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CSC seeks to help unemployed Filipinos through online job fair

QUEZON CITY, -- The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has urged government agencies with vacancies to participate in an online job fair to help Filipinos rendered jobless by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CSC will be

conducting the 2020 Government Online Career Fair on 14 to 18 September 2020 in partnership with JobStreet.com. Interested agencies nationwide may register until 14 August 2020. The complete registration procedure

may be accessed at <http://www.csc.gov.ph/slider/1972-2020gocf.html>

More information on how jobseekers can apply for a job through the GOCF will be made available closer to the date of the event.

(Turn to p. 2)

DepEd offers ALS to learners unable to enroll

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) will place about 7 million learners who were unable to enroll for school year 2020 to 2021 in its alternative learning system, an education official said Thursday.

“May pagkakataon pa rin na magpatala sila

kahit hanggang sa pagbubukas ng klase sa August 24, kung hindi talaga sila makapagpatala, ang amin pong kagawaran ay hahanapin po iyong mga nawawalang mag-aaral at atin pong ipapasok sa alternative learning system namin (They still have the chance to enroll until

the opening of classes on August 24. If they're unable to do so, our department will look for them and place them in our alternative system),” DepEd Undersecretary for Field Operations Revsee Escobedo said in a virtual public briefing.

Data from the

department as of July 16 show that a total of 20,744,595 learners have enrolled in public and private schools nationwide for the incoming school year.

The figure represents 74.6 percent of the total number of enrollees for school year 2019 to 2020 which is 27.2 million.

Out of the total number, about 19,626,653 enrolled in public schools and 1,092,514 in private schools.

Region 4A (Calabarzon) logged the highest number of enrollees at 2,807,264, and the Cordillera Administrative Region has the lowest at

319,129.

The enrollees were from kindergarten to senior high school, as well as learners with disabilities and those taking the alternative learning system.

Escobedo said the alternative learning system is provided to everyone who wants to (Turn to p. 2)

Metro mayors to implement stricter GCQ

MANILA – Metro Manila mayors vowed to impose stricter quarantine protocols to curb the rise in coronavirus disease (Covid-19) cases, Interior Secretary Eduardo Año said on Thursday.

President Rodrigo Duterte initially wanted to revert Metro Manila to a modified enhanced community quarantine based on the recommendation of experts from the University of the Philippines (UP) but

decided that the metropolis will remain under GCQ after mayors vowed to implement more proactive restrictions.

Noting that he is frequently meeting with Metro Manila mayors, Año said he recognizes their sentiments on gradually opening up the economy without compromising public health.

“They will give businesses the chance to reopen but this will be subject to the strict implementation of all

protocols. We will give passes to those who are allowed to move or travel, especially employees while we will be stricter on those who are not allowed to go out,” he said in Filipino in a radio interview.

Año warned residents of Metro Manila over the possible re-implementation of the strict MECQ if they continue to violate protocols.

“We expect a stricter enforcement



here in NCR (National Capital Region) and we continue to remind our fellowmen to comply with the protocols because we need to be vigilant and if we do not comply, we might revert to MECQ,” he added.

With the strict enforcement of quarantine rules, Año believed that this will discourage those without any essential business in going out to stay at home.

In case the situation does not

improve after the July 31 deadline, Año said President Duterte will have no choice but to revert the NCR to the more restricted community quarantine.

Aside from Metro Manila, Duterte also (Turn to p. 2)

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study but are unable to enter the formal system of education.

"Kahit sila ay wala sa pormal na sistema ng edukasyon ay binibigyan natin ng edukasyon sila, saan man sila naroon, ano man ang kanilang komplikasyon sa pag-

aaral (Even if they're not part of the formal education system, we provide them an avenue to learn wherever they are and whatever their education complications may be)," he added. (By Ma. Teresa Montemayor/PNA)

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placed the following areas under GCQ: Laguna, Cavite, and Rizal for Region 4-A (Calabarzon); Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City for Region 7 (Central Visayas), Ormoc City, Southern Leyte, Zamboanga City, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte and Basilan.

The cities of Talisay, Minglanilla, and Consolacion in Cebu province will also be under GCQ.

Areas under "medium-risk" modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) are: Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) – Benguet, Baguio City; Region 1 (Ilocos) – Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Dagupan City; Region 2 (Cagayan Valley) – Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya; Region 3 (Central Luzon) – Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bulacan, Tarlac, Zambales, Angeles City; Region 4-A (Calabarzon) – Batangas, Quezon, Lucena City; Region 4-B (Mimaropa) – Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, and Puerto Princesa City.

