

Remulla first to file CoC in Cavite



© The Manila Times EARLY BIRDS Incumbent Cavite Governor Juanito Victor 'Jonvic' Remulla Jr. (left) and running mate Tagaytay Councilor Athena Tolentino, filed their respective certificates of candidacy (CoC) on Friday, the first day of filing for CoCs, at the Provincial Comelec Office in Barangay San Agustin, Trece Martires City. They filed their CoCs as early as 8:01 a.m. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA

EARLY BIRDS Incumbent Cavite Governor Juanito Victor 'Jonvic' Remulla Jr. (left) and running mate Tagaytay Councilor Athena Tolentino, filed their respective certificates of candidacy (CoC) on Friday, the first day of filing for CoCs, at the Provincial Comelec Office in Barangay San

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PROVET CONDUCTS RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP WEBINAR

In support to the World Rabies Day celebration with the theme, "Rabies: Facts, not Fear", Cavite Provincial Veterinary Office headed by Dr. May Magno in partnership with the Department of Health Region IV-A conducted a webinar on Responsible Pet Ownership on September 30, 2021 via Zoom and Facebook live platform.

The webinar aims to raise awareness and educate the participants about rabies and vaccination. Dr. Gladys Credo, Provincial Rabies Program Coordinator-Animal Side and Ms. Annabelle Dilig, Provincial

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ICT RevoluLuzon for Economic Transformation

The Department of Information Communication Technology (DICT) and the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP) convened on September 23-24, 2021 for the Convergence of Luzon ICT Champions Conference 2021, carrying the theme "ICT RevoluLuzon for Economic Transfor-

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DOH: NCR shows slow downward trend in reported cases



A health official on Monday said the National Capital Region (NCR) shows a slow downward trend with its reported coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) infections at a 28-percent decrease from the past week. "In the NCR, the seven-day moving

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Dasmariñas, Cavite inaugurates 170-bed COVID-19 mega-isolation facility

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite – The city government here inaugurated on Tuesday (October 5) a mega-isolation facility in Barangay Humayao Langkaan to accommodate residents with coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

The blessing and inauguration were scheduled as part of the celebrations for Dasmariñas Day.

In a Facebook post, Mayor Jenny Barzaga said that the 170 bed-capacity center is well-equipped to help patients recover from the disease. Residents who will be staying at the isolation

facility will be provided with food, necessary medicines, and medical monitoring until they get the clearance to go home.

Aside from isolation rooms, the five-building center also has a pharmacy, nurse quarters, and a counseling room.

According to data from the Provincial Government, Dasmariñas is among the local government units in Cavite with the highest incidence of COVID-19 alongside other big cities including Bacoor, Imus, and General Trias.



Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga / Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN

After cadet's death, PNPA gets new director

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Guillermo Eleazar has designated Maj. Gen. Alex Sampaga as the new director of the PNP Academy (PNPA) following the death of another cadet.

The appointment of Sampaga, who replaces Maj. Gen. Rhoderick Armamento, takes effect Sept. 29. Armamento takes over the post vacated by Sampaga as director

of the PNP Directorate for Information and Communications Technology.

"As a PNPA alumnus himself, I expect Maj. Gen. Sampaga to bring in innovative ideas and fresh perspective that would effectively implement the necessary adjustments in further improving the institution for each cadet to live up to its core values of Justice, Integrity

and Service," Eleazar said in a video message Monday.

The top cop personally visited Sunday in the wake of PNPA cadet George Karl Magsayo, who reportedly died of hazing-related injuries, at the PNPA compound in Silang, Cavite.

"I am disheartened that the very institution which he considered as a second home and fully trusted for

protection, for learning, and for honing of skills to be an officer of the law in the future had failed him," Eleazar said. "This method of inflicting physical pain and other twisted concepts of instituting discipline and imposing punishment on cadets must stop, and it starts

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Marcos, Lacson, Moreno, at Pacquiao, kumpirmado na bilang kandidato

INSPIRASYON SA BUHAY: "... Ngunit piliin mo ang mga tao na may kakayahan at may takot at pag-ibig sa Diyos, mga taong mapapagkatiwalaan at galit sa masamang ganansiya, at sila ang iluluklok mo bilang mga pinuno..." (Exodus 18: 21-23, Ang Tanging Daan Bibliya).

