



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

Vol. XIII No. 33

30 March 2020

A WORLD IN CRISIS: COVID-19:PART THREE

There was no IOB last week since there was no activity in school due to the enhanced community quarantine. However, we are resuming it this week to continue the account of the pandemic that is COVID-19, something that future generations of Paulinians can read and be informed about.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

As of March 30, 2020, there have been 1,546 confirmed cases of the disease in the country. Out of these cases, 78 deaths and 42 recoveries were recorded. The largest single-day increase in the number of confirmed cases was on March 29, when 343 new cases were announced.

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in Muntinlupa, Metro Manila, is the medical facility where suspected cases are being tested for COVID-19 since January 30, 2020. Before that date, confirmatory tests were made abroad. Currently, five sub-national laboratories are also conducting testings while thirty laboratories are still undergoing proficiency testing before use.

Several measures were imposed to mitigate the spread of the disease in the country, including bans on travel to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and South Korea. On March 7, 2020, the Department of Health (DOH) raised its "Code Red Sub-Level 1," with a recommendation to the President of the Philippines to impose a "public health emergency" authorizing the DOH to mobilize resources for the procurement of safety gear and the imposition of preventive quarantine measures.

On March 9, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring the country under a state of public health emergency. On March 12, President Duterte declared "Code Red Sub-Level 2," issuing a partial lockdown on Metro Manila and extending the metropolis' class suspensions up to April 12, to prevent a nationwide spread of COVID-19.^{[22][23]} The class suspensions were later extended up to April 14 through a memorandum circular released by Malacañang on March 14. On March 16, the entirety of Luzon has been placed under an "enhanced community quarantine." On March 17, President Duterte issued Proclamation No. 929, declaring the Philippines under a state of calamity for a tentative period of six months. On March 25, the President signed the "Bayanihan to Heal as One Act," which gave him additional powers to handle the outbreak. (from *Wikipedia*)

12 FILIPINO DOCTORS HAVE DIED FIGHTING AT FRONT LINES VS CORONAVIRUS

by Gabriela Baron
Manila Bulletin

Twelve doctors have died in the Philippines from the coronavirus, the Philippine Medical Association said Sunday.

"We still have some other patients confined and fighting the illness at this time. Hopefully, we don't add more to the list of deaths among our practitioners, our physicians," Dr. Oscar Tinio, chair of the association's commission on legislation, told ANC News.

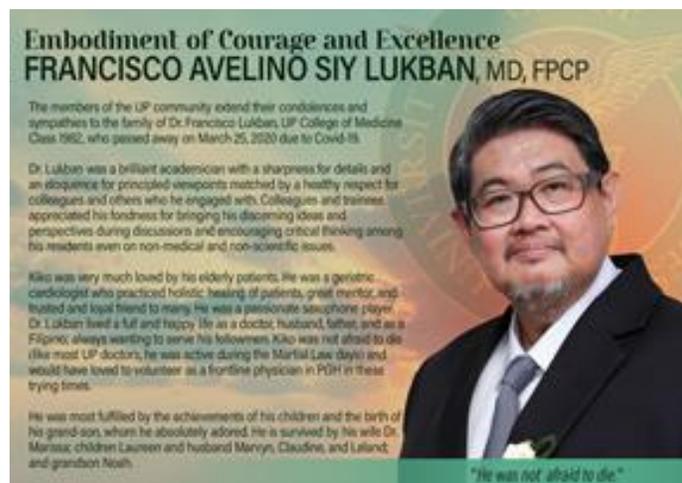
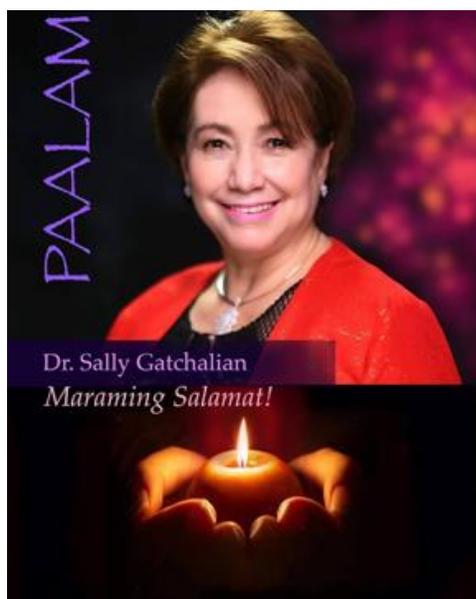
Tinio said over 5 percent of the country's health workers are possibly on quarantine due to the nature of their work in directly dealing with the disease. He said the doctor-to-patient ratio currently stands at 1:40,000, far from the ideal 1:10,000.

The physician also disclosed that Philippines doesn't have enough nurses, as they would rather work "somewhere else." Metro Manila has an over-concentration of physicians. However, remote areas all over the country have "relatively few doctors." Tinio also said the Department of Health's offer to compensate volunteer workers P500 per day is unfair. He urged the Health department to increase the supply of medical equipment such as face masks and personal protective equipment (PPEs) in public and private hospitals.

"We're willing to procure them, [but] they're not available. The government, probably they would have supplies available."

Dr. Rustico Jimenez of Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines, Inc. (PHAPI), meanwhile, called for enough supply of PPEs in hospitals to protect health workers from getting infected with the virus. Jimenez also advised those who would like to donate PPEs to deliver the equipment straight to the nearest hospitals.

Here are some pictures of doctors who have died while fighting the COVID-19 pandemic:





Closer to home, two members of the Paulinian Family succumbed to COVID-19: Nilda Ronquillo, BSN 1977, who died of the disease in the US, (no picture available.), and Jacel Bustamante-Valdez, BSN 1968, shown in the picture with her husband Ting, who is still confined due to the virus.



Dennis Garcia, husband of Petite Marquez, HS 1970, also passed away due to COVID-19.

Dr. Proceso Villarica, brother-in-law of Juliet Banaag-Hobson, HS 1970, passed away in New York due to COVID-19.

His wife, Minda, is also confined for suspected COVID-19 virus.



There have been other deaths in the Paulinian Family, not COVID-19 related.



Sylvia Santos-Pineda, HS 1964.

Marie Pilar Pena-Ruiz, AB Communication Arts 1975, a veteran journalist.

Pilar Revilla-Hocson, HS 1975.



and Sr. Mary John Vianney Ramirez, SPC, former Superior, SPC Manila Community.

Indeed, this has been a sad and difficult time for the country, for all Filipinos, and for the Paulinian Family. Let us take comfort in the words of a Negro spiritual:

**“Weep not, weep not;
they are not dead;
they are resting
in the bosom of Jesus.”**

