



Leyte-Samar

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M C D O

TACLOBAN
RIZAL AVENUE

New case from Tarangan town

DOH confirms EV's 6th COVID-19 patient

JOEY A. GABIETA, RONALD O. REYES

2 LGUs in EV give food packs in exchange of collected garbage



WASTE FOR FOOD. *Some local government units in the region are coming up with their innovations during this time of COVID-19 pandemic. In Arteche, Eastern Samar, for example, residents could trade in their plastic wastes for some food packs. (Arteche LGU)*

tic, plastic bags, empty sachet of shampoo and store them in a clean bag or sack.

The collected plastics will be weigh at the MB 3Ts Rolling Store that roams the municipality every Thursday.

The name of the resident and the corresponding weigh of collected plastic will be listed in a ledger and to be signed by the solid waste management officer.

At the last Thursday of the month, the MB 3Ts Rolling Store will again visit the barangay to bring basic goods such as sugar, rice, canned goods, soap, toothpaste, and other goods that are essentials in every household.

The goods that the residents will receive will depend on the quantity and its equivalent amount. A kilo of single use plastic is equivalent to P10.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

TACLOBAN CITY – At least two local government units in the region are urging their constituents to exchange their trash with relief goods, a way not only to ensure they have foods on their table but also to help them in the campaign for solid waste management.

In the municipality of Paranas, Samar, Mayor Eunice Babalcon, urged her constituents to collect plastic and turned them into an eco-bricks.

An ecobrick is a PET bottle packed solid with clean and dry used plastic made to a set density to create reusable building blocks and can be used to make modular units, furniture, and earthen gardens

and structures.

Mayor Babalcon said that it is part of their COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) intervention and at the same time, part of their campaign to reduce their malnutrition problem.

A kilo of eco-bricks is equivalent to a kilo of rice.

Paranas has an existing ordinance which regulate the use of plastic-made materials and commodities.

In Arteche town, in Eastern Samar province, the local government unit implements 3Ts or 'Tirok, Timbang, Tabang' or collect, weigh and help.

Residents in the municipality are encouraged to collect and clean single-use plastics such junk food plas-

TACLOBAN CITY-The number of confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) of the region has rose to six with a new case coming from the town of Tarangan in Samar province.

This was confirmed by Dr. Minerva Molon, regional director of the Department of Health (DOH) during a virtual presser Monday (April 20) afternoon.

According to Molon, the new case, a 60-year old woman, is a co-worker of the two women at the Tarangan Community Hospital who were earlier confirmed to have acquire the virus.

The good news, the DOH-8 regional director, said that the two women, aged 32 and 56, have fully recovered from the ailment

and are to be discharged anytime from their confinement at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC), this city.

The new COVID-19 patient of the region was brought to the EVRMC on Monday where her two co-workers were first confirmed on April 7.

She is said to be a kitchen aide at the Tarangan District Hospital where a doctor from Calbayog City was earlier confirmed to have been infected with COVID-19.

According to Molon, see DOH/page 6 ...

Over 3,800 displaced workers due to COVID-19 pandemic avail financial assistance from DOLE

TACLOBAN CITY-The regional office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported that more than 3,800 private workers who were displaced due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic have so far availed of the COVID-19 Adjustment Measure Program (CAMP).

Under the program, the beneficiaries are to receive one-time financial assistance of P5,000 to help them cope up with the current crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.

The current crisis caused temporary closure of business establishments which resulted to

the loss of income among workers in the private sector.

Norma Rae Costimiano, DOLE-8 information officer, said that the application for those who wanted to avail the program ended on April 15.

She admitted that there were 'several' applications, submitted online on DOLE's website, which are still pending and being processed for approval.

"There were still several pending applications but we can only act those applications which DOLE received before 5 pm (on April 15)," Costimiano said.

She said that DOLE-8 as of April 17, released

P19.1 million for the 3,820 workers who received CAMP representing 294 establishments from the provinces of Leyte, Biliran, Southern Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar.

see Over 3,800/page 6 ...



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WE DELIVER!

Soldier killed by Abu Sayyaf Group to be buried on April 28 in Gandara town

TACLOBAN CITY- One of the 12 soldiers killed during an arm battle with the terror group, Abu Sayyaf, is scheduled to be laid to rest in Gandara town, Samar province on April 28.

The dead body of Lt. Rogelio Deligero, Jr. arrived at the Catbalogan Airport in Catbalogan City, also in Samar, on April 19, two days after the deadly battle in Sitio Pisak, Barangay Danag of Patikul, Sulo, took place while the country is facing the threat of coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

Deligero,35, is originally from the town of Mondragon, Northern Samar province but took residence in Gandara where his wife, Edna,37, lives.

It was learned that Edna, a retired teacher, is five months pregnant. The couple has two boys, aged seven and nine years old.

The Inquirer tried to reach to Deligero's widow but was told that she is not ready yet for any media interview.

The 8th ID, led by its commanding general, Pio



Soldiers of the 8th Infantry Division, based in Catbalogan City, led by its commanding general, Major Gen. Pio Diñoso, gave a hero's welcome to Lt. Rogelio Deligero, Jr., who was among the slain soldiers during an arm battle with the terror group Abu Sayyaf on April 17. (VICENTE LUKBAN)

Diñoso, gave a hero's welcome when Deligero's dead body, placed in a metal casket, arrived at the Catbalogan City Airport from Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

A wake is being held at their residence in Gandara with the burial set to be on April 28 at the town's Catholic cemetery.