MARCOS, LACSON, MORENO, AT PACQUIAO, KUMPIRMADO NG TUMATAKBO SA PAGKA-PANGULO SA HALALAN 2022: Dalawang araw bago matapos ang deadline ng pagsusumite sa Commission on Elections ng mga certificates of candidacy ng mga nagnanais tumakbo sa mga posisyon sa Halalan 2022, kumpleto na ang listahan para sa mga maglalaban-laban para sa pagka-pangulo ng Pilipinas.

Sa ngayon, nakapag-sumite na ng certificates of candidacy for president sina dating Senador Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Senador Panfilo Lacson, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno, at Senador Manny Pacquiao.

Bagamat hindi pa nagpa-file si Vice President Leni Robredo, inihayag naman ng kaniyang kampo na tatakbo siya sa kabila ng mga naunang pagbabantulot niya, at inaasahang magsusumite siya ng certificate of candidacy sa pagka-pangulo noong Oktubre 07, 2021.

Si Marcos ay opisyal na kandidato ng Partido Federal ng Pilipinas, habang si Lacson ay kandidato naman ng Partido Reporma ng Pilipinas. Si Mayor Isko ay opisyal na kandidato ng Aksiyon Demokratiko, samantalang si Pacquiao ay inendorso naman ng Promdi Party.

LENI ROBREDO, INAASAHANG TATAKBO DIN, AT MAGPA-FILE NG KANIYANG COC BUKAS, OCTOBER 07: Si Leni ay inaasahang tatakbo bilang kandidato ng Liberal Party, ang kaniyang partido noong tumakbo siyang bise presidente noong 2016. Magkaganunman, marami ang naniniwalang si Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte Carpio ay kakandidato ding pangulo, sa kabila ng mahigpit din niyang pagtanggap na interesado siyang kumandidato sa nasabing posisyon.

Ayon sa mga media personalities sa Mindanao, kundiman magsasampa si Sara ng kaniyang COC sa Oktubre 8, ang last day for filing, ipapasok naman siya bilang substitute candidate sa Nobyembre 15, ang last day for substitution.

Sa paunang pagtaya ng Bulwagang Balitaan ng Kakampi Mo Ang Batas, lumilitaw na isang exciting at interesting election ang magaganap sa Halalan 2022. Para kay Bongbong Marcos na ang edad ay nauulat na 64 taon na, tila ba "It's now or never" na ang kaniyang pagtakbo.

Kung tatakbo lamang siyang bise presidente sa ngayon, magiging napakatanda na niya sa 2028, sa edad na 70 taong gulang para tumakbong pangulo, bagamat ang Pangulong Duterte ay 70 anyos na din noong kumandidato at manalo siya sa 2016.

Sa ngayon pa lamang, umaarangkada na ang makinarya ng mga kalaban ng kaniyang pamilya upang ikapit sa kaniya ang diumano ay mga katiwaliang sinasabing ginawa ng kaniyang amang si dating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos.

HOSTS NG DAILY MORNING SHOW NA "21 MINUTOS", HUMIHILING NG PAMBANSANG PANALANGIN PARA SA HALALAN 2022: Samantala, nananawagan naman ng pambansang panalangin ang mga hosts ng daily radio-online morning show na "21 Minutos Mas o Menos" sa kanilang Wednesday, October 06, 2021 edition para sa mga kandidato, mga botante, at sa mga opisyal ng Commission on Elections, para sa Halalan 2022. Ayon kina Davao-Baguio-Cagayan Province Methodist Bishop Rudy Juan, Pastor Jojo Gon-



zales, Atty. Noy Macatangay ng Buklod Pamilya Inc., at ng inyong lingkod, Atty. Batas Mauricio, mahirap ng baguhin ang kalakaran ngayon ng mga kandidatong namimili ng boto, o di kaya ay nananakot o nangha-harass ng mga botante, at maging mga botanteng nagbebenta ng kanilang boto.

