

CAVITE NEWS

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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Face-to-face classes to be studied: Palace

MANILA – While President Rodrigo Duterte has stood pat in his decision not to allow face-to-face (F2F) classes until a vaccine against coronavirus disease (Covid-19) is developed, Malacañang on Thursday said that the proposal to hold F2F classes could still

be studied for areas under the “new normal”.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the decision to prohibit F2F classes could still change should there be zero or a low number of new Covid-19 cases and community transmission in a

particular area.

“Hayaan ninyo po (Don’t worry), never say die ‘no. Pagdating naman po ng Agosto, titingnan natin ang datos kung gaano karaming lugar ang nasa new normal na at ibibigay natin uli ‘no ang suhestiyon na baka naman pupuwede nang
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Palace hopes to avoid another dengue outbreak

MANILA – Roque made this Malacañang on Wednesday expressed hope that the country would be able to avoid another outbreak of life-threatening diseases, such as mosquito-borne dengue, as it continues to grapple against the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic.

Presidential Spokesperson Harry

Roque made this remark after the Department of Health (DOH) warned that the start of the rainy season could lead to a rise in dengue cases.

“Sana nga po huwag mangyari. Dahil ayaw nga natin na mas marami pa ang ating kababayan na magkasakit (I hope it doesn’t happen because we don’t want more of

our citizens to getting sick),” Roque said in an interview over PTV-4.

Roque explained that while the government is looking to source additional funds for Covid-19 response, it would be a big help if they could avoid further spending and borrowing from multilateral lenders.

“Ang issue naman



can we afford? E sabi ng Presidente, hindi na natin kaya, kaya nga nag-uutang na tayo. Pero sana, huwag nating magastos 'yung

ating inutang, para hindi na tayo kinakailangan ng magbayad ng interes (The issue is can we afford? The President

said we cannot, that’s why we’re borrowing money. But I hope, we won’t have to spend what we borrowed so
(Turn to p. 2)

No rice imports sans Duterte’s authorization

MANILA – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through its attached corporation, the Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC), will only import rice once it gets the nod of President Rodrigo Duterte, Malacañang said on

Thursday.

In a virtual presser aired on state-run PTV-4, Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque ensured that rice importation would only proceed when Duterte gives his approval.

“Hindi po magi-import [ng rice] ang DTI, PITC ng walang

proper authorization galing kay Presidente Duterte (The DTI and PITC will not import rice without proper authorization from President Duterte),” Roque said.

The Inter-Agency for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases authorized the

PITC in March to import 300,000 metric tons (MT) of rice.

The government has allocated a PHP7.45-billion fund for the PITC’s 300-MT rice importation through a government-to-government transaction to boost the country’s staple stocks during the lean months.

On Monday, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said the PITC

has no legal authority to import 300 MT of rice.

The DBM added that funds could not be released without a formal instruction from Duterte.

Under Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law, the government is only allowed to import rice “in the event of a rice supply shortage” and upon the issuance of an official directive from the President.

The government, however, has not declared any shortage in rice supply.

The DBM’s pronouncement prompted the PITC to hold in abeyance the issuance of notice of award to prospective rice suppliers to the country pending the availability of funds.

Last week, the PITC held the bidding for rice imports with
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we won't have to pay interest)," he said.

Data from the Department of Health (DOH) showed that a total of 50,169 dengue cases were recorded from Jan. 1 to May 30, which is 46 percent lower than the 92,808 cases recorded during the same period last year.

The number of deaths due to dengue in the same period this year is 173 compared to 452 last year.

Last month, Duterte also urged parents to get their children vaccinated for 25 debilitating or life-threatening diseases, such as tetanus and diphtheria.

"Mayroon pang iba sa probinsya na ayaw ipabakuna 'yung mga anak ninyo. Kindly, lahat kayong mga nanay, pati tatay, see to it that your children are vaccinated (There are those in the provinces who still do not want to get their

kids immunized. To all mothers and fathers, kindly see to it that your children are vaccinated)," he said in a public address on May 19.

