

COVID-19 Special Coverage

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### **NATIONAL NEWS**



from Philstar

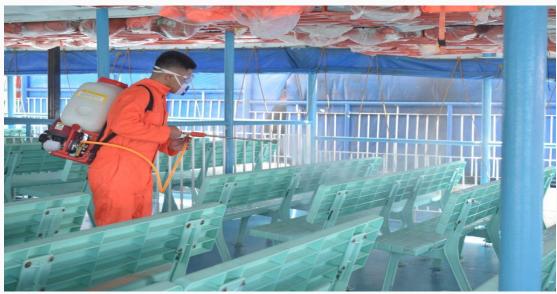
DILG: Over 80,000 contact tracers needed nationwide for expanded contact tracing efforts

As part of the government's continuing efforts to defeat COVID-19, the DILG said that the government needs some 82,537 contact tracers to form part of local contact tracing teams (CTTs) of local government units (LGUs) across the country who shall take charge of tracking down the close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 patients.

"Given that the there is still no vaccine or cure to COVID-19, the government needs to train and hire contact tracers who will break the chains of transmission of COVID-19 by identifying those who may have been exposed to the virus and monitoring them daily for 14 days," said DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año.

Año said that the Department has already submitted a proposal to the Interagency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-MEID) for the hiring and training of contact tracers as part of the government's expanded contact tracing efforts to effectively manage the COVID-19 pandemic.

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from the Muncipality of San Andres

## DILG to barangay officials: Enforce minimum health protocols in the community

Recognizing the critical role of barangays in preventing the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the DILG urged all barangay officials to be more proactive in the enforcement of minimum health protocols in their respective communities.

DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año said that barangays should adopt measures to promote health and safety, maintain peace and order, and to preserve the comfort and convenience of the barangay inhabitants, especially during a public health emergency. He said that this is provided in Section 16 or the General Welfare Clause of the Local Government Code.

"Sa lebel ng komunidad talaga ang tunay na laban sa COVID-19. National government can only do general supervision but the barangay governments are on the ground and closest to the people. Barangays, therefore, have the huge responsibility in implementing minimum health standards," he said.

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"The DILG reminds barangay officials to walk the talk. Follow the rules first before you impose on others."

-DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año

### DILG: LGUs not being forced to support Anti-Terrorism Bill; calls Bayan Muna's accusation an affront to LGUs nationwide

The DILG belied the accusation of leftist group Bayan Muna that local chief executives (LCEs) are being coerced by the DILG to support the Anti-Terrorism Bill calling the accusation an affront and insult to local government executives nationwide.

"Bayan Muna's claim that LGUs are being forced into supporting the Anti-Terrorism Bill is complete falsehood and an affront and insult to the dignity, intelligence, and integrity of all local government officials nationwide who have freely expressed their support to the bill that was passed recently by Congress," said DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya.

"Nagbubulag-bulagan lamang ang Bayan Muna sa mga hinaing ng mga LGUs at ng ating mga kababayan lalo na sa mga lugar na patuloy na sinisira ng mga terrorista gaya ng Marawi, Samar, Bikol, Caraga at marami pang iba," he said.

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#### **REGIONAL NEWS**



### DILG XII: Four SOCCSKSARGEN provinces anticipates 13 new road projects worth P488-M under CMGP

Four provinces in Region XII will soon have additional paved roads as they await for the release of funds for their proposed provincial road projects under the 2020 Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces (CMGP), this after DILG successfully endorsed all of the provinces' proposed projects to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

DILG has endorsed 13 road projects to DBM with a total road length of 29.365 kilometers, costing Php 488, 919,145. Out of the total projects, two will be in Cotabato, three in Sarangani, and four in both the provinces of South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat.

Region XII is the first region where all of its provinces have complied with the requirements set forth in the Special Provisions of the LGSF for the CMGP under the 2020 GAA, according to the letter sent by OPDS Director Zambales.

