.

Mayor Gatchalian calls for a “step-by-step” COVID-19 pandemic response

Valenzuela City Mayor Rexlon “Rex” Gatchalian stressed the need for a “step-by-step” approach in addressing the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The mayor made his point in response to some sectors’ call to lower Metro Manila’s quarantine status to Alert Level 1 and to remove the overall alert level system.

In an interview with ANC on Wednesday, Feb. 2, Gatchalian said there are no clear indications yet of a permanent decline in COVID-19 cases or the weakening of the virus itself.

He said that rushing the removal of the current pandemic safeguards may lead the cities “back to zero,” undoing the progress the cities have made to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

“I would rather do step-by-step, rather than one step forward, two steps backward. Our people cannot afford the “urong-sulong” positioning when it comes to the economy and the opening up of companies,” Gatchalian said.

The recent decline in COVID-19 cases nationwide prompted Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Secretary Joey Concepcion to recommend the implementation of the Alert Level 1 status by the end of March, as well as the removal of the alert level quarantine system when the Omicron variant subsides.

Gatchalian said that as much as there is a drive to adjust to the “new normal,” people should remain cautious, and quarantine rules and regulations should still be enforced.

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, the city government released the Alert Level 2 guidelines, which will take effect until Feb. 15.

Under Alert Level 2, contact sports are allowed and basketball courts have reopened, as well as the four to five public parks in the city.

Establishments may open, and group gatherings may be allowed at 50 percent capacity in indoor setting and 70 percent capacity outdoor.

The city government allows only fully vaccinated people to travel. While unvaccinated people are not banned from public spaces, they are encouraged to stay in their residences.

Gatchalian said that the city government is also allowing businesses to implement their respective company policies on



the accommodation of unvaccinated individuals provided the reasons are based on public safety. “If they are taking a stance na bawal pumasok ang mga unvaccinated dahil ‘yung mga empleyado nila ay manganganib, ‘yung mga fellow customers manganganib, we will not stop them (If they are taking a stance on not allowing unvaccinated individuals to enter because of the health risks to their employees and customers, we will not stop them),” Gatchalian said. Some mall and convenience store operators in the city are still implementing the “no vaccination card, no entry” policy, he added. (Khriscielle Yalao)

Minors below << P1

fully-vaccinated individuals and those below 18, provided that all workers are fully-vaccinated against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Malls are allowed to open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The order to public health proto-

cols still stands, as well as the directive to maintain a priority lane for frontline workers.

On Jan. 30, Malacañang announced that Cavite would

be placed under Alert Level 2 from Feb. 1 to 15, along with Metro Manila and other

provinces.

NCR, Cavite, Rizal at moderate << P1

ADAR pertains to the incidence showing the average number of new cases in a period per 100,000 people.

NCR’s COVID-19 case growth rate, on the other hand, is at -68%. Cavite and Rizal recorded -65% and -66% respectively.

Moderate risk means the ADAR per 100,000 population is from one to seven while high risk means it is more than seven. Minimal risk means that the ADAR is less than one.

The Department of Health (DOH) announced on Friday that the NCR’s risk classification went down from high risk to moderate risk.

According to OCTA, the COVID-19 reproduction rate is also “very low” on Saturday in NCR with 0.47, Cavite with 0.69, and Rizal with 0.54.

The reproduction number, which refers to the number of people infected by one case, in the NCR decreased

to 0.47 from 0.50. A reproduction number that is below 1 indicates that the transmission of the virus is slowing down.

David however noted that Batangas, Laguna, and Quezon are still at high risk for COVID-19.

The COVID-19 case growth rate in Batangas is at -48%, Laguna is at -60%, and Quezon is at -28%.

There is also a “low” reproduction rate in Batangas with 0.89 and Laguna with

0.77, while Batangas is at “high” with 1.11.

“NCR could improve to low risk within two weeks if downtrend continues,” David said. David then asked the public to strictly follow the minimum public health standards to bring the risk classification in NCR down to low risk.

The DOH on Saturday reported 17,382 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the nationwide tally to 3,528,796. —KG, GMA News

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Inilalathala tuwing araw ng Linggo at may sirkulasyon sa Lalawigan ng Cavite.
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DOT to keep close watch << P1

country opens to fully vaccinated international tourists beginning February 10. During a press briefing in Malacañang, DOT Secretary Bernadette Puyat said the DOT, other concerned national agencies, local government units (LGU), and other tourism stakeholders will work together to avoid the possibility of another surge in cases brought by an influx of foreign tourists.

"We will be closely monitoring developments in the sector and keeping a close watch on tourism establishments, 'yun kasi 'yong mandate namin (because that's our mandate) to ensure their full compliance with health and safety protocols," Puyat said.