Also under medium-risk MGCQ are: Albay, Masbate, Camarines Norte,

Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Naga City for Region 5 (Bicol); Iloilo, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Antique, Aklan, Guimaras, Iloilo City, Bacolod City for Region 6 (Western Visayas); Negros Oriental, Bohol, Cebu Province for Region 7 (Central Visayas); Western Samar, Leyte, Biliran, Tacloban City for Region 8 (Eastern Visayas); Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Norte for Region 9 (Zamboanga); Misamis Occidental, Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, Cagayan de Oro City, Iligan City for Region 10 (Northern Mindanao); Davao Oriental, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao de Oro, Davao City for Region 11 (Davao region); Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, South Cotabato, General Santos City for Region 12 (Soccsksargen); Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao for BARMM; and Agusan del Sur, Dinagat Islands, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur Region 13.

The rest of the country will remain under "low-risk" MGCQ until July 31. (By Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/PNA)

TESDA empowers IPs, communities through training

MANILA – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has been empowering Indigenous People (IP) and other vulnerable communities, not just by providing them with skills training but also by guiding them on how to sell their products or become agripreneurs.

In the pre-State of the Nation Address forum aired on Wednesday, TESDA Secretary Isidro Lapeña said the agency has been coordinating with local government units in providing livelihood programs for vulnerable sectors, such as IPs, former rebels,

and beneficiaries of the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

"For agriculture and food production, we empower communities by teaching them organic crops farming and livestock production," Lapeña said, noting that this is being done in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture to ensure food security, especially during the pandemic.

Marketing programs are also part of TESDA's training to help the communities sell their products, he said.

TESDA's training centers have resumed

their programs and services, based on the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases' (IATF-EID) Resolution 47 dated June 19.

Under Resolution 47, the IATF allowed the resumption of TESDA's technical vocational education and training (TVET), provided that guidelines on safety measures are followed. The guidelines allow face-to-face training and competency assessment at 50-percent capacity in areas under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ). For areas under GCQ, different modes will be used depending on the training to be conducted. For most of the training, full online, distance learning, and the e-learning component of blended learning are allowed, Lapeña said.

Meanwhile, he said TESDA offers skills training tailored to the IPs to support their

sustainable development while also preserving their culture.

Offered to them are training sessions on embroidery, mat weaving, beadwork, and handloom weaving.

"We are also expanding our livelihood assistance for the IPs. We help them become an agripreneur. We also provide orientation on the pandemic crisis and how to be protected," Lapeña said.

He also said TESDA has partnered with the Department of National Defense and the Philippine National Police in training uniformed personnel so they could also train former rebels and the IPs.

As of July 13, more than 300 uniformed personnel have undergone training on various tech-voc courses, which they would impart to residents of remote areas they would be tasked to visit. (By Ma. Cristina Arayata/PNA)

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Jointly organized by the CSC and JobStreet.com, the GOCF seeks to promote easy access to employment opportunities in the public sector by bringing jobseekers and hiring government agencies together in a "virtual job fair".

The 2020 GOCF is part of the activities lined up for the 120th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary (PCSA), an annual celebration to commemorate the establishment of the civil service in the country.

The CSC appealed to government agencies, saying that if more agencies will join the job

fair, more vacancies can be offered to prospective applicants. So far, 10 agencies have already registered for the event.

The CSC is still currently in the process of gathering applications from government agencies interested to participate in the GOCF; thus, the number of vacancies to be offered is still unknown.

Contrary to circulating news reports, the reported figure at 600,000 refers to job order and contract of service workers currently employed by the government and not the number of vacancies. (CSC)

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE LIBERATO V. FILIO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LIBERATO V. FILIO WHO DIED ON MAY 22, 2015 WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLEMENT AS PER DOC.# 369; PAGE # 75; BOOK # 86-D SERIES OF 2020 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC JOSE FLORO P. CRISOLOGO.

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PH renews vow to fight hunger, poverty

MANILA, -- The Duterte administration continues to implement programs that aim to address hunger and help alleviate the lives of poor and the marginalized Filipino families, along with ongoing efforts to cushion the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

During the second leg of the Pre-SONA forum on Wednesday, Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said, "The Inter-Agency Task Force on Zero Hunger, which I chair, is now in the process of harmonizing government programs meant to ensure food security and reduce hunger so that we can say #GoodbyeGutom."

He outlined developments such as the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Convergence Program, which is now helping a number of farmers and farmers' organizations amid the pandemic.

"Sa huling bahagi ng taong ito, lahat ng programa ng pamahalaan tungkol sa katiyakan sa pagkain at pagsupil sa kagutuman ay atin nang pag-uugnayin at pag-iibayuhin. [In the latter part of the year, these programs of the government on food security and beating hunger will be consolidated and intensified]," he added.

The Human Development and

Poverty Reduction Cabinet Cluster headed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rolando Bautista also presented the Programs, Activities and Projects (PAPs) of the cluster that focus on providing social relief and assistance to Filipinos.