Deligero, who's been a soldier for 15 years, was assigned in Mindanao for

the past two years to fight against the terror group. He belonged to the 14th Infantry Battalion of the 8th ID.

Deligero sustained several bullet wounds on his hips and head that resulted to his immediate death. His body was retrieved by the reinforcement team while the gun battle was still ongoing.

"His wife is grieving on the loss of her husband. She could not accept that he

died," a source, who belong to the 8th ID but declined to be named being not authorized to speak to the media, told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

The 8th ID condemned the atrocities committed by the rebel group against the government troops.

All assistance will be extended by the Armed Forces of the Philippines to the family of Deligero. (JOEY A. GABIETA)

Mayor Gomez orders lockdown of 2 barangays as residents show sign of 'serious respiratory illness'



Mayor Richard Gomez

ORMOC CITY- Two villages of this city were placed under lockdown by Mayor Richard Gomez effective Friday(April 24) as there were residents of these communities were suspected to have been infected by the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

Placed under lockdown by Gomez were the barangays of San Pablo and Boroc as he also immediately directed the members of the barangay emergency response team (BHERT) of these villages to conduct contact tracing this early.

A resident of the two villages were suspected to have been showing 'serious respiratory illness.'

The two are now confined at an isolation facility center located in Barangay San Pablo which has 5,987 residents.

Boroc, an upland village, meanwhile, has 2,529 residents.

"I have ordered a lockdown of Barangays Boroc and San Pablo. In the event that the tests come out positive, we already have a plan in place," Mayor Gomez said in a statement.

He added that the two patients are showing serious respiratory illness.

The RT-PCR tests have already been taken and awaiting for the confirmatory results from Vicente Sotto Medical Center in Cebu City.

Results are expected anytime next week, Gomez said.

"Let's pray they turn out negative," Gomez said.

The city mayor issued an appeal to the people of Ormoc to put their trust on him in so far as addressing the threat of COVID-19 in Ormoc City.

"I am asking all Ormocanons to trust what I am doing, and to restrain from speculating and spreading fake news. We are just doing what needs to be done. We need to be prepared for any eventuality. Mas maayo ang preparado kaysa dili," he said.

Ormoc is so far remain to be COVID-19- free. (ELVIE ROMAN ROA)

Borongan City-based photographer offers talent to help Church, poor children

(RONALD O. REYES)

TACLOBAN CITY-Alren Beronio, 23, started taking photos when he worked as volunteer photographer for the Catholic Church in Borongan City from 2012 to 2017.

When the local diocese set up an online news site ESTE, Beronio's hobby has turned into a full-time commitment.

"The words 'Service to God' inspire me to do this," said Beronio who became a member of the altar server organization of the Borongan Cathedral since Grade 1 to Grade 6.

"Taking photographs is very fulfilling, especially during church events where I am also present like Holy Week,"



ALREN BERONIO

he added.

After getting his accreditation as official photographer of the Diocese of Borongan for ESTE news, Beronio childhood's dream of capturing church images and personalities started to take shape.

He covered the Pope Francis visit in Tacloban City in January 2015; the historic return of Balan-

giga Bells in December 2019; the Rededication of Guiuan Church; annual Sinulog coverage; Marian congress in Cebu City; and other Church-related festivities.

"My big dream is to be one of Vatican photographers. Since I started photography in high school, I really look forward to take a photo of the pope. And it was fulfilling that it finally happened," he said.

While he receives a modest honorarium from the diocese church news service, Beronio said his greatest reward was when he discovered his talent through Church photography works.

"The Church discovers my talent. This is now my advocacy, to be of service of the church



too," he said.

When March came, Beronio, along with photographer friends in the city, found another way of extending his service to the poor children who will graduate this year.

Organized by Borongan Digital Photography Forum, with over 1, 000 members and 50 active photo enthusiasts and professionals, Beronio helped launched the "Project Dagway (Image)."

Inspired by the concept and objective of A-frame Project of Fyt Media and Juan Portraits, Beronio and his group started taking photographs of the poor graduating students in some hinterland schools of the province for free.

see Borongan /page 6 ...

In Eastern Samar Gov. Evardone says he directed all mayors to publish all SAP beneficiaries

TACLOBAN CITY-Eastern Samar Governor Ben Evardone said that he would comply on the directive of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to publish the names of the beneficiaries of the social amelioration program (SAP).

The governor, in a statement, thus said, he would direct all the mayors and barangay officials of the province to do the same and comply the directive of the DILG.

“For transparency, I fully support the directive of the DILG to publish in public places the list of the beneficiaries of the social amelioration program. This is important so that the people in the barangay level will be engaged in the listing process to make sure that the legitimate beneficiaries are the ones on the list,” he said.

It was learned that for Eastern Samar, about 91,388 were identified to benefit the amelioration program.

The province was given an allocation of P456.94 million for this program intended to alleviate the

financial difficulties of the intended beneficiaries, considered to be the ‘poorest of the poor’ during this time of crisis due to the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

Gov. Evardone said that during this time, only the identified beneficiaries should receive the financial assistance and political affiliation should not be considered as a factor.