These foreign travelers, she said, will be required to be fully vaccinated, have negative RT-PCR tests 48 hours before their

departure, and will no longer be required to undergo quarantine.

"The reopening of our borders to international travelers in just a few days would be the strongest sign yet that the country's tourism industry is on its way to a full recovery," Puyat said. On the other hand, she said efforts to vaccinate local tourism workers began as early as July 2021 while the administration of booster shots began this month.

She noted that all workers and residents in Boracay Island, a popular tourist spot, have been vaccinated to ensure their safety against Covid-19.

"Halos lahat doon sa Boracay ay binakunahan na and right now nasa booster na sila. And in fact, pati 'yung mga ages 12 to 17 binakunahan narin (Almost everyone in Boracay has been vac-

inated and right now they're getting boosters. And in fact, those aged 12 to 17 are also vaccinated)," Puyat said.

As required by law and ordered by the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) since the beginning of the pandemic, she said the DOT has been ensuring the compliance of tourism establishments with minimum health standards against Covid-19 through its DOT accreditation.

"Noong 2020 pa lang, mayroon tayong mga minimum health and safety protocols sa lahat ng mga hotels, resort, accommodation establishment—kasama dito 'yung DOH—'yun tala-ga ay ini-implement natin (Since 2020 we've had minimum health and safety protocols in all hotels, resorts, and accommo-

dation establishments—in cooperation with the DOH—It's something that we're strictly implementing)," Puyat said.

Earlier, the IATF announced that leisure travelers from visa-free countries will be allowed to enter the country beginning February 10, a move seen to revive the tourism industry. These tourists must also have a passport valid for at least six months and an outbound ticket to leave for their country of origin or their next destination country.

Beginning February 1, the National Capital Region, Batanes, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal in Luzon; Biliran and Southern Leyte in the Visayas; and Basilan in Mindanao will be placed under the less stringent Alert Level 2 as the DOH and other health experts see a decline in Covid-19 cases. (PNA)

Senate grants << P1

as franchises for Mount Apo Science Foundation College Inc. (HBN 10212), Capricorn Broadcasting Network Corp. (HBN 10192), Amapola Broadcasting System (HBN 10196), South Cotabato Communications Corp. (HBN 10123), Prime Broadcasting Network Inc. (HBN 10124), National Council of Churches in the Philippines (HBN 10125), and GVM Radio/TV Corp. (HBN 10211).

The Senate also approved on third and final reading Senate Bill 2421 granting benefits and allowances to the Covid-19 health-care workers (HCWs). Senator Sonny Angara, sponsor and author of the bill, said there should no longer be any impediment in the delivery of the much deserved benefits to HCWs. The bill was filed by Angara and Senator Richard Gordon in response to the request by the Department of Health (DOH) for the passage of a law that will ensure the continuous grant of the benefits provided to HCWs under the now defunct Bayanihan laws. "While it was clear to the proponents of the Bayanihan laws in Congress that the grant of benefits to our health workers should continue for as long as the state of national emergency declared by the President is in place, the expiry of those laws became a cause of delay for the delivery of those benefits and this is what SB 2421 aims to address," Angara said. Once enacted into law, Angara said the benefits for the HCWs will be provided even beyond 2022, for as long as the state of national public health emergency is in effect. (PR)

These include LTO offices in the provinces of Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Camarines Norte, Negros Occidental, Cebu, Iloilo, Zamboanga del

January tax << P1

applications for tax refunds and issuances for deficiency tax collections also receive 30-day extensions.

"The extension applies to all taxpayers within the jurisdiction of the revenue regional and revenue district offices of the BIR classified under Alert Level 3 or higher," BIR said.

Extended due dates that fall on holidays will be moved to the next working day.

As the daily coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tally surged due to the Omicron variant, areas such as Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal were placed under Alert Level 3 in January. Economic

managers estimate productivity losses of P3 billion a week due to the restrictions.

In Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 16-2022 issued on Jan. 31, the BIR further clarified that the extension applies to all required documents for tax payments, including inventory lists.

On value-added tax refunds, the extension applies even if the applicant is a registered tax payer in areas with more permissive alert settings, as long as the filing is done in an area observing Alert Level 3 or higher.

The BIR also encouraged taxpayers to file online and pay through online banking platforms. — Jenina P. Ibañez

SSS reminds contribution << P1

the SSS," she added. SSS has reminded employers and members that the payment deadline for December 2021 contributions of regular employees is on Jan. 31.

The October to December 2021 contributions of household employers; self-employed, voluntary, non-working spouse (SE/V/NWS) members; and Land-based Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) members is also on Jan. 31.

The reminder is being made so that employers can avoid the penalties of late payments and for individual

members to not miss their contribution payments, the SSS chief said.

