

PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
News and Information Bureau

PUBLIC BRIEFING #LagingHandaPH
HOSTED BY PCOO SECRETARY MARTIN ANDANAR
AND PCOO UNDERSECRETARY ROCKY IGNACIO
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SEC. ANDANAR: Magandang araw po sa lahat ng ating mga kababayan na nakatutok ngayon sa ating programa. Mula sa Presidential Communications Operations Office, ako po ang inyong lingkod, Secretary Martin Andanar. Good morning, Rocky.

USEC. IGNACIO: Good morning, Secretary. Mula pa rin po sa PCOO, ako si Usec. Rocky Ignacio kasama ninyong mag-uulat ng pinakasariwang impormasyon sa mga hakbang ng pamahalaan laban sa COVID-19.

SEC. ANDANAR: Basta laging handa at sama-sama kaya natin ito, kaya naman samahan ninyo kami dito sa Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH.

USEC. IGNACIO: Secretary Martin, alamin muna natin ang pinakahuling bilang ng COVID-19 sa bansa. As of 4 P.M. kahapon po, nakapagtala ang Department of Health ng 36,438 total number of COVID-19 cases sa bansa matapos itong madagdagan ng 985 reported cases na kung saan 643 sa dagdag na kasong ito ay fresh cases, 342 naman ang late cases. Nadagdagan ng 270 ang bilang ng mga gumaling na may kabuuang bilang na 9,956 habang labing isa po ang naidagdag sa mga nasawi na may kabuuang bilang na 1,255.

Sa 24,525 na active cases na mayroon tayo ngayon, malaking bahagi o 95.6% ay may mild symptoms; 3.8% ang asymptomatic o walang sintomas; 126 cases or 0.5% ay severe; at 26 cases or 0.1% ay nasa kritikal na kondisyon.

Kung inyong mapapansin sa ating line graph, muli na namang tumaas ang bilang ng reported cases kahapon na umabot nga sa 985, mas mababa lang ito nang bahagya sa naitalang 1,150 cases noong June 23, ang pinakamataas na bilang sa nakalipas na isang linggo. Sa mga kasong naitala kahapon, 32% or 319 cases ang naitala sa Metro Manila; 54% or 531 cases mula sa iba't ibang rehiyon; at 135 o 14% ang naitala sa Central Visayas.

SEC. ANDANAR: Para po sa inyong mga katanungan at concerns tungkol sa COVID-19, maaari ninyo pong i-dial ang (02) 894-26843. Para naman po sa PLDT, Smart, Sun at TNT subscribers i-dial po ang 1555. Patuloy po kayong makibalita sa mga pinagkakatiwalaang sources ng impormasyon tungkol sa COVID-19, maaari ninyo pong bisitahin ang covid19.gov.ph.

At pinapaalala po natin muli na manatili sa ating mga tahanan at huwag lumabas kung hindi naman importante o kinakailangan, ugaliin ang physical distancing at madalas na paghuhugas ng kamay.

USEC. IGNACIO: Kasama pa rin nating magbabalita mamaya sina Dennis Principe ng Philippine Broadcasting Service, si John Aroa ng PTV-Cebu.

Habang una sa ating mga balita, sa isang pahayag po ay muling ipinaliwanag ni Senator Bong Go ang kaibahan ng Hatid Tulong Program sa Balik Probinsiya, Bagong Pag-asa o BP2 Program ng pamahalaan. Aniya ang BP2 ay para sa mga naninirahan sa Metro Manila na nagnanais na magbalik sa kani-kanilang mga probinsiya. Layon nito na i-decongest ang Kamaynilaan habang sinusupportahan ang paglago ng mga probinsiya; habang ang Hatid Tulong naman po ay naglalayong matulungang makauwi sa kani-kanilang mga pamilya ang mga Locally Stranded Individuals sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Sa kasalukuyan ay pansamantala munang ipinagpaliban ang BP2 para bigyang-daan ang paghahatid sa mga LSI sa kani-kanilang mga probinsiya. Aniya, ibabalik lang ang naturang programa sa oras na maging handa na ang mga local government units na tanggapin ang mga magiging benepisyaryo nito. Nagpaalala pa rin ang Senador na mahalagang mahigpit na ipatupad ang health and safety protocols sa pagpapauwi sa mga LSI at hinimok ang IATF na imbestigahan ang mga unauthorized travel sa ilalim ng pangalan ng programa.

