

# Cavite prov'l gov't on WFH due to COVID-19



CAVITE – Employees of the provincial government will be on a work-from-home arrangement starting Wednesday (Jan. 12) due to the overwhelming number of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases recorded, the Provincial Information Office announced. The Provincial Health

>> P2

## 97 areas in NCR under granular lockdown

A total of 97 areas in Metro Manila are currently under granular lockdown amid a surge in COVID-19 infections, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Wednesday. A total of 102 families or 463 individuals are affected by the granular lockdowns, DILG Undersecretary Jonathan Malaya said in

>> P2

## 2 Cavite towns halt COVID-19 vaccination

Vaccination against COVID-19 has been temporarily suspended in the town of Tanza due to the increase in the number of medical workers testing positive for the virus.

According to Tanza Mayor Yuri Pacumio, the vaccination of those with a schedule will not continue this week.

Vaccinations will continue at Felipe Calderon Elementary School next week, but only for those sent schedule confirmation via text message. No booster

>> P2

## Cavite gov't grants original proponent status to SPIA consortium

The Provincial Government of Cavite officially accepted and granted original proponent status to the unsolicited proposal of the SPIA Development Consortium for the \$10 billion Sangley Point International Airport (SPIA).

The SPIA consortium members include Cavitetex Holdings Inc. (CHI) of Met-

>> P2



## DSWD ensures provision of assistance to lockdown-hit areas



In line with the implementation of granular lockdowns, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ensured its continuous provision of assistance to families and individuals affected by the stricter quarantine measures in Metro Manila and some nearby provinces.

The DSWD, amid the spike in COVID-19 infections in some areas, continues the provision of Family Food Packs (FFPs) to local government units (LGUs) under Alert Level 3, as part of its mandate on resource augmentation. Moreover,

>> P3

## PNP to crack down on black market sellers of essential meds



The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Friday said all of its operating units are now mobilized to identify and arrest unscrupulous traders engaged in hoarding and other illegal practices on the sale of essential medicines amid soaring coronavirus cases.

“Selling these drugs outside the legitimate pharmacies can really be dangerous to the public. The Food and Drug Administration has already appealed to only buy medicines from FDA (Food Drug Administra-

>> P3



# PLDT group: 87% of Cavite cities, towns now on Smart 5G

PLDT group announced on Thursday that it fired up additional fifth-generation (5G) base stations in Cavite province, with the service now available in 87% of its cities and towns.

The new 5G base stations are in the cities of Trece Martires, General Trias, Dasmariñas, Tagaytay, Cavite, and Imus, PLDT Inc. and its wireless arm Smart Communications, Inc. said in an e-mailed statement.

"Smart LTE (long-term evolution) is also available across Cavite, enabling high-speed mobile data service for customers with LTE handsets," the group noted.

"Underpinning these LTE, 5G, and Wi-Fi services is PLDT's fiber infrastructure, the country's most extensive at over 715,000 kilometers as of end-November," it added.

Cavite Governor Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla said the goal is to make the province "the most technologically advanced and the least stressful province to live in in the country."

Smart, according to the PLDT group, has the most mobile users in the country, with 40 million.

The group announced in July last year that it had partnered with the Cavite local government through its business arm PLDT Enterprise and Smart for the rollout of a fiber network for the province's digital roadmap towards becoming a "Smart City."

The provincial government of Cavite and the PLDT group would activate the Cavite Managed Broadband

Network Service, an end-to-end solution that would enable internet to the province's 23 cities and municipalities, PLDT group said.

The project includes the provision of a fully underground fiber optic cable backbone. It would provide free internet access to more than 23 cities and municipalities, 129 public elementary and secondary schools, and 42 public places. Hastings Holdings, Inc., a unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund subsidiary MediaQuest Holdings, Inc., has a majority stake in BusinessWorld through the Philippine Star Group, which it controls. — Arjay L. Balinbin



## Cavite government grants << P1

ro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) and the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC); MacroAsia Corporation, along with global firms Samsung C&T Corporation of South Korea, Munich Airport International GmbH and London-based Arup Group. The SPIA proposal was accepted and granted OPS on Friday, Jan. 7.

