



Do not let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace

JUNE 21-27, 2020

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USAID, Phil. Heart Center collaborate for 1st hospital-wide webinar

After conducting the 1st ever webinar participated in by Cavite's Local Chief Executives, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) TB Platfoms Project led by Chief of Party, Dr. Marianne Calnan launched the 1st hospital-wide webinar for the Philippine Heart Center's (PHC) medical team, hospital nurses and administrative staff.

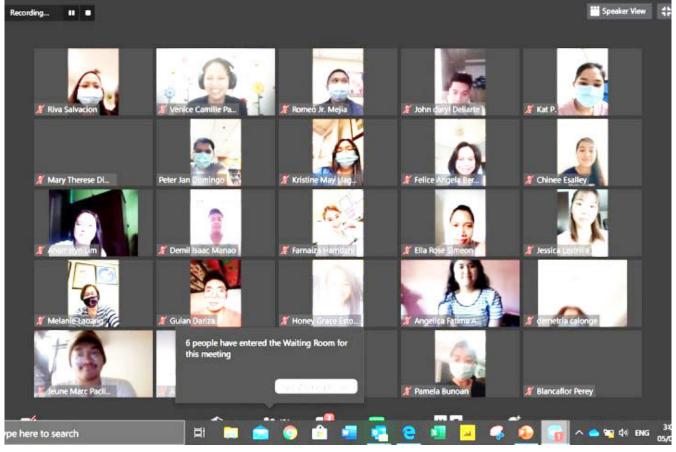
3 lugar sa **Cavite - COVID HOTSPOT**

NILAGAY sa hotspot ang tatlong lugar sa Cavite dahil sa patuloy na pagtaas ng bilang ng nagiging positibo sa COVID-19.

Ayon kay Cavite Gov Jonvic Remulla, kabilang dito ang Dasmariñas City, Bacoor, at bayan ng Rosario dahil sa mga COVID-19 case na karamihan umano ay galing sa Metro Manila.

Sabi pa ni Remulla, posible nang payagan ang pagbabalik sa mga church service bagama't 50 porsyento lang ang maaaring pumasok sa mga simbahan, at susundin pa rin ang mga health guideline.

Maaari nang magpunta kahit sa anumang mall pero paiiralin pa rin ang dating



The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) TB Platfoms Project led by Chief of Party, Dr. Marianne Calnan launched the 1st hospital-wide webinar for the Philippine Heart Center's (PHC) medical team, hospital nurses and administrative staff. (Photo & caption: USAID TB Platforms Project)

SSS offers a new look for its web portal

The Social Security System (SSS) recently showcased the colorful and vibrant design of its member portal, My.SSS, which offers an easy and more accessible web experience for its members and stakeholders.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Aurora Ignacio said that the new look of My.SSS provides members with a more user-friendly interface. Its modern design makes it easier to browse and navigate through the SSS member portal and offer a better user experience.

"Despite its new design, My.SSS retains the important features found in the old design. Members must not

>> P3

Imus BFP personnel undergo COVID-19 testing; negative result

Dr. Abanilla, Executive Director of the PHC welcomed the participants that reached an overwhelming number of around 800 employees, and highlighted that, "This partnership with

USAID's TB Platforms Project is one of the initiatives that aims to promote health education and to protect our employees from TB and

Sangley airport consortium seeks further 90-day extension to submit full post-qualification documents



IMUS CITY, Cavite Jun 17 (PIA) -- The city government here recently conducted targeted testing for firefighters and personnel of the Imus Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) pursuant to the provincial government's mandate for frontliners in the province to be subjected to corona virus disease (COVID)-19 checkup.

City Fire Marshal CInsp. Rowena H. Gollod led the city's BFP personnel including fire aides during the testing conducted June 10 & 11, 2020 at the newly opened Imus Molecular Laboratory.

The results released Monday showed all the Imus BFP personnel that under-

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HONTIVEROS TO BIR: 'WITHDRAW, RE-WRITE MEMO TAXING ONLINE SELLERS'

BIR memo may still require small online sellers to spend thousands of pesos to register and avoid penalties, Senator warns

"Naging magulo para sa mga online sellers ang memo mula sa BIR. Mabuti pang bawiin, i-review, at i-rewrite muna ng ahensiya ang guidelines na nilabas nila."