In Sta. Rita town, Samar, the village leader of San Pascual, this early, has complied this directive of the DILG.

Norman Conise said that 93 individuals from their village were identified to receive the P5,000 SAP.

“They are really the poorest of the poor in our village. I posted the names of the beneficiaries for them to know that they are on the list,” he said.

The list was posted at their barangay hall.

Entitled to receive the financial assistance are senior citizens, lactating women, single parent, persons with disabilities and other low-income families who lost income due to COVID-19 pandemic. (JOEY A. GABIETA)

City government delivers free potable water to resident at the resettlement site

TACLOBAN CITY- In order to provide sufficient clean water supply amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, the city government under Mayor Alfred S. Romualdez, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) 8, Prime Water Leyte Metro, and Leyte Metropolitan Water District, delivered 16 cubic-meter of potable water in Guadalupe 2, one of the resettlement sites in the northern part of Tacloban, today, April 21.

The initiative, which started last Friday, April 17, has benefitted over 2,000 families in the said relocation site.

According to DPWH 8 Maintenance Division Assistant Chief Angelita Obediencia, at least two units of water tank trucks were utilized during the water distribution.

Overall, a total of 40,000 liters of water will be delivered today in the area.



Residents of Guadalupe 2, one of the resettlement sites for families who lost their houses due to super typhoon ‘Yolanda,’ received free potable water provided by the Tacloban city government under Mayor Alfred Romualdez. (CIO)

Meantime, Tacloban North Chief of Staff Ruth Ramirez has appealed to consumers to use water wisely and equally share the supply, as the City is doing its best to provide them ample supply during this drought and COVID-19 situation.

Ramirez also gave the assurance that other

resettlement areas will likewise avail the free water supply initiative, as they have deployed a Water Monitoring Team in a bid to equitably distribute available supply.

Aside from the daily distribution of water, water pumping stations and jetmatic pumps are also being utilized by the res-

idents, the official said.

Meanwhile, Jovino Ala, one of the cluster presidents in Guadalupe 2, expressed gratitude to the local government and other concerned agencies for coming up with the said initiative. (TACLOBAN CITY INFORMATION OFFICE)

Samar town approves no face mask, anti-COVID-19 ordinances

TACLOBAN CITY – The town council of Zumarraga, Samar province has enacted ordinances penalizing individuals who will not wear face mask or discriminate frontliners in the fight against the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

The town council, presided by Vice Mayor Analyn Ojeda, approved Ordinance No. 47-2020 or the ‘No Mask, No Entry policy’ and Ordinance 46-2020 or the ‘Anti-COVID-19 discrimination’ during their regular session last April 22.

Prohibited acts under the anti-COVID-19 discrimination includes harassment, humiliation, or causing stigma to people who are infected, under investigation, or under monitoring of Covid-19 and health workers and

frontliners.

Posting on social media or announcing or spreading that a person is Covid-19 positive whether it is confirmed or not is also punishable under the ordinance.

Those who will violate will be fined P2,500 or imprisonment of not more than six months, depending to the discretion of the court.

If the violators are public officials, they will also face administrative cases aside from the maximum penalty.

For those who will violate the non-wearing of face mask and no entry ordinance, they will be penalized depending on the gravity of their offense.

Those who will violate the ordinance for the first time, they will be issued a warning; a community service for eight hours for second offense and a fine

of P1,000 for the establishment, and a fine of P2,500 for the individual and both fine and suspension of business permit to operate for the establishment for the third offense.

The town remains COVID-19 free.

Mayor Myrna Tan said that her administration want to assures its more than 16,000 residents living in 25 villages that they are doing all that they can to serve and protect them amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are calling the attention of everyone to please practice proper cough and sneezing etiquette, always do physical distancing and wear facemask when going outdoors, and stay at home and follow the quarantine protocols for your safety,” the town mayor said. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

PNP-8 deploys over 2,000 police frontliners in quarantine points

PALO, Leyte-Some 2,043 police frontliners in Eastern Visayas were deployed in various quarantine control points established in the borders of the region amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Said figure includes the police personnel in the joint task force and the frontliners which are assigned in the 266 quarantine control points in the entire region.

Police Lt. Col. Ma Bella D. Rentuaya, regional public information officer of the Police Regional Office 8 said, 79 quarantine control points are solely manned by the PNP while 187 are manned by the joint task force.

The task force has been established to support the deployed policemen during the community quarantine period.

Five dedicated quarantine control points are being led by the Highway Patrol Group to inspect essential goods while other joint

task forces are assigned to inspect APOR (Authorized Persons Outside Residence), Rentuaya said.

These dedicated control points are located in Allen in Northern Samar, Ormoc City and Tacloban City in Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Catbalogan City in Samar, she added.

Rentuaya said also that around 3,000 reserved force belonging to the Reactionary Standby Support Force and Quick Reaction Teams including Medical Reserved Force are ready for deployment if additional personnel are needed in the quarantine points in Region 8.

Community quarantine was enforced by the local government units in coordination with police and military personnel.

The police have been tapped in order to ensure the orderly implementation of the mandatory quarantine.

To date, at least 1,000 quarantine violators were

reported in the region with violations in liquor ban, curfew, direct assault and disobedience.

