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TACLOBAN
RIZAL AVENUE

Two new cases came from same Samar town

DOH says EV has COVID-19 local transmission

JOEY A. GABIETA

TACLOBAN CITY-There is now a local transmission of the dreaded coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) here in the region.

This was confirmed no less than the regional director of the Department of Health (DOH), Dr. Minerva Molon in a press conference.

Molon made this disclosure after two women, aged 32 and 56, were confirmed to have been infected of the virus by their co-worker in a health facility in Tarangnan, Samar, raising the region's confirmed COVID-19 cases to three.

Molon, in a press conference on Tuesday (April 7), said that the two women are to be transported to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVMRC), based this city, for their

confinement.

"It is now established that there is now a local transmission in Eastern Visayas, particularly in Tarangnan. But we are doing our best to control the spread of the virus by transporting them to the EVRMC," she said, referring to the identified referral hospital in Eastern Visayas for COVID-19 patients and patients under monitoring (PUIs) having severe symptoms of the ailment.

Molon also underscored the importance of home stay, practicing personal hygiene and observe social distancing as a way to contain the spread of the virus.

She added that they have immediately conducted contract tracing whom the two women have interacted to ensure that the virus could be contain.

"It is further encouraged that the possible contacts to come out in the open and not be ashamed since their cooperation is of utmost importance to stop wider spread of the virus in the community," she added.

But initially, 20 contacts of the 63-year old man who was reportedly infected the two women of the virus, turned out to be negative based on the

see DOH /page 9 ...



SOCIAL DISTANCING. People entering the public market of Tacloban City are strictly mandated to observe social distancing, aside from wearing face masks, to ensure the city will remain free of the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19). Entrance and exit points were also designated at the market to ensure that the public follows the strict measures of the local government. (TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)

DOH: Pray, not discriminate COVID-19 patients

TACLOBAN CITY-A top health official here in the region has asked the public to pray instead of stigmatizing those who are infected with the deadly coronavirus disease (COVID-19) following the second positive case in the region.

"We ask the public to give deep understanding to these two patients and to the patients under investigation (PUIs) as they go through this health crisis. Please pray for their deliverance from physical suffering," said Dr. Minerva Molon, regional director of the Department of Health (DOH), referring to the two women from Tarangnan, Samar who

were infected with the virus.

The health official appealed to the people to refrain from posting unnecessary information toward the patients, saying the virus does not discriminate and anyone can be infected.

"We will never know who the next victim will be. It might be you or your loved ones especially if you will not practice social or physical distancing," Molon said.

As of Thursday, April 2, the second COVID-19 patient from Calbayog City has remained in stable condition after he was transferred to the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) in

Tacloban City.

The 63-year-old patient also has diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. He has a travel history from Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, DOH said the second sample taken from the first confirmed COVID-19 patient already tested negative for the virus.

The patient, a resident of Catarman, Northern Samar, was discharged from the referral hospital with advice for 14-day home quarantine for further observation.

Also, no local transmission from the first confirmed case was reported in Northern Samar since all contacts

see DOH /page 2 ...

BFAR reports of red tide in various waters in the region; cautions public not to eat shellfish

TACLOBAN CITY — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) here in the region has issued a warning to the public on the presence of red tide toxins in some areas of Eastern Visayas.

Juan Albaladejo, BFAR-8 regional director, in an interview said that presence of the red tide toxins have been detected in Ormoc Bay, which comprises the city of Ormoc, and the towns of Merida and Albuera, all of Leyte province; coastal waters of Calubian, Leyte; and Matarinao Bay which covers the municipalities of General MacArthur, Hernani, Quinapondan and Salcedo, all in Eastern Samar.

Albaladejo said that his

office advises the public to refrain from gathering, selling and eating all types of shellfishes and Acetes species locally known as 'alamang' or 'hipon' and other marine products harvested from those areas.

Albaladejo said that based on the laboratory analysis on samples collected from those areas, the density of the red tide toxins is beyond the regulatory limit.

He explained that those products are not safe for human consumption until the red tide organisms are eliminated in those areas and the toxicity level has gone down below the regulatory level.

Albaladejo, however, said that other ma-

rine products harvested from those areas like fish, crabs, squid and shrimps are safe to eat provided they are still fresh and their internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed and washed thoroughly before cooking.

(RESTITUTO A.CAYUBIT)



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WE DELIVER!

Amid temporary closure of establishments due to COVID-19 pandemic Mayor Romualdez signs ordinances aimed to ease financial burden of business owners



Mayor Alfred Romualdez

ket, new bus terminal, and lessees at the convention center(astrodome).

Also approved by the city mayor was an ordinance extending the deadline for the payment of the first installment of real property taxes from March 31 to end of this month,

without interest or penalty.

The city council, headed by Vice Mayor Jerry Yaokasin, enacted these three ordinances on March 25, with the aim of helping the businessmen and real property owners during this time of difficulties caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

Romualdez earlier placed the entire city under restrictive community quarantine effective March 21 to April 12 to contain possible entry of COVID-19 in the city of more than 240,000 people.

This resulted for the temporary closure of business establishments except those in the food and essential outlets, among others.

(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)

Calbayog violators on home quarantine to be lock up in jails, says Mayor Aquino

CALBAYOG CITY- In order to stop the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), persons under monitoring (PUMs) and patients under investigation (PUIs) of this city who will not follow the mandatory 14-day voluntary quarantine will be apprehended and put in a detention facility of the police.

This was declared by City Mayor Ronaldo Aquino as he described the COVID-19 outbreak as a worrying situation that requires drastic but necessary measures in order to stop the transmission among residents of the city.

Calbayog has recorded its first confirmed COVID-19 patient involving a 63-year old man who is now confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medi-



Mayor Ronaldo Aquino

cal Center (EVRMC) in Tacloban City.

And as of April 5, the city has about 81 PUIs and 2,448 PUMs.

As per recommendation by the city's Inter-Agency Task Force on COVID-19, the following measures is now being implemented in the entire city of Calbayog.

-Any person arriving in the city, whether a resident or non-resident should undergo home quarantine.

- PUIs or PUMs who will resist the 14-day voluntary quarantine will be apprehended and put in a detention facility of the Philippine National Police.

-A curfew is now imposed from 6 pm to 6 00 am for minors and 9 pm

to 5 am for adults. Adults and parents or guardian of children caught breaking the curfew will be required to render 2 hours of community work as sanction.

- Motorboats from Masbate and Cebu provinces are prohibited to dock in Calbayog except those transporting food products and other basic goods.

- All internet cafés, clubs and beerhouses, swimming pools open to the public, and cock fighting arena are now temporarily closed.

-All business establishments like grocery stores, pharmacies, hotels are required to provide their personnel with appropriate personal protective equipment.

- Graduations are cancelled. Classes all levels both public and private are suspended since March 16.

-Events and social gatherings and any religious celebrations are being discouraged to prevent the spread of the virus.

-People are encouraged to practice social distancing and the city government of Calbayog urged

see Calbayog /page 8 ...

Leyte SP seeks help from Cebu officials to provide assistance to stranded Leyteños in the province

TACLOBAN CITY- The Leyte provincial board recently passed separate resolutions addressed to Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella seeking help for them to provide necessary assistance to Leyteños stranded there due to the lockdown imposed as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

According to the separate resolutions passed and approved by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan during their regular session on March 30, there are people from various parts of Leyte

who are residing or working in Cebu who were stranded when the province was placed under lockdown.

And unfortunately, there is a big chance that they would not be included in the listing for them to be provided with assistance, particularly food.

Thus, they are seeking the help both from the provincial and city governments of Cebu for them to provide assistance to the stranded Leyteños while the lockdown is still in effect.

"Whereas, this group of stranded Leyteños in Cebu are not listed as among those who are entitled to

receive assistance in their respective areas, as they are either students who have no classes, workers who have no work, all of whom have either no more money, food or medicines," part of the resolution said.

"Whereas, for humanitarian reason, the people of province of Leyte is requesting the Honorable Governor Gwendolyn Garcia (and Cebu Mayor Edgardo Labella) to provide assistance in the forms of food, medicines, shelter and other services, and when situation warrants, allow this group of stranded Leyteños to travel and go home to Leyte

after compliance with the strictest health protocol standards.

