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Mobile app launched for e-commerce, COVID-19 updates

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A local firm is has launched VenCHUR, a free mobile app designed by an Australian firm to help people and businesses respond to COVID-19 pandemic by tracking sources of essential goods and medical supplies, including updated information about the virus.

The crowdsourcing mobile app is designed to help "flatten the curve" by allowing registered users to work together to log and track via a "live map" essential items like rice, fruits, vegetables, medicine and hygienic products and what small businesses can supply.

App users can purchase grocery items from VenCHUR partners like Puregold, medicine from Mercury Drug and rice, vegetables and fruits from AgriNurture's ANI Express online store at http:// aniexpress.1ani.com.ph.

In the coming dys, VenCHUR's product offerings will expand with more loyalty partners and through the e-Kadiwa partnership of the Department of Agriculture with ANI Express for food deliveries within Metro Manila.

To encourage participation, VenCHUR utilizes a points system where users can trade reward points for food or medicine after 21 days of app usage.

Developed by a Sydneybased team and marketed exclusively in the Philippines by Infinity Cinergy Optimum Network (ICON), VenCHUR also enables users to help themselves and the broader community with up-to-date information on travel bans, lockdowns, business closures and social distancing measures.

Initially available on Google Playstore, VenCHUR includes other notable features like free Wifi access, a Google heatmap showing positive coronavirus cases across the globe, list of school and university closures, data on nearby testing facilities, news sharing capability to social media accounts, and a 14-day self-isolation countdown. (James A. Loyola)