SEC. ANDANAR: Samantala, Senador Bong Go nagpaalala sa mga posibleng sakit na dala ng tag-ulan. Sa pagsisimula ng panahon ng tag-ulan ay nagpaalala rin ang Senador laban sa ibang health concerns na maaaring sumulpot kagaya ng dengue, leptospirosis, flu at iba pa. Kasabay ng patuloy pa rin nating kinakaharap na COVID-19, sinabi ni Senador Bong Go na dapat gamitin ng mga Pilipino ang mahabang oras sa bahay para siguruhing malinis ang mga kapaligiran ganoon din ang ating mga pangangatawan para maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng anumang sakit.

Dagdag pa niya, na dapat ding siguruhin na sapat ang kakayahan ng lahat ng ating mga ospital para tugunan ang mga pangangailangan na medikal ng ating mga kababayan. Kaya naman bilang Chairperson ng Senate Committee on Health and Demography ay ilang panukalang batas din ang isinulong nito para palakasin ang kapasidad at paigtingin ang serbisyo ng bawat public hospital sa bansa.

Usec. Rocky, simulan natin ang talakayan dito sa Public Briefing. Ngayong Martes po ay makakasama natin sina Dr. Rabi Abeyasinghe mula po sa World Health Organization; Ambassador Narciso Castañeda mula po Philippine Embassy sa bansang Oman; at Governor Victor Yu mula po sa lalawigan ng Zamboanga Del Sur.

USEC. IGNACIO: Para po sa ating viewers at subscribers, kung kayo man po ay may katanungan sa ating mga panauhin ay maaari po kayong magkomento sa aming live feed at sisikapin po naming bigyan ito ng kasagutan.

SEC. ANDANAR: Una nating makakasama sa ating Public Briefing, mula po sa World Health Organization, Dr. Rabi Abeyasinghe. Welcome po sa programa, good morning to you Dr. Rabi.

DR. ABEYASINGHE: Good morning. Magandang umaga po.

SEC. ANDANAR: It's good to see you once again, sir. As of this moment, the Philippines has a total of 36,438 COVID cases in which 24,525 are active cases. Based on the data and other researches conducted by the World Health Organization, what is your initial assessment on how the Philippines is dealing with this pandemic?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: Thank you Martin and it is good to be back again. The Philippines have been doing a relatively well in comparison to many of the world's affected countries. We are happy that the Philippines went into a very early lockdown which actually helped prevent possibly hundreds of thousands of cases and thousands of deaths. What we are seeing now is that with the gradual relaxation of the lockdown, we are seeing increasing numbers of cases but we need to be careful here because the Philippine government has used the lockdown to expand its capacity for testing of cases and for expanding capacity in hospitals, isolation and quarantine centers to manage patients.

And all of these have paid off and so we are now—what we are seeing is an increased numbers of cases being reported because of increased testing capacity. What is actually—and this is not actually a bad thing because you are actually detecting the transmission that is out there. And what is a little bit concerning is that we are seeing sort of areas or localities where there is evidence of increase in transmission rates where the test positivity rate is going much higher than the national level rate and this is worrying. And you're aware that we are seeing such places within NCR and in Cebu City and also emerging hot spots in Region VIII in Leyte, Samar.

So I think what needs to be done and what we see from many other countries is that as we recognize that this disease is a new disease and we don't have treatment and we don't have a vaccine, we need to use so-called non-pharmaceutical interventions to minimize the health impact. And what we are advocating is that the DOH and the government invest in—as they invest in expanding testing capacity, to invest in actually contact tracing, identifying contacts and quarantining and isolating them so that we prevent further transmission from those cases.