Vice Governor Carlo Loreto, the presiding officer of the Leyte provincial board, however, could not say as to how many Leyteños are stranded in Cebu province.

"We're working hard; coordinating with local officials in Cebu seeking assistance and as much as possible, do some mass sheltering to keep them safe. We're hoping that they can do something (on our request)," Loreto said. (JAZMIN BONIFACIO/ JOEY A.GABIETA)

DOH...

...from Page 1

with swab samples were found negative.

As of Thursday, April 2, the number of PUIs in the region remains at 400.

Across the country, the total number of COVID-19 cases is now at 2,633, with 51 recoveries and 107 deaths.

(RONALD O.REYES)

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Nearby towns of Calbayog City now under community quarantine after city confirms one COVID-19 patient

TACLOBAN CITY- The towns of Sta. Margarita and Gandara, both in Samar province, were placed under enhanced community quarantine effective April 2.

The mayors of these towns made the declaration after a man from the nearby city of Calbayog was tested and confirmed positive with the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

In Sta Margarita, the declaration will last until April 14 based on Executive Order 9 signed by Mayor Gemma Zosa who also imposed a stay-at-home order and a 24-hour curfew.

Only one person is allowed to go out the house to buy the family essential needs.

Workers or employees in business establishments must present certification or identification card when going to work.

Only those who are working in health care and security forces are exempted on the curfew as liquor ban was also imposed across the town.

Those who are delivering goods coming from other areas must present certification that they are not consider as patients under investigation (PUIs) and persons under monitoring (PUMs).

The town mayor still allow business to operate but under limited hours only

or from 8 am until 5 m., and people managing the establishments including their customers must always wear mask and observe social distancing.

Transport vehicles have to limit the number of their passenger's capacity into half and were given the right to collect twice from its original fare while the town is under quarantine.

The EO mandates that drivers and passengers must always wear face masks.

Coastal village officials are also ordered not to allow docking of any boats in their area.

Meanwhile, Gandara town Mayor Eufemio Oliva signed EO 2020-04 prohibiting its residents to travel to Calbayog City and Catarman in Northern Samar, areas where are there confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Under the order, those who will pass the quarantine checkpoints in the town must present an identification card and certification of employment, if one has one.

The municipal government has designated the terminal along the diversion road as the common area for unloading cargos from truck delivery, unloading and loading area for passenger vehicles plying within Gandara town.

Non-Gandara residents are allowed to enter the town proper except for fish vendors but they have to sell

their products at the diversion road.

Residents and traders from coastal villages will have to do their transaction at the port area located at the town market but they are not allowed to leave their boat.

And villagers residing outside the town proper as well as those coming from other towns must follow designated schedule for them to be allowed entry to the town proper.

Residents of Tarangnan town could enter Gandara every Monday and Wednesday; for San Jorge residents, Tuesday and Thursday; for residents of Sta Margarita and Pagsanghan, and Wednesday; and Friday for residents of Matuguinao.

The mayor also prohibits on the selling of liquor, gambling and cockfighting and order to have price monitoring for basic necessities and prime commodities. **(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

Samar Rep. Tan urges the public to heed government's stay home policy amid COVID-19 pandemic

TACLOBAN CITY-Samar Rep. Sharee Ann Tan issues an appeal to the people of the province to heed the order of the government to stay home to help contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

The call of Tan, who was a former governor of the province, came in the wake on the confirmation by the Department of Health of positive COVID-19 case in the province.

A 63-year-old male from Calbayog City was confirmed to have been infected with the COVID-19, becoming the second case of the region.

The man is now confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVMRC) while the first COVID-19 patient, a 5-year old woman from Northern Samar, has already been discharged from the hospital after being cleared of the virus.

"The second patient



Rep. Sharee Ann Tan

has a recent travel history to Metro Manila where he contracted the virus before returning to his hometown in Calbayog City on March 8.

Because of this, I am requesting all our residents not to go out and stay home," Rep. Tan said in a statement.

She urged the local government units in the province to strictly impose the implementation of the enhance community quarantine to avoid the further spread of the disease.

Rep. Tan also discour-

aged everyone not to spread fake news in the social media since it will not help to alleviate the situation and may only cause unnecessary panic.

"Let us listen to the advisories of the Department of Health (DOH) and the quarantine guidelines" she said.

The entire Samar

province is under a 15-day enhanced community quarantine as right after the DOH confirmed the first case of COVID-19 in the province.

(LIZBETH ANN A. ABELLA)



Public warned vs. fake solicitations amid health crisis

TACLOBAN CITY - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) field office here warned the public on Thursday against groups or individuals that may take advantage of the current health crisis through fake solicitations.

"We want to ensure that the real intentions of the fundraising campaign will really be for the welfare of the intended recipients," DSWD Eastern Visayas regional director Marie Angela Gopalan said in a statement.

The official urged the public to be careful in giving donations, whether in cash or in-kind and donate only to legitimate and recognized charity groups or individuals.

Gopalan said any person, corporation, or association should apply first for a solicitation permit before undertaking fundraising drives to be filed at the regional office here.

Presidential Decree 1564 or the Solicitation Permit Law, mandates the DSWD to regulate the solicitation

of donations or receiving of contributions for charitable or public welfare purposes.

The department said this is to ensure efficient facilitation of funds, safeguard the public from scams and illegal schemes, and promote accountability and transparency.

Any person violating any provision stipulated under the law, upon conviction, suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not more than a year or a fine of not more than P1,000.

Meanwhile, the DSWD, as the food and non-food items cluster head of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, has already prepositioned relief items for communities under quarantine due to the threat of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

As of March 23, relief items on standby for the region include 2,084 family food packs (FFP), 41,554 cans of sardines, 18,236 cans of corned beef, 194,403 sachets of coffee, 166 blankets, and 3,529 malongs (tube skirts).

Each FFP contains six



RELIEF PACKS. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) personnel in Macarohon, Southern Leyte assist in the repacking of relief goods for quarantine-affected families due to coronavirus disease 2019. The DSWD on Thursday (March 26, 2020) warned the public against groups or individuals that may take advantage of the current health crisis through fake solicitations.

(Photo courtesy of DSWD)

kilograms of rice, four cans of corned beef, four cans of meatloaf, and six sachets of coffee, good for three to five days for a family of five members.

The regional office also currently has a standby fund of PHP3 million which can be used to purchase additional relief items.

The DSWD assured they will continue to provide the delivery of "maagap at mapagkalingang serbisyo"

(prompt and nurturing service) to the poor, vulnerable, and disadvantaged while putting premium to health and safety of its beneficiaries and personnel in this time of health crisis.

The region has one confirmed case of Covid-19 and 280 patients under investigation as of Wednesday, according to the Department of Health.

(GERICO SABALZA/PNA)

Man dies while waiting his COVID-19 test

TACLOBAN CITY- A 51-year old man from this city died on Wednesday (April 1) night due to community acquired pneumonia and pulmonary tuberculosis who was tested for possible coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC).

And as part of the guidelines, the patient was buried within 12 hours after he was declared dead, Dr. Gloria Fabrigas, city health officer, said in a phone interview.

"We already informed the family and conducted disinfection in the village (where he lived) and nearby barangays as part of the protocol," she said.

Fabrigas said that the patient died at about 8:52 pm due to respiratory failure based on the death certificate issued by the EVRMC.

Pneumonia is among the considered ailments associated to persons infected from COVID-19.

The man was buried at 9 am Thursday (April 2) in one of the public cemeteries

see Man/page 8 ...