As an original proponent, the consortium has the right to directly negotiate the final terms and conditions of the joint venture with the provincial government.

The consortium also has the right to match the best counter proposal that the government receives during the 60-day mandatory competitive process, or Swiss challenge. "Our acceptance

of the unsolicited proposal is a clear sign of the Province's commitment to deliver this nationally significant and legacy project to the Filipino people," remarked Cavite Governor Juanito Victor Remulla.

In November last year, the SPIA Development Consortium submitted its unsolicited proposal to form a joint venture with the Province of Cavite for the SPIA project. As soon as the project is awarded, the consortium is ready to transform Sangley airport into a premium gateway, the proponent declared in a statement.

However, as of press time, the consortium's Unsolicited Proposal covers only the first phase of the SPIA project worth \$4.3 billion.

Specifically, this includes SPIA Phase 1A, the \$2.3 Billion first runway for 15 million passengers per annum and Phase 1B, \$2 billion capacity expansion for 25 million passengers per annum.

The SPIA is "urgently needed as a complementary airport to NAIA given post-pandemic requirements," the consortium acknowledged.

After final planning, design and financial closing, the work would immediately begin with the construction of a 4.6-kilometer connector road from the Kawit Interchange of Cavite leading to Sangley.

The road link should be finished in two years, the consortium reckoned. "We hope that this consortium,

made up of reputable domestic and well-known global development and investment companies, will help us successfully complete the project," the governor added.

Earlier, the Cavite provincial government declared a second failed bidding after receiving no bids for the airport project last October.

The long-delayed SIA was being touted as an alternative to the congested Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), with quadruple the latter's capacity at 130 million passengers per annum.

The SPIA was envisioned as a fully modernized, world-class and green airport that will meet increased passenger demand in the next 30-40 years.

## Cavite Prov'l Gov't on << P1

Office, meanwhile, as well as the provincial-supervised hospitals, will continue to operate at full capacity. On Jan. 7, Gov. Jonvic Remulla said in a Facebook post that more than 50 workers in his office have tested positive for the virus. Cavite remains

to have the most number of active COVID-19 cases in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) with 6,902 active cases as of Jan. 11, according to data from the Department of Health Center for Health Development Region IVA.

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## 2 Cavite towns halt << P1

shot will be given until next week to prioritize those who have not yet or have not completed the vaccination.

Meanwhile, municipal offices have also been closed starting this Thursday and will resume operations on Monday.

As many as 147,940 have been vaccinated in Tanza, equivalent to 79.96 percent of the target population of 185,000.

Meanwhile, Alfonso's municipal hall also closed on Thursday, and vaccination was temporarily suspended while making sure govern-

ment staff were COVID-19 negative.

Even the Cavite provincial capitol office will implement work-from-home arrangements with employees due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.

Vaccination was also stopped in the town of General Trias in the said province after many vaccination team members fell ill.

Vaccination is limited in Mandaluyong City after most vaccination sites in the city are closed starting Thursday.

According to the Mandaluyong City Public Infor-

mation Office, some vaccination team members went on COVID.

Close contacts are also quarantined, so only one vaccination site can be opened for vaccinators.

Vaccination sites will be closed until Saturday to allow disinfection and recovery of positive frontliners.

The Unilab Bayanihan Vaccination Site in Barangay Highway Hills is open until Friday, January 14.

Recipients of the second dose of Moderna are scheduled Thursday morning, while booster shots are

scheduled from 1 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For those who are supposed to take the second twelve on the days when the vaccination sites are closed, just look out for the vaccination schedule that will be posted on the Facebook page of the Mandaluyong City PIO, he said, as vaccinations are expected to reopen on Monday.

According to the latest records of the Mandaluyong City Health Department, there are 1,690 active cases currently being monitored in the city.

## 97 areas in NCR under << P1

a public briefing. Meanwhile, 107 areas in the whole country are under granular lockdown affecting a total of 679 individuals. "Sanay na ang kapulisan sa pagbabantay sa granular

lockdown (The police are well-versed already in monitoring and securing granular lockdowns)," Malaya said.

