

SHOOTING STRAIGHT

Philstar

[We need to restart our ill-fated economy](#)

by [Bobit Avila](#) - June 18, 2020 - 12:00am

[This Sunday, June 21, is Father's Day -- a day when men from all over the world observe when they finally had children of their own and a family.](#)

[IATF should listen to people's complaints](#)

by [Bobit S. Avila](#) - June 18, 2020 - 12:00am

[I usually answer all my emails and sometimes reprint those that have great appeal and can also help other readers.](#)

[Why are hospitals in Cebu filled to capacity?](#)

by [Bobit S. Avila](#) - June 16, 2020 - 12:00am

[The situation in the Philippines today regarding people affected by COVID-19 is that we have 24,787 cases of infected people, 5,545 recoveries and 1,052 fatalities since the middle of March.](#)

[Please give seniors a Sunday, Mayor Labella](#)

by [Valeriano Avila](#) - June 16, 2020 - 12:00am

[What's wrong with our political opposition in Cebu City? According to the reports we got, minority floor leader Nestor Archival said the city government should accept the reality that the city is now the epicenter...](#)

[A Zoom conference with transplant patients](#)

by [Valeriano Avila](#) - June 15, 2020 - 12:00am

[For the past two months, we've interviewed public officials and entrepreneurs to discuss the dire effects of COVID-19 with the people's health and the health of our economy.](#)

[It's Corpus Christi Sunday](#)

by [Valeriano Avila](#) - June 14, 2020 - 12:00am

[Today is Corpus Christi Sunday. Our gospel reading today comes from John 6: 51-58. It's only in the gospel of St. John that we are taught about the theology behind the words of Jesus, which is called the Bread...](#)

[What you need to know about our independence](#)

by [Bobit Avila](#) - June 12, 2020 - 12:00am

Today is supposed to be the 122nd Independence Day of the Philippines, which for me is putting Philippine Independence Day in the wrong date because during our youth, when we still had our Reserve Officers Training...

All lives matter

by Bobit Avila - June 11, 2020 - 12:00am

Everyone knows that protests turned into violent riots clearly orchestrated by left-wing and right-wing groups have turned America into a turmoil all because of the death of George Floyd.

IATF rules increase chances of infection

by Bobit S. Avila - June 11, 2020 - 12:00am

Since Cebu City was placed under a General Community Quarantine on June 1, after nearly three months of Enhanced Community Quarantine I went around Cebu City for most of the week to check as to which businesses were...

Focus on the economy

by Bobit Avila - June 10, 2020 - 12:00am

It seems that we, residents of Cebu City, run the risk of being reverted to modified enhanced community quarantine if the number of COVID-19 cases in the city continues to rise before evaluation of quarantine status...

A challenge to the IATF

by Bobit S. Avila - June 9, 2020 - 12:00am

If there is anything very wrong with some of the ideas emanating from the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases especially now that they made that major shift from Enhanced Community Quarantine...

Cebu City has always been ripe for bikes

by Valeriano Avila - June 9, 2020 - 12:00am

Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella had suspended the implementation of having all bicycles in Cebu City and the issuance of a driver's ID for all public transportation drivers.

Who is afraid of the anti-terror bill?

by Valeriano Avila - June 8, 2020 - 12:00am

For my special presentation on our talk show “Straight from the Sky” tonight, we bring you one of the most hardworking bureaucrats at the Office of the President in the Visayas in the person of my good...

The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

by Valeriano Avila - June 7, 2020 - 12:00am

It's the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, while there are many evangelicals who insist that the word “Trinity” isn't mentioned in the Bible, whether we like it or not this is exactly what...

Remembering the Tiananmen Square Massacre

by Bobit Avila - June 5, 2020 - 12:00am

Today is a holiday for freedom-loving Chinese people living in Taiwan and Hong Kong.

VFA no longer suspended

by Bobit Avila - June 4, 2020 - 12:00am

If there was a huge story last February, it was that President Rodrigo Duterte formally informed the United States on February 11 that it was ending the Visiting Forces Agreement with the US that would have been...