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that heirs of the late JOEL PEÑALOSA GO extrajudicially settled, partitioned and adjudicated over a parcel of land designated as Lot 11, Block 9, Pes-08-001252-D situated at Barangay Campetik, Palo, Leyte containing an area of 102sq.m., covered by Trans for Certificate of Title No. 115-2015000983 and TD No. 08-30-0015-02988 for Residential Land and TD No. 08-30-0015-02989 Residential Building. Per Doc No. 377, Page No. 77, Book No. X, Series of 2019. Notary Public Atty. Ma. Rowena F. Goc-ong. LSDE: March 24, 31 & April 7, 2020

Leyte Samar
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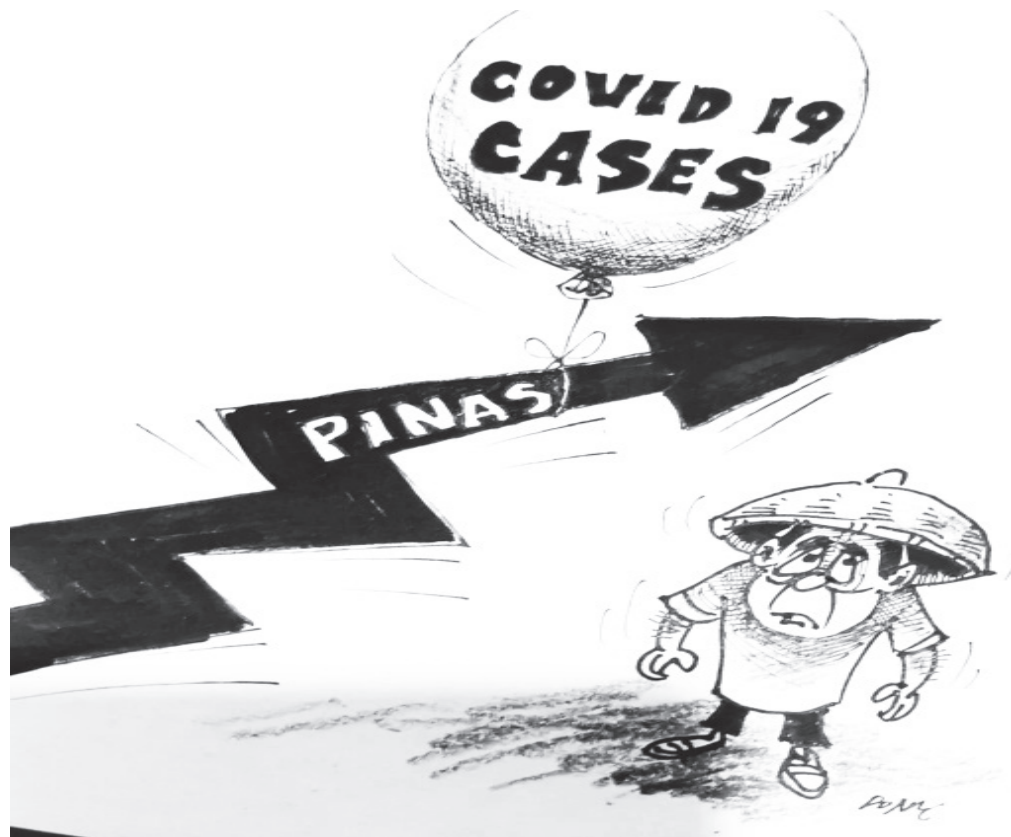
Letters should be as brief as possible, and sent with the writer's name, signature address and phone numbers (if any) to: "Letter to the Editor", Leyte Samar Daily Express. They may be edited for length and clarity

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Country on the lead

For the Philippines to lead in last year's SEA Games medal tally was indeed a great source of pride and excitement. This year, the same lead role is credited for the country, but it's not something to be so happy about this time; it's a thing to be scared of—topping the South East Asia in terms of COVID 19 infections.

And the number rapidly increases every day. With this, the number of fatalities likewise soars. Expectedly, of course. The saddest part of which is that, the number of casualties is consistently bigger than those who recover. This is not the case in other countries as their recoveries are more than those who perish. It should have been less alarming here, though positive cases are increasing, if recoveries are also numerous. But they are not.

Should these trends continue, the country would be in for big trouble. New cases will continue to rise, and so with the fatalities, yet those who recover are rather few. And this despite the fact that extended quarantines and lock-

downs are in place. How much more if these restrictions are lifted? How many more would turn positive and succumb to the virus? Surely, there would be more, especially if the virus reaches the congested and densely populated slum areas.

Again, it's not being pessimistic; it's being realistic and practical, based on trends. Note that the number of positive persons is just the tip of the iceberg. They have had previous contacts whose combined number is far bigger, and while these people are not yet tested, they are roaming around getting in touch with loved ones, friends, and acquaintances. Even to other people they get near with for various reasons.

Lockdowns, quarantines, social distancing, mask-wearing, hand-washing are just some of the things we can do to avoid getting infected. But halting and forgetting them are always likely to occur, with the virus making its way to our bodies. May we all observe these prohibitions. And in case of contagion, may we fight the virus to the death through a combination of faith, prayer, and available remedies.



Things To
Mind

DOMS PAGLIAWAN

Fulfillments

When former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown called on world leaders to form a "temporary" global government responsive to the coronavirus pandemic, the biblical prophecy on one-world government came to mind. This was re-

another global solution: a Global Digital ID forming part of a vaccination program.

If we will notice, all of the above are espousing noble causes, their intentions commendable. And the figures behind are not just ordinary people. They are listened to and looked up to as extraordinary individuals. Bill Gates, for example, has emerged as a global "authority" in the wake of COVID-19, funding vaccines, and guiding governments on how to deal with the pandemic. The moves, moreover, are humanitarian in nature, meant for the betterment of human condition.

What alarms the public is the fact that these are exactly characteristic of what

will take place in the very near future—a globalized world with Satan in despotic control, claiming himself to be god, and demanding that every individual on earth be chipped with his mark, the mark of the beast coming in the form of a microchip ID. This will pave his soul ownership of those individuals who will receive his mark, at the same time an affirmation of his lordship.

Accordingly, Gates has been busily working to establish global digital ID infrastructure long before the pandemic, and is now endorsed as a way to combat the virus. Known

see Fulfillments
/page 8 ...



Foulshot

AL ELLEMA

Life over death

The anxious feeling of going through the ordeal of being in prison inside homes and communities is now over. We won over boredom and seclusion as governments in many countries around the world had imposed lockdowns that was labeled as quarantine, either in homes, community, city or region which gradually shifted into the entire island of Luzon. People are admonished to stay at home and away from other people, avoid gathering in public places and observe physical distance to the next person.

As we mark today the triumph of Jesus Christ over the forces of evil and sin, let us not forget the teachings he imparted to all of mankind. The resurrection is the climax of his mission on earth. It

served as the affirmation of all his teachings which were proven true by that single win over death. Without the resurrection, all the teachings that Jesus Christ gave to mankind would have turned fallacious. But our Lord Jesus Christ conquered death and prevailed over sin by way of a clean and honest win.

In the face of the challenges caused by the corona virus that has killed a huge number of people, we are advised to heed the call of being safe from getting infected by the dreaded virus. Those in the medical and health professions are in the frontline to protect the people from the killer disease. Unfortunately, many frontliners had sacrificed their lives, falling unprotected from the virus notwithstanding their being protectors.

The fight against the unseen enemy had caused governments in affected countries to take drastic measures aimed at stopping the spread of the virus. People are admonished to stay in home quarantine even if government had imposed what it dubbed as enhanced community quarantine. With limited movement akin to persons in prison, people needs relief to sustain life while they are barred from gainful economic activities. The president is on top of huge funds to fight the virus on the premise of protecting the health of the people.

As we celebrate the joy of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is but fitting that we acknowledge our weaknesses that may bring us damnation. The message of Easter would be more meaningful if we keep true to our promise of turning away from evil and living in accordance with the will of God. Despite the dire situation we are in, our faith in the risen Lord gives us hope that the resurrection will bring victory for life over death. Happy Easter!

comments to allema@yahoo.com

Happy Birthday to our classmate Engr. Leah Igaño-Abad, professor of our alma mater "Eastern Visayas State University.

the ways to reduce carbon is by planting trees. But we all know that there is just son much land as the Earth is 70% water." Further, she (David) stated that (. . . the mangrove and sea grass in the country can contribute in alleviating global warming and climate change as these can absorb carbon that significantly contribute(s) *sic*, to global warming." Meanwhile, PLDT's initiative through its **Gabay Kalikasan**, has embarked in an initiative "to promote sustainable development, as small steps toward creating progressive changes in our environment." I do not know why sea grass were mentioned to the exclusion of seaweeds. Just how many species of grasses are there in the world? In the Philippines, well about 20 species, half of which I have reported in a scientific treatise. In my doctoral dissertation I identified close to 300 species red species of macro-algae/seaweeds alone!