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Gov. Gerardo A. Noveras

### Province of Aurora conducts 2nd Quarter peace and order council meeting

The province of Aurora together with the different Department Heads, Heads of Agencies, LGU Representatives, Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), DILG and the accredited Civil Society Organizations conducted the 2nd Quarter Joint Provincial Peace and Order Council last June 18, 2020.

Presented during the meeting, which was conducted with strict observance of social distancing and health protocols, were the Peace and Order Situation in the province; Insurgency Situation; Barangay Drug Clearing Updates; ELCAC Updates; and changes in the POPS Plan Annual Implementation Plan 2020 to include COVID related activities.

The salient features of the proposed Anti-Terrorism Act of 2020 was also discussed. The members unanimously approved the resolution supporting the Strengthened Anti-Terror law with emphasis on its proper enforcement observing and respecting basic human rights and democratic institutions.

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### Peace-building in Cordillera continues amid pandemic

"We are in the middle of a global health crisis; we are faced with a difficult situation but this does not mean that we will be paralyzed into inaction. The pandemic gives us more reasons to perform better."

This was the statement of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Cordillera regional director Marlo Iringan on why inter-agency convergence should carry on amid the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

On June 19, the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary and Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security (CORDS) for the Cordillera Dr. William Dar presided over the Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) in a joint meeting with Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) which was presided over by Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong at the Baguio Country Club.

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# NEWS FROM ATTACHED AGENCIES



#### Fallen hero cop to receive financial support and benefits

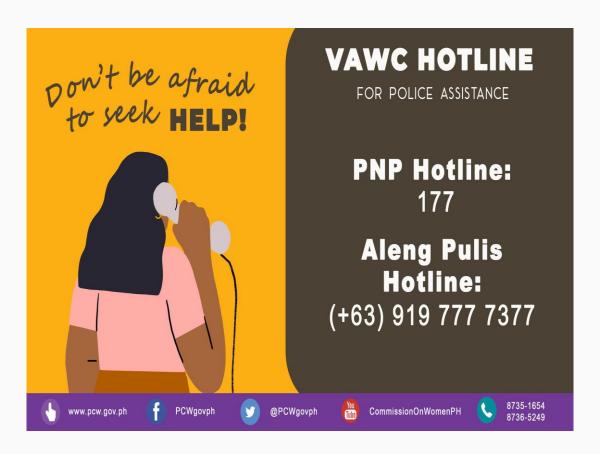
The Philippine National Police mourns the death of another police hero who was killed in the line of duty during an armed encounter in Parañaque City last June 21, 2020.

Chief PNP, PGEN Archie Gamboa said the PNP leadership assures the family of PLT Armand L Melad, of financial support and social benefits as well as the wounded personnel, PCPL Allan Fontanilla Baltazar, both members of PCP-1, Parañaque City Police Station.

PLT Melad and PCpl Baltazar were engaged in a firefight with Moamar D Sarif and Joven D Viña aka Miro. Sarif has a previous arrest record in Pasay CPS for illegal drugs and in

Pareñaque CPS for illegal possession of bladed weapon both in 2019. Suspect was also reported to be a small time street drug pusher in Pasay and Parañaque city.

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#### PCW Statement on Threats of Rape and Sexual Violence

The Philippine Commission on Women strongly condemns rape threats and "normalization of rape" hurled at women and girls. Such acts propagate the rape culture, which is unacceptable.

These are not only disgusting, but also alarming and degrading. While there is public outcry on these statements against known personalities, there are women and girls who face similar situations but cannot fight back as they do not have the same power and influence as popular public figures. But the fact that such threats happen even to known personalities only prove

the realities about rape, and debunks the myths surrounding this grave crime.

The myth that people are raped because they asked for it or due to the way they look, dress, or behave has repeatedly been busted, but continue to spread because of people who choose to justify the acts of the criminal thus enabling the rape culture to flourish.

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**Isay** MAHUSAY



Matino, Mahusay at Maaasahang Kagawaran para sa Mapagkalinga at Maunlad na Pamahalaang Lokal