Also, during the community quarantine period, land, air and sea travel to and from the different borders of the region are not allowed until the end of the month.

Rentuaya further said that as of this writing, PRO-8 remains zero as to the number of police personnel/frontliners affected by the dreaded virus.

“As a precautionary measure, Police Regional Office 8 has prepared two quarantine facilities for our police frontliners who would be needing isolation,” Rentuaya said. (Idl/cba/PIA8)



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Private interpretations

When the national government particularly through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) drafted the guidelines for the distribution of cash assistance and relief goods to our countrymen under lock

downs and quarantines nationwide, procedures were made clear as to who shall avail of those, from what localities they are, and how much they could receive.

In the actual distribution, however, many of these guidelines are not strictly followed to the letter, the reason being that many local officials are rather guided by their own interpretations, ideas, biases, and preferences. Instead of following the mandates from the national government, they come up with their own versions which, sad to say, are usually laden with favoritism, politics, corruption, and many more, thus depriving some deserving recipients of the much needed help in this time of dire need.

While the preferred recipients of the local officials are rejoicing over their abundance, the deprived residents are clamoring here and there, their

pleas grossly ignored, their complaints falling on deaf ears. Their last recourse is to report their plight to media outlets, particularly to radio stations, which could hardly entertain them as well for having so many reports to tackle. Even the DSWD offices, being short of manpower, cannot accommodate the numerous complaints anymore.

To resolve this problem, its root must be addressed, and that would bring us back to the local officials' deviation from protocols and guidelines. Their disobedience of orders in favor of their own interpretations is the culprit behind. What these local officials need, as what President Duterte had earlier threatened, is a slap with court cases so that they will learn to prioritize the need of people over their biases and prejudices.

As some of these local executives remain stubbornly defiant, the government's intention of coming to the people's rescue, of ensuring survival in this pandemic season, is being defeated. If such refusal to follow the guidelines is explained by irregularities, then all the more that government watchdogs must impose the existing policies and penalties.



Things To Mind

DOMS PAGLIAWAN

Surviving the basic way

When people are reduced to nothing, it is not luxuries and comfort that they crave for—it is the basic necessities, food

above all. This is presently demonstrated by their lockdown status, wherein they got cornered to the four walls of their houses

under threat of a dreaded virus.

In this status, safety and survival became the primary concern of everyone. One false move and one could contract the disease, especially in high-risk areas. So, people were forced to abandon other priorities to include outside entertainment, church attendance, classroom-based education, and many others. These are all important under normal conditions, but in a life-and-death situation, only

the basic needs must be satisfied.

That brings us to the most needful of all—food. Given a good health and absence of disease, food for the body towers in importance as far as survival is concerned. This is the most basic. We can live in boredom; we can go on without formal education; we can exist without the company of other people; but without food to eat in a daily basis, we would

see *Surviving* /page 5 ...



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DR. PACIENTE CORDERO, JR.

Rallying behind ROTC and GMRC revival

Under the Duterte Administration, the revival (or is it reintroduction) in the academic curriculum of the subjects Good Manners and Right Conduct (GRMC) and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), are long overdue. Time has come when we need a strong and military assistance of both male and female ROTC Basic and Advance trainings not only on times of military conflicts involving the Philippines, moreso on peace-times as ready hands to assist the government handle natural and man-made calamities. Past experiences showed how unprepared citizens were to compliment government efforts to handle said calamitous events. We need to support the present dispensation from ROTC-trained citizenry, help lessen destructive effects of calamities, believing in the saying that “Many Hands Make Work Lighter/Manageable”!

I am a product of the Elementary Grade Cub/Boy Scout trainings, High School Preparatory Mili-

tary Training (PMT), and both Basic and Advance ROTC (placing tied for 1st Place in the Cadet Officer Candidate Course (COCS) trainings that qualified me to be part of 22 cadet officers and part of 422 pool of cadet officers to qualify for the Summer Camp Training (SCT) at Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, that earned me the Probationary 2nd Lieutenant rank (Having placed No. 6 In our Batch!). I never regretted spending 4 years of ROTC training, always proud of the pseudo-military training gained and equally, too, in wearing a military uniform as 2nd Lt in the AFP Reserve Command. I did respond to the call by ARESKOM of all reservists during the EDSA Uprising!

As a professional, I have been honed along science and technology, having been into Research and Development along marine biology – armed with a B.Sc. degree (FEU), M.Sc. Fisheries (Kagoshima University, D.Sc. and a Post-Doctorate in Marine Biology, both obtained from Kyoto University under the aus-

pices of the Japan Ministry of Education (Mombusho) Scholarship Program and as Fellow of the Association of International Education of Japan (A.I.E.J.), respectively. Since the first time of the GMRC class, I already realized its importance and relevance to shaping up being a growing Filipino student and guided me along my professional path armed with a basic training that supplemented the GMRC gained from my parents and elderlies at home. I have always recognized and congratulated my parents for their painstaking years of bringing their 3 sons to become responsible Filipino citizens – assets of society.

I have always been repetitiously asking myself “What would have become of us 3 sons had Nanay not inculcated upon us the importance of education and having a well-paved academic path as well as had Tatay not impose ‘military’ discipline from our formative years?” We could have been liabilities of Bureau and of society, prone to a life we would have repented till now! Indeed, we three siblings, owe it to the Good Manners and Right Conduct lessons gained from school that complimented well with what we gained in school!