Earlier, Roque assured that the national government is ready to implement an immunization plan should a Covid-19 vaccine roll out in the future.

He explained that a plan has been in place, not just for existing vaccines but also in anticipation of a vaccine to prevent Covid-19 infection.

Currently, there is no approved treatment or vaccine for Covid-19. However, there are ongoing clinical trials to investigate the safety and efficacy of new and existing drugs, such as anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-malarial agents, in the treatment of patients. (By Azer Parrocha/PNA)

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the governments of India, Vietnam, Thailand, and Myanmar through video communications application Zoom.

Roque said the PITC had already asked Duterte to approve the plan to import rice.

"Walang Notice of Award na napa-issue po ang PITC without authorization from the

President. Nag-submit na po ng request sa Office of the President (There's no notice of award that has been issued by PITC without authorization from the President. It has already submitted a request from the Office of the President)," he said. (By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos/PNA)

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mag-face-to-face doon sa mga new normal (When August comes, we will check the data to see which areas are under the new normal and we will raise the suggestion to allow face-to-face classes)," he said in a virtual presser.

Roque, however, said that given the current situation with 27,799 confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the country, the likelihood of allowing F2F classes remains slim.

"As of now, the President has overruled the IATF and has correctly decided na hindi po dapat isapalaran ang kalusugan ng ating kabataan (that he should not put the health of our youth at risk)," he said.

Last week, Roque said Duterte may be open to further discussion on the possibility of allowing F2F classes in areas with zero cases of Covid-19.

"I am sure the President is open to further discussion on the possibility of face-to-face pero uulitin ko po, habang may banta ang Covid sa isang lugar eh out of the question po iyan (but I repeat, while the threat of Covid-19 exists, that is out of the question)," he said.

Davao Del Norte Rep. Pantaleon Alvarez on Wednesday

suggested that F2F classes for students should be considered in areas with low risk of Covid-19 infection and those with limited digital capacity.

Alvarez, a former House Speaker, said F2F classes may be more effective and a practical option for certain areas in the country, noting that a nuanced and area-specific approach is the "best and realistic way forward".

The Department of Education (DepEd) has set the opening of classes for the school year 2020-2021 on August 24.

Colleges and universities using full online education can open anytime while those using flexible learning can open anytime in August 2020.

F2F classes will not be permitted until a vaccine for the Covid-19 is available, in compliance with Duterte's order.

DepEd said it would implement a "blending learning" approach which makes use of radio, television, online, and modular learning.

Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairman Prospero de Vera also disclosed that they are studying the possibility of allowing limited F2F classes in areas free of Covid-19. (By Azer Parrocha/PNA)

Makati City hall employees to get P3-K bonus

MANILA – The Makati City government is set to provide a PHP3,000 cash bonus to each of its 7,310 city hall employees, Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay announced Thursday.

Binay said about 3,425 regular employees, 3,876 casual workers, and nine contractual employees will receive an anniversary bonus on Monday (June 22), which marks the 350th Araw ng Makati foundation day.

In a Facebook post, Binay said all regular, casual and contractual employees of city hall are entitled to the bonus for being the local government's reliable partners in delivering social services to Makati residents.

"This is our simple way of giving back to our valued employees who have been our reliable partners in delivering services to our constituents for the past years," she said.

The scheduled celebration for the Araw ng Makati is canceled due

to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic, she said.

"We appreciate how readily they have responded to the call of duty during this pandemic, putting public welfare before their own," she added.

Binay lauded employees who served the city in the front line amid the health crisis.

"At this time of uncertainty, we give priority to initiatives aimed to help Makatizens, including our city employees, cope well with the challenges brought on by the ongoing crisis," she said. **Risk allowance, hazard pay**

Last April, the city government granted hazard pay and special risk allowance to all qualified city hall frontliners who have reported for duty during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) in Metro Manila.