"The health crisis alone has created deep impacts on the economy, as well as our fellow Filipinos' livelihood and well-being, with prospects of an estimated 10 million Filipinos losing their jobs, the repatriation of nearly 70,000 displaced overseas Filipino workers, and the increasing number of Filipinos experiencing involuntary hunger, among others," he said.

"Gayunpaman, patuloy na nagtutulungan ang lahat ng ahensiya sa ilalim ng Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster o HDPRC sa pagbangon ng ating kapwa Pilipino mula sa krisis na atin ngayong hinaharap [However, agencies under the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster o HDPRC sa pagbangon ng ating kapwa Pilipino mula sa krisis na atin ngayong hinaharap [However, agencies under the Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cluster o HDPRC continue to work together to help Filipinos recover from the crisis that we are currently facing]," he added.

At the height of the restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Secretary Bautista stressed that the government's Social Amelioration Program

Hopes of an effective COVID-19 vaccine being developed in the near future have been raised after two separate studies showed potential positive results, British media reported Thursday.

A University of Oxford trial showed its prototype vaccine generated an immune response against the virus, the reports said.

Blood samples taken from a group of some 1,000 volunteers who were given the vaccine stimulated antibodies and "killer T-cells," according to the Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Previous research has shown that T-cells

(SAP) and other similar initiatives have helped cushion the projected impact of the crisis on the economy.

The HDPRC chief also urged other Cabinet members to continue public service and ensure inclusive progress in the country through mutual support.

"To my fellow HDPRC Cluster members, let us continue to work together and remain relentless in our objectives to build a stronger nation with empowered citizens. The whole-of-nation approach and our mutual support will ensure that no one is left behind in our journey towards recovery from this

World Roundup: Oxford vaccine sparks hopes for COVID-19 cure

can remain in the body for years and help fight viruses.

The potential development comes after US biotech firm Moderna said on Tuesday it would start the final stage of human trials for its vaccine candidate on July 27.

Meanwhile, a third group, BioNTech, a German company in partnership with US pharma giant Pfizer, plans to carry out its own trials on a vaccine involving 30,000 people.

IMF: Sustain economic support

Despite some signs of recovery, the global economy faces continued challenges, including the possibility of a second

crisis," he said.

Meanwhile, Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Martin Andanar lauded the frontliners of the cluster.

"Tunay na kagitingan ang inyong ipinakita upang masiguro na nagagampanan natin ang ating tungkulin bilang lingkod-bayan [You have shown real courage in performing your duties as public servants]," he said

He also noted the importance of providing an avenue for every Filipino to participate in governance as an evident sign of democracy. (PCOO)

wave of COVID-19, and governments should keep their support programs in place, IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva said Thursday.

Activity "has started to gradually strengthen... But we are not out of the woods yet," Georgieva said in a message to G20 finance ministers ahead of their weekend meeting in Saudi Arabia.

The Washington-based crisis lender late last month downgraded its growth forecasts, and now expects global GDP to fall by 4.9 percent this year due to the deeper contraction during lockdowns than previously anticipated, and only a "tepid recovery is expected for next year."

The \$11 trillion in stimulus provided by the G20 nations helped to prevent a worse outcome, but "these safety nets must be maintained as needed and, in some cases, expanded," Georgieva urged in a blog post.

India lockdown for 125 million people

One of India's most impoverished states went into lockdown Thursday, but near-normal traffic on Patna's streets showed the difficulty of corralling over 125 million people.

The lockdown in the northern state bordering Nepal started as India reported more than 600 deaths in the previous 24 hours, and the Red Cross warned the virus was spreading

at "an alarming rate" across south Asia.

With India's caseload on course to hit one million on Friday or Saturday – and fatalities approaching 25,000 – local authorities across the country are reimposing restrictions that have only recently been lifted

\$1.4 billion for workers' retraining

Australia announced Thursday \$1.4 billion to retrain workers impacted by the coronavirus fallout, as unemployment rose to its highest level in more than two decades.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the new funding would create more than 300,000 places in training programmes that aimed to funnel graduates and the newly jobless into "growth" sectors.

"It is upsetting for many Australians that the industries and places where they'd been working, they will find it very difficult to find new employment in those sectors. And so we want to ensure they have the opportunity... to find employment in other sectors, potentially, so they can actually move forward with their own lives."

The unemployment rate rose from 7.1 percent to 7.4 percent in June, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, bringing the jobless total to almost one million in a country of 25 million.

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PH now has 85 certified Covid-19 test labs

MANILA – The Philippines now has 85 certified laboratories capable of testing specimens from coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) patients.

In its July 15 situation report, the Department of Health (DOH) said there are 63 licensed RT-PCR (reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) laboratories and 22 licensed GeneXpert laboratories improving the country's testing capacity.