Till now, I stand 4-square in support of the resurrection of the ROTC and GMRC

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NEXT TOPIC: “More Science and Technology-related Issues follow”

SHARE S & T THOUGHTS through E-mail: drpacjr@yahoo.com.



Commentary

FR. ROY CIMAGALA

Reaching out amid lockdown

I KNOW we can never wipe out poverty entirely. There will always be poor, suffering people. Christ himself said as much. “The poor you will always have with you...” (Mt 26,11) But this does not mean that we should not do anything, at least to mitigate that problem, helping poor people as much as we can. This is the very basic aspect of Christian charity.

With the present dispensation of lockdowns and quarantines, we can just imagine how the poor people, already suffering a lot during normal times, are suffering today. I know that we ourselves have our own share of privations, discomfort and inconvenience brought about by these restrictions. But this does not detract us from our duty to do whatever we can to help the more disadvantaged ones.

We simply cannot be aloof to the graver predicaments of the others. Let's be wary of the tendency to be unmindful of the others simply because we may not be suffering as much. We can still eat and have

our comfortable time. Our fridges are still well-stocked.

Let's be careful because we can easily fall into a severe case of quiet and deceptive self-indulgence. We can think that we are not doing anything wrong because we are just by ourselves. This is a subtle form of self-indulgence and is definitely a sin. Christ wants us to love everybody as he has loved us, and love is not just not doing anything wrong to others. It is being truly concerned for them, expressed in deeds.

Let us always remember that if we want to follow Christ as we should, we have to deny ourselves and carry the cross. (cfr. Mt 16,24) This is always the rule to follow, in good times and in bad.

The very least thing we can do to help is at least to practice some form of self-denial, especially in our food, drinks, comfort, use of gadgets, if only to show solidarity with those who are denied of the basic necessities of life during these times. Let us be very generous in this level of self-denial and self-giving.

But for sure, we can do a lot more. We should not forget that many people, with families to feed, have lost their job and their live-

lihood. And because of the many restrictions nowadays, many cannot report for work while many others cannot go home, stranded and quite broke. People in all forms of helplessness are numberless. Human misery has sunk quite drastically deeply these days.

We have to reach out to them. How? That's another challenge to face. But there are always some ways. We are not yet dead when we cannot do anything anymore. Where there is a will, there will always be a way! The human spirit, especially animated by divine love, can always find a way.

It does not mean we be imprudent and reckless in our zeal to help others. There certainly are risks to take. But if we plan things well, and bring them to our prayer, we can be sure that we can do a lot to help others in these difficult times with so many restrictions to contend with.

Offhand, I notice there are already some people organizing themselves to do some feeding programs to many. This is a very good initiative. They have tapped their own personal networks and other organizations for this purpose, and it's working.

What I find more challenging is to identify those who seem not to need some help because they enjoyed a level of comfort during the normal times, but actually are in great need of help these days. The overt poor are always easy to identify. And we already have some appropriate structures for them. It's the hidden and the new poor that are quite difficult to identify and to extend help.

If we bring this concern in our prayer, I am sure we can find the appropriate ways to reach out to them.

Surviving...
...from Page 4

not make it. A day without eating would already take its tolls on our health, making the food we eat as the primary form of medicine.

Of course, raiment and shelter likewise comprise the basic essentials, but they are rather secondary as one can survive for a long period of time without a house to dwell in, or without a decent apparel. Food items, then, form part of man's most basic need for survival.

Instinct must have told us this, that's why, prior to the implementation of quarantines and lockdowns, fam-

ilies were already panic-buying in grocery stores, wet markets, and other places where food provisions could be had. They were making sure they stockpiled said supplies that could last for days, weeks, or even months. Of all things, they zeroed in on eatables, knowing that these could hopefully enable them through the pandemic crisis.

Such a lesson to learn from. This accumulation of provisions from market sources is only good when there is abundant, or at least enough money. With its lack or absence, hunger still awaits. No food, no survival—this is the rule of the game. That's the

problem with this basic need, this food, for it entails money to have it. Seemingly, this makes money even more basic than food. But, no, it's still food that ensures basic survival. Remember Yolanda's aftermath in Tacloban City? Some had money, but there was no food to buy. How did they survive—by eating their money? No—by eating food-stuffs, of course, when the latter came.

Unable to survive without food, people should then learn to produce it and not just depend on market food supplies as the latter might run out, or money may not be available. Yes, produce. How? By

planting eatables, even in potted soil arranged outside the house. Quick-growing, nutritious vegetables should be prioritized. These are frequently consumed. If a wider space warrants, do plant root crops such as cassava, sweet potato, ube, apari, gabi, butig, or even bananas. If far wider spaces are available, do plant cereals and trees.

In the event of crisis wherein survival is just made possible by food items, nothing beats the idea of producing them yourself. Not during the actual crisis, but way before it. Let's make planting, albeit in minute ways, a habit for life. Let us altogether survive.



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

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)

Eastern Samar town mayor vows to go after those responsible of a massive grassfire incident

TACLOBAN CITY – The local chief executive of Salcedo, Eastern Samar promised to go after people who were responsible for the grassfire incident that destroyed a great portion of their watershed area for three days.

