

March 15, 2020

TO: **THE MEMBERS OF THE HAM RADIO COMMUNITY**

SUBJECT: **CANCELLATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL GRAND EYEBALL AND
PARA NATIONAL HAM CONVENTION 2020**

Whereas, the Philippines' Department of Health issued an advisory on February 7, 2020 urging the public to avoid attending, participating in and organizing events that draw a huge number of attendees and recommending the cancellation of such planned events until further advice;

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic;

Whereas, the Philippine Government has raised the alert level to Code Red Sublevel 2 thereby adversely affecting the National Capital Region until April 14, 2020;

Whereas, Philippine President ordered that Metro Manila would be closed to air, land and sea travel from March 15 to April 14, 2020;

Whereas, Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia also initiated moves to contain the spread of COVID-19 by ordering the prohibition of flights from Legazpi City, Clark, Cagayan de Oro and Dumaguete City from entering Cebu in the next 30 days;

Whereas, the Philippines' Department of Health reported a total of 98 confirmed cases nationwide in its press release dated March 14, 2020 and the trend does not appear to subside;

Whereas, the Misamis Oriental Provincial Board placed the entire province under state of calamity last March 9, 2020;

Whereas, Cagayan de Oro Mayor Oscar Moreno has not issued a lockdown in Cagayan de Oro as of March 14, 2020 but called for preparedness through individual and collective response;

Whereas, the Philippines' Department of Health – Region 10 reported that the COVID-19 (PH40) patient – who worked in San Juan, Metro Manila, travelled to Lanao del Sur, admitted to an Iligan City hospital and eventually transferred to a hospital in Cagayan de Oro – has died last March 13, 2020 thereby triggering a chain reaction of mixed opinions, confusion, panic and outrage;

Whereas, while expressing support and interest to attend and participate, a good number of Filipino radio amateurs and friends here and abroad have expressed their reservations and concerns regarding health and welfare in traveling to and from Cagayan de Oro City;

Whereas, all aforementioned actions have been considered by the organizers of the event scheduled on April 17-19 in Cagayan de Oro City and **unanimously assessed** that the **situation is very fluid** and **does not appear to improve in the next 30 days**;

Whereas, despite all assurances and precautionary measures, the organizers of the event consider the **health, welfare and security of its guests** to be **paramount**;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **27th International Grand Eyeball QSO and 88th PARA National Ham Convention** to be held in Cagayan de Oro on April 17-19, 2020 is **OFFICIALLY CANCELLED**.

Be it resolved further that a refund of P2500 will be given back to the early birds who have registered on or before March 15, 2020 as evidenced through bank deposits and Palawan Express transactions. The organizers wish to return the balance to each early registrant an amount of P500 worth of goods intended as part of the convention kits. Instructions on refund and mailing of these souvenir items will be announced within the next 15 days.

Third, a full refund on advertisements will be returned to all parties who have entered into contract on the 2020 IGEB Souvenir Program as evidenced through bank deposits and Palawan Express transactions. Concerned parties will be contacted by email to relay procedures for the refund.

The organizers recognize that it is everybody's collective effort to mitigate the spread of the disease. As this is a Public Health Emergency, we earnestly ask for everyone's cooperation and understanding as there was never an intention to abort this annual gathering. We gave ourselves until 30 days prior to the convention to decide on its cancellation with the hope that the declared pandemic would have been decisively extinguished before the deadline.

The organizers are grateful for those who have given their support and expressed their intention to attend and participate in the IGEB and Ham Convention. May you continue to be generous in your time, talent and treasures to the advancement of the goals and aspirations of the Philippine Amateur Radio Association and the international ham radio community as we have.


We, the organizers are one with the nation and the world in vigilance, preparedness and solidarity. We call on everybody to stay calm, stay updated through official channels and help prevent the spread of misinformation.

These are extra-ordinary times which require extra-ordinary measures.

Thank you all for your patience and trust.



ERIC JOSE S RUDINAS, 4F9AM
Host Club: ROYAL
Convention Secretariat



KAYE F CHAVES, DU9XO
Chairman
Convention Ways and Means



SULPICIO HENRY M LEGASPI, JR, 4F9DOC
Chief Operations Officer
PARA