Now unfortunately, this aspect of the Philippine response needs a little more strengthening. There is improvement in the last month but it's not keeping pace with the phase of the expansion of the testing capacity.

And also, the compliance with the requirements of the guidelines coming from the DOH doesn't seem to be universally good. So, the DOH has come up with very good guidelines on how to manage positive cases, how to quarantine them but the implementation at local government levels in different areas of the country is different. So while we see poor

compliance with the guideline, we're seeing numbers of cases increasing, and this is actually becoming a worrying situation.

USEC. IGNACIO: Good morning, Dr. Rabi. The World Health Organization said that the Philippines leads in rise of virus cases in the entire Western Pacific. How did the World Health Organization come up with this conclusion?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: I'm really thankful that you are asking me this question. The World Health Organization never made such a comment or an assessment. The World Health Organization actually has a dashboard with the number of cases. What happened was a journalist at the Inquirer used that dashboard and interpreted in this way. It's not the World Health Organization that did this.

I've seen a lot of comments and commentaries and points of view that the World Health Organization did this. The World Health Organization does not compare countries or make such assessments. All that assessment was done by journalist attached to the Inquirer in the Philippines using the data that we have in our dashboard like many other dashboards that are globally available.

So, it is unfair to say that the WHO made that comment or assessment – we did not.

USEC. IGNACIO: Dr. Rabi, we have a question from Joseph Morong of GMA-7. Here's his question: Should Metro Manila, because there are emerging hotspots, should it return to MECQ?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: We don't believe that the situation in the metro requires a reversal. We recognize the impact of this outbreak not only in health but also on the economy. And with IATF recommendations there is provision for localized lockdowns. And where we are seeing an upsurge of cases within the NCR in some localized cities or barangay, there is a need to make use of those provisions to suppress further transmission.

And overall, what is most important is, the feeling we get is that people coming out of lockdown seem to have forgotten that they need to still maintain physical distancing and hygiene, cough etiquette – everything that we've said.

So as we go back, as we are striving to get our economy back on track, it is critically important that we recognize that the threat of this disease has not gone away and that we all have a responsibility beyond the responsibility that the government took in locking down to continue to follow those simple measures of good public health so that we make it difficult for this virus to spread.

Because what we are seeing now, worryingly, is that the increase levels of cases we're seeing is largely in the younger population of say, 20 to 40 years old but eventually, this is going to

spill over to our elderly and vulnerable groups. And when and if that happens, we may see an increase in the mortality rate.

So, to prevent that, it is the time now to act that we have to all play our part, we have to all continue to follow the guidelines that we have, that we followed so carefully when we were in lockdown. Just because we have relaxed the provisions, it does not mean that the pandemic is over; we just need to continue to follow those procedures which we refer to as the new normal until we have a long-term solution to this pandemic.

SEC. ANDANAR: Minimizing the transmission of infectious disease is the core function of public health or the public health law. As the representative of the World Health Organization in the Philippines, how do you apply the isolate, test and trace approach as the best way to control the COVID-19?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: Sec. Martin, again as I explained, this is what we have at this point of time because we don't have a specific treatment or a vaccine.

So what we have at our disposal which our Regional Director and the Director General has emphasized is that by doing testing, isolating and treating patients and caring for them, and following these basic public health principles, many countries have achieved remarkable success in containing the spread of this virus. And we believe that the Philippine can also do so. They are on track to do it, we just need to accelerate the process of contact tracing and isolation and strengthen our compliance with the guidelines on physical distancing, hand hygiene, etc., so that we can stem the number of cases even as we expand the testing.