In a flashback, the



Commentary

FR. ROY CIMAGALA

Sore loser, sure loser

WE cannot deny that in life we cannot avoid experiencing some defeats and losses, some setbacks, failures, disasters and crises. And all these possible scenarios can occur in spite of our best intentions and efforts.

Our reaction to all these should be, as much as possible, gracious, not bitter, sad or sullen. Like Christ who also suffered the worst defeat by being crucified as a criminal in the worst kind of injustice that can take place in this world, we have to go through these possible situations calmly and, yes, prayerfully.

We always have to remember that only with Christ, only when we unite our suffering with the passion and death of Christ, would our defeats and losses, our setbacks, failures, disasters and crises become a path to our own resurrection with Christ. Our victory is assured and guaranteed by Christ himself who takes care of everything.

Obviously, human as we are, we can neither deny that our reflex reactions to these negative scenarios would be anger or sadness, bitterness, cursing, and the like. But we should not stay long there. We have to cut it as immediately as possible. God will always understand us. He is a

present UP-MSI is the former Marine Science Center (MSC) established by a good friend, a byword in coral research and fellow marine biologist, the late Dr. Edgardo Gomez. Fresh from my doctoral degree study from Kyoto University, Ed (as we address each other with our nicknames), invited me to join MSC to enhance its research on macro-algae/seaweeds of the country. But

see Realizing/page 8 ...

father who is omnipotent to provide us with all the graces and means to overcome those instantaneous human reactions.

We should not be sore losers, because to be one is also to be a sure loser. If we are always guided by our Christian faith, we know that the many contradictions we can meet in life are good, and even privileged, occasions to get closer to God. He actually pays special attention to us when we are in some difficulty. This truth of our faith should never be lost in our mind and heart.

We have to learn to train and purify our emotions and the other human faculties we have so they can conform to this wonderful truth of our faith. We have to learn to smile and be cheerful, sport and game, whenever some of these dark events come our way. We should always be hopeful, optimistic, bright-eyed in all this drama.

We should try to avoid playing the role of the victim, because there is only one real victim, and that is Christ, who turned things around by converting his passion and death into his way to his resurrection.

Of course, we also suffer. We cannot avoid it. But that suffering becomes sweet and mean-

ingful when united with the suffering of Christ. May we learn to suffer with a smile on our lips, and an irrevocable confidence in the God's mercy and love in our heart.

To those who may have caused us suffering and humiliation, we should always be nice and charitable. We have to drive away any trace of anger, hatred and rancor. We have to be magnanimous, offering the other cheek as Christ himself told us. (cfr. Mt 5,39)

In a sense, we should even be thankful for them because they are giving us the occasion to identify ourselves more like Christ. This is never a form of masochism, but rather a concrete expression of Christian charity. And so, we should even be welcoming to these situations whenever they approach us.

Of course, this does not mean that we provoke or cause our suffering, although as a way to prepare ourselves for the unavoidable suffering, we may actively submit ourselves to some personal mortifications. It is our duty to try to avoid suffering and to overcome it as soon as possible. That's because in the end, we are meant for a life of joy and bliss which, though fully fulfilled in heaven, can be sought here also on earth.

So, instead of being sore losers, let's be a good sport, knowing fully well that our defeats and losses, setbacks, failures, disasters and crises are only temporal. They do not have the last word. It's God's love and mercy that has it.



High-Powered Objective

(S & T Enhanced Nations Have Edge)

DR. PACIENTE CORDERO, JR.

Realizing power of research on climate change

Having been in science and to research, I find it gratifying to read about the private sector realizing the power of research in handling climate change issue in the Philippines. Such was the scenario when PLDT through its subsidiary Smart Communication forged a partnership with the UP System to support research on climate change and marine biodiversity protection. Thus, it was a scenario wherein PLDT honcho Manuel V. Pangilinan and the UP-Marine Science Institute's Director Dr. Laura David and the President of

the Marine Environment and Resources Foundation Vanessa Baria Rodriguez, signing an agreement aimed to "sequester carbon."

Both the private and public/government sectors identified specific roles in pinpointing specific areas to handle, e.g. for PLDT/Smart to support research initiatives in 24 marine protected areas in the country and UP-MSI to look at how mangroves and sea grass in the protected areas contribution to efforts against climate change by acting as "carbon sequesters." Dir. David further said "One of

Prayer for the Nation and for Those who Serve in Public Office

God, our Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our nation, by the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of our citizens, may harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting prosperity and peace.

Almighty and eternal God, You know the longings of our hearts and You protect our rights in your goodness, watch over those in authority, so that people everywhere may enjoy freedom, security and peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever, Amen. (Courtesy of Daughters of St. Paul)



Pray the Holy Rosary daily for world peace and conversion of sinners (The family that prays together stays together)

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN
Province of Northern Samar

Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE TENTH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN IN ITS REGULAR SESSION HELD THE 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR.

PRESENT: **HON. CLARISSA ROWENA C. BONSOL**
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Sangguniang Bayan Members

HON. FRANCISCO AURELIO C. ROSALES III
HON. FERNANDO G. CARPIO
HON. MARICOR G. MENDADOR
HON. NICANOR F. CARDENAS
HON. NERISSA O. DACLAG
HON. ERNESTO G. PATILAN
HON. BEATRIZ N. AMANDE, Liga President
HON. CARL ANDRE C. BALAJADIA, SK President

ABSENT: HON. JOSELITO S. CUSTORIO - on Privilege Leave
HON. JENNIFER D. SALUTAN - on Privilege Leave

PROCEEDINGS:

Session opened at 11:00 in the morning after quorum is declared.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 or Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the General Welfare Clause provides in part that every local government unit shall exercise powers necessary for its efficient and effective governance and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare.

WHEREAS, Section 447 and 458 of the said Republic Act 7160 provide in part, that the Sangguniang bayan shall enact ordinances for the general welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants pursuant to the abovementioned Section 16 of said law, and in this regard, enact and approve ordinances relative to the (i) maintenance of peace and order in the municipality, (ii) suppression of lawlessness therein, and (iii) authorization of the issuance of permits or licenses upon conditions and for such purposes intended to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the municipality, regulating thereby any business which does not require government examination within the municipality and the conditions under which the license for said business may be issued or revoked.

WHEREAS, DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2014-119, dated September 14, 2014, directs cities and capital towns to require the installation of CCTVs for certain business establishments in accordance with Section 16 (General Welfare Clause) of the RA 7160 to support the maintenance of peace and order and public safety;

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies in the country have already proven that Closed Circuit Televisions (CCTV) are among the most effective tools in crime deterrence prevention, detection and solution since there is a video recording which can be used in addition to the testimonies of witnesses;

WHEREAS, in order to intensify the Municipality's drive to deter, prevent detect and solve criminality and to preserve video recording as evidence, the Sangguniang Bayan of Catarman deems it proper to require the use of CCTV systems in business establishments within the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Catarman;

WHEREAS, minimum technical specifications of CCTVs to be installed shall be prescribed so as not to defeat its purpose.

NOW THEREFORE -

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-/142/-12

AN ORDINANCE MANDATING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN TO INSTALL A CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEM AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Jointly sponsored by the Committee on Public Safety, Peace and Order

and Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters

Coun. FERNANDO G. CARPIO

Chairman, Committee on Public Safety, Peace and Order (Lead)

Member, Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters

Coun. ERNESTO G. PATILAN

Chairman, Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters

Coun. FRANCISCO AURELIO E. ROSALES III

Vice Chairman, Committee on Public Safety Peace and Order

Member, Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters

Coun. JOSELITO S. CUSTORIO

Member, Committee on Public Safety Peace and Order

Coun. NERISSA O. DACLAG

Member, Committee on Public Safety Peace and Order

Coun. JENNIFER D. SALUTAN

Member, Committee on Public Safety Peace and Order

Member, Committee on Ordinances and Legal Matters

BE IT ORDAINED by the Sangguniang Bayan in a session duly assembled that:

SECTION 1. TITLE OF ORDINANCE - This ordinance shall be known as: AN ORDINANCE MANDATING BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS OPERATING WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN TO INSTALL CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEM AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

SECTION 2. SCOPE AND APPLICATION - The following business

establishments are required to install CCTVs;

a. Banks, Financial institutions, pawnshops, money lenders, money remittance services, money changers, and the like;

b. Business establishments that are part of a national chain or have several branches in other parts of the country, such as restaurants/fast food chains, 24 hour convenience stores, drug stores, and the like;

c. Shopping malls, shopping centers, supermarkets, movie houses, theaters, hospitals and medical facilities, ports/airports/public transport terminals, places of entertainments, hotels, and the like which draw a considerable number of customers/patrons;

d. Car dealerships, gasoline/fuel refilling/service stations;

e. Other Business establishments with capitalization of not less than Php1.0 Million or gross sales of Php2.0 Million or more, or as the Sanggunian deems proper considering the type of business and potential risks in their respective areas; and

f. All component Barangays.

