

The pros of the virus

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The year 2020 is simply different from previous years in ways we could not have imagined. While many local government units (LGU) proceeded to perform the tasks that are expected of them, they did so with the public's safety foremost in mind due to the risks posed by the coronavirus disease.

In the same way, the Philippine National Police, whose main task was to maintain peace and order, also have to worry about their own health, as they face the same risks as the populace.

As one of the frontliners during the pandemic, the police have to be extra careful while on duty to arrest criminals or to execute their jobs on the ground to ensure the safety of Filipinos.

On the other hand, LGU also have to pass ordinances that are centered on ensuring the health of their constituents.

Likewise, LGU now focused on the health of all their constituents, and not just persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

The worth of a politician became more apparent to those who voted for him.

Quezon City, which recorded the highest count of viral transmissions in Metro Manila, passed a measure designed to protect the youth from the virus: Ordinance SP-2985, S-2020, or the Quezon City Special Protection of Children against Covid-19, directing all minors to remain at home 24/7.

Other ordinances passed concern the practice of safety protocols in public transportation; prohibiting public disturbance and noises during school hours on weekdays; strengthening the Basic Education Enhancement Program by adopting the blended learning delivery mode; prohibiting the indiscriminate and improper disposal of masks and other Covid-19 protective gear and products; redefining frontliners eligible for financial assistance; the use of face shields in all public area; setting curfew hours; testing of at-risk barangay

frontliners; granting of hazard pay to city government personnel, and establishing protocols for the management of the deceased.

The image of Filipinos as being hospitable and welcoming has been changed by the coronavirus pandemic, considering the tragedies that have tested many families.

Some of the housewives we interviewed who have children talked of the stress they suffered during the year.

As a single parent, Norma Gaviola said the pandemic had taught them that despite what happened during the year, it changed their outlook in life.

In the past, they used to socialize with their friends, meeting in public without having to think of the risks. Now, they have learned not only to take care of their own bodies, but also to strengthen their health and stay away from smoking and drinking liquor, admitting the change in lifestyle did them good.

“During the pandemic, things turned out for the positive, especially for the young people who are used to going out of the house. They are now being careful about their own health and, most importantly, our health,” Gaviola shared.