USEC. ROQUE: Dr. Rabi, question from Joseph Morong, if I may: What does the data show though in terms of what countries have the fastest number of increase in cases?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: Unfortunately, we see the fastest number of increase in countries that have not followed lockdowns and the precautions that were advocated by WHO. So countries that ignored the warnings, countries like Brazil, to some extent the US where they were late or hesitant in implementing those measures, we've seen massive increases in cases [garbled] overwhelming; similar situation a few months ago also in Italy. So this is why we continue to advocate for the non-pharmaceutical interventions that we know can help reduce the health impact and the economic impact of this disease.

SEC. ANDANAR: Dr. Rabi, what is your message or reminder to the Filipinos?

DR. ABEYASINGHE: We have to all work together. This disease is not something that can be controlled by government actions or by a combined action of all the departments and the IATF. This disease can only be controlled if every one of you, every Filipino, every person in this country takes responsibility to protect themselves and through that action, protect your families, your parents, your grandparents and your greater community. So we need to work together, we need to come together – I believe you call it, your bayanihan spirit. Maximize

that and follow the guidance that the DOH and the government and WHO is providing so that we can minimize the impact of this disease.

SEC. ANDANAR: Thank you very much, Dr. Rabi Abeyasinghe, the World Health Organization representative here in the Philippines.

DR. ABEYASINGHE: Thank you, Martin.

SEC. ANDANAR: Samantala, kumustahin natin ang kasalukuyang kalagayan ng mga Pilipino sa Oman. Makakapanayam po natin si Ambassador Narciso Castañeda mula po sa Embassy of the Philippine Muscat, Oman. Sir, magandang araw po sa inyo.

AMBASSADOR CASTAÑEDA: Good morning. Magandang araw din sa inyo.

SEC. ANDANAR: Ambassador Castañeda, sir, ayon po sa Oman health ministry, may higit na 21,000 na recoveries diyan po sa Oman. Gaano po kahigpit ang health protocols; at ano po ang mga best practices na maaaring tularan?

AMBASSADOR CASTAÑEDA: Sa ngayon, tama iyang mga figures na binigay ninyo. Medyo parami na rin ang kaso ... ilan ang nag-i-increase ang number of cases of COVID nila dito. They are trying to restrict the spread by having certain protocols pero medyo [garbled] katulad din siguro sa ibang mga lugar na masyado nang nahigpitan sila ng ilang linggo kaya ngayong nagbukas, para silang nakawala.

USEC. IGNACIO: Ambassador magandang araw po. Noon pong linggo ay nabalita ang 1,197 new cases sa Oman, 488 daw po rito mga non-Omanis, at kahapon naman po ay 375 iyong mga hindi taga-Oman ang nadagdag - kumusta po ang ating mga kababayan naman diyan?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: Sa aming mga records, nine Filipinos ang naka-confined dahil sa COVID. Isa pa lang ang namatay, unfortunately medyo severe iyong kanyang kaso, pero iyong mga nine na, na-ospital, five are supposedly out of ICU. The other four are in better condition. So, hindi naman tayo ganoon ka—iyong community natin, hindi naman ganoon ang pinsala ng COVID sa kanila. Iyong ibang mga dayuhan, katulad ng mga mayroong malaking populasyon na dito naman nagtatrabaho, tulad ng Bombay saka iyong mga workers, mayroon silang mga barracks. Diyan medyo mabilis kumalat iyong COVID kapag may dikit-dikit tapos hindi na nasubaybayan ang nangyayari.

USEC. IGNACIO: Opo. Ambassador, noong July 1 po, iyong Oman po nag-launch ng new tax card system that will serve as a proof of registration ng isang taxpayer, pero ano po iyong posibleng epekto nito sa ating mga Filipino workers at migrants?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: Marami ditong mga patakaran na nilalabas nila recently. Hindi pa rin nasisiguro kung ano eksakto ang epekto niyan sa ating mga kababayan, dahil marami silang

mga nilalagay na rollout na mga bagong patakaran tungkol sa expatriate workers dito sa Oman. Kaya titingnan po natin kung ano ang mangyayari diyan sa kanilang programa na ito.