Mayor Melchor Mergal said that the grassfire was intentional because they have found evidence after they contained the grassfire. These evidences include cigarette butts, matchbox, liquor bottles and junk foods.

The mayor said that those who were responsible for the grassfire could

be preparing the land for farming.

Those who were involved are illegal occupants near the watershed, Mergal said.

“We will see you in court. Get your lawyers as early as now,” he said.

At least three-fourth of the total area of the watershed was destroyed by the grassfire that started on April 13. Salcedo’s watershed has a more than 300 hectares land area located just near the Eastern Samar State University-Salcedo Campus.

“My administration and the past administration in

Salcedo has one goal- that is to bring back the lush canopy in our watershed. I regret that the time we spend to achieve this, to rehabilitate our watershed, had gone into waste,” Mergal said.

Incidents of forest fires in Eastern Samar was also reported in Hernani town that damaged its seven hectares reforestation site under the National Greening Program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Forest fires were also reported last month in the towns of Quinapondan, Balangiga and Gen McArthur. **(ROEL T. AMAZONA)**

S. Leyte town embarks on barangay communal gardening to combat COVID-19

MAASIN CITY- Mayor Imelda Tan of Sogod, Southern Leyte has urged her constituents to cultivate land and plant through barangay communal gardening in a way to combat COVID-19.

Mayor Tan in her Facebook post, said the LGU will implement food production campaign dubbed as “Sogod Self-Sustaining Food Security Program,” in response to the crisis brought about by COVID-19 pandemic.

Mayor Tan surmised nobody knows when the pandemic will end unless a vaccine can be produced, hence, she urged her constituents to plant.

“Tinuod adunay hinabang ang atong gobyerno pero dili kita magsalig kay dili ingana ka dato ang atong nasud,” (It’s true that there are assistance from the government but let us not totally depend since our nation is not that rich) she said in her FB post.

She urged her constituents to act and plant in order to survive amid the COVID-19 crisis.

“Good for us that we live near the sea for fishing and we have abundant mountains and flats where we can plant at our advantage,” she further said.

Tan said a lot of idle lands could be converted

into barangay communal gardens through the cooperation of several landowners allowing the farmers to cultivate for free.

These communal gardens were established in the following barangays of San Miguel, Pandan, Concepcion I and II, Olisihan, Kanangkaan ang Hibod-hibod, all of Sogod, she added.

Farmers were further instructed to approach respective barangay officials and the Municipal Agriculture Office as the vegetable seeds, corn seeds, organic fertilizers, tractors and technical assistance are readily available, Tan said. **(Idl/esg/PIA SoLeyte)**

Over 3,800... ...from Page 1

Their central office has provided P34 million for this purpose.

Costimiano said that those who failed to avail the CAMP have still a chance to be given financial assistance this time from the Department of Finance(DOF) under its wage subsidy program.

The DOF has earlier announced that a projected 2.6 million workers could avail the financial assistance of at least P5,000.

“We have done our best to inform our (displaced) workers of the P5,000 assistance,” Costimiano said. **(JOEY A. GABIETA)**

Borongan... ...from Page 2

They also give free photograph sessions and tutorials.

“We want to paint sweet smiles to these children and since we have the equipment and talent, we thought of sharing them for the benefit of remote communities that do not have access to these kinds of services,” said Miguel Voloso, a colleague of Beronio.

In partnership with the Department of Education-Eastern Samar Division and Go Borongan organization, Beronio and his group were able to photograph 500 graduating students, including the teachers, in Eastern Samar.

“We are happy that there are people who helped us in creating good memories for our future,” said graduating student Viena Antoinette Orque after receiving her free portrait from Beronio’s group which she can keep in her lifetime.

“I am overjoyed every time I see the smile of the students in the remote areas. In this way, I can offer my talent in simple way by documenting it,” said Beronio who is also currently working as freelance photojournalists for national and international news organizations.

In Northern Samar 700 individuals from San Isidro town affected by COVID-19 pandemic to receive financial assistance from DOLE

SAN ISIDRO, Northern Samar- About 700 individuals who belong to the informal sector of this town have applied for a financial assistance under the “Tulong Panghanapbuhay for Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers” of the Department of Labor and Employment.

This was disclosed by Renelda Beltran, PESO-designate, who said that each of the beneficiaries stand to receive P3,250 under the program.

Beltran said that under the program, the beneficiaries are to work for 10 days at four-hour a day for disinfection and sanitizing their respective houses including their immediate vicinity.

Town Mayor Ferdinand Avila earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with DOLE for the implementation of this program.

Among those who applied for the financial assistance were tricycle drivers, crop growers, fisherfolks and vendors affected by the general community quarantine due to the coronavirus disease 2019(Covid-19) pandemic.

It was learned from Beltran that about 36 beneficiaries of the program are to be funded from the Office of Second District Rep. Jun Ong. **(PETER D. PAREDES)**

DOH...
...from Page 1

the woman, who is also suffering from asthma, suffered occasional cough on April 11 and swab samples were taken from her on April 16.

The result of her swab samples arrived Monday from the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center (VSMC) in Cebu City.

With a new case from



Tarangan, which was placed under restrictive general quarantine following the confirmation earlier of two cases, Molon said that there is now essentially a local transmission of COVID-19.

Thus, she appealed to the people to help them ‘cut’ the transmission by following strictly the directives on proper personal hygiene and staying at home.