Mahirap na ding baguhin ang mga tiwaling opisyal na nagpapatakbo ng halalan sa bansa, ayon sa mga hosts. Ang makakapagpabago na lamang sa mga ito sa ngayon ay ang Panginoong Diyos, wala ng iba pa. Bagamat imposible sa tao na alisin ang katiwalian sa kanilang isip at puso atbuong pagkatao, kaya ng Diyos na pagbaguhin ang lahat.

Cavite Rep. Barzaga, Dasmariñas Mayor Barzaga file COCs



Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga / Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN



Rep. Pidi Barzaga / Facebook / MANILA BULLETIN

Cavite 4th District Rep. Pidi Barzaga filed his certificate of candidacy (COC) at the Commission on Elections (Comelec) Trece Martires office on Wednesday (October 6).

In photos posted on his Facebook page, Barzaga posed holding his COC alongside Governor Jonvic Remulla, who filed his COC last October 1 to seek a second term.

Rep. Barzaga's wife Dasmariñas Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, meanwhile, also filed her COC for reelection at Comelec Dasmariñas.

Remulla first to file << P1

Agustin, Trece Martires City. They filed their CoCs as early as 8:01 a.m. PHOTO BY DENNIS ABRINA

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite: Incumbent Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla Jr. was the first to file for certificate of candidacy (CoC) on Friday at the Provincial Comelec Office in Barangay San Agustin, Trece Martires City.

Remulla, who is running under the National Unity Party (NUP) and local Partido Magdalo, was joined by his running mate and vice gubernatorial aspirant, Tagaytay Councilor Athena Tolentino.

Remulla vowed to continue his legacy program for Caviteños on his next term if reelected as provincial chief executive. He vowed to strengthen the internet connectivity for the entire province, maintain peace and order, and enhance the educational programs for the youth. Remulla's programs

for the province include the continuing infrastructure rehabilitation and the need to start the coastal road extension from Kawit to Tanza, to ease the traffic along Aguinaldo Highway. He aims to finish the Cavite-Laguna Expressway from Silang to Kawit and its extension project, targeted to be completed in two years.

"Cavite is the biggest province in the whole country, we have a 4.5 million population based on the 2020 census. To further improve Cavite now, we need more vaccines to reach herd immunity in the province. As of now, we received 1.5 million vaccines but our infection rates are high. I have spoken with Secretary Vince Dizon. He responded by supplying more vaccines to Cavite," Remulla said in an interview.

"As of now, Cavite is already 38 percent fully vaccinated, 28 percent received their first dose. By October

15, Cavite will start vaccinating 12 to 17 years old, who have comorbidities. Hopefully, by February 2022, we can go back to face-to-face classes," Remulla added.

Other local bets who filed their CoCs on Friday were Tagaytay Mayor Agnes Tolentino for representative of the Eighth District, reelectionist Rep. Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla of the Seventh District, Board Member Reinier Ambion and Maragondon Mayor Reynaldo Rillo who are running against each other for the Eighth District seat, Tanza Vice Mayor Raymundo del Rosario and Crispin Diego Remulla for Board Members of Cavite's Seventh District.

Rosario Mayor Jose Voltaire Ricafrente and his party mates on Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) have also filed their CoCs early Friday.

Other candidates under Lakas-CMD in Rosario include Bamm Gonzales for

vice mayor and Vivian Andico, Roland Convento, Mike Del Rosario, Cris Go, Raul Hernandez, Crisanto Nazareno, Manny Pueblo and Mark Jay Velarde for councilor. Mendez Nuñez mayoral aspirant Francisco Mendoza Jr. of NUP and vice mayoral bet Joselito Baban also filed their CoCs on Friday as well as Ruby Lita Bay-Remigio, Roilan Ortiz, Alex Ocampo, Ediber Peñalba, Paulino Dimaranan,

Marvin Vidamo, Romulo Martinez and Renato Dimapilis who are all running for councilor.

In Tanza, reelectionist Mayor Yuri Pacumio and vice mayoral candidate Simon Matro and eight councilors filed their CoCs at the local elections office in Barangay Daang Amaya.

