

COVID-19 Special Coverage

Volume 5, Issue No. 8 - May 26, 2020



DILG orders PNP to set up help desks in police stations for stranded individuals

The DILG has directed the Philippine National Police (PNP) to set up help desks in all police stations nationwide to help locally stranded individuals (LSIs) and returning overseas Filipinos (ROFs) during the Covid-19 pandemic.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that help desks in municipal, city, provincial, and

regional police stations and offices should process applications for travel authorities from concerned individuals who wish to return to their residence after being stranded in different areas due to the community quarantine.

The creation of help desks is provided under the operational guidelines on the management of LSIs and ROFs issued by the National Task Force Against Covid-19. Under the guidelines, a stranded individual must secure a Medical Certificate from the Municipal or City Health Office and a Travel Authority from the PNP before he may be allowed to travel.

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DILG to LGUs: Don't impose excessive fees for medical certificate required for travel authority of LSIs

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año says that now that the BP2 Program has been made as a cornerstone of government policy, he foresees that opportunities towards equal distribution of wealth, growth and progress can now be possible down to the local government units (LGUs) unlike how it is today where economic development is mostly concentrated in Metro Manila and other highly-urbanized cities.

"The DILG welcomes the institutionalization of the BP2 Program since this has always been our battle cry in our campaign for Constitutional Reform (CORE) which is equal opportunities for growth and progress for all. It has been a fact that development is lopsided in favor of Metro Manila. Panahon na para ikalat ang kaunlaran sa ibat ibang rehiyon ng ating bansa," he adds.

He said that the DILG is requesting all mayors to review their schedule of fees during this time of COVID and only charge minimal fees as a public service.

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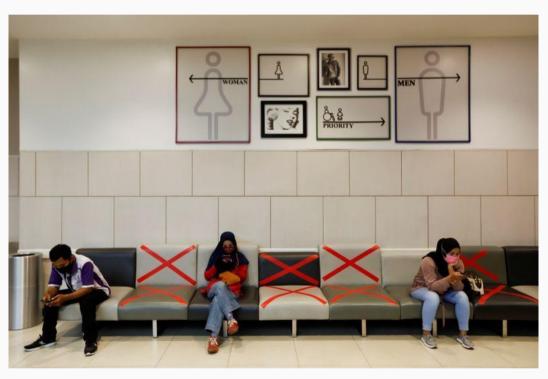
DILG urges Filipino Muslims to do Eid'l Fitr prayer and feast at home; keep up the virtue of discipline from fasting

As the Islamic month of Ramadhan culminates on Sunday with the celebration of Eid'l Fitr (Feast of Breaking the Fast), the DILG urges Filipino Muslims to do their Eid prayer and feast in their homes while the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic remains a threat to public health.

"Eid mubarak (blessed feast) to our Filipino Muslim brothers and sisters! May you have a meaningful celebration of this awaited festivity that marks the end of your month-long, dawn-to-sunset fasting that surely strengthened your faith in God and compassion towards the less privileged," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año.

"To ensure the safety of your families and communities, the government enjoins that Eid prayers and festivity be observed in your homes to prevent mass gatherings as our fight against COVID-19 continues," Año said in an advisory to local government units (LGUs) including the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

REGIONAL NEWS



from Yahoo News

DILG 10 advocates for 'new normal' amidst COVID-19

DILG-10 reminds the public that even though a local government unit may no longer be under a general community quarantine or be reclassified into modified general community quarantine, this does not mean that the public is no longer susceptible to the spread of COVID-19.

DILG 10 Regional Director Arnel M. Agabe underscored, "Whatever community

quarantine classification a local government unit may be into, we are calling for the public to continue on following guidelines being implemented by the national government and their LGUs."

"We will only be fully prepared if everyone does their part. This is why we are calling for the full support of our local government units by crafting policies in line with the 'new normal'," RD Agabe stated.

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"Don't drop your guard" - Dir. Leysa to LGUs as Region XII records new COVID cases

"Don't drop your guard," said DILG XII Regional Director Josephine Cabrido-Leysa, CESO III to local government units as the region recorded one new COVID-19 positive case a day before transitioning into MGCQ. Additional three confirmed cases were recorded, two days after the region shifted under Modified General Community Quarantine on May 16.

In a statement last Monday, March 18, Leysa urged LGUs to maintain the strict implementation of border restrictions in the region and reduce public movement to limit the spread of the virus.

She urged the public to remain cautious and to follow the minimum health standards set by the government which include wearing of face mask, hand washing, and physical/social distancing when in public places. They are also advised to refrain from going out of their homes except for purchasing essential goods.

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30 MisOr rebels receive livelihood and training assistance worth P50k

Towards starting a new life, 30 Former Rebels in Misamis Oriental received Livelihood and Training Assistance amounting to Php 50,000 each at 58IB Headquarters, Sitio Migbanday, Claveria..

DILG Misamis Oriental Provincial Director Engr. Marisia C. Naybe reminded the Former Rebels to use the assistance wisely as this is one way for them to start a new life, working together with the government.

One of the Former Rebels testifies her drastic experiences in the past as she expressed her gratitude to the Philippine Government for all the assistance provided to them.

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NEWS FROM ATTACHED AGENCIES



Gamboa assures assistance to repatriated and stranded individuals

The Philippine National Police (PNP) is preparing to resume operation of all frontline administrative function and regulatory services such as the processing of licenses, permits and clearances to the public.

PNP Chief, Police General Archie Francisco F Gamboa said IATF guidelines will be strictly observed when the PNP reopens frontline administrative services of the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO), Supervisory Office for Security and Investigative Agencies (SOSIA), Highway Patrol Group (HPG), and all City and Municipal Police Stations for issuance of local Police Clearance.

"Rest assured the Philippine National Police will take this with an open mind... kung walang quarantine pass and they would just go to the police station to get clearance, we



Philippine Arena mega swabbing center will be managed by BFP

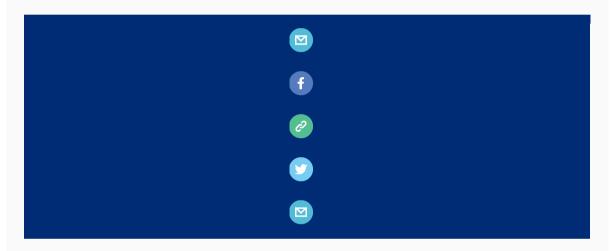
The Philippine Arena Complex in Bulacan has been set up as another mega swabbing center to serve areas in Bulacan and north of Metro Manila. This will help ramp up the country's testing capacity to 30,000 tests per day by May 30.

The facility will be managed by the Bureau of Fire Protection. It has six swabbing tents, 96 testing booths and will be assisted by 400 volunteers from various government agencies.

The Philippine Red Cross, with the private sector, has greatly supported the Philippine government's "Test, Trace, Treat" strategy. Daily tests conducted have already reached 11,127 as of May 15, up from 5,000 tests last May 2.







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