The Philippines, especially in Metro Manila, is cur-

rently seeing an "exponential" increase in COVID-19 infections, prompting the government to place the National Capital Region, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite under Alert Level

3. The Philippines recorded on Tuesday 28,007 new cases of the severe respiratory disease, bringing the total of active cases to 181,016.

The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper are those of the authors/writers/contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the owner and the management.



# Cavite survey favors BBM

IF elections are held today in Cavite, a recent survey reveals that presidential aspirant Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is the landslide winner after scoring 62 percent across the province.

In his official Facebook page, Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla revealed that the internal survey was conducted with 1,600 respondents throughout Cavite from December 1 to 5 last year.

"Surveys are a snapshot in time. If the election was held today? BBM will win in Cavite by a landslide," said Remulla.

Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, a known Cavite native, is far second with 16 percent while Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo falls to third with nine percent, Manila Mayor Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso, six percent and Sen. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, four percent.

According to the latest records of the Commission on Elections in 2019, Cavite has more than two million voters, second only to Cebu province with the largest number of voters with more than three million voters.

## PNP to crack << P1

tion)-approved outlets," PNP chief Gen. Dionardo Carlos said. He added that violators will face appropriate criminal charges according to existing FDA regulations as further aggravated by violations of law under a state of national health emergency.

Carlos said the PNP will investigate how people are being convinced to patronize these products coming from dubious entities that cannot present proof of business registration and permit to sell regulated products.

"It is imperative, too, that the PNP coordinates with other government agencies to find out to what extent these items are sold at a cheaper price compared to those in legitimate outlets," he added.

This came as President Rodrigo Duterte called on the police to imprison and arrest black market sellers of these essential commodities.

He said the PNP can detain them for 34 hours for investigation and for summary inquest proceedings.

Meanwhile, Carlos also said they are also preparing for a possible escalation to Alert Level 4, the second most stringent of the five-

er alert level system. This came as more areas have been placed under a stricter Alert Level 3 starting Sunday -- the provinces of Bataan, Batangas, Cagayan and Zambales, as well as Baguio City; Dagupan City; Santiago City, Isabela; Angeles City; Olongapo City; Lucena City; Naga City; Iloilo City and Lapulapu City.

"We will take the cue from the NCR (National Capital Region) which has already implemented Alert Level 3 starting Monday, January 3. So far, everything is working smoothly. We instructed our police personnel to be fully aware of the guidelines. If this won't serve to curb the Covid cases in their area, then there is a bigger possibility that a stricter health protocol will be implemented in their LGU," he added.

Under Alert Level 4, persons younger than 18 years old, older than 65, with comorbidities, and those who are pregnant must stay at home.

On-site capacity in establishments and government offices are also limited. (with Priam Nepomuceno/PNA)

## DSWD ensures << P1

the Department assured the affected residents that it has enough budget and resources for its pandemic response operations. As of January 10, the DSWD maintains stockpiles and standby funds worth more than Php 895.7 million. Of this figure, more than Php 102 million is the standby funds of the Central Office and Field Offices while over Php 37.18 million is the available Quick Response Fund. The DSWD also has more than 299,000 FFPs prepositioned in strategic locations that are ready for distribution to the affect-

ed population. Furthermore, the Department continues repacking activities for possible augmentation.

Meanwhile, the National Capital Region was placed under the Alert Level 3 on January 3, while nearby provinces including Bulacan, Cavite and Rizal were declared on January 5. The Province of Laguna was also in the same alert level starting January 7.

The DSWD vowed to closely coordinate with the LGUs in the affected areas to ensure continued provision of assistance. (DSWD)

Meanwhile, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) is known as the most vote-rich region in the country with more than eight million voters or 14 percent of the total voters population.

Marcos is running in tandem with Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio who also leads in all reputable surveys for vice president in the country.

### ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication of the Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale filed by HDMF versus Dennis C. Mariano in the Dec. 19, 26, 2021 & Jan. 2, 2022 issues of The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite wherein the technical description of the mortgaged property should read as "A parcel of land (Lot 10, Blk. 61 of the cons.-subd. plan..."