“Please help us to cut the

CNT leader killed, high powered firearm and explosive seized in Calbiga, Samar

CAMP GENERAL VICENTE LUKBAN, Catbalogan City - Elements of the 46th Infantry Battalion, 8th Infantry Division, Philippine Army encountered more or less five fully armed men believed to be remnants of a Communist NPA Terrorist (CNT) group operating in southern part Samar resulting to the death of CNT leader Noel Galvez alias ‘Bani’ in a 3-minute firefight at the vicinity of Brgy. Buluan, Calbiga, Samar at around 5:15 in the morning of April 18, 2020.

There was no casualty in the government forces while the enemy, aside from the killed CNT leader, one M14

rifle loaded with ammunition and one improvised explosive device (IED) with estimated weight of seven kilograms were seized.

The gunfight was the result of the timely report of some concerned civilians pertaining the presence of the CNTs led by Galvez harassing the populace.

The same group of CNTs was responsible for the murder of former rebel Ildefonso Nablo Jr. alias ‘Marwan’ last April 9, 2020.

Lieutenant Colonel Rhomel R. Langcaun, commanding officer of 46IB, lauded his troops for the successful community security operation.

He also thanked the vigilance of the community for the timely information provided to the security forces.

Colonel Camilo Z. Ligayo, Commander of 801st Infantry Brigade stated, “The neutralization of Noel Galvez alias Bani will bring a strong and clear message to the rebels that the government is serious in ending local communist armed conflict in Eastern Visayas.”

“We will pursue these terrorists with the help of the community until they run out of ground to retreat to,” Ligayo added. **(PR)**

Samar village under total lockdown due to virus threat

TACLOBAN CITY – A village in the town center of Tarangnan, Samar was placed under total lockdown on Monday(April 20) after a resident tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The town’s third case is a 60-year-old female and co-worker of the town’s first two COVID-19 patients at Tarangnan Community Hospital.

In an executive order, Mayor Arnel Tan said no residents can go out of their respective communities, not even for livelihood purposes to prevent further spread of the virus.

“No one will be allowed to enter or stay on lockdown areas except for security personnel, medical and rescue teams. Areas along the highway are open for passing only and no vehicles will be allowed to stop,” he said.

The local government will supply food and water to every house as well as their other needs, the EO added.

Immediate families within the patient’s residence are strictly prohibited to go out of their houses for whatever purpose, as their needs will also be provided by the local and village response teams.

Meanwhile, new test results of the town’s first two coronavirus cases are now negative, according to the Department of Health (DOH).

“They can now be discharged but will undergo strict home isolation for 14 days or until further tests show negative results,” said Minerva Molon, DOH Eastern Visayas director in a virtual press briefing on Monday.

With this, the local government of Tarangnan will downgrade the quarantine status of the two sub-villages where the first two patients reside.

From total lockdown, Duyunan in Imelda and Upper Bahay in Bahay villages, together with the town’s other villages with no confirmed or suspected case of the virus, are placed under enhanced community quarantine.

As directed, only those with essential business will be allowed to go out of their respective houses, provided they have a quarantine pass and wear a face mask.

On the other hand, those who will go out to work will be allowed to go out of their



COVID-19 CHECKPOINT. Local police and volunteers guard the entry point in Tarangnan, Samar in this undated photo. A village in Tarangnan was placed under total lockdown on Monday (April 20, 2020) after another resident tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019. (Photo courtesy of Tarangnan police station)

village but within the town.

The directive also prohibits all construction works within the town, all forms of gambling, and selling, buying, and consuming alcoholic beverages.

The local government has also intensified its community patrol with the help of the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police to ensure that each citizen is compliant with the directives.

Tan sought understanding from nearby municipalities and assured that best efforts are made to contain the spread of the highly contagious Covid-19.

“All we need is your moral support and acceptance as fellow Samar residents. Rest assured that we will do our best in ensuring that no further harm will be inflicted on your respective towns or cities,” he said. (GERICO SABALZA/PNA)



Leyte Governor Leopoldo Dominico L. Petilla announced the extension of the general community quarantine in the province until April 30, 2020 after it was unanimously approved by the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for COVID-19 during their meeting held at LAC, Palo Leyte. (cba/rst/PIA8)

Eastern Samar extends general community quarantine period until May 30

TACLOBAN CITY – The provincial government of Eastern Samar will extend its modified general community quarantine until May 30 of this year.

The extension of the quarantine period was arrived during a consultative meeting attended by all the mayors of the province with Governor Ben Evardone, Vice Governor Maricar Goiteesan, Representative Maria Fe Abunda and Borongan Diocese Bishop Crispin Varquez.

Eastern Samar is one of the three provinces in the region that remains to be free from coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The other provinces are Biliran and Southern Leyte.

The province was first put under general community quarantine in March 22 until April 12.

It was later extended until April 30.

Under the modified general community quarantine, residents of the province who comes from Metro Manila and other COVID-19 positive areas will be placed under isolation or quarantine in their respective municipalities for 14 days.

This measure is to prevent the possible spread of the virus in the province, according to Gov. Evardone.

The Enhanced community quarantine imposed in Luzon and other ‘high risk areas’ was extended by President Rodrigo Duterte until May 15.