The payment schedule follows SSS Circular No. 2019-012, which stated that the deadline of remittance of regular employers is every last day of the month following the applicable month.

Meanwhile, for household employers and SE/V/NWS members, it is every last day of the month following the applicable month or calendar quarter, as the case may be.

As for Land-based OFW members, they can pay their

SS contributions for the applicable months of January to September of a given year until Dec. 31 of the same year, while for the applicable months of October to December of a given year, they are allowed to pay until Jan. 31 of the succeeding year.

Moreover, if the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, payments will still be accepted on the next working day.

"With the rise in COVID-19 cases, we continue to encourage our members and employers to use our online and alternative payment

channels to pay their SSS contributions for their safety and convenience," Ignacio concluded.

One option for SE/V/NWS and OFW members to pay their SS contributions online is through the SSS Mobile App, where they can use their PayMaya Account, GCash Account, Credit/Debit Card, or Bank of the Philippine Islands Account.

Information about SSS online and alternative payment channels can be found in the Knowledgebase Section of the uSSSap Tayo Portal.

CHIZ: Sorsogon is now home << P1

Animal Diagnostics Laboratory are housed in one compound in Barangay Cogon in the town of Juban, and offer services like a one-stop-shop for the convenience of animal lovers and their pets, such as diagnostic tests, pharmacy, African Swine Fever (ASF) laboratory test, surgery, animal shelter and isolation, and consultation.

"Kaisa ang Sorsogon na naglalayong protektahan ang mga karapatan ng mga hayop alinsunod sa Republic Act 8484 o ang Animals Welfare Act of 1998 at RA 10631 na nag-amyenda ng ilang seksyon ng orihinal na batas," Escudero said at the inauguration on January 28.

The veteran legislator has supported the passage of both laws when he was a representative of Sorsogon in 1998 and as senator in 2013, when amendments were introduced via RA 10631.

He said the new facilities will not only benefit abandoned dogs and cats, but also farm and work animals.

"I thank my team in the provincial government for completing this undertaking at the soonest possible time. Siempre, pagpapasalamat rin sa aking asawa, na kasalukuyang Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) spokesperson sa bansa, dahil sa kanyang todong pagsuporta sa nasabing proyekto and for agreeing to be one of its patrons," Escudero added.

The governor said it is public knowledge that he and his wife, celebrity and brand ambassador Heart Evangelista, are happy owners of several "aspins" (asong Pinoy) and "puspins" (pusang Pinoy) that is why the Sorsogon project for animals is something close to their hearts. "Hindi naman sa inyo kaila na bukod kay Panda na

isang 'aspin' ay marami kami alagang mga aso at pusa sa bahay. Bahagi na sila ng aming pamilya. Kaya para sa katulad nating mga animal lovers, para po sa inyong mga alaga ang bagong shelter and diagnostics laboratory na ito," Escudero, who is running for senator in the May elections, said.

"Hindi lamang tao ang binibigyan naming ng pagkalinga. Hayop man, kailangan nila ng pagmamahal at tamang pag-aaruga," he added.

In her video message, Evangelista said she is delighted that finally, the province now has its own animal shelter and animal diagnostics laboratory that go with the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian.

"Personally, this newly built provincial animal shelter was a dream come true. As an advocate and spokes-

person for the PAWS, I have long wanted to see a shelter for abandoned, maltreated and homeless animals of Sorsogon," she shared.

"Noong bago pa lamang na nanunungkulan si Gov. Chiz, nabanggit ko sa kanya na gusto kong magtayo ng isang animal shelter. Hindi na pala kailangan sapagkat nasa plano na ito ng Office of the Veterinarian at kailangan lang ng suporta upang makapagpatayo ng gusali," Evangelista noted, adding that she is happy to support it and become one of its patrons.

Provincial veterinarian Dr. John Ashley M. de Castro thanked the Escudero couple for the speedy construction of the animal facilities, as he vowed that his office will be in forefront of educating and disseminating information on animal welfare, care and control, among others.

DEED OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate left by the deceased ROMEO L. TORRES who died intestate, without leaving any Last Will and Testament on September 11, 2021 at Imus, Cavite, consisting of a savings with BANK ACCOUNT NO. 54069-5371302081 maintained with SM MOLINO BRANCH OF BDO BANK, had been ADJUDICATED unto themselves by the LEGAL and SOLE HEIRS of said deceased as per Document No. 172, Page No. 35, Book No. LXXXVII Series of 2022 of Notary Public Atty. Brian B. Pellazar dated January 31, 2022.

The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite
February 6, 13 and 20, 2022



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Continued vax allows PH to further reopen economy safely

With the easing of travel restrictions and lowering of alert level in Metro Manila and other parts of the country, balancing health and economy will be possible by continuing the vaccination drive against coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), an adviser to the President said.