The CCTV shall be maintained in proper working order at all times, shall be in continuous operations, and shall meet the minimum technical specifications set by this ordinance.

SECTION 3. PRESERVATION OF VIDEO RECORDINGS - The owner(s) of the business establishments shall preserve the camera recording for at least seventy-two (72) hours, or such period as the LGU deems proper.

SECTION 4. MINIMUM TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS - The CCTV system to be installed must meet the following minimum specifications:

a. Camera:

- Minimum 600 TVL Camera Resolution;

- Must be able to capture video footages at 0.1 Lux Illumination;

- Should have auto-iris (either fixed or vari-focal);

- Should have infrared LEDs enough to reach a distance of at least 20 meters for clear recording at 0 Lux (for areas where there is no continued sufficient lighting);

- Must have at least 70 degrees Lens Angle;

- The Outdoor Camera must be vandal-proof or 1P 66 Weather-proof Casing

b. Video Recorder:

- Minimum of four (4) camera input;

- Minimum of 640 x 480 video resolution;

- 30 frames per second (FPS) recording per camera;

- Should have Hard Disk Drive/s enough to store video recording for all cameras for at least 1 month;

- Must have Time Stamping Feature;

- Must have an interface for storage back-up.

c. Other Components:

- At least four (4) cameras covering the areas of transaction and risk:

Provided that, at least one camera must be facing the street from the entrance (when applicable), with the actual number of cameras to depend on the size of the establishment and nature of business, as determined by the LGU concerned;

- Should have centralized power supply for the DVR and cameras;

- Should have appropriate Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to provide standard and reasonable back-up to the Video Recorder and its cameras.

SECTION 5. INSTALLATION GUIDE - The following Installation Guide is recommended to be followed:

- Cameras must be installed at a secured location with maximum area of coverage;

- The Video Recorder must be mounted on a secured/concealed location to protect the video footages from theft and/or deliberate destruction;

- Whenever possible, a back-up file stored in the DVD disk (on-site or remotely) shall be recorded for archiving purposes;

- Whenever possible, a dummy CCTV camera shall be installed in a conspicuous area in order to deter possible criminal acts and to protect the camera and the video.

SECTION 6. MINIMUM COVERAGE - All the establishments mentioned under Section 2 hereof shall be required to install CCTVs as to afford a full coverage of the following:

a. From the interior of the establishment:

(i) All entrances/exits;

(ii) The center of business activity in the establishment (including the tellers, cashiers, cash registrars, sales counters, or areas leading to the vault/sale) according to the nature of business/operations of the establishment.

b. From the exterior of the establishment (when the establishment is not located inside a mall or building which has its own exterior cameras);

(i) All entrances/exits;

(ii) From the entrances/exits, a clear view of the area to and from the street(s) abutting the establishment, including the frontage thereof, taking into particular consideration the clarity of shots in relation to the angles thereof;

(iii) Parking lots and drive-through lanes (when applicable).

SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTING OFFICES - The Municipal Public Order and Safety (MPOSO) shall be responsible for the verification and determination of the relevant establishments' compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. The MPOSO shall specify when compulsory inspection of the installed CCTVs shall be conducted before the necessary clearance or certification therefor may be issued, which clearance or certification shall be a mandatory requirement for the issuance or renewal by the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) of a business permit or license. The MPOSO may thereafter conduct inspections during reasonable business hours, to determine continued compliance with this Ordinance post-issuance or renewal of such establishments' business permit or license by the BPLO. For all these purposes, the MPOSO shall seek the advice and assistance of the Chief of Police or his duly authorized representative.

Where practicable, the MPOSO shall recommend interconnectivity of available CCTV cameras, including those which the other agencies or

offices of the government, such as, the local disaster risk reduction management office and the PNP, may subsequently install.

SECTION 8. ACCESS TO RECORDINGS - If a crime has been committed, or the operator, employee, or owner of the establishment has reason to believe that a crime has been committed and has been recorded by the CCTV, the operator, employee, or owner of the establishment shall immediately contact the nearest police station, and shall provide access to the pertinent recordings to the police and other investigators.

The operator, employee or owner of the business establishment shall also make available the camera recordings to the law enforcement authorities engaged in criminal investigation upon written request of the authorized or designated officer thereof with the particular time and day covered by the request therein specified.

The captured video footage or images may be used at any time to satisfy the written order or subpoena of any court or body with competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 9. PROHIBITION - The viewing of recorded or captured video footage or images shall be made with due respect to the privacy of individuals.

SECTION 10. PENALTIES - No business permit or permit to operate shall be issued to or renewed for the business establishments mentioned in Section 2 hereof unless the CCTVs as herein specified are installed and fully operational.

Further, a fine amounting to Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php2,500.00) shall be imposed on any business establishment in operation found to be in violation of this Ordinance.

For purposes of this Ordinance, each day that a violation continues shall be a separate violation.

SECTION 11. APPEAL PROCESS - Any establishment found to be in violation of this Ordinance by the MPOSO may appeal the findings thereof to the Office of the Mayor within five (5) working days from receipt of the copy of the appeal, the MPOSO shall submit its answer to the Office of the Mayor, furnishing the business establishment a copy of the same on even date. Should the OPOS fail to file its answer to the appeal within the given period, it shall be deemed to have opposed the appeal on all its material points. The Office of the Mayor shall decide on the matter within five (5) working days from receipt of the answer of the OPOS or from the day the period of filing thereof has lapsed, giving due notice to the parties involved. The decision of the Mayor shall be final, and no motion for reconsideration shall be entertained thereafter, subject to such remedial measures as may be then available under the law or Rules of Court.

SECTION 12. COMPLIANCE - Businesses covered by the scope of this Ordinance shall be given until the immediate succeeding period for renewal of business permit to comply with the directives hereof.

Component Barangays, within the poblacion, shall be given a period of one (1) year from effectivity of this Ordinance to comply with the CCTV requirements. Barangays outside poblacion, shall be given a period of two (2) years.

SECTION 7. PENAL PROVISIONS. Any person who shall violate Sections 6 hereof shall be penalized as follows:

a. Penalty of cancellation of reservation and forfeiture of the previous payments shall be imposed for failure to comply with the term of payments as provided in Section 6 hereof;

b. Any person found to have used the ossuary space other than what is prescribed in the preceding Sections shall be fined the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) or an imprisonment of ten (10) days at the discretion of the Court.

SECTION 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. Ordinances and issuances, or any part thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY. This ordinance shall take effect upon approval.

APPROVED. December 17, 2019.


FRANCISCO AURELIO E. ROSALES III
SB Member



FERNANDO G. CARPIO
SB Member



MARICOR G. MENDADOR
SB Member


NICANOR F. CARDENAS
SB Member

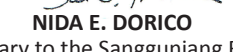

ERNESTO G. PATILAN
SB Member

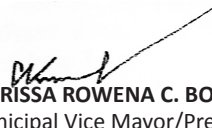

NERISSA O. DACLAG
SB Member


BEATRIZ N. AMANDE
President, Liga ng mga Barangay
Ex-officio Member


CARL ANDRE C. BALAJADIA
SK Municipal Federation President
Ex-officio Member

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS of the foregoing Ordinance duly enacted by the 10th Sangguniang Bayan in its December 17, 2019 Regular Session held at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall of the Legislative Building.


NIDA E. DORICO
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:

CLARISSA ROWENA C. BONSOL
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

FRANCISCO E. ROSALES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN
Province of Northern Samar

Office of the Sangguniang Bayan

EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE TENTH SANGGUNIANG BAYAN IN ITS REGULAR SESSION HELD THE 17TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019 AT THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN SESSION HALL, LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR.