The city government was authorized by the *(Turn to p. 4)*

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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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*It is the blessing of Jehovah that makes one rich,
And He adds no pain with it.
Proverbs 10:22*

REDEFINING THE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE AT SM CITY ROSARIO

You can now enjoy specialties from your favorite restaurants and stores with fast and convenient pick-up or stay home as your essentials are delivered to you by a personal shopper as SM City Rosario redefines customer service during these challenging times. Through its **Center Concierge**, Fast and Easy Personal Shopping services.

Chat with us as the **SM Rosario Concierge** by simply contacting us through SM Cavite Viber Community or Facebook page and Instagram account, @SMRosario, to find out the availability of essentials and answers to any mall queries that you may have. It's a system designed for your convenience and tailored to your preference.

Center Concierge at SM City Rosario offers home delivery, Parking delivery or Pick-up at the Center Concierge. Simply choose from the list of open establishments that may be found on their social media pages; place your order by contacting these mobile number 0956-2506266 or visit the Center Concierge at the event center.

With this, you can treat your family to culinary specialties from Federico's Favorite, Gata Flavors, Max's restaurant, Giligan's Restaurant and Classic Savory; Asian Cuisine experience at Samgyeopmasarap, Classic Savory, Nadomi Maki and Tasty Hongkong, as well as delightful desserts and breads from Dunkin Donuts, Julie's Bakeshop, Red Ribbon, and Snow Panda; drinks from Starbucks, Black Pearl, Frutas, Infinita, Farron Café, Macao Imperial Tea, and Gong Cha.

You can also order your essentials from The SM Store, ACE Hardware, Watsons, SM Supermarket, Miniso, Surplus and SM Appliance.

The SM Rosario Personal Shopper will have your basics – groceries, medicine, food, hardware - delivered to your doorstep through SM Rider or you may also pick-up items from the Center Concierge

With the many options of convenience the mall provides, SM City Rosario is only getting started. Ushering a new era of customer experience, the mall will continue to provide safe and efficient solutions for the benefit of its shoppers. For more information on the SM Rosario Center Concierge, follow SM City Rosario on Facebook and Instagram.



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1. **Check online:** Browse the restaurant guide on SM City Molino's website, Facebook, Instagram, and SM Viber community for the complete To-Go Restaurant Guide, menu, contact details, updates, and promotions.
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Enjoy the specialty restaurant experience at home with SM City Molino's **To-Go** service.



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city council through Ordinance No. 2020-092 to allocate some PHP124,453 to fund the hazard pay and special risk allowances for the front-liners.

Binay said the cash benefit was extended to regular, casual, and contractual personnel of the city government who were exposed to great danger.

She added that the occupational risk, perils of life, and physical hardship were also considered in granting occupational duty risk pay.

Online payment portal

Meanwhile, Makati launched a contactless payment portal allowing business owners and residents to transact online with their business and real property taxes for the first and second quarters.

Binay said the process ensures Makatizens can complete their financial transactions without leaving their homes or office premises.

"The contactless payment system eliminates the need to physically go to City Hall and queue for tax payments," she said Wednesday.

The online payment portal, she added, is part of the local government's preventive measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 in the city.

"As much as possible, we also want to minimize the number of people going to

the City Hall to prevent the spread of Covid-19," Binay said, adding that the local government will impose more programs in compliance with physical distancing.

"Makati will be implementing more innovations similar to this to ensure the safety and convenience of Makatizens amid the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

Binay urged Makati residents to visit www.makationlinepayments.com to start their online transactions.

A step-by-step guide is available through the city's official Facebook page, My Makati.

