

“Radiating positivity, creating connectivity”

# CEBU BUSINESS WEEK

June 17, 2020

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SPECIAL EDITION

# MAYOR SEEKS REVIEW OF ECQ

*Decisions in Cebu City based on data, says Labella*

CEBU City Mayor Edgardo C. Labella is appealing to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to reconsider the Cebu City's quarantine status back to General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Francisco Duque announced last June 15, 2020 that Cebu City will be placed again under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) based on the recommendation of IATF and approved by the President.

“We have to abide. We have to comply. We have to follow,” he said.

Mayor Labella recalled that last June 1, 2020, he, in the presence of the business sector, told IATF officials that Cebu City was ready for General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

“At that time, we have very few symptomatic cases in the city that needed medical care. As a father of our city, I saw all of you struggle to provide food

on your table and sustain your family's daily needs,” said Labella. “Our economy was devastated. I felt one with the business community in calling for its recovery,”

Since then, more began showing mild or severe symptoms. The demand for hospital care rose. The medical institutions needed to expand their capacity.

The city's active cases remained relatively the same from May 1-June 13. The fatality rate remained low and just a little over one percent, the lowest in the entire country. The recovery rate as of June 13, 2020 was about 54 percent compared to the National rate of 21 or 22 per cent.

“Still doctors were alarmed at the sudden influx of admission and severity of the cases. In the end the IATF heeded the recommendation of the medical community,” Labella said.

Nevertheless, the may-

or said he still believes that GCQ is justified.

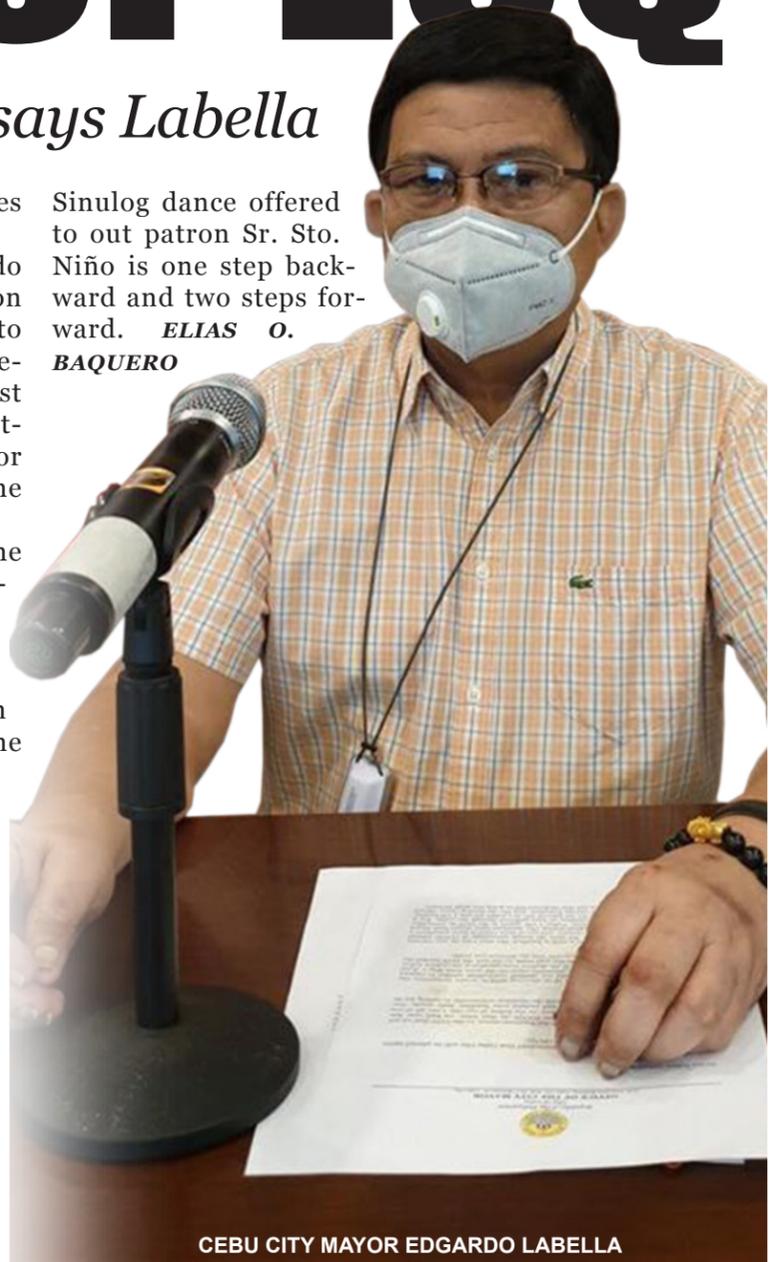
“The data I see do not warrant restriction set forth by an ECQ so to speak. And with all due respect, we have the lowest percentage of Covid related deaths among major cities in the country,” he said.

Cebu City is one of the three LGUs that completed a prevalence survey through mass testing. The decisions are based on hard data based on scientific research, he said.

Today, I will appeal to the IATF to reconsider their decision based on the information we have gathered through the weeks. But if they still say that ECQ is best for our beloved Cebu City, as a public servant, accountable and responsible, I will humbly accept the decision of the IATF and the President.

Just like in the

Sinulog dance offered to out patron Sr. Sto. Niño is one step backward and two steps forward. **ELIAS O. BAQUERO**



CEBU CITY MAYOR EDGARDO LABELLA