



**RIATF RESOLUTION NO. 02**  
Series of 2020

**RECOMMENDING THE MODIFICATION OF THE COMMUNITY QUARANTINE STATUS  
OF THE PROVINCE OF BATANES FROM MODERATE GENERAL COMMUNITY  
QUARANTINE TO LOW-RISK GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE**

**WHEREAS**, on March 16, 2020, the government of the Republic of the Philippines under President Rodrigo Duterte imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon restricting the movement of the population except for necessity, work, and health circumstances in response to the growing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the country;

**WHEREAS**, the ECQ was originally set to last until April 12, 2020 but the President accepted the recommendation of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Disease (IATF-EID) to extend it until April 30, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, on May 1, 2020 the IATF-EID issued Resolution No. 35 classifying the risk of all regions and that the entire Region 02 is classified under Moderate General Community Quarantine;

**WHEREAS**, as of May 12, 2020, the Cagayan Valley Region has recorded a total of 1,099 suspects, 3 probable cases and 34 positive cases, with the Provinces of Batanes and Quirino as Covid-19 Positive – free provinces;

**WHEREAS**, Acting Governor Hon. Ignacio C. Villa, thru a letter dated May 5, 2020, addressed to Secretary Francisco T. Duque III of the Department of Health, requested for the lifting of the General Community Quarantine (GCQ) status of the Province of Batanes to revive the crippled economy to flourish which was followed up with another letter dated May 13, 2020, addressed to Undersecretary Bernardo Florece, Jr., of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Chairman of the IATF Screening and Validation Committee;

**WHEREAS**, Section 3 of IATF Resolution No. 34 series of 2020 dated May 8, 2020 provides that the Regional Inter-agency Task Force shall report to the IATF Technical Working Group on matters of appeal for risk classification;

**WHEREAS**, in a meeting of the Selection and Validation Committee of the Cagayan Valley RIATF, assessment/evaluation was made as hereto presented:

- The Department of Health (DOH) noted the readiness of the Province in terms of managing the pandemic with the fact that up to this time it remains free from Covid-19 positive case. The Province also has ready isolation facilities per municipality. While there are suspected cases in the Province, it must be noted that these suspects have no known exposure to Covid-19 positive case.
- The Philippine National Police (PNP) maintained that there are no known or immediate threat as to security in the Province. Further, the number of deployed PNP personnel will remain even if there is modification from moderate GCQ to low-risk GCQ.
- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) support the modification considering the need to help those individuals who lost work as a result of the lockdown.
- The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) highlighted that economic activities in the province such as agriculture and fishing, which have been allowed under the present set-up, cannot be considered as high-risk sectors for the spread of the virus.

WHEREAS, it must be emphasized that, as indicated in the letter, the Province must not allow any commercial flights while at the same time strictly monitor commercial shipping vessels docked at the port of Basco;

WHEREAS, there is further the need to intensify and strengthen contact tracing in the province;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Inter-Agency Task Force, using the assessment and evaluation of the Screening and Validation Committee, interposes no objection and recommends to the National Inter-Agency Task Force, the request of the Province of Batanes to modify the present Moderate GCQ to Low-Risk GCQ status.

Unanimously adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

CERTIFIED CORRECT.

(sgd.)

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