This was the remark of Senator Risa Hontiveros on Wednesday as she urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to withdraw, review, and re-write its memorandum circular on the taxing and registration of online sellers. Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) 60-2020, released early this month, alarmed small online sellers and was criticized as ill-timed and insensitive.

The said circular notified all persons doing business and earning income through the use of any electronic platforms and media, and other digital means to register their businesses pursuant to Section 236 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) by July 31, 2020.

"Kung may deadline said memorandum in writ-

man, sana ay i-urong muna dahil nasa panahon tayo ng matinding krisis," Hontiveros urged. She added that the government should put its clarifications about the



FINDING WAYS TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT ON-LINE SELLERS. Senator Risa Hontiveros hosted a webinar on Wednesday to seek ways on how to support the growing sector of small online sellers in the time of Covid-19. The event was facilitated by DJ Chacha (MOR-FM) with online sellers Bernie Bernal and Michael Adina as resource

>> P3

Sangley airport consortium seeks further 90-day extension to submit full post-qualification documents

LUCIO C. Tan's MacroAsia Corp. and its Chinese partner asked for a further 90-day extension to complete the documentary requirements to post-qualify their bid for the \$10-billion Sangley Point International Airport (SPIA), the Cavite government said.

"The consortium was able to make a partial submission. But as mentioned, they requested a 90-day extension to make a complete submission," Cavite's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Selection Committee Legal Officer Jesse R. Grepo told BusinessWorld in a phone message Monday.

He said the province's PPP Selection Committee will evaluate the request Tuesday afternoon.

The Cavite government had approved the first request of MacroAsia and its partner China Communications Construction Co. Ltd. to extend the due date for post-qualification, originally due 60 days after they received the notice of award on Feb. 14.

The province initially gave the consortium until the second week of June to process and submit the documents before a joint venture development agreement can be signed.

Cavite Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla has said the province was hoping to break ground with its joint venture partner for the first phase of the airport project by the second

The first phase of the SPIA project, which will cost \$4 billion, includes the construction of the Sangley connector road and bridge to connect the Kawit segment of the Manila-Cavite Expressway to the international airport.

Phase 1 also involves the construction of the airport's first runway. The airport is rated at 25 million passengers yearly, and is intended to help decongest the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Cavite expects the airport to start fully operating by 2023, with partial operations to start a year earlier. The fourth runway will be opened after six years.



The same consortium will work on the other two phases of the project, but there may be contract renegotiations, according to the Cavite government.

The second phase, which will cost about \$6 billion, involves the construction of two more runways, giving the airport an annual capacity of 75 million passengers.

The last phase is the expansion to four runways, bringing capacity to 130 million passengers. — Arjay L. Balinbin

Those who are gathering in public should do so safely. Please keep in mind these measures.

PRACTICE SAFE 5 **MASS GATHERINGS**



Imus BFP personnel undergo<< P1

negative of the dreaded disease.

Meanwhile, according to the latest data recorded by the City Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (CESU), the city has a total of 71 COVID-19 confirmed cases with 45 patients already recovered, 9 deaths and 17 active cases who are current-

went COVID-19 testing are ly convalescing. With the opening of the Imus Molecular Laboratory on June 5, 2020, the first-LGU initiated COVID-19 Testing Facility in CALABARZON, numerous city residents will have the opportunity to be tested, evaluated and provided with immediate medical atten-

Thru the systematic and

coordinated effort of the city government headed by Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi and the healthcare professionals of the City Health Office (CHO) led by Dr. Ronaldo Calingasan, the spread of the infection and the treatment of the afflicted were addressed swiftly to safeguard the health of the residents and the city's economy

to continue rolling. Mayor Maliksi untiringly reminded everyone to stay safe saying, "Practice proper hand washing and respiratory hygiene. Also stay in your home and go out when needed."

(Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with report from the FB page of Mayor Maliksi and the Imus Bureau of Fire Protection Office)

For Attendees Keep at least 1m Bring alcohol-based handrub and clean you

Stay home if you feel unwell

For Organizers

List the names, contact details, and addresses of attendees

Regularly remind attendees to observe physical distancing

Have a medical team

on standby for anyone COVID-19 symptoms

Prepare a plan to transport ill attendees to a local medical facility

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USAID, Philheart Center << P1

Covid-19." Meanwhile, Dr. Hansel Ybañez, USAID's TB Platforms' Field Operations Manager for the National Capital Region (NCR) collaborated with PHC's Infection Control Committee (ICC) for the conduct of a special session to discuss the project's activities supporting the Department of Health's TB response amid COVID-19.

On the other hand, the Infection Protection and Control (IPC) guidelines for healthcare workers and hospital staff were deliberated on by Dr. Christian Villacorte, the project's MDRTB and Patient Centered Care (PCC) Specialist.

"TB remains the world's top infectious disease but COVID-19 is highlighting how vulnerable people with TB culd easily be infected," stated Villacorte and further stressed that, "Despite the differences in the mode of TB and COVID-19 transmission, there are certain measures relevant to both diseases.'

He added that, "Usuprecautions to protect healthcare workers from TB must continue along with additional actions to protect them from COVID-19."

During the program, the USAID'd TB Platforms' team enthusiastically shared the recent studies for TB and COVID-19 as well as the common IPC measures applicable during this pan-

Also, clarifications on the importance of the use of N95 masks at work and in public places and on recent guidelines detailing how to protect healthcare workers from COVID-19 while they are literally exposed to those who are asymptomatic of the virus were given light on.

Similarly, PHC ICC team led by Ms. Karen Isip

equipment (PPEs) to their the latest COVId-19 cases PIA and the Photojournaland updates to their employ ees using their institutional accounts and official media platforms. They also include the practice of regular debriefing as needed.

With the wide range of challenges that the hospital staff are facing and the high risk for the COVID infection they assume every time they on duty, Dr. Abanilla stressed that educating them with the IPC measures give them hope that prevention is still better than the cure.

USAID's TB Platforms Project's recent activities in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency aside from las month's province-wide seminar on IPC in the province of Cavite and Tarlac, they also joined PIA-Calabarzon on their ra-

shared how the management dio program 'PIA Ngayon' provides personal protective hosted by PIA-Information Officer IV Mr. Carlo Gonzafrontliners, and explained ga, and will be working with ists' Center of the Philippines (PCP) in documenting continuous provision of TB sservices amid the COVID-19 in all its demonstration sites.

> Likewise, Ms. Diwata de Castro-Paredes, the projects' Social and Behavior Change Communication Specialist is also working with public and private radio stations for localized regional discussions on IPC measures on TB and COVID-19, sharing of strengthened local health governance initiatives, promotion of health applications being used to promote continuous TB treatment amid the pandemic. (Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with report from USAID TB Platforms Project)

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Hontiveros to BIR: withdraw << P1

ing. The Senator's remarks came after the Department of Trade and Industry claimed that small online sellers or those who earn PhP 250,000 and below annually are exempted from registering their business with the BIR.

"As of today, RMC 60-2020 is still enforceable. Strictly speaking, its text still mandates all, including small online sellers, to register with the BIR," she explained. "Magandang magdeklara muna ang BIR ng moratorium sa pagpapa-register ng online sellers at bawiin muna ang mga guidelines sa ilalim ng RMC 60-2020, habang nasa panahon tayo ng krisis," the Senator said.

"The country's economic recession due to the COVID-19 pandemic is driving millions into unemployment. Many Filipinos are turning to online selling to make ends meet. We should not punish them with confusing guidelines and hefty fees," she said. She noted that the COVID-19 pandemic

has left a record number of Filipinos jobless, with the Philippine Statistics Authority reporting 7.3 million unemployed adults in April.

"Dapat maging malinaw sa BIR circular ang mga exemptions para sa mga small online sellers at para sa mga nag-o-online selling bilang pantawid ngayong marami ang nawalan ng trabaho at kita," Hontiveros also said.

BIR registration may cost sellers thousands of pe-

Hontiveros also warned that the enforcement of the BIR circular may force small online sellers to pay thousands of pesos just to register and avoid penalties. She noted that although small online sellers may be exempt from paying income taxes, the said circular in effect requires them to not only physically troop to BIR offices, but also spend around 2,260 pesos to fully comply with all documentary requirements.