Alfonso Mayor Randy Salamat, meanwhile, is formally seeking a second term and Indang Mayor Perfecto Fidel is running for this third term.

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MMDA to help LGUs boost vaccination efforts

METRO Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. said local governments in Metro Manila are ready to help the provinces under the National Capital Region (NCR) Plus area to boost their vaccination efforts.

According to Abalos, 84 percent of Metro Manila's population is expected to be inoculated by November, which is about 8.2 million individuals. Metro Manila is aiming to achieve 92 percent vaccination coverage after three months.

"With that, we are willing to provide assistance like human resources so neighboring provinces in Central Luzon and Calabarzon will achieve the same," Abalos said, referring to Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon provinces.

Meanwhile, the National Task Force (NTF) Against Covid-19 has assured a steady supply of Covid-19 vaccines in the country until the end of the year.

During the "Sa Bakuna, Panalo Ka" event held at SM City Clark, NTF Chief Implementer and vaccine czar Carlito Galvez Jr. said on top of the 77.4 million vaccine doses already delivered to the Philippines, the country is expecting another five million Pfizer vaccines from the Covax facility while 10 million Sinovac, 10 million Pfizer and five million Moderna will also come from its

procurement. "As we enter the fourth quarter of 2021, we expect large deliveries from various manufacturers. As early as last week, we have received delivery confirmation for this month of 18.3 million doses composed of Pfizer, Moderna and Sinovac vaccines. These include more than 3.5 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech for the US Covax donation delivered over the weekend," he said.

Galvez added the national government is also set to sign another contract for six million doses of Janssen vaccines from Johnson & Johnson, which will be used for the country's January allocation. pack0:12/1:23

"For the information of everybody, we are already communicating with four manufacturers for the procurement of our doses for 2022. We are eyeing to procure around 90 to 100 million doses for next year," he said.

He said this will boost the vaccination program of the government on the A1 to A5 priority sectors as well as the general population.

With the steady supply of vaccines, the government will also start vaccinating children on October 15 initially in six hospitals in Metro Manila, and will eventually expand this to all cities in the NCR, according to Galvez.

"We believe that we should start inoculating young

people to give them immediate protection against Covid-19. This will also be the key to opening school for limited face-to-face classes," he said.

Galvez encouraged local governments across the country to continue increasing their vaccination rate, especially during the last quarter of the year, when large vaccine deliveries from various manufacturers are expected.

He also called on all sectors for their continued support for the whole nation to emerge from the pandemic while assuring the national government will do everything to alleviate the effects of the crisis and continue to protect the public and rebuild the country's economy.

Death rather than Sin

St. Dominic Savio

After cadet's << P1

now." READ: Review of PNPA policies 'pushed' after cadet's death Eleazar said a criminal case would be filed against Cadet 2nd Class Steven Ceasar Maingat on Monday in connection with the death of Magsayo. A separate administrative case would be filed against Maingat, which Eleazar said would assure his dismissal from the PNPA.

Cadets are warned that misbehavior and "serious breach of discipline and moral values" will never be tolerated. "Hindi sa sakitan at sa bugbugan nahuhubog ang pagkatao ng isang kadete o kahit ninuman kung hindi sa magagandang aral, matalinong palitan ng ideya at tamang pagpapasunod ng kabutihang asal (It is not through physical punishment and beating that the character of a cadet or anyone else is molded but through good teachings, wise exchange of ideas and proper adherence to good manners)," Eleazar said. (PNA)

DOH: NCR << P1

average showed a decrease as cases in the recent seven days have decreased compared to the previous seven days by 1,199," Health Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said during an online media forum.

For the period of September 27 to October 3, the average daily reported cases in the NCR is 3,121.

Previously, its average daily reported cases for the week of September 20 to 26 is 4,320.

"Cases [nationally] saw a steep increase starting the last week of July, the latest peak was during the second week of September with daily average cases twice as much as the daily average during the peak we saw during March of this year," Vergeire said.