All forms of assembly, public events, parties and operation of cockpits, internet cafes and other gaming facilities, nightclubs, beer houses and similar establishments are still prohibited throughout the province.

Resorts, hotels, lodging houses and housing accommodations are also prohibited from operating including their amenities like swimming pools.

Mandatory wearing of face masks and social distancing including proper hygiene and sanitation measures must always be observed.

Those allowed to operate must limit the number of personnel, observe social distancing and wearing of face mask and for facilities like restaurants must only accept orders for take-out or delivery.

The no sail policy is still enforced with the coastlines of the province except those provided in the Inter-Agency Task Force. The crew should observe social distancing and proper health protocols. (ROEL T. AMAZONA)

An Waray party-list offers free ride to frontliners

TACLOBAN CITY – An Waray part-list group is offering a ride for health workers and hospital support staff who lives and works in this city and nearby areas.

As the city was placed under a restrictive community quarantine, public transportation was suspended reason why they are offering the free ride, particularly the frontliners, said Rep. Florencio ‘Bem’ Noel.

“We also instituted safety and precautionary measures to be observed inside the vehicle,” Noel

told reporters during the launching of the free ride held last Sunday.

For them to avail the free ride, medical front-liners should present their identification cards and should strictly follow the protocols like having their body temperature check, use hand sanitizers, step on disinfecting foot bathe, and observe social distancing inside the vehicle.

The two vehicles, with three routes dubbed as “Bi-yahero,” will be sanitized after each trip.

It will transport front-liners from Robin-



FREE RIDE FOR HEALTH WORKERS. Vehicles provided by An Waray party-list for medical workers. A free ride intended for health workers and hospital support staff is now operational in this city and to nearby town during the enhanced community quarantine period. (Photo courtesy of An Waray party-list)

sons Marasbaras to Leyte Provincial Hospital and Schistosomiasis Hospital, both in Palo, and to Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center (EVRMC) in Bagacay.

Another route will also drive health workers to various government and private hospitals within the city’s commercial district.

Noel said the program is their way of helping the frontliners who are sacrificing their lives just to keep the public safe and free from coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19). (LIZBETH ANN A.ABELLA)

62 foreign tourists stranded in the region gets assistance from DOT



STRANDED FOREIGN TOURISTS. At least 62 foreign tourists were assisted by the Department of Tourism for a ‘sweeper flight’ back to Manila. These foreign tourists were stranded in different parts of the region after Luzon was placed in a enhanced community quarantine on March on March 16.

(DOT Photo)

TACLOBAN CITY - The Department of Tourism (DOT) here in the region continue to assists stranded tourists with the help of their partner airline that provided sweeper flights.

At least 62 foreign tourists were assisted on April 18 by sweep-

er flight of Cebu Pacific via Tacloban-Cebu-Manila flights.

These tourists included 26 from Australia; seven from Canada; six from the US; four from South Korean; four from Sweden; four from New Zealand; three from Germany; two from Netherlands;

two from Finland; one from Denmark; and one each from Norway, India and Great Britain.

They were the third batch of stranded foreign tourists who were assisted by the tourism department in the region with help from the Civil Aviation Authori-

ty of the Philippines.

“To make sure they were safe and well, we did our regular “pangumusta” through emails and messages,” DOT8 Regional Director Karina Rosa Tiopes said.

“This was the least that we could do to somehow ease their anxieties of being far from home,”she added.

The DOT also asked the tourism officers of various local government units of the region to check on how the tourists were doing while waiting for their schedule to depart.

Before they left, they were given by the DOT simple tokens and a note to convey

their thanks for their visit though disrupted due to the pandemic caused by the coronavirus disease 2019(COVID-19).

Tiopes added that the tourists are eager to come and visit back the region once the world health crisis is over.

This is the third batch of stranded tourists assisted by the DOT- 8.

The first batch included 57 foreigners stranded who left the region on March 27 while the second batch was on April 11 that involving 13 European tourists.

(ROEL T. AMAZONA)

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- ✓ Diabetes
- ✓ Heart Diseases
- ✓ Hypertension
- ✓ Stroke
- ✓ Autoimmune Disease
- ✓ Hyper and Hypothyroidism
- ✓ Rheumatoid Arthritis
- ✓ Gout Arthritis
- ✓ Kidney Problem
- ✓ With increased creatinise
- ✓ Asthma
- ✓ Pneumonia
- ✓ Migraine Headache
- ✓ Depression & Anxiety
- ✓ Alzheimer's Disease
- ✓ Parkinson's Disease
- ✓ Multiple Sclerosis
- ✓ Infertility and PMS
- ✓ Psoriasis
- ✓ Acne
- ✓ Eczema
- ✓ Obesity
- ✓ Pre Eclampsia (for nursing & pregnant moms)

PREVENTS AND TREAT

- ✓ Fatigue
- ✓ Infertility
- ✓ Depression/Anxiety
- ✓ Muscle Pain
- ✓ Hearing and Vision Problems
- ✓ Mood Disorders
- ✓ Memory Loss
- ✓ Alzheimer's Disease
- ✓ Dementia
- ✓ Learning Disorders in Children
- ✓ Autoimmune Disease
- ✓ Varicose Veins

PREVENTS AND TREAT

- ✓ Osteoporosis
- ✓ Brittle Bones and Nails
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