

# THE EFFECTS OF THE ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE (ECQ) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUBIC, ZAMBALES AMIDST COVID-19

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## ABSTRACT

*Today we experience the most tragic experience in our town not only in our locality but also worldwide. But, in general view, the coronavirus has a positive implication in our humanity and that is, it awakens our consciousness of what are the significant things in our lives that should be given focus for us to live longer.*

*COVID-19 is a historical thing because it affects not only in one place but also worldwide. People came to realized that having the right discipline and attitude towards living could save lives and makes humanity live longer. It also healed our mother earth as a certain great part of our ozone layer has been healed. Giving and sharing is everywhere as some do not have anything to put on their tables. This is the time wherein the society's status does not matter anymore, no rich can buy anything they wanted since stores were all lockdown, no poor is ever poorer because whatever goods they were given were just the same as that of the middle class.*

**Keywords:** ECQ, COVID-19, Effects, Quarantine, Implications, Humanity, Zambales

## INTRODUCTION

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared an Enhanced Community Quarantine which marks the history of the Philippines to be the first wide total lockdown in the response of the growing pandemic disease of COVID-19 in the country which stopped the movement of the people leaving in the Municipality of Subic, Zambales. The directive of the President, in response to the growing spread of the COVID 19 outbreak, comes just two days after an incident took place in San Juan, Manila which attempts to restrict the movement of overall people that live and work in the National Capital Region. (Ravelo, 2020). Moreover, the Republic of China itself has enforced a lockdown of the population of Wuhan as well as the entire Hubei province which led to significant changes in the spread of COVID-19 cases remains unclear. (Lau, et al., 2020). In India positively and the majority agreed with the government for announcing the lockdown to flatten the curve and It could be seen from the tweets that several people were mad that the lockdown came a bit late. (Barkur, Vibha, &Kamath, 2020) but in other places like Italy perform a massive analysis using social media to investigate how the lockdown affects the economic conditions of individuals and municipalities in which inequality is higher and where individuals have lower income per capita. (Bonaccorsi, et al., 2020)

The impact of the lockdown in the Municipality of Subic, Zambales makes the community develop self-discipline among them. Everybody seemed foreign to it and disagree on the imposed rules and regulations by the local government not only because it suppressed their

freedom but also it delayed all of their daily routines especially at work. It makes people immobile on their own and felt that they became worthless by doing nothing. Many choose to violate the authorities that lead them to get infected. Some were unaware of their actions and their stubbornness makes things worst. But eventually, people came to their senses and choose to cooperate so as not to endanger not only their own life but that of their loved ones. UK Medical specialists and scientists have funded the UK government’s decision to execute rigorous new restrictions on people’s measures to combat the spread of COVID-19, (Iacobucci, 2020). Even in Barangays, they were also enforced to follow the Strict Implementation of the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) resolution set by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on COVID-19. There was a Curfew set by the Local Government Unit of Subic, Zambales from 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. if some violate the ECQ resolution he will be facing community service. Human Rights group says that the National Government's strict enforcement of lockdowns has led to more than 100,000 people being arrested for violating the curfew and the United Nations describes the country's response as "highly militarized country". (Alindogan, 2020).

**1. DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF GOODS TO THE COMMUNITY OF SUBIC, ZAMBALES**



Figure 1: During the Distribution of Rice (MayorJonPhoto)

Hon. Mayor Jonathan John Khonghun, Vice-Governor Jefferson Khonghun, Congressman Jeffrey Khonghun, and Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane distributed Relief Goods to different Barangays in Subic Town. Each family was given enough supply of rice, canned goods and other essential commodities that may last for weeks during lockdown were everybody has no source of income. All Barangay Captains and their councils helped in these activities and they prepared a system so that the distribution shall be done in a peaceful way. Names of each family head were listed and they were instructed to put a chair outside their gates so that the packed goods will be placed on it as the proper social distancing was being observed.