PRESENT: HON. CLARISSA ROWENA C. BONSON
Municipal Vice Mayor/Presiding Officer

Sangguniang Bayan Members

HON. FRANCISCO AURELIO E. ROSALES III
HON. FERNANDO G. CARPIO
HON. MARICOR G. MENDADOR
HON. NICANOR F. CARDENAS
HON. NERISSA O. DACLAG
HON. ERNESTO G. PATILAN
HON. BEATRIZ N. AMANDE, Liga President
HON. CARL ANDRE C. BALAJADIA, SK President

ABSENT: HON. JOSELITO S. CUSTORIO – on Privilege Leave
HON. JENNIFER D. SALUTAN – on Privilege Leave

PROCEEDINGS:

Session opened at 11:00 in the morning after quorum is declared.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Catarman is devoting a portion of the Catarman Public Cemetery for ossuary section and services.

WHEREAS, the ossuary shall provide spaces for skeletal remains exhumed from other sections of the Catarman Public Cemetery or other burial grounds, public or private, within the Municipality of Catarman, or constituents of the municipality buried outside Catarman.

WHEREAS, the operation of the Catarman Public Cemetery is governed by Ordinance No. 2008-/15/-07, entitled, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR OPERATION OF THE CATARMAN PUBLIC CEMETERY and Resolution No. 2008-17-/08/ which adopted its implementing Rules and Regulations;

WHEREAS, the procedures and guidelines for the availment of the ossuary services shall be provided consistent with applicable provisions of the law,

NOW THEREFORE-

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-/142/-14

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE OSSUARY SERVICES IN THE CATARMAN PUBLIC CEMETERY, PROVIDING FOR ITS GUIDELINES AND POLICIES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ORDINANCE NO. 2008-/15/-07 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CATARMAN PUBLIC CEMETERY.

Sponsored by the SB Committee on Public Utilities and Facilities

Chairman: Coun. FERNANDO G. CARPIO
Vice Chairman: Coun. FRANCISCO AURELIO E. ROSALES III
Members: Coun. MARICOR G. MENDADOR
Coun. JENNIFER D. SALUTAN
Coun. NERISSA O. DACLAG

BE IT ENACTED by Sangguniang Bayan in a session duly assembled that:

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF OSSUARY SECTION. An ossuary section is hereby established in the Catarman Public Cemetery to provide services and spaces that skeletal remains of persons that have been exhumed from other sections of the Cemetery or other burial grounds after having been buried of at least three (3) years or as may required by law.

Section 2. WHO MAY AVAIL OF THE OSSUARY SERVICES. The ossuary services of the Catarman Public Cemetery shall be

open for the reinterment of skeletal remains of deceased residents of the Municipality of Catarman regardless of place of death or burial.

Section 3. DIMENSION, QUANTITY AND RATE OF OSSUARY CONTAINER OR RECEPTACLE. The dimension and initial quantity of ossuary containers or receptacles shall be as herein designed by Municipal Engineering Office (MEO) and sold as follows;

- a. Dimension of each container or receptacle, per box – 40cm x 40cm x 60cm
 - b. Initial Number of Containers or Receptacle - 588 boxes
 - c. Rate of each Container or Receptacle - Php 10,000.00 per box
- Reinterment Service fee and Burial Permit fee included

The additional containers or receptacles shall be constructed in such quantity as there are demand for ossuary spaces and services.

Section 4. GENERAL REQUIREMENT. The transfer of remains to the ossuary shall require issuance of Disinterment or Exhumation Permit, Reburial Permit and supervision of the Municipal Health Office.

a. For disinterment of exhumation of remains of persons who died of non-communicable diseases, permission shall be granted only after such bodies have been buried for a period of three (3) years.

Upon exhumation the remains shall be disinfected and placed in a sealed coffin case or box, and properly identified as to the name of the deceased, date and cause of death and place of reinterment;

b. For disinterment and exhumation of remains of persons who died of dangerous communicable disease, permission shall be granted only after the lapse of five (5) year burial period.

The remains shall be disinfected then placed in hermetically sealed container, properly identified as to the name of the deceased, date and cause of death and place of origin;

c. For remains coming from burial grounds outside the jurisdiction of the Municipality of Catarman, exhumation and transfer shall be secured from the point of origin and reburial permit from the Municipality Government of Catarman; and,

d. Copy of Death Certificate of the deceased.

Section 5. REINTERMENT PROCEDURE. No reinterment in the ossuary of the Catarman Public Cemetery shall be allowed at without of permit duly issued for the purpose.

The following shall govern the procedure for reinterment of remains in the ossuary:

a. Applicants shall submit the following documents to the Municipal Engineering Office (MEO):

- 1. Death Certificate; and
- 2. Health Certificate from the Municipal Health Officer (MHO) attesting to the fact that the deceased is free from any dangerous diseases;

b. Accomplish Application for Reburial Permit from the MEO and chose from the list of available containers/receptacles, with corresponding number and location, to be presented by the staff;

c. The MEO shall assess the amount due and endorse the same to the Office of the Municipal Treasurer for payment.

d. Upon payment, the applicant shall go back to the MEO for execution of the Deed of Sale;

e. The following shall be presented to the Cemetery Administrator/Facility Manager who shall schedule the date of reinterment;

- 1. Death Certificate;
- 2. Deed of Sale (proof of ownership of container/receptacle);
- 3. Exhumation and Transfer Permit; and

4. Reinterment/Reburial Permit approved by Municipal Mayor.

Section 6. RESERVATION FOR OSSUARY SPACES. Reservation of ossuary spaces shall be subject to the following;

- a. Fifty percent (50%) of the total amount due shall be paid upon application;
- b. The remaining balance shall be paid within one (1) year from the date of the first payment, provided that no reinterment or improvement shall be allowed unless the ossuary space is fully paid.
- c. Thirty (30) days extension may be granted on meritorious grounds, provided that an additional Twenty-Five percent (25%) of the total amount shall be paid;
- d. Spaces shall be sold on "first come, first serve" basis;
- e. Only one skeletal remain is allowed per one (1) ossuary container; and,
- f. Purchase thereof shall be sequential.

Section 7. PENAL PROVISIONS. Any person who shall violate hereof shall be penalized as follows:

- a. Penalty of cancellation of reservation and forfeiture of the previous payment shall be imposed for failure to comply with the term of payment as provided in Section 6 hereof;
- b. Any person found to have used the ossuary space other than what is prescribed in the preceding Sections shall be fined the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) or an imprisonment of ten (10) days at the discretion of the Court.

Section 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. Ordinances and issuances, or any part thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.


Section 9. EFFECTIVITY. This ordinance shall take effect upon approval.


APPROVED. December 17, 2019.

 FRANCISCO AURELIO E. ROSALES III SB Member	 FERNANDO G. CARPIO SB Member
 MARICOR G. MENDADOR SB Member	 NICANOR F. CARDENAS SB Member
 ERNESTO G. PATILAN SB Member	 NERISSA O. DACLAG SB Member
 BEATRIZ N. AMANDE President, Liga ng mga Barangay Ex-officio Member	 CARL ANDRE C. BALAJADIA SK Municipal Federation President Ex-officio Member

X-----X

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS of the foregoing Ordinance duly enacted by the 10th Sangguniang Bayan in its December 17, 2019 Regular Session at the Sangguniang Bayan Session Hall of the Legislative Building.


NIDA E. DORICO
Secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan

ATTESTED:

CLARISSA ROWENA C. BONSON
Municipal Vice Mayor/
Presiding Officer

APPROVED:

FRANCISCO E. ROSALES, JR.
Municipal Mayor

Maasin mayor overwhelmed by public support for COVID-19 response

TACLOBAN CITY—Mayor Nacional Mercado of Maasin City is all praises to the assistance given by his constituents as the city is bracing for the deadly coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

“If we help each other and follow the rules to protect our health and secure our families, there is no crisis we can’t survive,” said Mercado after the local government continues to receive various help from ordinary citizens, professionals, and business owners.

The donations include lunch packs for the check-point personnel, rice, grocery items, financial aid, snacks, disinfecting solutions, thermal scanners, vitamins, medicines, washable face masks, and improvised face shields, and others.

“In this state of public emergency, we manifest our Maasinhon Ajonay way of life. Regardless of party and status we are united as one for the welfare of our people,” Mercado said.