For the period of September 27 to October 3, the average daily reported cases nationwide are 14,705 -- 3,060 cases lower than the 17,765 reported infections for the period of September 20 to 26.

As of October 3, the top five regions with the most number of cases are the NCR, Calabarzon, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos Region and Central Luzon.

Meantime, the top five areas with the most number of cases are Quezon City, Isabela, Rizal, Cavite, and Bulacan.

Vergeire noted that the country is under moderate

risk case classification with a 21-percent two-week growth rate and a high-risk daily attack rate of 14.73 cases for every 100,000 individuals which is lower than the 18.60 growth rate from the previous two to three weeks.

"Most regions are showing negative two-week growth rate including the NCR, Regions 4 and 3. However, the majority remain with high risk daily average attack rates, and we're flagging CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region), Regions 2, 1, 4B, 9, and 5 with high-risk case classification, based on its positive, moderate risk two-week growth rate and high risk daily average attack rate," she said.

She added that the national intensive care unit (ICU) utilization is at high risk with 73 percent while six regions have ICU utilization and hospital bed utilization also at high risk -- CAR, Cagayan Valley, Zamboanga Peninsula, Bicol, Caraga and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

As for Covid-19 deaths, the Department of Health observed a new peak nationwide in mid-August with a total of 4,962 fatalities reported and 160 deaths per day on average.

There was a total of 42 deaths or an average of 14 deaths per day reported for the period of October 1 to 3. (PNA)

ICT RevoluLuzon for economic << P1

mation. CLICkCONEX 2021 brought various stakeholders including the academe, government agencies and other technical savvy and information technology enthusiasts in exploring possible opportunities and developments on cracking the code for the creation and running of a #DigitalPh.

Hosting this year's event is the Cavite ICT Council. On behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Atty. Jesse Remulla Grepo, Provincial Legal Officer delivered his message to the attendees highlighting the provincial government's initiatives and programs on industry, commerce and infrastructure and stressing the role of ICT in enabling a healthier economy. He also emphasized that exploring digitalization and participating in digital revolution will be an avenue in conquering the true essence of freedom.

Mr. Michael Tiu Lim, President of the NICP welcomed the participants and showed his indebtedness on the involvement of different agencies to support the campaign on digitalization and innovation of the digital economy. He also explained the programs lined up by NICP to sustain the modernization of information technology.

On the other hand, keynote speaker DICT Secretary Gregorio Honasan expressed his full support to the celebration as he conveyed the government's campaign on strengthening digital econ-

omy, fast-tracking digital infrastructure, intensifying broadband availability and accelerating the rollout for free wireless connectivity for the enhancement of online learning in various platforms and linkages of the community for progression of business and economic growth in the country.

The conference overview was delivered by Ms. Teresita M. Leabres, President of the Cavite ICT Council. Meanwhile, Digital Philippines, DICT Undersecretary Emmanuel Rey R. Caintic clarified the DICT programs for the countryside concentrating on cybersecurity, resource sharing and capability building. The first part of the program generally discussed topics on revolutionizing academe landscape towards borderless learnings. Speakers include University of the Philippines Open University Chancellor Dr. Melinda Dela Pena Bandalaria who explained "Challenges and Opportunities in the Academe in the New Normal"; Asia Pacific College President Ma. Teresita Medado tackled "Developing ICT Strategies towards Dynamic Academe", while Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) President Engr. Tirso Ronquillo discussed the "Academic Revolution in the New Normal Towards Economic Development". In the afternoon, ICT Industry Development Division-DICT Director Emmy Lou Versoza Delfin commu-

nicated the topic on "Building a Strong Startup Ecosystem in the Countryside". On the other hand, "ICT Revolution in Digital Cities" were highlighted in the talks given by Tuguegarao City Mayor Jefferson Soriano, Taytay City Mayor George Ricardo Gacula II, Balanga City Mayor Francis Anthony Garcia and Legaspi City Mayor Noel Rosal. Each speaker reiterated the significance of the ICT programs in digitalization and economic progress as they presented the good practices in their respective localities. The second day of the event opened with a short recap of the previous day's sessions by Dr. Roderick M. Rupido, Director for Alumni Affairs, Office of the University President at Cavite State University Main Campus.