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Figure 2: During the Distribution of Rice



Figure 3: Relief Goods



Figure 4: Members of the Zambales IATF deliver food supplies for frontline offices (PIATFphoto)

Meanwhile, Zambales Governor Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has ordered the Provincial Inter-Agency Task Force on Covid-19 to implement a six-point strategy that intensifies efforts to manage the current crisis we are encountering. The provincial strategy, the governor explained, includes the establishment of quarantine facilities at the south area, Subic Zambales where all new arrivals will be detained for 14 days and will set-up quarantine facilities in each municipality for this purpose. (Vizcocho, 2020)



**2. CHECKPOINTS IN SUBIC, ZAMBALES**

Check Points were established by the Municipal Government of Subic, Zambales in coordination with the Philippine National Police Subic including the Barangay Checkpoints, this is to ensure that the monitoring of visitors or outsiders will be strictly checked, in accordance to the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ). Moreover, Upon the directives of the PNP Chief, Police General Archie Francisco F Gamboa, a Circular Memorandum was disseminated to all PNP Regional Offices ordering PNP Unit Commanders and Chiefs of Police to ensure that all Quarantine Control Points were established by the City, Municipal and barangay Local Governments are properly supervised by their local PNP Units.”, (Argete, 2020).

The purpose of the Quarantine Checkpoint is to restrict the movement of those persons who are going out and in from their places and this is to establish a lockdown process because what the local government wants is to Stay Home completely to get rid of the COVID-19 disease. Moreover, the lockdown, which had been scheduled to end on April 12, was extended until April 30, This is to allow the entire Luzon to improve its health crisis response, as mentioned by the task force spokesman and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles said. (Sepe&Maitem, 2020).

That is why even Sundays All markets and Groceries are closed this is dedicated to disinfection and every barangay has a Market Schedule to follow for example in Barangay Matain their schedule is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday then Sunday as a rest day.

Due to the Enhanced Community Quarantine being implemented throughout Luzon, beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, the QUARANTINE PASS CODING SYSTEM will be implemented throughout Subic, Zambales. This is to limit the number of people who come to our People's Market, Grocery stores, Pharmacy and more. This way we can maintain that our beloved Subic town is COVID-19 Free.



Figure 5: Quarantine Pass Coding System in Municipality of Subic, Zambales. Photo: Subic MPS



Figure 6: Subic, Zambales



Figure 7: Inspection of Quarantine Checkpoint Photo: Subic MPS

Last April 29, 2020 at about 8:00 AM, personnel of Subic MPS led by PLT NOEL P VILLAJUAN, Team Leader under the supervision of PMAJ GILBERT C DIAZ, COP conducting continues Community Quarantine Checkpoint located along the National Highway, Brgy Pamatawan, Subic, Zambales. Last April 29, 2020 at about 10:30 AM, personnel from Provincial Department of Health (PDOH) Zambales led by Ms Jocelyn R Pascua, Development Officer Management IV together with Ms Mary Grace I Molino, Subic Municipal Health Officer conducted inspection to the Subic Quarantine Site located at KEPPEL Training Site, Sitio Cabangaan, Brgy Cawag, Subic, Zambales.

### 3. COVID-19 Cases in Zambales

People who experience mild, severe, or critical symptoms but have not yet undergone coronavirus testing were being admitted in the hospital for their scheduled testing to diagnose their health conditions. Likewise, influenza-like illness, cough or sore throat, shortness of breath, and chronic lung problems can be identified.

Be it anyone who came to the area or country with the local COVID-19 virus for 14 days will be quarantined before showing any symptoms or near exposure to the person positive for the virus.

#### PROBABLE CASE

Suspect positive test case not performed in laboratory accredited by Department of Health due to lack of testing kits.

#### CONFIRMED CASE

People who tested positive in a laboratory test accredited by the Department of Health, with or without symptoms.

