Immigration Officers at Clark, Davao, Zambo International ports test negative for virus

MANILA, Philippines - Some 170 Bureau of Immigration (BI) officers assigned at the international airports in Clark, Davao and Zamboanga have tested negative for COVID-19.

In a report to Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente, BI port operations acting chief Grifton Medina said all immigration personnel assigned in the three airports were found to be COVID-free after undergoing rapid antibody tests for the virus.

It was learned that 128 BI personnel at the Clark airport in Angeles City were tested last June 23 by a medical team from the provincial capitol of Pampanga.

The 30 BI employees at the Davao City airport were tested last June 7 while 12 personnel at the Zamboanga port were tested June 18 by medical frontliners from the local governments of the two cities.

Medina disclosed that BI personnel assigned at the airports in Mactan-Cebu, Kalibo and Iloilo have yet to undergo the rapid tests.

He said he already instructed the head immigration supervisors of the three airports to immediately comply with BI chief's directive for the conduct of mandatory COVID tests for all BI employees.

"They were again advised to coordinate with the local government units (LGUs) in their effort to arrange the conduct of the tests which are already overdue," Medina added.

He said the same instruction was relayed to 28 BI employees at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) who have not yet been tested for COVID.

It was on June 5 that Morente issued a memorandum making the tests mandatory for all of the more than 3,000 BI officials and employees nationwide.