“In these most trying

times, we are one people, one community, one Nation in our fight against COVID-19. Amidst the health crisis we are facing, I am forever grateful to those who have the heart to help our community,” added the mayor.

Both individuals and private companies extended their assistance to the residents of the city who were badly hit in the aftermath of the temporary closure of business establishments or have lost their work due to the quarantine imposed by the city government.

As part of COVID-19 measures, Mercado led the city workers in their disinfecting activities in the city’s main thoroughfares and monitoring of checkpoints in Barangay Panan-awan and Barangay Pasay.

The city also adopted the “No Back Ride” policy on motorcycles as implemented by the Department of Transportation.

Its newly-constructed building for child in-conflict with the law in Barangay Combado will also be converted into an isolation unit for mild COVID-19

patients.

Mercado issued an executive order extending the suspension of classes and events to both public and private schools until April 15, 2020.

Since March 24, the city has imposed a total liquor ban to prevent people from social gatherings particularly drinking sessions.

Curfew was also imposed both for minors and adults as community quarantine pass was given in each household, allowing only one member of the family to go out to buy food and other essential supplies.

“At these trying times, I am asking for everyone’s cooperation. We need to fight as one against COVID-19. With our continuous commitment, we can get through this together,” Mercado said.

(RONALD O. REYES)



Fulfillments...

...from Page 4

as ID2020, this is a project initiated by Bill Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, transnational pharmaceutical corporations, and technology firms, all of whom believe that every person on the planet needs biometric verification. “To prove who you are is a fundamental and universal human right,” ID2020 website explains.

Gates is not alone in favoring such system. The

Calbayog...

...from Page 2

the people to stay at home. -All buses whose final stop is not Calbayog City will not be allowed to pass through the city proper. Instead they will be rerouted to take the diversion road.

-Checkpoints shall be established in the villages of Caglanipao Sur, Tarabucan, Carayman and the city’s diversion road which are to be manned by PNP, City Health Office, Bureau of Fire Protection, Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office, and CAPO-SO in shifts of 12 hours. (JAZMIN BONIFACIO)

US Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci recently confirmed, in an interview with CNN, that the idea of Americans with “certificates of immunity” is a possibility being tapped to identify those who have been infected with the COVID-19 virus and to jump-start America’s economy in the coming weeks.

This certificate of immunity is what Gates considers as the perfect chance to introduce his Global Digital ID certification. In an interview, he described it as “Obviously, some kind

DOLE-8...

...from Page 2

Orientation on safety and health thru dissemination of brochures.

DOLE-8 will likewise provide the cleaning solutions to be used in disinfecting and sanitizing their dwellings.

Centi disclosed that TUPAD #BKBK under D.O. 210 may be implemented by Regional Offices either through direct administration or through Accredited Co-Partner (ACP). Proponents/ACPs must prepare and submit letter of intent, TUPAD work program and

of recording and tracking mechanism that relies on technology to alert -- in context of discussing coronavirus -- “who has recovered,” versus who has “been tested,” versus who has been administered a vaccine, “when we have one.”

So, then, what it takes is a dreaded virus to introduce and finally implement this implantable ID system. At the end of the day, the end will justify the means. What they think are breakthroughs, however, are nothing but fulfillments of prophecies written thousands of years ago.

summary list of beneficiaries.

It was learned that DOLE-8 was initially downloaded only P10 million for the implementation of the program. Director Centi during a meeting with senior officials of DOLE-8 directed to implement the program the soonest possible time.

“Considering that most of our informal sector workers have lost their income now because of this COVID crisis, I urge everyone to do your part so that we will be able to deliver the needed assistance”, said Centi. (RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

Leyte town issues medical hotlines for teleconsultation

TANAUAN, Leyte – Residents here with influenza-like symptoms will get medical help through telephone consultation while under community quarantine due to coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19).

Mayor Pelagio Tecson on Friday signed Executive Order No. 15 requiring all residents with fever, cough, and colds to seek medical consultation for immediate and proper management.

Three physicians here will man the teleconsultation hotlines including the town vice mayor, Dr. Ronald Flores (0916-601-7770/0908-586-2065); Dr. Arlene Santo (0917-321-7760), the municipal health officer; and Dr. Rhodora Angulo (0966-398-7496/0928-500-3453), a private doctor.

The local government here said the hotlines were activated on Friday.

Residents can consult anytime, depending on the availability of the physician.

“This is also to protect our professional health workers and minimize the risk of exposure with the



Mayor Pelagio Tecson

use of technology like cellular phones,” Tecson said.

As part of the preparedness measures here, a three-story school building with 12 classrooms was converted into a quarantine center for suspected carriers of the highly-contagious Covid-19.

The center will be utilized for patients under investigation (PUI) with mild symptoms and whose respective residences have no space for 14-day home quarantine.

The confinement facility has two specially adapted ambulances and will only have one patient per isolation room.

Chairman Board of Directors years after my watch as Executive Director. Ed was married to a Leytena of the Romualdez family, and had a son who received my Mass Card, while his remains laid in Don Bosco Chapel.

More than anything else, I continue to dialogue with the marine biology researchers whose skills were honed under the headship of then Dir. Ed Gomez. My only wish for my fellow researchers with UP-MSI is involve other hard-work-

Each isolation room has a plastic acetate separator, beddings, and other personal effects, including food provision for the patient.

Tecson said Flores will head the center, to be assisted by the local police and personnel from the municipal health, disaster risk reduction management, general services, and engineering offices.

“The team will provide the necessary personnel and equipment and is authorized to expand the capacity of the said center when necessary,” he added.

As of Friday, the town has recorded 14 PUIs – two currently admitted, four cleared, and eight under strict home quarantine.

There is also a total of 364 persons under monitoring, of whom 134 were cleared after completing the 14-day isolation period with no symptoms.

Meanwhile, the region has one confirmed case of Covid-19, a 51-year-old female from Catarman Northern Samar. (GERICO SABALZA/PNA)

Realizing...

...from Page 5

aving been tied up with the Philippine National Museum with the stupid piece of paper called a Memorandum of Agreement, I was unable bend the terms, and sadly missed co-working with him at the Center. But Ed and myself continued to be very good friends, we three with the late Dr. Gregorio T. Velasquez, represented the country at the Pacific Science Congress in India. He became NRCP

Man...

...from Page 3

here in the city carried out by a private funeral home.

The city health officer declined to provide information regarding the patient to avoid his family being ‘stigmatized’ although they have already met officials of the village where the family resides for them to inform protocols regarding this matter.

Fabrigas said that the patient has no travel history reason why he was not classified among the city’s persons under monitoring (PUMs). And as per information

from the epidemiology and surveillance unit of the regional office of the Department of Health (DOH), swab samples were taken from the patient on March 31, the day he was confined at the EVRMC, the referral hospital for patients suspected to have infected of the COVID-19.

Results of his swab sample has yet to be released by the Cebu City-based Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center where the sample was sent for confirmatory test.

Dr. Fabrigas said that Mayor Alfred Romualdez was immediately informed on the death of the patient. “The mayor is on top of

ing researchers affiliated with SUCs and HEIs all over the country, especially those in the Visayas and Mindanao, in the research partnership it has signed with PLDT/Smart group.

ooo000ooo

NEXT TOPIC : “About Half of World’s Beaches to Disappear in 2100 due to Climate Change?”

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the situation. It can cause panic but we should not be complacent,” she said, when asked if this should be a cause for panic or alarm among residents of the city.

Thus, Fabrigas renewed her call for the public to strictly observe social distancing and personal hygiene to ensure that the virus would not spread.

At present, Tacloban has about 28 patients under investigation and 141 persons under monitoring. About 1,802 PUMS of the city were earlier completed the mandatory 14-day quarantine observation period. (JOEY A. GABIETA)

62,000 households in Ormoc City receives a sack of rice as part of relief assistance due to COVID-19 pandemic

TACLOBAN CITY- All of the 2,000 households in Ormoc City received one sack of rice from the local government as the city is bracing for the health crisis brought by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Ormoc Mayor Richard Gomez started the rice distribution for every home in the 110 villages in the city on April 4.

"I would like to thank all the Ormocanons for cooperating and banding together with the local government in our fight to keep Ormoc COVID-19-free," Gomez said on his Facebook account.