SEC. ANDANAR: Ambassador kumusta po ang repatriation efforts ng inyong tanggapan at ilan na po ba ang mga nakauwi?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: We had our first successful repatriation flight last week, 279 Filipinos were on board that flight. Itong July 1, we have an additional flight going to Manila na nilakad po namin sa gobyerno dito at sa gobyerno natin para mapabilis ang kanilang approval para makauwi sa atin. We are scheduling at least 2 or three per month flights, hopefully we'll be able to reduce the number of—mga kababayan natin who are willing to go home and escape the problems of COVID here in terms of employment.

SEC. ANDANAR: Doon naman po sa mga nawalan ng trabaho, nabanggit na po ninyo iyong employment, ano po ang tulong na ibinibigay po ng inyong tanggapan sa kanila. Mayroon po kasing, I believed \$200 na benepisyo na puwedeng matanggap mula po sa DOLE. Ito po ba ay naipamahagi na natin?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: Sa ngayon, we have 6,700 Filipinos who have availed of the program, itong binibigay ng ating gobyerno and our Philippine Labor Overseas Office here has been very prompt in trying to disburse all these funds available. Medyo, katulad noong last time na kinausap ninyo ako dito sa programa ninyo, siyempre mayroon tayong limited funds, what is available and what is possible to give – pero natutulungan po sila.

USEC. IGNACIO: Ambassador, pagdating naman po sa programang pinansiyal, iyon pong sinasabi nating DOLE-AKAP for OFWs. Pero gaano na po ba talaga karami iyong nakatanggap ng tulong, base po sa inyong datos diyan?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: According to the latest data that was given to me by the POLO office yesterday, 6,450 na ang nabigyan natin ng tulong ng \$200 each. And this has been received by them. So, that is the actual amount that has been disbursed. So, 6,450 times \$200 iyon ang lumabas na from the DOLE-AKAP Program. There is a remainder, that's still has to be disbursed and it will be done quite soon, I'm sure.

SEC. ANDANAR: Bilang panghuli, mensahe po ninyo sa mga Pilipinong naninirahan sa Oman, Ambassador Castañeda?

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: Magpatuloy po tayo na sundin ang mga patakaran dito tungkol sa COVID para hindi tayo maapektuhan ng husto. Ang operations ng embassy are starting up, we are reopening gradually, hindi namin talaga binubukas 100%, dahil katulad ng alam na po ninyo sa Saudi at sa ibang lugar nagkaroon tayo ng mga problema ng COVID na sarado iyong ating ibang mga opisina, dahil sa infection that is unchecked.

So, we are trying to limit the progression of the disease as well, and we are trying to do our part. Pero kung mayroong kailangan talaga iyong mga kababayan, mayroon tayong mga linya, mga hotline, mayroon tayong means of communications sa Facebook, sa other social media outlets and they can get in touch with us, mayroong the usual telephone, fax, etcetera. So, it's a work in progress, dahil talagang we are in a crisis situation, so it's a slow progression to returning to normal and we will try our best to ensure that our fellow Filipinos are attended to adequately.

SEC. ANDANAR: Maraming salamat po sa inyong panahon, Ambassador Castañeda, nawa po ay mas naliwagan ang ating mga kababayan. Mabuhay po kayo at mabuhay po ang iyong tanggapan...

AMB. CASTAÑEDA: Maraming salamat po.

(VTR)

SEC. ANDANAR: Ngayon po ay makakapanayam natin si Governor Victor Yu ng Zamboanga Del Sur. Maayong buntag kanimo, Governor Yu?

GOV. YU: Maayong buntag, Sec. Martin and of course maayong buntag po kay Usec. Rocky. Lalo na sa mga nakikinig ngayon sa programa ninyo, magandang umaga po.

SEC. ANDANAR: Yes, sir, it's good to talk to you, once again, Governor Yu. Kumusta po ang inyong lalawigan in dealing with the COVID-19 situation?