To date, the total number of laboratory applications nationwide is 186, around 89 percent of these are in Stage 3 and up. -----

In a media forum on Wednesday, DOH Undersecretary Maria Rosario Vergeire said submission of daily accomplishment reports on time is a challenge for some of the laboratories, citing that many of them provide reports beyond the 6 p.m. cutoff.

“When we sat with them, we had a meeting, one of the challenges of the laboratories really is encoding because in some laboratories,



Covid-19 testing laboratory in Marikina City (Photo courtesy of Marikina PIO)

encoding is done by the personnel conducting the test. At a certain time, they'll stop processing tests, then, they'll begin encoding,” Vergeire said.

The department introduced the Covid Data Repository System (CDRS) to help the laboratories with encoding struggles.

In this system, laboratories are expected to upload their excel files containing their daily case updates to the CDRS which is connected to the COVID KAYA.

COVID KAYA is DOH's case and contact tracing reporting system for epidemiology and surveillance purposes.

“We started off

with that and we have a deadline for them to use CDRS, in order to upload all data to us (in a timely manner), and we can get them by 6 p.m. every day. So, this was given to them as an instruction, latter part of last week, so, we'll see this week if our submissions would be stabilized because of this,” Vergeire said.

On Wednesday, the DOH reported 1,392 new Covid-19 infections, raising the overall tally to 58,850.

The additional cases reported were based on the total tests done by 73 out of 82 operational laboratories.

The licensed RT-PCR laboratories include Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Parkway

Medical and Diagnostic Center, AFRIMS - Collaborative Molecular Laboratory, Asian Hospital, and Medical Center, Chinese General Hospital, Detoxicare Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, Dr. Jose B. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium, Fe del Mundo Medical Center, Health Delivery Systems, Hi-Precision-Quezon City and Lung Center of the Philippines.

Makati Medical Center, Marikina Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Airport Diagnostic Laboratory, Philippine Genome Center UP-Diliman, Philippine Red Cross-National Blood Center, Philippine Red Cross-Port Area, Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory, PRC-PRC Logistics, and Multipurpose Center and Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

Safeguard DNA Diagnostics, Inc., San Lazaro Hospital, San Miguel Foundation Testing Laboratory, Singapore Diagnostic, Inc., St. Luke's Medical Center-Bonifacio Global City, St. Luke's Medical Center-Quezon City, The Medical City-Ortigas, Tropical Disease Foundation, UP National Institutes of Health, UP Philippine General Hospital-Medical Research Laboratory, Ilocos Training Regional Medical Center, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital, Bataan General Hospital, and Green

City Medical Center. The other licensed RT-PCR laboratories are J.B. Lingad Memorial Hospital, Philippine Red Cross-Logistics, and Training Center, Philippine Red Cross Clark Molecular Laboratory, Qualimed Hospital-San Jose Del Monte, De La Salle University-Cavite, Lucena United Doctors Hospital and Medical Center, Ospital ng Imus, PRC-Batangas Chapter Molecular Laboratory, Qualimed Hospital Santa Rosa, San Pablo District Hospital, UPLB Covid-19 Molecular Laboratory, and Bicol Regional Diagnostic and Reference Laboratory.

Also included on the list are Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital, Qualimed Health Network-Iloilo, Teresita Jalandoni Provincial Hospital, Western Visayas Medical Center, Allegiant Regional Care Hospital, Cebu TB Reference Laboratory, Prime Care Alpha Covid-19 Testing Laboratory, Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Divine Word Hospital and Eastern Visayas Regional Covid-19 Testing Center.

Accredited laboratories in Mindanao include Ciudad Medical Zamboanga, Zamboanga City

Medical Center-Department of Agriculture Satellite Laboratory for Covid-19 Testing, Northern Mindanao TB Regional Center, Polymedic Medical Plaza, Davao One World Diagnostic Center Incorporated and Southern Philippines Medical Center.

Meanwhile, the licensed cartridge-based PCR or GeneXpert laboratories are Amai Pakpak Medical Center, Dr. Jose B. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium, Lung Center of the Philippines, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, Philippine Heart Center, Sta. Ana Hospital-Closed System Molecular Laboratory, Tondo Medical Center, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital, Region 1 Medical Center, Cagayan Valley CHD TB Reference Laboratory, Bataan General Hospital, Bulacan Medical Center, Batangas Medical Center, Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital, Ospital ng Palawan, Bicol Medical Center, Zamboanga City Medical Center, Northern Mindanao Medical Center, Davao Regional Medical Center, Cotabato Regional Medical Center, and St. Elizabeth Hospital. (By Ma. Teresa Montemayor/PNA)

***Ang kayamanan ng mayaman
ang proteksiyon niya;
Gaya iyon ng matibay na
pader sa imahinasyon niya.
(Kawikaan 18:11)***