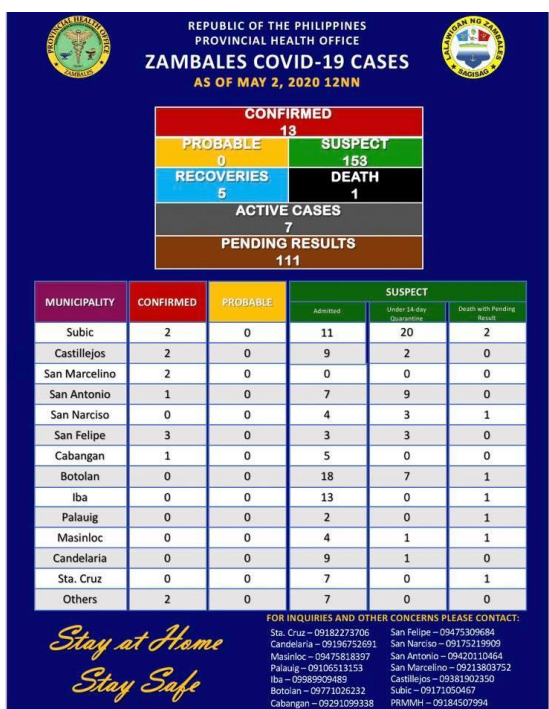


Figure 8: Cases of COVID-19 in the Province of Zambales

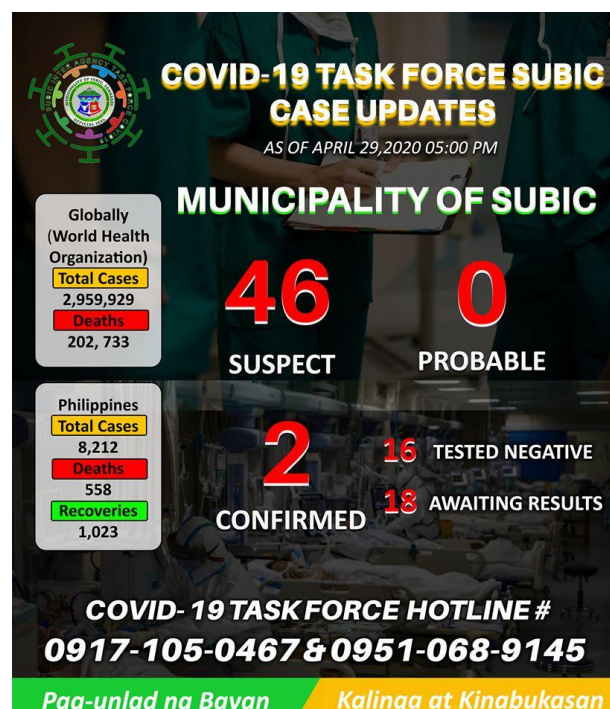


Figure 9: Cases of COVID-19 in the Municipality of Subic, Zambales

There are two confirmed cases in Subic as of today, May 3, 2020, 46 are suspected, 16 tested negative and 18 waiting for their results.

### 4. IMPLICATIONS

Today we experience the most tragic experience in our town not only in our locality but also Worldwide, Thousands of people lost their loved ones in just a blink of an eye. Some says this is like a worse pandemonium in our 20<sup>th</sup> century, where many gave their insights as the end of the world in near. Catholics says that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is near and that people need to change, repent and accept God as our only savior. Life as we sometimes neglect it is the most important gift that we have and this pandemic coronavirus became the eye-opener for people to see the great significance of its existence. People tend to protect and took care of themselves and their families because everybody is afraid to die because of this sickness. Panic buying is everywhere for people rushed into pharmacies and grocery stores to buy food stocks in preparation for the Lockdown days. During the implementation of lockdown, people stays at home with their families and since then many did a lot of things they never did before like planting vegetables in their own backyard, spending quality time with their children unlike before that most parents are always out working like hell to earn a living for the family, but

most of all everybody find time to pray regardless of the religion. In general view, the coronavirus has a positive implication in our humanity and that is, it awakens our consciousness of what are the significant things in our lives that should be given focus for us to live longer.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

COVID-19 is a historical thing because it affects not only in one place but also worldwide. Many lessons were being learned and people came to realized that having the right discipline and attitude towards living could save lives and makes humanity live longer. It also healed our mother earth as per reports of the international scientist, the skies primarily in the cities has gone clearer due to lockdown wherein vehicles were forbidden to travel and be on the streets. A certain great part of our ozone layer has been healed. People became aware of the nature and how important it is if we know how to take care of it to have a beautiful world. Friendly living became contagious that everybody else is cooperative in the implemented New Rules as the New Normal is now adaptable to all. Families were being reunited and most disputes were being resolve. Giving and sharing is everywhere as some do not have anything to put on their tables. This is the time wherein the society's status does not matter anymore, no rich can buy anything they wanted since stores were all lockdown, no poor is ever poorer because whatever goods they were given were just the same as that of the middle class. Workers temporarily cannot come to their workplace and most do not have income to sustain their financial needs, but the government took action by giving financial aid to all. To sum it all, COVID-19 has a negative impact and that is, it caused thousands of people to die but its positive impact is more greater since it rejuvenates our Mother Earth, it clears and widens the consciousness of humanity to give importance to the Life that we have and the Mother Earth that we live in.

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