GOV. YU: So far, maayos naman, sir. After we have ECQ last March, 5 lang iyong naging positive dito and thanks God naman na naka-recover lahat. Ang maybe sa May, nag-GCQ kami, nakita namin na na-control namin iyong situation, kasi so far wala namang local transmission dito.

Right now, we are receiving LSIs dito sa probinsiya. Although, very alarming from outside the province iyan, but we cannot do otherwise, but to accept them since they are Zambosurian also.

So, so far dito, sir ngayon, iyong mga checkpoints namin may mga rapid test kit at saka nakarehistro din iyong papasok, ito include from plane, to include from dito sa Ozamiz Pier. So, far we have, right now, 13 positive na na-swab and unfortunately naghintay nang mga 60 pa na positive sa rapid na hindi pa lumabas iyong swab test, kasi ipadala pa sa Zamboanga iyong swab sample and pasalamat ako sa ating administration, kay Presidente Duterte sa binigay na Bayanihan Fund. (Garbled) to buy equipment for our hospital and also build the laboratory. Maybe by second week of July operational, because right now, we have one week gap or more para hintayin iyong testing result from Zamboanga City. So, iyong gap na one week.

[LINE DISCONNECTED]

SEC. ANDANAR: Governor, are you still there? Okay. So nawala po iyong signal ni Governor baka puwede natin siyang balikan mamaya, Rocky.

Pero mahalaga itong area ng Zamboanga del Sur, siyudad ng Pagadian dahil sunod-sunod na iyan, dire-diretso na iyan papuntang Dapitan, sa mga area na iyan at all the way to Misamis Occidental. So kailangang mabantayan talaga nang gusto itong area na ito, Rocky.

USEC. IGNACIO: Opo. Kaya nga po nagdesisyon na nga rin po ang pamahalaan na talagang ayusing mabuti iyong sistema sa mga pagpapauwi pa rin ng ating mga locally stranded individuals para masiguro po iyong hindi pagkalat pa rin ng COVID-19 sa mga lalawigan.

Samantala, pansamantala man pong itinigil ang Balik Probinsiya Bagong Pag-asa Program bigyang-daan ang pagtulong sa mga locally stranded individuals sa bansa sa ilalim ng Hatid Tulong Program, iisa lang naman po ang layunin ng parehong programang ito, ang matulungan ang mga kababayan nating nais nang makapiling ang kani-kanilang pamilya.

Panoorin po natin ito.

[VTR]

SEC. ANDANAR: Balikan po natin si Gov. Victor Yu ng Zamboanga del Sur. Pasensya na po kayo Gov, medyo naputol po iyong ating linya ng komunikasyon.

Ano-ano po ang mga safety measures na patuloy na ipinatutupad po ng inyong pamunuan, sir?

GOV. YU: Iyong rapid test namin, iyong uuwi dito sa probinsiya [garbled] rapid test saka [garbled].

Sec.? [garbled] mo ba ako, Sec.?

SEC. ANDANAR: Yes, sir. Medyo putol-putol po. USec. Rocky, take it away.

GOV. YU: Hello?

USEC. IGNACIO: Opo. Governor, magandang araw po! Sa kabila po ng ating kinakaharap na suliranin at ngayon po ay nag-a-adopt tayo sa new normal, gaano po kahalaga na mayroon tayong mga proyekto na pang-edukasyon kagaya po ng naganap kahapon ng launching po ng provincial library at iyong Tech4ED center po sa inyong lalawigan, Governor?

GOV. YU: [LINE DISCONNECTED]

USEC. IGNACIO: Okay... Secretary, mukhang nawala ulit sa linya ng ating komunikasyon si—

USEC. IGNACIO: Governor? Governor—

GOV. YU: Putol-putol.

USEC. IGNACIO: Opo. Governor?