The households who first received their rice supply were from the villages of Tambulilid, Linao, Lao, Catmon, District 29, Batuan, Alegria, and Ipil.

"*Kay at the end of the day, basta naa ray bugas, okay ra gyod ang lock-*

down," added City Councilor Lalaine Marcos, saying that they are distributing the rice to every household whether they are rich or poor.

The city may have earned the "enmity" of the neighboring municipalities for its anti-COVID-19 measures by closing its borders earlier than others, yet for Marcos, the decision has proven to be a good one.

"We have a decreasing number of patients under investigation (PUIs) and persons under monitoring (PUMs) and we are hoping we stay zero until the rest of the region recovers. In the meantime, we are drawing strength from Ormoc's very cooperative private and civilian sector. We have to prepare for the worst," Marcos said.

According to the councilor, Ormoc's COVID-19 isolation facility is being

ran by three private hospitals.

"We have various volunteers in our borders who do not only help guard our borders but buy and deliver goods and medicines for those from other towns who are not allowed to enter. Civic organizations are spearheading the sanitation of our streets. Ormoc, I may say, is the epitome of Bayanihan and is showing the will to heal as one," Marcos added.

As of April 6, Ormoc has 45 remaining PUIs from the 125 total recorded PUIs, and 269 remaining PUMs from the total 2, 143 recorded PUMs.

Meanwhile, the city will strictly implement its "no mask, no entry, no business around Ormoc" policy effective April 8, as preemptive measure against the disease.

(RONALD O. REYES)

Biliran farmer organizations extend assistance amid COVID-19

NAVAL, Biliran – Regional Director Stephen Leonidas of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Eastern Visayas commended three DAR-assisted cooperatives in this province for their efforts to help ease the effect of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic in their respective areas.

As everyone is directed to stay at home with the implementation of the community quarantine by the different local government units (LGUs) to contain the spread of COVID-19, three agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs) felt the pressing needs of their members, particularly the elderly and the daily wage earners.

The Looc Cabucgayan Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Cabucgayan town through its chairman, Zacarias Leorag, distributed two kilos of Jaguar rice to each of their 117 members.

For the Lico Agrarian Reform Cooperative (LARCOOP) based in the capital town of Naval, relief assistance consisting of three-kilo rice, coffee, sugar, milk and meat were distributed to its mem-



Empathizing with their members, especially the elderly and daily wage earners, the Looc Cabucgayan Agrarian Reform Cooperative (CARECO) provided each of their 117 members with two kilos of Jaguar rice. (Photo courtesy of Beth Maala, Manager of CARECO)

bers.

Aside from the members, chairperson Rebecca Payos said, LARCOOP also provided snacks and coffee to frontliners manning the provincial border checkpoint, as well as barangay checkpoints in Lico and PS Eamiguel villages.

LARCOOP manager, Anamie Villegas Ibano, added that the members' Interest on Capital and Patronage Refund (ICPR) were released early so the latter could use them at this point while we are facing this kind of crisis.

Meanwhile, the Almeria Seafarers Multi-Purpose

Cooperative in the municipality of Almeria, which is also into catering service, through its manager Anita Corto, provided food packs for the health workers at the Biliran Provincial Hospital.

DAR Secretary John Castriciones appreciated the acts of generosity by the various ARBOs nationwide.

He described the farmers as the silent frontliners against COVID-19.

In his Facebook comment, Castriciones said, "Ito po ang kailangan nating gawin sa panahon na ito. Mabuhay po kayo and God bless po!"

(JOSE ALSMITH L. SORIA)

Palo Guinhangdan Hill closed due to COVID-19 scare



PALO, Leyte – The tourist destination and pilgrimage site of this town has been closed to the public due to the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19) scare.

Town Mayor Frances Ann Petilla told Leyte Samar Daily Express that Guinhangdan Hill is temporarily closed for pilgrimage this Holy Week due to the COVID-9 scare.

In a public advisory posted at the entrance says: "This is to inform the public that Guinhangdan Hill will be temporarily closed for pilgrimage on April 5-12, 2020, per Executive Order Number 12 which encourage the community to avoid attending and organizing events for

any public gatherings that tends to draw huge number of crowds to contain the potential spread of COVID-19."

Mayor Petilla said that Guinhangdan Hill is a favorite pilgrimage site of Roman Catholic devotees in Leyte and Samar in the observance of Holy Week.

It has been observed in the past years that at least 30,000 pilgrims visits or climbs the Hill on Good Friday alone for religious rites or sacrifices and to offer flowers or light candles.

Mayor Petilla added that Guinhangdan Hill, which is also known as "Hill 522," has been declared as a municipal park under the institutional category and developed

into 'all-in' destination making the hill into a historical, tourism and religious, site "rolled into one."

The hill has a historical significance as it offers a panoramic view of the municipality and the site where American General Douglas MacArthur landed in Leyte Gulf on October 20, 1944 in Palo.

Fierce fighting was fought in this hill between the Allied Forces and the Japanese Imperial Army during the World War II. The two-day fighting which lasted from October 20-21, 1944 claimed the lives of at least three Americans and about 50 Japanese soldiers.

(RESTITUTO A. CAYUBIT)

EV...

...from Page 10

to numerous international exposures highlighted by the silver medal he won in the 1500m during the South East Asian Games held in the country last December.

Masano, who is a sophomore Physical Education student at UP-Diliman, expressed his sadness over the situation. However, he stressed that he already saw this coming as early as March.

The National Track and Field Team member said

that he trained hard for his second UAAP season and was expecting of something big but it all went down the drain because of COVID-19.

Masano, together with a few athletes from Leyte who are also playing in the UAAP managed to went back to their respective hometowns a day before the lockdown was implemented.

But just like others, Bicar and Masano accepted their fate and look forward for a better tomorrow in their respective fields.

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DOH...

...from Page 1

samples they received from the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center based in Cebu City.

The 63-year old man is said to be working in a health facility in Tarangnan but residing in Calbayog City, also in Samar province.

Prior to his admission at the EVMRC last March 30, he suffered dry cough on March 8 and on March 21 was admitted in a local hospital in Calbayog City.

Both women experienced 'respiratory illnesses with the 56-year old showing the symptoms on March 17 and the 32-year old on March 20.

Molon said that based on the information she received, the two women 'are up and about.'

It was learned that the municipal government has already conducted a disinfection of the health facility as a measure to contain possible spread of the virus.

As of April 2, the town has 10 PUIS and 42 persons under monitoring.

EV athletes saddened by UAAP Season 82 cancellation

KEVIN SIOSANA

TACLOBAN CITY-Athletes all over the world are also at standstill while the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic wreaks havoc on all fronts. And players from Eastern Visayas are no exemption. They rue the killer virus as it affected their chance to showcase their abilities.

For one, the management of the Universities Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP), arguably the most prestigious collegiate league in the country, cancelled all tournaments for Season 82. Some of the tournaments started already and some are about to kick-off when the Enhanced Community Quarantine was enforced to battle the spread of the virus.

Before the cancellation, majority of the athletes



UST womens volleyball team captain Alina Bicar and UAAP middle distance runner Mar Masano of UP.

were still hopeful that the Season will resume after the health crisis, but after the government extended the NCR and Luzon-wide lockdown, there was no other option for the league but to abort the events.

Tacloban City's Alina Bicar could not hide her disappointment with the situation. She was poised to shine for the UST Lady Tigresses in women's volleyball as she was named team captain before the season started and to finally came out of the shadow of the more popular Cherry Rondina who graduated already.

And what a bitter way for Bicar to have this hap-

pened because she was supposed to give it all and finally bag a crown this season before graduation.

In a Philippine Daily Inquirer article, the Basey, Samar-born Bicar said "I really don't know what to feel. It's really disappointing because this is my last year and I have so much to prove together with my fellow seniors."

The Lady Tigresses made it to the Finals last year by scoring a monumental upset over La Salle in the semis, however they lost to Ateneo in the championship series.

Equally feeling bitter is middle-distance sensation Mar Masano of

Mayorga, Leyte who was tipped to pocket the gold in the 1500m for men in the UAAP. Masano won the silvers in the 800m and 1500m in Season 81. Since then he vastly improved due

see EV/page 9 ...

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PREVENTS AND TREAT

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