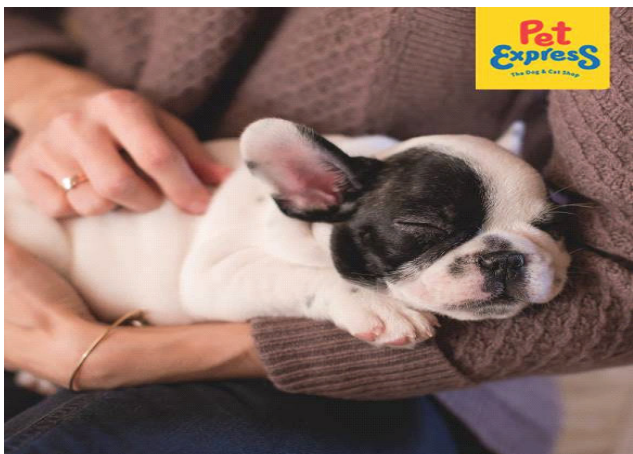
Residents may also use GCash's bank transfer feature by sending payments to the city government's bank account number, 003452-1008-85.

On the other hand, business owners and residents who would like to transact on their tax obligations physically at the city hall are only allowed to carry out transactions from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays.

Based on the Department Circular order No. 0202-2020 issued on April 23, the deadlines for the payment of taxes, fees, and charges of local government units are extended until June 25. (By Lade Jean Kabagani/PNA)



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Snuggle in with your pets while staying safe at home. Hugging them reduces depression and anxiety that will help you to relax and be happy.

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Pet Express, the dog and cat shop for all your furbabies essentials, shares some practical tips from World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) on caring for your pets while at home:

- Practice proper hand-washing and pet safety when handling your pets. Wash your hands before and after touching them. Clean and sanitize your pets contact surfaces such as crate, dog beds, kennels and feeding areas regularly. Use pet-friendly and all-natural disinfectant in cleaning, disinfecting and deodorizing your homes as it thoroughly removes stains and stinky odor.
- Make an indoor or backyard potty. Stock up pee pads in the house, if you and your pet can’t go outdoors.
- Keep them entertained and active while at home like award-winning actor Anthony Hopkins who serenades his cat Niblo with the piano You can also bond with them by teaching them some tricks or finding an indoor games or activity to play.



Energy supplement Virbac Nutri-plus gel is a good source of nutrients that will help your pets cope up in any stressful situation and regain their appetite and prevent weight loss.

- Maintain a reasonable supply of pet food and required medication. Ensure their nutritional needs by providing the necessary veterinary diet and keep them hydrated by providing clean water to boost their immune system.



Protect your pets against fleas, ticks, and heartworms monthly with beef-flavored NexGard Spectra chewable tablet.

Contact your veterinarian for your pet’s routine treatment and have their vaccinations updated.

- If you are sick, avoid close contact with your pet if you can. Ask a family member to take care of them and put them in a crate to protect them. If no one is available, maintain good hygiene practices and wear a face mask while taking care of your pet.



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Also, those who registered for the annual Pet Express Doggie Run 2020 can join the first Pet Express Virtual Run, wherein pet parents and their dogs can join in the run from home. Suit up you and your dog in Doggie Run 2020 race gear and race bib; track and finish your runs anytime from June 1-30, 2020 until you complete your distance; screencap your race results and send it to PetExDoggieRun2020@gmail.com. You can claim your finisher medal at your chosen Pet Express branch. Proceeds of the Pet Express Virtual Run will be donated to the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS). For more updates and info, follow PetExpressPH on Instagram and Facebook.



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Pandemic could hit drug markets as in 2008 crisis: UN

The new coronavirus pandemic could hit drug markets just as the 2008 economic crisis did, exacerbating the risks for users, the UN drugs and crime agency warned Thursday.

In its 2020 World Drug Report, the agency predicted an overall increase in drug use due to the pandemic, with a shift towards consuming cheaper products and injecting them, which carries greater risks.

Countries were also likely to reduce drug-related budgets, it warned.

They might also give less priority to interception operations and international cooperation, which would make it easier for traffickers to operate. Rising unemployment and a lack of opportunities would increase the chances that "poor and disadvantaged people... turn to illicit activities linked to drugs -- either production or transport".