The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite  
January 16, 2022

### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
Mortgagee,  
-versus- FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-368-16

DENNIS C. MARIANO  
Mortgagor/s  
x-----x

### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, with business address at 12th Floor JELP Business Solution Center, No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the Mortgagor/s, DENNIS C. MARIANO with residence and postal address at #133 CRISPIN EXTENSION STREET, SITIO RIZAL, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY, AND LOT 10, BLOCK 61, HOLIDAY HOMES SUBDIVISION, BICLATAN, GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of 30 September 2015 amounts to THREE HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED NINETY PESOS AND 41/100 (P305,590.41), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on January 27, 2022 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-1187446

A parcel of land (Lot 10 Blk. 61 of the cons. -subd. plan Pcs-04-011670, being a portion of the cons. of Lots 2847-B, 2847-C, Psd-04-030633 & Lot 2848, San Francisco de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No. ), situated in Bo. of Biclatan, Mun. of Gen. Trias, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 9, Blk. 61 of the cons./subd. plan; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Alley 50 of the cons./subd. plan; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 11; and on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 25 both of Blk. 61, of the cons./subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan xxx containing an area of FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS. xxx

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on Feb. 17, 2022 without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Trece Martires City, December 09, 2021

(SGD.) LUCIO C. ALEJO III  
Sheriff IV

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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
12th Floor JELP Business Solution Center,  
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

DENNIS C. MARIANO  
#133 CRISPIN EXTENSION STREET, SITIO RIZAL, ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY,  
AND LOT 10, BLOCK 61, HOLIDAY HOMES SUBDIVISION,  
BICLATAN, GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Publication: THE SOUTHERN TAGALOG HERALD  
Dates: December 19, 26, 2021 & January 2, 2022

## Death rather than Sin

St. Dominic Savio

### ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication of the Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale filed by HDMF versus Sps. Arnel Villafuerte and Irene D. Villafuerte in the Dec. 19, 26, 2021 & Jan. 2, 2022 issues of The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite wherein the lot area of the mortgaged property should be "THIRTY-NINE SQ. M. & SIXTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (39.60)".

The Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite  
January 16, 2022

### REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
Mortgagee,

-versus- FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-1158-14

SPOUSES ARNEL ARANA VILLAFUERTE  
AND IRENE D. VILLAFUERTE  
Mortgagor/s  
x-----x

### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND, with business address at 12th Floor JELP Business Solution Center, No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City, against the Mortgagor/s, SPOUSES ARNEL ARANA VILLAFUERTE AND IRENE D. VILLAFUERTE with residence and postal address at LOT 1 & 2, BLOCK 3, SECTION 33, BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I, PASONG KAWAYAN, GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of 20 November 2013 amounts to SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND TWENTY SEVEN PESOS AND 86/100 (P731,027.86), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on January 27, 2022 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-900121

A parcel of land (Lot 1, Blk. 3 of the subd. plan Psd-042120-076500 being a portion of Lot 3090, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate, Fis-799-D, LRC Rec. No. ), sit. in Brgy. of Bagtas, Mun. of Tanza, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Lot 7, Blk. 3, Sec. 33; on the NW., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 31, on the NW/NE., along lines 3-4-5-6-7-8 by Road Lot 34; on the SE., along line 8-1 by Lot 2, Blk. 3 Sec. 33, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan xxx containing an area of THIRTY NINE SQ. METERS AND SEVENTY SQ. DECIMETERS (39.70) xxx

### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-900115

A parcel of land (Lot 2, Blk. 3 of the subd. plan Psd-042120-076500 being a portion of Lot 3090, Sta. Cruz de Malabon Estate, Fis-799-D, LRC Rec. No. ), sit. in Brgy. of Bagtas, Mun. of Tanza, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NW., along line 1-2 by Lot 1, Blk. 2, Sec. 33; on the NE., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 34, on the SE., along line 3-4 by Lot 3; and on the SW., along line 4-1 by Lot 7 both of Blk. 3 Sec. 33, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan xxx containing an area of THIRTY NINE SQ. M. & SIXTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (39.60) SQUARE METERS xxx