"If the circular is still enforced and if we are to strictly follow government policy, online sellers will have to shell out at least PhP 2,260 pesos each just to register," Hontiveros said. "DTI certification, BIR's own registration fee, and payment for printing of receipts will cost roughly 2,260 pesos in total," she added.

"May dagdag-gastos din na at least 1,500 pesos kung magpapa-imprenta ulit ng resibo. May pwedeng dagdag-gastos din sa pag-file ng financial report quarterly. Mahirap yan para sa isang small-time online seller na dapat ay may proper documentation na ang kita niya ay less than 250,000 pesos annually," Hontiveros also explained.

"Imbes na matulungan ang ating mga online sellers, mas lalo pa silang mamumulubi dahil sa laki ng gastos nila sa registration at para maiwasan ang penalties ng BIR," the Senator urged. "Sa panahon ng COVID-19 crisis at ginagawang pantawid-kita ang online selling,

pahirap ang kasalukuyang requirements ng BIR sa ating mga kababayan," she said.

Protection of consumers and online sellers

The Senator said that instead of imposing new obligations that may discourage online sellers, government should promote and protect online selling as a safe and efficient means of earning income for Filipinos. "Malaki ang potensyal ng online selling makapagbigay ng kita sa mga nawalan ng trabaho. At dahil online ito at limited ang physical contact, mas ligtas ito kumpara sa mga tradisyonal na trabaho," Hontiveros explained.

Government agencies, Hontiveros said, should invest their efforts in making online selling a more secure experience for Filipinos, by addressing emerging issues like online fraud, 'joy-dibbing' and other abusive trade practices of sellers or customers alike.

POGO Revenues: 'How much, sis?'

Hontiveros reiterated her call for the government to go after Chinese-owned Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators [POGOs] and intensify efforts to collect the billions in unpaid tax obligations owed by those firms.

"Unahin nilang singilin ang 50 billion pesos na reported na utang na taxes ng mga POGO, bago nila pagtuunan ng pansin ang kakarampot na kita ng mga on-

line seller," she said. The Senator also challenged the BIR to make public its revenue collection efforts towards POGO companies. "How much, sis? Mula sa kanilang utang na 50 billion pesos, magkano na ba ang nabayaran?" the Senator asked citing BIR's own admission last month that almost none of the POGO companies have settled their tax obliga-

3 lugar sa Cavite << P1

panuntunan na isang oras at kalahati lang dapat ang itatagal ng isang mallgoer simula sa July 22. Binawasan din ng 30 minuto ang curfew sa

Cavite mula alas-8:00 ng gabi hanggang alas-4:30 ng madaling araw para bigyan ng psgkakataon ang mga nagtatrabaho.



TEST RUN PARA GAWING 100% FREE WIFI ZONE ANG NOVELETA, ISINAAKTIBO NA

Martes ng gabi, ibinahagi ni Mayor Dino Reyes Chua ang planong paglalagay ng libreng wi-fi connection sa buong bayan ng Noveleta, bilang paghahanda

GOCAVITE







Good news! Tuesday night Mayor Dino Reyes Chua shared the plan of putting free Wi-Fi connection across the town of Noveleta, in preparation for e-learning here.

According to the mayor's announcement, the test run of free wi-fi at Noveleta Town Plaza was activated yesterday, June 16. Watch out for your Barangay and School. Noveleta will be 100 % FREE WiFi Zone," he said.

Now that no face-to-face classes will be allowed to go back to school students, many parents groan in the absence of electronic devices like tablets, laptops or even smartphones. One of the concerns of parents is that it's difficult to access the internet that will require online learning. The Department of Education informed that they are interacting with telco companies to solve this.

Aside from online learning, government radio and television will also be used to perform classes despite

SSS offers a new << P1

worry that it will take time to learn how to navigate plication the portal. The process of checking their contributions notification and membership records or making online transactions remains the same," Ignacio explained.

Ignacio said that members who registered at My.SSS can now once again access the web portal since the application and data correction for the Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program is already completed. For more than a month, the SSS website was solely dedicated to catering to the applications of qualified small business owners for the government's wage subsidy program.