Nawala ulit sa linya ng ating komunikasyon kay Governor at ita-try po natin balikan si Zamboanga del Sur Gov. Victor Yu, Secretary, para alamin pa rin natin iyong kanilang mga ginagawang kahandaan.

Governor! Magandang araw po ulit!

GOV. YU: Ah—

USEC. IGNACIO: Governor, ulitin ko lang po iyong tanong ko sa inyo kanina bago po tayo maputol. Ito po kasi marami rin ang nagtatanong sa atin tungkol dito sa Zamboanga del Sur. Sinasabi po nila na sa kabila nga daw po ng mga kinakaharap na suliranin ngayon ay—nag-a-adopt kasi tayo sa new normal. So, sa inyo po gaano po kahalaga na mayroon tayong mga proyekto naman pong pang-edukasyon kagaya po ini-launch ninyo po kahapon sa provincial library at Tech4ED center sa inyong lalawigan?

GOV. YU: Actually, plano namin before na dito sa Zamboanga del Sur na talagang ma-cover sa signal sa wi-fi iyong buong Zamboanga del Sur. And right now, although there is a program from DICT... we have also a program for the province in cooperation with DICT, maglagay kami ng infrastructure at saka equipment para ma-cover ng internet signal iyong buong probinsiya.

SEC. ANDANAR: Sinabi ninyo po, Gov. na ang internet ay basic tool nga para sa edukasyon lalo na ngayon na may pandemya and you said it already na mayroon kayong proyekto na sinisiguro ninyo na itong internet ay mas lumakas pa para ma-cover po iyong buong area ng Zamboanga del Sur.

If I were to look at the map of Zamboanga del Sur, aling bahagi po ng Zamboanga del Sur ang halos wala hong internet?

GOV. YU: So far, marami ng area dito, selected kasi na sa map ng DICT na may internet but iyong gagawin ng probinsiya is maglagay ng mga antenna and facilities para to cover kung not maybe the entire area but maybe more than 80% to 90% i-cover namin ng signal.

USEC. IGNACIO: Opo. Governor, kamakailan din po ay nakatanggap ng honorarium iyong ating mga barangay health workers pati na po iyong mga barangay nutrition students sa

inyong lalawigan. Ano na po iyong update dito, Governor, at ilan na po iyong nabigyan at ilan pa po iyong plano ninyong bibigyan?

GOV. YU: So far, we have a list of 1,900 BHW and barangay nutrition scholars na bibigyan namin ng honorarium. Alam naman namin na sila talaga iyong frontliner natin sa barangay. In fact, I encourage them na huwag maliitin iyong responsibility ninyo dahil maliit lang ang honorarium ninyo but your role, iyong papel ninyo sa barangay in terms of health monitoring is very important iyan. Hindi kaya ng munisipyo iyan, hindi kaya ng probinsiya iyan.

Actually, 1,900 iyong target natin, many barangays, many BHW hindi accredited dito sa [unclear] or sa DOH kaya hindi sila nakatanggap. So we encouraged the barangay officials specially the Health Board sa munisipyo na kailangan ipa-accredit sila para makatanggap din iyong iba na hindi na-accredit.

SEC. ANDANAR: Gov. Victor, sir, maiba ho tayo. Napaka-interesting po nitong high-breed yellow corn na under ng Plant Now Pay Later Program. Gaano na po karami sa ating mga kababayan diyan ang nakatanggap ng free corn seeds at ilan po ba ang ating target?

GOV. YU: So far, iyong target ng province is 1,000 beneficiaries or 1,000 hectares. So far, we have distributed I think around 200 plus pa kasi hindi naman puwedeng biglaan na especially right now COVID tayo hindi puwede iyong maramihan ang pag-distribute.

So, iyon ang ano namin, Sec., we focus also on food production here in Zamboanga del Sur. Aside from the plant now pay later corn seeds, mayroon din kaming gulayan dito para whatever if mag-prolong itong COVID-19 case situation natin, mayroon talagang makakain iyong mga constituents o taga-Zamboanga del Sur dito sa aming probinsiya.