It was then followed by discussions on empowering governance in the healthcare system which was the highlight of the first part of the second day. DICT Director Evamay Dela Rosa, OIC-Office of the Assistant Secretary, Digital Philippines started off with the topic "Meeting the Challenges in the Healthcare System: The Role of ICT" while Director IV of the Knowledge Management and Information Technology Service, Department of Health Dr. Enrique A. Tayag, PHSAE, FPSMID, CESO III talked about "Managing Breakthroughs in the Healthcare System". Meanwhile, Albay Second Congressional District Representative Jose

Ma. Clemente Salceda deliberated "Formulating Policies on Transformation of Incubation and Startup Technologies in Health and Economy". Revitalizing industry towards a stronger economy was the focus of discussion during second part of the session. Lectures emphasizing digital information and the need to shift to digitalization and information technology modernization were delivered by the following speakers: Mr. Ryan Uy, Product Management Head, StarPay who conversed on "e-Commerce and Fintech"; Mr. Edmar Adlay, Eastern Telecoms tackled "Expanding in Luzon to Strengthen Business in the New Normal"; Ms. Ella Mae Ortega, General Manager of IT Services PT&T discussed "Security Driven Network" with Mr. Jomar Cortez, Solutions Engineer, VST ECS Phils. Inc.; Ms. Madel Icalla, DX Associates, MVSoltech explained "Digital Transformation Focused on People, Process and Technology"; and, Mr. Jonathan De Luzuriaga, President of Philippine Software Industry Association explored on "Integrating Digital Tools/Platform in Industry Operations". The successful event was a big boost to the information technology industry and the organizers hoped that all the lectures and discussions will ignite the digital revolution in the hearts of the attendees to enhance the present situation of the economy.

DepEd nurses, municipal/city veterinary and agriculture office' employees, some PGC and PHO employees. Several audio-visual presentations on responsible pet ownership and rabies facts were also shown at the webinar. Mr. Alvin Mojica, Provincial Administrator

for Community Affairs graced the event and delivered message of support to the program. Likewise, he encouraged fellow Cavitenos to be responsible pet owners.-- PICAD

for Community Affairs graced the event and delivered message of support to the program. Likewise, he encouraged fellow Cavitenos to be responsible pet owners.-- PICAD

Provet conducts responsible << P1

Rabies Program Coordinator-Human Side expertly answered the queries of the participants composed of students, parents, teachers,

DepEd nurses, municipal/city veterinary and agriculture office' employees, some PGC and PHO employees. Several audio-visual pre-

sentations on responsible pet ownership and rabies facts were also shown at the webinar. Mr. Alvin Mojica, Provincial Administrator

for Community Affairs graced the event and delivered message of support to the program. Likewise, he encouraged fellow Cavitenos to be responsible pet owners.-- PICAD



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Supporters hoping for Sara's change of heart about 2022 polls

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte, according to her spokesperson, will seek re-election next year.

Some have refused to give up though and still hopes that the 43-year-old First Daughter would run for president and file her Certificate of Candidacy between October 1 and 8.

If she does, there will be continuity in government programs, Cavite 1st District Rep. Francis Abaya said on Friday.

In an interview, Abaya noted that Duterte's qualities of being "independent-minded and principled" convinced him to support her should she change her mind.

"I especially liked her

stand not to run when her father said he will run for Vice President, because they have an agreement that only one Duterte should hold (a) national office. That, for me, shows Mayor Sara is a very principled politician, and is not an opportunist," Abaya said after he joined the Hugpong Para Kay Sara group, which is clamoring for the mayor to seek the presidency.

"There is just no way I can ignore the kindness and support of the President and his daughter, especially now when my constituents in the first district continue to suffer because of the Covid-19 pandemic."

He said assistance keeps on coming even if he is from

the opposition Liberal Party.

"Walang opo-oposisyon sa mag-amang Duterte, maging ang Pangulo o si Mayor Sara. Kapag kailangan mo ng tulong, naroon sila (For the Duterte family, there is no opposition. If you are in need, they will be there)," he said.