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on Feb. 17, 2022 without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Trece Martires City, December 09, 2021

(SGD.) LUCIO C. ALEJO III  
Sheriff IV

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12th Floor JELP Business Solution Center,  
No. 409 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

SPOUSES ARNEL ARANA VILLAFUERTE  
AND IRENE D. VILLAFUERTE  
LOT 1 & 2, BLOCK 3, SECTION 33, BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I,  
PASONG KAWAYAN, GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE

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# DFA suspends consular ops due to rise in Covid-19 cases

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has temporarily closed several consular offices (CO) and temporary off-site passport services (TOPS) sites due to "a steep rise" in Covid-19 cases among its workers.

In a public advisory on Monday, the DFA said the COs in La Union, National Capital Region (NCR) East, NCR North, and TOPS Robinsons Novaliches would be closed beginning Monday until January 20.

"During the temporary suspension of operations,

no passport or Apostille applications will be processed or released. Operations shall resume on 21 January 2022," the DFA said.

From Wednesday until January 20, the DFA OCA in Aseana Business Park in Parañaque City, the COs in NCR Central, NCR North-east, NCR South, NCR West, Antipolo, Angeles, Baguio, Dasmariñas, Iloilo, Lucena, Malolos, San Pablo, and TOPS at Newport Mall, Robinsons Las Piñas, Robinsons San Pedro Laguna, and SM Manila would also be closed.

Those with appointments during the affected dates will be informed of their new schedule through email.

"Please expect an email with further details about your appointment which will be sent to the email address you used when you booked your application," the advisory read.

For those with inquiries or "validly urgent and emergency cases," the public may send an email or call their CO, TOPS, or OCA departments found through the DFA website. (PNA)



## IATF-EID to discuss possible Alert Level 4 in NCR: DILG

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año said the recommendation to place the National Capital Region (NCR) under more stringent Alert Level 4 status will be discussed in the succeeding meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID).

This, as the OCTA Research Group on Sunday said the positivity rate in Metro Manila has exceeded 50 percent for the first time -50.5 percent as of January 7, 2022.

"This (Alert Level 4) will be discussed in the next IATF meeting," Año said in a text message to Philippine News Agency on Sunday.

Metro Manila and four nearby provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal are under Alert Level 3.

The OCTA said the NCR logged the most number of the country's Covid-19 cases from January 2 to 8 at 8,468 followed by Bacoor City with 218, Antipolo with 211, Cainta with 202, and Dasmariñas with 152.

On Sunday, the Department of Health (DOH) reported 28,707 new Covid-19 infections, the highest single-day tally since the pandemic started in March 2020.

Some 16,803 or 59 percent of new infections were recorded in NCR, increasing the country's active cases to 128,114, and overall caseload to 2,965,447.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) reiterated its appeal to the public to strictly follow health protocols.

"We have seen photos of people standing in long queues outside the movie houses. Cinemas may have reopened in some areas with lower Covid Alert



Level status, but this doesn't mean that the minimum public health standard must be disregarded," PNP Chief General Dionardo Carlos said in a statement.

He also urged the establishments allowed to operate by the local government units to strictly enforce the health protocols.

"We remain committed to assisting in the implementation of the protocol especially when the situation may be overwhelming already," he said.

Carlos expects measures such as prohibiting food and drinks, wearing of face masks and the observance of physical distancing inside movie houses.

Meanwhile, Marikina City Mayor Marcelino Teodoro clarified that the use of face shields in the city is not mandatory.

"Dahil ito nga ay optional, walang kaakibat na penalty o multa ang hindi pagsusuo ng face shield. Kundi ito ay bahagi lamang ng ibayong pag-iingat o added precaution sa crowded o congested areas (Because it is optional, there is no penalty for not wearing a face shield. But this is only part of the added precaution in crowded or congested areas)," Teodoro said in a message to reporters.