SEC. ANDANAR: Gov. Yu, bigyan po natin ng linaw po itong tungkol sa mga umuwing OFW naman. Base po sa datos ng inyong tanggapan, ilan na pong OFW ang bumalik diyan sa Zamboanga del Sur at ano po ang kanilang kasalukuyang kondisyon at mga natanggap na tulong po mula sa inyong pamunuan?

GOV. YU: So far, Sec., I cannot give you the exact figure kasi nasama diyan sa LSI kasi iyong mga OF natin but we are awaiting for the Balik Probinsiya Program, mag-create kami ng committee dito para mag-study doon sa mga ano bang livelihood na mag-match doon sa mga OFW natin na pumunta dito.

But a few days ago, mayroong ding na-distribute iyong OWWA doon sa mga OFW na binigyan ng livelihood din, parang puhunan nila, I think ten thousand iyon na bigay sa kanila which we joined them in the ceremony to encourage them na gawin talagang negosyo iyon para mag-improve iyong livelihood nila.

SEC. ANDANAR: Ano po ang mensahe ninyo sa mga kababayan po ninyo diyan sa Zamboanga del Sur, Gov. Victor Yu?

GOV. YU: So far, right now especially sa mga kababayan namin dito sa Zamboanga del Sur, we always advise them to be cooperative. The alarm of the situation, pagtulungan namin iyong... itong crisis na ito. we don't allow it to happen like in other cities na mag-spread out iyong disease.

Maganda naman iyong outcome ng ano namin dito, Sec., and of course we advise them to continue to monitor especially the LSI na dumarating sa barangay nila. And mayroon pala kaming ginawa dito, Sec., any LSI or OF nilagyan namin ng parang bracelet na indication na they are LSI and they should be naka-quarantine tapos may Task Force Sita kami sa barangay to sita them kung hindi nagwe-wear ng mask; kung hindi nag-social distancing; and kung iyong LSI or our OFs ay lumalabas sa bahay. So, iyong mga barangay may mga Task Force Sita.

So, I would like to thank our constituents here specially our officials for supporting the mandate na ibinigay namin sa kanila para ma-reduce natin or ma-limit natin or ma-control natin iyong pandemic dito sa province namin.

USEC. IGNACIO: Maraming salamat po sa inyong oras, Gov. Victor Yu ng Zamboanga del Sur. Stay safe po.

GOV. YU: Thank you din, Sec. Martin and USec. Rocky, for this opportunity.

USEC. IGNACIO: Salamat po.

Samantala, alamin natin ang mga balitang nakalap ng Philippine Broadcasting Service mula sa ating mga lalawigan kasama si Dennis Principe.

[NEWS REPORT BY VIVIAN DE GUZMAN]

[NEWS REPORT BY PEN POMIDA]

USEC. IGNACIO: Maraming salamat sa iyo, Dennis Principe.

[AD]

SEC. ANDANAR: Mula naman po sa PTV Cebu, si John Aroa.

[NEWS REPORT BY JOHN AROA]

SEC. ANDANAR: Daghang salamat, John Aroa ng PTV Cebu.

USEC. IGNACIO: Maraming salamat po sa lahat ng mga naging panauhin natin ngayong araw at ang ating partner agencies sa kanilang patuloy na suporta at walang sawang paghahatid ng

balita at impormasyon. Maraming salamat din po sa Filipino Sign Language Access Team for COVID-19 para sa inyong suporta sa ating program. Mabuhay po kayo!

SEC. ANDANAR: At diyan nagtatapos ang ating programa para sa araw na ito. Ako po ang inyong lingkod, Sec. Martin Andanar mula sa Presidential Communications Operations Office.

USEC. IGNACIO: At mula pa rin po sa PCOO, ako naman po si USec. Rocky Ignacio.

SEC. ANDANAR: Hanggang bukas pong muli dito sa Public Briefing #LagingHandaPH.

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