MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 2021-058

TO: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, DILG REGIONAL/PROVINCIAL/CITY DIRECTORS, CITY/MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS OFFICERS, ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT: INTENSIFYING REGULATION/PROHIBITION OF HOLDING OF ACTIVITIES AS SOURCES OF VIRUS SUPERSPREADERS

31 MAY 2021

As the COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, the government enjoins the public to continuously avoid the holding of public gatherings and events, as one of the effective ways in preventing the spread of the virus.

Adding to this, the Department of Health in its Public Health Advisory No. 15 stresses that “social distancing or reducing close contact has been documented to slow the spread of respiratory virus infections, including the COVID-19”. In that same health advisory, the DOH strongly urges the public to minimize participation, and the event organizers to avoid mounting gatherings wherein space limitation and nature of activity puts attendees’ within arm’s length of each other (or less than 3 feet or 1 meter).

However, despite rising COVID-19 cases across the country, reports have been reaching authorities about the blatant and clear display of uncalled behavior and action at the barangays in violation of strict mass gathering restrictions, namely: disco, beach, pool and birthday parties, tupada, and fiestas. As supported by various IATF Resolutions, these events have been documented and established as sources of virus superspreaders.
In view of this and to further avoid similar occurrences, all Punong Barangays are hereby directed to implement the following effective control measures:

1. Ensure strict monitoring and implementation of minimum health protocols in their areas of responsibility together with barangay employees and functionaries.

2. Mandatorily organize Barangay COVID-19 Operations Center and Barangay Tanod Health Patrols to enforce surveillance, monitoring and reporting of public gatherings, according to their local COVID situation and resources.

3. Regularly inspect, especially on weekends and public holidays, sports, recreation and leisure facilities such as parks, gymnasiums, resorts, running tracks to ensure that social distancing is being maintained at all times in coordination with the city/municipality, PNP and BFP.

4. Consistent with applicable IATF regulations and city/municipal ordinances, regulate, limit or prohibit public gatherings such as drinking, sabong, tupada, fiesta, parades, beauty contests, processions and other religious events, cultural festivals, and pool and other water recreational activities.

5. Provide assistance to community pantry operations through the Barangay Tanods and/or Barangay Health Emergency Response Team with the support of the home owners’ association, provided prior coordination is extended by the organizers and compliance with the minimum public health standards and protocols is ensured.

6. Provide emergency numbers to the community members for reporting of incidents of mass gatherings;

7. Coordinate with City/Municipal COVID-19 Operations Center, Philippine National Police Stations, Bureau of Fire Protection Stations for assistance on the enforcement of mass gathering rules;

8. Implement other necessary measures consistent with IATF regulations, the polices and guidelines of DILG, DOH and other concerned government agencies.
Cities and municipalities shall provide assistance and supervision to ensure that the responsibilities of the barangays, through the Punong Barangays, shall be complied accordingly.

All cities and municipalities are enjoined to strictly implement COVID-19 ordinances, especially the enforcement of minimum health protocols, and to penalize violation thereof in accordance with existing laws.

All Regional Directors and BARMM Minister of Local Government are enjoined to cause the immediate widest dissemination of this Circular within their jurisdiction.

Further, the DILG, through the Provincial/City Directors and City/Municipal Local Government Operations Officers, shall coordinate with the Governor, City/Municipal Mayor, PNP PD/Chief of Police and BFP P/M Fire Marshal to ensure that this Circular be disseminated and complied with. They are likewise directed to monitor the implementation of ordinances on mass gathering and to extend necessary assistance for LGUs in enacting said ordinances.

For compliance.

EDUARDO M. AÑO
Secretary