Through My.SSS, members can process the following transactions:

- Check their contribution records
- Update their contact details
- Generate Payment Reference Number (PRN)/ Statement of Account (SOA)
- Pay their contribution using Moneygment

File salary loan ap-

- Submit maternity
- claim application • Schedule of branch

retirement

- appointment Location of SSS
- branches • Request for their SSS record

"We are shifting our core and business processes to further improve our services to SSS members. In the coming months, other benefit claim applications such as the unemployment benefit will also be made available

online as well as other pro-

grams like the Pension Loan

Program (PLP).

We are committing ourselves in fast-tracking the digital transformation of SSS in the coming years," Ignacio concluded.

Ignacio urged members to register at the SSS website and create their My.SSS account so they can benefit from the online services on the web portal.



IFE truly matters. For a 25-year old man who yearns for nothing but the best for his family and friends, giving importance to and protecting life is in itself his life's work.

Diagnosed with Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in 2017, it did not become a hindrance for Raymond Santos to keep going and survive the trials brought about by each passing day. Inspite of his dialysis sessions every week, he is always full of energy fulfilling his career as HR Specialist in a leading Business Process Outsourcing company in Pasig City.

Raymond's busy round-the-clock routine was suddenly marred in mid-March when he started experiencing those fearful symptoms of the dreaded CoViD-19. He had fever for three days and found out he had pneumonia.

The worrying didn't stop there. Tagged as Person Under Investigation (PUI), he was soon denied of the services by his dialysis center and ten other hospitals. On March 25, he was confirmed CoViD-19 positive by the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

He began to suffer from severe pain since he can no longer go for dialysis for more than a week. Intermittent fever, persistent cough, vomiting and nausea further weakened his immune system. He was then rushed to The Medical City by his friends where he stayed for 55 days. Raymond was isolated in a private room, and underwent dialysis sessions while being treated for the novel corona virus.

"Nuong ma-confine ako ay kinailangan ko ding mag-dialysis. Naisip ko... 'sasagutin pa rin kaya ito ng PhilHealth?" Raymond said

This bubbly, down-to-earth guy who is a real fighter hung on to God with his faith while support from his family, friends and officemates

outpoured which strengthened his resolve to go on. After six consecutive swab tests of consistent positive results, his seventh test turned negative.

It was a long hard battle for Raymond, which according to him was made bearable and sweet because he was assured of full financial protection from PhilHealth.

"Napakalaki po talaga ng naitulong ng PhilHealth sa amin. Noong ma-discharge ako, ang sabi nila sa akin... "Sir, wala na po kayong babayaran kahit piso. Sagot na po ng PhilHealth lahat.". Raymond could not believe the news himself. "Sobrang mahal ng mga gamot ko, at sinagot ito lahat ng PhilHealth. Sobrang thankful talaga kami ng family ko sa PhilHealth!"

As Raymond recounts how he succeeded in this latest battle of his, he can't help but be assured that there is always light after darkness. For this he said "life is truly worth living for". (END)

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964



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Asher Rifani

'Warrior Heartthrob' and his passion for combat sports



n one of the world's most dangerous sports, it takes a lot of guts, courage, and hard work to attain such discipline in the world of wushu sanda mixed martial arts. Just like this young lad from Baguio City. He makes sure that in every competition he is at, he always gives his best and doesn't forget to thank God for all of his accomplishments.

Born Asher B. Rifani on September 14, 2000 in Baguio City to Mr. John Parayao and Ms. Rhea May Parayao Rifani, this 5-foot-5 wushu sanda warrior is now studying as grade 12 in Mil-an National High School. He started his interest in wushu when he was 3 years old when his mom competed in the Asian games. He won recently played for the BBE-AL (Baguio-Benguet Educational Athletic League) wushu sanda.

"In this sports, you have to have a good mind, good heart, and prepared body. You should also train hard", quipped the athlete from Baguio. Last year, he won broze medal at the Palarong Pambansa 48 kgs. division and this year in Ilocos Sur, he won the gold medal for wushu sanda 52 kg. division.