"The COVID-19 crisis and economic downturn threaten to compound drug dangers further still,

when our health and social systems have been brought to the brink and our societies are struggling to cope," said UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

"We need all governments to show greater solidarity and provide support, to developing countries most of all, to tackle illicit drug trafficking and offer evidence-based services for drug use disorders and related diseases."

The Vienna-based agency said it had reached its conclusions based on what had happened in the wake of the 2008 economic crisis.

Drug shipments by sea

Border closures and other measures linked to the pandemic have already caused shortages of drugs on the street, leading to higher prices and reduced purity, the report noted.

Drug traffickers seemed to rely more on maritime routes, such as direct cocaine shipments by sea from South America to Europe.

Online trafficking via the darknet, which offers users total anonymity, and shipments by mail might also increase, it added.

Drug consumption overall is already on the rise, especially in developing countries, said the report.

While in 2009 an estimated 210 million people worldwide used drugs at least once, in 2018 that figure was closer to 269 million -- or 5.3 percent of the global population.

The report, which mostly examined data up to early 2019, also noted that use of cocaine and methamphetamine was rising, with the methamphetamine markets in Afghanistan and Iraq growing.

Global cocaine production again reached an all-time high, continuing its record-setting trend.

Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide with an estimated 192 million users in 2018. But opioids, used by around 58 million people, remained the most harmful.

Players who skip NBA restart will have their salaries docked

Los Angeles—The NBA says that players who decline to play in the restarted season in Florida next month must let their clubs know by June 24 and will face having their pay docked by up to 14 games.

ESPN.com reported that the NBA Players Association informed its members on Tuesday that they have until June 24 to make a decision whether to take part in the games at the Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, Florida.

The owners and the union have worked out a deal which would see any player who decides to sit out the rest of the season have their compensation cut for each game skipped up to a maximum of 14 games.

"It may not be for everyone," NBA commissioner Adam Silver said of the league's return-to-play plan.

"It will entail enormous sacrifice—for those players and for everyone involved—the coaches, the referees."

Several NBA players, including Los Angeles Lakers Dwight Howard, have bypassed the players' union and voiced their opposition to resuming the season as a protest against racial discrimination and police brutality in the United States.

The Lakers backup center Howard told CNN that now is not the time to resume basketball in light of the protests that broke out across the US following the death of George



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver speaks to the media during a press conference at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois. The NBA says that players who decline to play in the restarted season in Florida next month must let their clubs know by June 24, 2020 and will face having their pay docked by up to 14 games. ESPN.com reported that the NBA Players Association informed its members on June 16, 2020 that they have until June 24 to make a decision whether to take part in the games at the Walt Disney World resort in Orlando, Florida. AFP

Floyd at the hands of a white Minnesota police officer last month.

Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving also reportedly lobbied fellow players on Friday to sit out the scheduled resumption of play as a protest against racism.

Floyd, a black man, died May 25 after a veteran police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. His death sparked global protests, some of which turned violent.

Sports teams throughout the country have spoken out publicly against racism, with several teams taking part in the demonstrations.

Silver said players who decide to miss the rest of the season will not be considered "in breach of contract."

Some NBA players could be given exemptions from the pay cuts if they can show they are at a higher risk for the new coronavirus.

Silver argued that Orlando would be an ideal opportunity for the players to get together in a tight-knit setting and work on social justice issues and police reform.

"For us, we feel this is what we do. We put on NBA basketball," the commissioner said. "For the country, it will be respite from enormous difficulties people are dealing with in their lives right now. "I also think in terms of the social justice issues, it will be an opportunity for NBA players and the greater community to draw attention to these issues.

"Because the world's attention will be on the NBA in Orlando, Florida, if we're able to pull this off."

The NBA hasn't played since March 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Training camp is set to be held July 9-29 before the season restarts July 30.