During the Laging Handa public briefing Monday, Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion said the government should strengthen its vaccination program in Visayas and Mindanao as well as other parts of Luzon to achieve at least 70 to 80-percent vaccination rate in these areas.

This will give Filipinos the protection from getting severe Covid-19 cases and

will help in avoiding congestion of healthcare facilities, said Concepcion, who is also the founder of Go Negosyo.

“Without getting immunity then the threat will always come back. So we make sure that our protection through vaccination should be there,” he added.

Starting February 1, Metro Manila, Batanes, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Biliran, Southern Leyte, and Basilan will be placed under Alert Level 2.

The eased travel restrictions, in which facility-based quarantine is lifted, for international arrivals will also begin Tuesday.

Concepcion said overseas Filipinos and foreign

nationals who would like to travel in the Philippines for business or leisure were glad about this move of the government.

“Many would like to enter (our country) as we come close to March. (It’s) summer period, many tourists will visit our different islands. So it will open up and will help our small and micro entrepreneurs,” he said.

Concepcion said this decision of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF) to ease travel rules will help in the recovery of the tourism sector, especially in Typhoon Odette-hit areas in Visayas and Mindanao. This would also support the country’s economic



growth for the last two quarters of the Duterte administration, he said. “We want to turn over the economy in

a healthy state, not sick with Covid. That is our objective in the private sector. And hopefully, it will continue to

be that way. So we’re looking at a good first quarter and hopefully a great second quarter,” he added. (PNA)

DAR Cavite goes high-tech in assessing level of development of ARCs and ARBOs

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the province of Cavite has conducted a series of information technology-enabled assessment system (IT-eASy) for agrarian reform communities (ARCs) and agrarian reform beneficiaries organizations (ARBOs), specifically in F. de Castro, General Mariano Alvarez and Pasong Kawayan II, General Trias, to level off their stages of development.

“There is a need to assess the level of organizational maturity of the ARCs and the ARBOs for the DAR to be aware of the basic and advance interventions that has been provided to these groups in terms of land tenure improvement, agrarian justice delivery and effective delivery of support services,” DAR-Cavite Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II James Arthur T. Dubongco said.

Dubongco noted that most of the agrarian development interventions given to the farmers are passed on through the ARBOs and the ARCs since they are composed of farmers who are united in their goals to improve their agriculture and economic lives. Thus, he said they know more what



to prioritize in terms of the requirements of the organization.

“Investment, in terms of programs, projects and interventions are focused in these ARCs and ARBOs,” he said.

Dubongco said the DAR Cavite started its IT assessment last Dec 2021 and as of January 2022, four (4) ARCs, seven (7) ARBOs and fifty (50) agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) has been assessed. He disclosed that since 1993, DAR has adopted the development of ARCs as its main strategy to propel economic growth and rural development in the countryside. The strategy has identified five (5) levels of ARC development, starting of with level 1 as the basic intervention and level 5 as the advanced stage of interven-

tions provided by the DAR and other agencies.

Dubongco said the General Mariano Alvarez ARC alone is composed of three (3) ARBOs, the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite (ARBAGMAC), Brgy Kua Farmers, Owners, Workers Association (BKFOWA) and LUZVIMIN MPC.

Caesario Mullet, Chairman of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite (ARBAGMAC) said that due to the pandemic, the operation of their cooperative has been temporarily suspended and that they plan to borrow under the Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP) to recuperate.

Dubongco said the DAR would intensify the provision

CVSU, ITINANGHAL BILANG '28TH BEST UNIVERSITY' SA BANSA; ISANG PROPESOR, KINILALA BILANG 'TOP CITED SCIENTIST'

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Kasabay ng naturang pagkilala ay pinarangalan rin si Dr. Melbourne R. Talactac na isang propesor ng CvSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences (CVMBS) bilang Top Cited Scientist.

Si Talactac ay kasalukuyan ring Vice President for Research and Extensions ng nasabing pamantasan. Siya ay kilala sa kanilang kagalingan sa Veterinary Medicine at sa mga citation sa pag-aaral na, 'Mucosal immunization with recombinant influenza hemagglutinin protein and poly gamma-glutamate/chitosan nanoparticles induces protection against highly pathogenic influenza A virus'. Source: Cavite State University, PIA Cavite

of support services by creating more ARBOs nationwide and provide them with infrastructures, farm machinery and equipment, farm inputs,

credit assistance, and livelihood training, among other support services to ensure the ARBs' success.

ARCs are cluster of con-

tiguous barangays within a municipality where majority of lands have been awarded to a critical mass of ARBs. (DAR)