DILG Undersecretary and

spokesperson Jonathan Malaya warned that barangay officials may face charges if proven that the surge in Covid-19 cases in their jurisdiction was due to poor implementation of the minimum public health standards (MPHS), particularly the unabated outdoor activities of their unvaccinated residents.

"Madami pong mga pwedeng ifile sa kanila [barangay captains] for dereliction of duty, simple misconduct, negligence, madami pong pwede tayo, so alam naman yan ng kapitan (Many charges can be filed against them for dereliction of duty, simple misconduct, negligence, we many charges we can file, the barangay captains are aware of that)," Malaya said in a radio interview. Metro Manila mayors earlier approved ordinances restricting the mobility of the unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals, particularly in indoor and al fresco dining, hotels, country clubs, and similar establishments.

Many business leaders, medical groups, and organizations have been pushing for the restrictions to be implemented nationwide amid the spike in infections and the threat of the Omicron coronavirus variant. (PNA)

## CHIZ: BUILD PERMANENT, SAFE HOMES FOR RESIDENTS IN DANGER ZONES

In the aftermath of Super Typhoon Odette that has displaced thousands of people, Sorsogon Gov. Chiz Escudero is pushing for the provision of permanent and safe houses for residents living along the coastlines and danger zones to protect them and their properties, particularly in times of natural calamities.

At the same time, Escudero is proposing to the government to declare as "no build" zones areas it deemed unsafe for habitation aside from what was specified in Republic Act 11038 or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS) Act of 2018, to perpetually ban people from building houses and other permanent structures in highly dangerous locations.

"Saksi naman ang lahat na sa kada panahon ng tag-ulan at lalo na kung may malalakas na bagyo, nagkukumahog tayong igitas ang mga kababayan natin na nakatira sa mga baybayin at peligrosong lugar. Mailigtas man natin sila, sira at giba naman ang kanilang kabahayan at ibang ari-arian," according to Escudero, who headed the Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources in the 15th Congress.

"Sa pagbibigay ng tuldok sa ganitong mga eksena at pangitain tuwing may bagyo, hindi lamang dapat nakatuon ang pansin sa pagtatayo ng permanenteng evacuation center. Mas importante at higit na kailangan ng mga taong nasa baybayin at delikadong lugar ang permanente, matatag at ligtas na tirahan kung saan sila rin ay may ikabubuhay," added Escudero, who is running for Senate in the May national elections.

Escudero noted that other than the identified "no build" zones in the regions devastated by Super Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, the government has yet to come up with a comprehensive list of high risk places in the country that should not be inhabited by the population.

Pending the completion of the list as well as the full execution of RA 11038, which prohibits construction of permanent structures within 40 meters from the coastline of protected areas, the national government and local government units should begin identifying relocation sites for families to be affected and set aside budget for the construction of houses.

In Sorsogon, a province frequently visited by strong typhoons, Escudero said the provincial government has prioritized the development of relocation sites for his constituents who used to live in flood prone and danger zone areas. The sites also accommodated other informal settlers.

Since he became governor in 2019, Escudero said relocation sites have been developed in Bacon, which is now hosting 83 households; Casiguran, 550; and Donsol, 50. The beneficiaries were given lots and financial assistance for building their houses.

The former senator also urged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the agency tasked by the law to enforce RA 11038, to hold consultative dialogues with the National Housing Authority (NHA), local government units (LGUs) and other stakeholders to address the relocation and housing issues of residents living not only in protected areas but also in locations frequently affected by storm surges and floods. President Duterte has said he is favor of relocating residents along the "no-build" zones.

"Huwag nating isugal ang buhay at kabuhayan na mga mamamayan tuwing may mga bagyong tulad ni Yolanda at Odette dahil sa kulang at kapos ang paghahanda," Escudero said.

Super Typhoon Odette has damaged more than 500,000 houses in regions of MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao SOCCSKSARGEN, Caraga and BARMM, affecting more than 4 million people and costing at least P8 billion in damage to agriculture.

Odette, the strongest typhoon to enter the Philippines in 2021, also claimed the lives of more than 400 people.