What's wrong with Americans these days?

by Bobit S. Avila - June 4, 2020 - 12:00am

When the virus hit the shores of America, one of the most strange things I learned was that Americans started buying a lot of firearms, many of them high-powered firearms...

What's happening in America these days?

by Bobit Avila - June 3, 2020 - 12:00am

Let it be known that Cebu City Mayor Edgardo Labella issued Executive Order No. 79 Sunday declaring the city under a state of GCQ effective 12:01 a.m. of June 1, 2020 until 11:59 p.m. of June 15, 2020 “or unless...

IATF should allow churches to open ASAP!

by [Bobit Avila](#) - June 2, 2020 - 12:00am

Finally, after nearly three months under enhanced community quarantine, we have shifted to general community quarantine, which means that many businesses that were shut down during our lockdown period can now resume...

An interview with Taiwan's VP on the pandemic

by [Bobit S. Avila](#) - June 2, 2020 - 12:00am

It is already the second day of June and by now the City of Cebu has began its shift from being under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) to a General Community Quarantine (GCQ) like Cebu Province and this is due to our massive lockdown from end of March to end of May. As I've always pointed out the number of deaths in Cebu City only reached 12 persons due to COVID-19, and the Department of Health (DOH) has finally admitted that there are far more people who die due to dengue fever and tuberculosis disease.

So for whatever it's worth, the time has come to restart our ill-fated economy where many small businesses have no choice but to stop their operation. Even if we remained in GCQ for another 15 days, we could not expect that if they start operating again, their business would start blooming again. For instance huge Tourism dependent resorts and hotels like Plantation Bay, Park or Shangri-La may open up, but I doubt if they would even open half their room capacity for as long as international and domestic flights are still not allowed to operate. So for us, whether we were in ECQ or now in GCQ, nothing much has changed for as long as no one in the world can find a suitable vaccine to solve COVID-19.

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Last Friday, we sort of made history in the sense that even while we were at home we participated in a digital Zoom meeting with the Peref Springdale School Facebook page in a conference entitled, "Virtual Get Together: Surviving the Pandemic; Learning from the Taiwan experience." with no less than former Taiwan vice-president Dr. Chen Chien-jen who is a doctor of science in human genetics, a doctor of science in epidemiology, head of the National Science Council (2006-2008), vice-president Academia Sinica (2011-2015) and vice-president of Taiwan (2016-2020) only a week ago. This was hosted by our good friend, Mitch Alforque. We were only two from the media invited to this conference.

Actually, this was in support of Jun Alcazar who works in Taiwan and is a good friend of Dr. Chen who was recently vice-president but he did not run anymore. In his opening video we learned that Dr. Chen being an Epidemiologist fought the SARS virus in 2003, and because of that they had already experienced the ways to prevent communicable diseases very early. It is a fact that Taiwan communicated to the World Health Organization (WHO) about this virus only last Dec. 31, 2019 but WHO did nothing!

Worst as we already know, WHO followed the propaganda of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) saying that this virus does not have any human-to-human transmission, only to change their stand a few weeks later. Yet WHO praised China for doing a wonderful job in alerting the world to this pandemic. But if WHO listened to Taiwan, the world would not have suffered much like it has today with their economies in the doldrums.

For Taiwan fighting COVID-19 meant having an aggressive contact tracing strategy implemented. Dr. Chen pointed out this is where honesty and transparency is crucial, so that when people come into contact with people they can trace each other where they met is important to stop the spread of the virus. But how can there be accurate information when the WHO issued a memorandum on Jan. 17, 2020 that there was no human-to-human contact with this virus, only to change their tune weeks later!

I was able to ask Dr. Chen during the Q & A whether on a scale of 1-10 how he would score WHO on their pronouncements. He gave a very long response saying that WHO in the past did a great job, until this pandemic that he could no longer understand their pronouncements. So at this point, allow me to say that I was correct in asking the IATF to follow what Taiwan has done in fighting this virus even if we still have no vaccine in sight. Nothing like following the best practices with neighbors like Taiwan!