His advice to those youngsters who would also like to be in this kind of sports, "Train hard and learn discipline. Put your boastfulness in the ring and not outside the ring", quipped Asher. His ambition in life is to have a good record in martial arts and finish his studies. With perseverance, determination and unwavering faith in God, the future looks bright for this lad whose humility speak volumes of his character inside and outside of the ring.

seven cities and 16 municipalities to follow the GCQ proto-

cols for everyone's protection and safety in the fight against

COVID-19. The latest Provincial Health Office case tracker

report showed that Cavite has 389 confirmed cases, with 30

deaths, 150 recoveries, 155 probable cases, and 6,503 suspect

Saved by the Risen Lord A story of a priest who conquered Covid-19 through faith and prayers

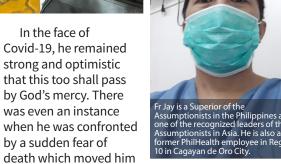
t all started with a simple cough", says Father Jay Hector Lituañas, a priest belonging to the Augustinians of the Assumption based in Quezon City. Fr. Jay travelled to Vietnam early this year for a meeting with fellow Assumptionists. Though already experiencing cough, he was not that bothered by it throughout his stay in the foreign land.

Upon his return to Manila, Fr. Jay continued on with his ministry and other related-activities such as recollections, saying masses, interactions with the urban poor, among others. As his cough aggravated, he went to his doctor for consultation and took anti-allergens for seven days. Fr. Jay remembered he could no longer sleep well at night as his cough persisted.

A doctor-friend advised him to go to the nearest public hospital for a swab test. He took the test and waited for the result after seven days. He was COVID-19 positive. In the morning of Holy Thursday, Fr. Jay was brought to the Lung Center of the Philippines.

He spent 12 hours while undergoing a series of tests and while waiting to be admitted. At the emergency area, he was depressed at the sight of COVID 19 positive patients hooked up on ventilators struggling for life. He spent a total of eight days in the isolation room doing meditation, morning and evening prayers, reading the Scriptures, reciting the Rosary, and some physical exercises. He was still in touch with his family, fellow Assumptionists, and friends who were his prayer warriors.



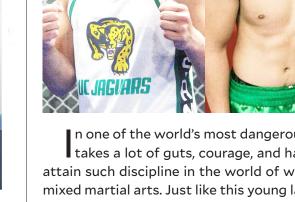


to fight for his life for the sake of his loved ones. During his battle, Fr. Jay was very grateful to the doctors, nurses and other staff of the isolation ward. He even asked them to write their names on his small notebook so he can include them in his prayers and online masses. As days went on, he developed pneumonia and diarrhea and could not sleep well. But his strong will, and faith with doctors and nurses all helped him to recover well from the dreaded disease. He remembered his doctors saying, "Father, your positive and

prayerful disposition is helping you a lot!" After another week, Fr. Jay was finally discharged from the hospital completely healed. He left the hospital with deep gratitude to those who attended to him, to his countless prayer warriors, and also to PhilHealth which, according to him, provided him with financial support through its COVID-19 benefit package.

"I conquered COVID-19!", Fr. Jay exclaimed. But not long enough that he corrected himself,-"No, it is the Risen Lord who conquered the disease for me!" (END)

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964



Cavite Police nab 112 more GCQ violators

CAMP GEN. PANTALEON GARCIA, IMUS CITY, Cavite—At least 112 individuals were apprehended on Monday (June 8) by police in Cavite's eight districts for violating the general community quarantine (GCQ) health and safety protocols, the Police Provincial Office (PPO) here reported on Tuesday (June 9). Fewer apprehensions in Cavite province were observed as the days went by in the first week of the GCQ implementation. PPO reports showed that police have apprehended in the province a total of 112 GCQ violators on Monday, 151 on Sunday (June 7), and 211 on Saturday (June 6). The GCQ apprehensions covered 24 hours or the period from 8 a.m. to 8 a.m. each day. Those held at the police stations for documentation were violators of the protocols on the mandatory wearing of face masks, social or safe distancing, curfew, and the liquor ban.

The wearing of face masks, social distancing and the 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew are among the top protocols that have to be observed by citizens under the GCQ.

The PPO cited the Carmona police under Major Diana D. C. del Rosario as one of the top performing police units during the GCQ, considering their response and the number of apprehensions in their turf. On Sunday and Monday, the Carmona police apprehended at least 41 violators, including minor teens and some residents from nearby towns of Laguna province Gov. Juanito Victor C. Remulla Jr and other local officials have been reminding the residents of the province's

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