

“Radiating positivity, creating connectivity”

# CEBU BUSINESS WEEK

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SPECIAL EDITION

# LABELLA ASKS GCQ FOR CITY

*Mayor tells IATF: Over 2,000 Covid positive due to 10K swab tests*

The people of Cebu City are more than ready for transition from Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella cited this in his letter to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) through Director Leocadio Trowela of the Department of Interior and Local Government. (DILG) 7 dated May 28, 2020.

“I hope that our request will be approved because I believe it’s high time to downgrade Cebu City from ECQ to GCQ,” Labella said.

The city’s chief executive said that among all Local Government Units (LGUs) in the country, the Cebu City Government has conducted the highest number of swab test at more than 10,000.

“That could be the reason why many people were found positive of Covid-19 (Corona Virus Disease). The asymptomatic has reached 2,000 but about 471 of them have recovered or declared negative. Our mortality rate is only 1.2 per-

cent. We have the lowest in the entire country,” Labella said.

Secondly, our medical experts have treated the critical utilization rate at 40 percent. There is a significant indication that there is a continuous reduction of additional cases in Cebu City.

“Life is very important, but with the GCQ, we can give the people the livelihood and source of income that were unceremoniously denied of

them and their families,” Labella said.

The mayor recognized that business is hurting. The city government has reached the quota of the Project Balik-Buhay (PBB), hence the request for IATF to downgrade Cebu City from ECQ to GCQ.

But Cebu City officials should have the discretion to make segmental and sequential lockdown on sitios with densely Covid-19 positive cases

like Sitio Zapatera in Barangay Luz and Alaska, Mambaling.

Labella said they want to be like Mandaue City which is under GCQ so there will be a cohesive system for the people to travel.

Labella said that once the IATF will downgrade Cebu City to GCQ, he requested the people to have discipline and follow government-initiated protocols like wearing face mask, social distancing, hand-washing with soap and water, and personal hygiene.

He said that if the people have no important business to be outside of their house, they must be compliant enough to stay home. The people must also observe social distancing while riding vehicles.

“Of course, we shall all pray to God so that He will let us win the war and survive this Covid-19 pandemic,” Labella said.

Labella said they will continue to implement curfew and vehicle number coding even if Cebu City will be placed under GCQ.

City Councilor Raymond

Alvin Garcia and City Councilor Antonio “Tony” Cuenco told Cebu Business Week that they are strongly behind the move of Labella.

Garcia said they have already discussed the matter with the Department of Health and other local officials concerned that Cebu City is ripe for GCQ.

He said Secretary Dizon and Secretary Galvez of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) told them that they (local officials) know the real situation in their locality. The IATF told them to submit recommendations for them to assess if that is appropriate or not.

Galvez is the chief IATF implementer while Dizon is his deputy.

“Hopefully, IATF will listen to us and we are confident that by June 1, 2020 Cebu City will be under GCQ,” Garcia said.

Garcia, however, said the Cebu City Government through the City Health Department in coordination with DOH will continue the swab testing. **ELIAS O. BAQUERO**



CEBU CITY MAYOR EDGARDO LABELLA