DIFFERENT COMMUNITY QUARANTINES AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS

by:
Brexter C. Caballas
Administrative Assistant III

During the spread of the COVID-19 in the Philippines, the government's initial reaction was to impose community quarantines in order to stem the fast-rising number of positive cases. Until now, the most talked-about topic has been the categorization of community quarantine applied in most of the places in the Philippines.

The Enhanced community quarantine is the most stringent of all the classifications (ECQ). Residents of areas under an enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) are typically instructed to stay at home, with travel to other cities or barangays prohibited. Quarantine permits can be issued by barangay administrations, enabling people to purchase necessary items outside of curfew hours and within the jurisdiction of the granting barangay. The Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, which went into force in 2020, also includes ECQ-related provisions, such as, transportation restrictions apply to all modes of transportation, work stoppages and the establishment of alternate working arrangements, such as teleworking, are also possible options, ensuring the availability of food and medical supplies, anti-profiteering and anti-hoarding measures for vital products, during the quarantine period, a 30-day grace period for loan and rental payments is allowed, mass gatherings are being called off, non-essential companies will be shut down as a result, critical companies and utilities will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in full operating capability. Due to the spread of Covid 19, ECQ is still being used in municipalities that are at high risk. The implementation of ECQ on high-risk towns will be examined from time to time, particularly in the coming weeks.
Modified enhanced community quarantine is the Philippines' second most stringent community quarantine classification. Except for APOR or authorized personnel outside of residence, who are the only people whose industries can function during MECQ, everyone must stay at home. One person per family can go out and get food and medicine. Those aged 21 to 60 can go out, according to the IATF's omnibus criteria. Hospitals, medical manufacturing, agro-forestry and delivery, and courier services, media, BPO, e-commerce, postal and courier services, real estate, vehicle and equipment rental and leasing, housing services, and employment activities are all permitted at full capacity. Manufacturing, administrative support, financial services such as money exchange, legal, advertising and market research, publishing, photography, fashion design, graphic and interior design, wholesale and trade of vehicle parts, vehicle repairs, malls (subject to DTI rules), restaurant takeout and delivery are all operating at half capacity.

Next classification of community quarantine is the General Community Quarantine (GCQ). The safety precautions against COVID-19 are "softened" under this sort of shutdown. Last May 1st, the Philippines Covid GCQ was implemented as a restrictive measure to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Only low and moderate-risk zones will be covered by the Philippines Covid GCQ. Public transit will be allowed to run, but only at a certain degree of comfort. Only a few firms will be allowed to open their doors to the public while adhering to the Philippines Covid GCQ's hygienic regulations.

More towns and provinces in the Philippines were placed under the more lenient modified general community quarantine (MGCQ), as the country tries to recover from months of tight coronavirus lockdowns. Filipinos can visit more businesses and participate in more activities under the MGCQ since public gatherings are permitted, if the number of participants does not exceed 50% of the venue or seating capacity. The Philippines has put various community quarantine categories over different regions of the country every 15 days since the coronavirus lockdowns began in mid-March 2020.
The quarantine level determines the kind of commercial operations and travel restrictions that are permitted in a certain area.

Each town's community quarantine categorization varies according on its risk and the number of positive cases of Covid 19. The efficacy of these community quarantines is dependent on our involvement as citizens. Following the community quarantine's rules and regulations will undoubtedly reduce the number of positive Covid 19 instances. With the proper implementation of these Community quarantines and proper governance of our government we will be free and live a normal life once again.

References:

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