Liloan, Cebu Mayor Christina Frasco, Duterte's spokesperson, confirmed on September 16 that the presidential daughter will seek another term.

Duterte likewise said in a previous video message that she has an agreement with her father that only one in the family will run as either President or Vice President at a given time. (PNA)



Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte (File photo)

Frontliners in remote areas feel Manila's neglect

The remote communities where they serve suffer from neglect, and the frontliners are especially stretched to the limits

Doctors from the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), joined by colleagues from rural and urban health centers, recently gathered online to check on each other, one and half years into the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ok ka pa ba, Dok? (Are you still coping, Doc?)" they asked in the title of their Zoom discussion on September 29, organized by the Community Medicine Practitioners and Advocates Association (COMPASS).

And the answer is no. The remote communities where they serve suffer from neglect, and the frontliners are especially stretched to the limits.

Dr. Jillian Lee, provincial health officer of Dinagat Islands, shared the challenges in their local communities, which are among the vulnerable areas in Mindanao.

Dinagat, she said, only has 15 doctors for a population of 127,152. There's only one nurse in each rural health unit. These healthcare workers attend not only to COVID-19 response but to managing public health programs.

As of Tuesday, October 5, Dinagat Islands has 58



active COVID-19 cases and has logged a total of 17 mortalities since its first recorded death in April 2021.

While the Delta variant contributed to the spike in cases between May and June, Lee said another major factor was the national task force's order in February for local governments units (LGUs) to relax travel protocols.

"There was pressure on us LGUs to open our borders already, and the impact of that didn't manifest immediately," Lee said in Filipino.

She said the Department of the Interior and Local Government did away with quarantine requirements for arrivals supposedly since the vaccines were coming anyway. It was a way of boosting the local economy.

"What happened instead was, we had community transmission in all seven municipalities," Lee added.

Lee also shared that they experienced full bed capacity in each of their hospitals during the surge. They were

trying to accommodate 30 to 40 patients almost every day while some of the patients were already being transferred to Surigao, its closest referral center.

"We were a vulnerable area. Surigao City is one hour away by boat from our nearest port here in Dinagat, or a two-hour land travel going to the capital, and from there one more hour to Surigao. So it's difficult for those who are in critical condition," she said.

In addition, Lee said their healthcare workers still continued to implement other programs, including children's immunization and the screening for infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and HIV. Lee said they didn't see any support from the national government in establishing isolation facilities and a centralized system for contact tracing.

"Our isolation facilities are schools or built from scratch. We didn't receive support from our national



1.8M DOSES NG PFIZER, TINANGGAP NG PILIPINAS MULA SA COVAX

Tumanggap ang Pilipinas ng 1,813,500 pang doses ng bakunang Pfizer mula sa COVAX Facility nitong Linggo, habang patuloy na naghahanda sa pagbabakuna ng pangkalahatang populasyon at mga bata.

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government. In the communities where transmission of COVID-19 was happening, the focus was on implementing lockdowns, which had serious impact on daily wage earners," she said.

Lee furthered that the prices of medical supplies such as PPEs and facemasks in the province, especially in far-flung areas, are higher compared to the towns near main ports and manufacturing sites.

Since Dinagat was far-flung, the prices of supplies like PPEs and face masks

were almost double those nearer the ports and manufacturing sites. "That's why our offices needed to spend more compared to the rural health units of other places," Lee said.

Other doctors to the barrios who shared their challenges and struggles were Dr. Jean Lindo of the Davao Medical School Foundation community medicine department faculty; Dr. Oliver Gimenez, municipal health officer of Medellin, Cebu; Dr. Raul Ting, community physician in Tuguegarao, Cagayan;

and Dr. Tess Bacunata of the community birthing center in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The community doctors called on the national government to have an inclusive and unified COVID-19 response, especially in the isolated and vulnerable areas across the country.

COMPASS spokesperson Dr. Violy Casiguran said they were deeply disturbed that the proposed 2022 national budget does not give utmost priority to addressing the current national health emergency.