

COVID-19 Special Coverage

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DILG says that telcos can now secure permits to build towers in less than a month

Following President Rodrigo Duterte's directive to improve digital infrastructure in the country, the DILG said that it will now take less than a month from the previous 6-7 months to secure government permits to build telecommunications towers in the country.

In the President's public address yesterday, DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año reported to President Duterte that the DILG, Anti-Red Tape Authority together with other national

government agencies (NGAs), have issued a joint memorandum circular (JMC) streamlining documentary requirements and processing time for building permit applications on shared passive telecommunications tower infrastructure also known as common telecommunications towers.

"Dati po inaabot ng 200 days yung pag-apply ng permit. Dito po sa bagong JMC namin kasama ang lahat ng ahensya at mga local government units (LGUs), sabay-sabay na ang pag-process, makukuha po lahat ng permit in less than a month," Año explained.

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"Dati po inaabot ng 200 days yung pag-apply ng permit. Dito po sa bagong JMC... makukuha po lahat ng permit in less than a month. Lahat po ng steps na nagpapabagal sa proseso ay inalis na natin."

-DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año



DILG warns public vs con artists extorting money for COVID-19 test kits

The DILG is warning the public against conmen taking advantage of the COVID-19 crisis who introduce themselves as alleged members of Contact Tracing Teams to scam unsuspecting victims into handing out payment for coronavirus test kits.

DILG Undersecretary and Spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said that there are unscrupulous individuals posing as Contact Tracers who are sending text messages or making calls telling people that they have been identified as close contact of an alleged COVID patient and that they need to shell out money for the cost of a testing kit.

He said that legitimate contact tracing teams will never ask for money since their task is to track down and manage close contacts, reduce the spread of infection, and offer diagnostic, counselling and treatment to confirmed COVID-19 cases.

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DILG: "Shoot to kill" threat improper and illegal

The DILG considers the alleged "shoot to kill" threat by the head of the QC Task Force Disiplina against quarantine violators in Quezon City as improper and illegal and we advise him to desist from issuing similar statements in the future.

While we strongly believe that discipline is one of the preventive measures to stop the transmission of the Coronavirus, this must be enforced within the bounds of the law and the DILG will not tolerate any possible abuse of authority on the part of law enforcement agencies or enforcement units of Local Government Units. The penalties to be imposed by local government units against quarantine violators must be within the bounds of their respective ordinances.

In imposing discipline, we must also act in a disciplined manner at all times.

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REGIONAL NEWS



DILG CAR: Hatid Tulong initiative sends second batch of LSIs

Fifty-five Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) from Apayao, Baguio City, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province have arrived safely in their respective provinces through the Hatid Tulong Initiative (HTI) Batch 2 program of the government last July 26-28, 2020.

The HTI is a government-wide effort program led by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) to provide transportation assistance to LSIs stranded in the National Capital Region

(NCR) and nearby areas during the implementation of Enhanced Community Quarantine in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on March 15, 2020.

"These are trying times for everyone and we are happy that our LSIs are able to arrive home safely. We would like to ensure the public that there shall be proper coordination between the local government units (LGUs) and the individuals throughout the process. We also remind our returning individuals as well as the general public to be compliant with the health protocols and guidelines to minimize the spread of the virus," says DILG Cordillera Regional Director Marlo Iringan.

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DILG XII conducts virtual POPS-PCMS reorientation

Department of the Interior and Local Government XII through the Local Government

Monitoring and Evaluation Division (LGMED) hosted a virtual reorientation activity on Confidential Funds Utilization and Accomplishment Reporting, Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan (POPSP) Updating and Review, and the monitoring of POPSP – Performance Compliance Monitoring System (PCMS).

The activity was participated by Peace and Order focal persons both from the DILG and the Local Government Units, and City and Municipal Government Operations Officers.

Throughout the five-hour training, the participants were engaged in a very informative discussion with the panel of resource persons from the NPOC Secretariat led by Atty. Maria Rhodora R. Flores, Chief of the Policy Compliance and Monitoring Division of the Bureau of Local Government Supervision (BLGS).

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DILG-3 gears up for a new online documentation system amid the Covid-19 pandemic

As the DILG endeavors on the adoption of a new document online system, DILG R3 held an orientation on the Document Management System (DMS) on July 27, 2020 via Zoom platform.

The main objective of the activity was to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills needed on how to use the system.

The virtual orientation included the discussion of the DMS issuances and guidelines from Central Office, overview, features, and process flow and user roles. Actual document process flow in the system was also demonstrated.

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NEWS FROM ATTACHED AGENCIES



Gamboa: PNP ready for MECQ; public urged to stay home

Philippine National Police Chief, PGen Archie Gamboa has directed all police commanders and units to immediately establish additional community checkpoints for the immediate implementation of the Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) in the National Capital Region, provinces of Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, and Bulacan.

"Our police units in the field are ready to set up more checkpoints in barangays and main thoroughfares as the NCR, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, and Bulacan reverted to MECQ from August 4 to 18 heeding the call of our medical frontliners," he said.

During the 15-day MECQ, he assured that police frontliners will do everything by means of stricter checkpoints operations to effectively contain the spread of COVID-19.

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Montano takes oath as PCW Chairperson

The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) welcomes Sandra Sanchez Montano as she assumes office as Chairperson of the agency.

Montano took her oath before Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Eduardo Año in a short ceremony at the Camp Crame, witnessed by Undersecretary Marjorie Jalosjos and Mr. John Alvin Montano on July 13, 2020.

Before being appointed as Chairperson, Montano served as PCW Commissioner for the

NCMF-SULU and other organizations continue to assist returning Filipinos from Sabah

The NCMF Regional Office in Sulu under Regional Director Kenny Tan welcomed the second batch of returning Filipinos from Sabah today, August 2.

There were 31 returnees, 15 OFWs, and 50 locally stranded individuals who were assisted by the NCMF in coordination with the Sulu Task Force COVID and other line agencies as support to the Philippine Government's Balik Probinsya efforts.

The NCMF and Secretary Saidamen B. Pangarungan, through Director Tan, will continue to assist in welcoming these Muslim Filipinos back to the province

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