

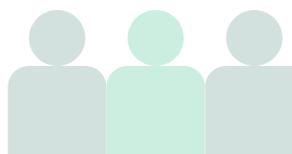


1 what are people saying

NO SOCIAL DISTANCING IN GOVERNMENT'S "LIBRENG SAKAY"

"How come two passengers are not allowed in pedicab/tricycle while in the Libreng Sakay e-trike provided by the government, passengers are jam-packed? Are e-trikes exempted from the virus?" (Female, 26-35 years old)

Rumor Risk Level: Medium
Platform: Facebook Reactions: 495
Comments: 221 Shares: 1.4K



2 what are people saying

BULLET PROOF VESTS AND NOT FACE SHIELD

"More people are being killed not by COVID-19 in Cotabato. What people need is bullet proof than face shield to protect themselves." (Male, 19-25 years old)

Rumor Risk Level: Medium
Platform: Facebook Reactions: 256
Comments: 42 Shares: 666



3 what are people saying

HIRING ALLEGATIONS ON CONTACT TRACERS

"Only those who are connected to local officials are hired as contact tracers. It is so unfair. I was informed it was an order from the mayor. Why is it people who don't have any connections can be easily removed from the list of candidates, despite being eligible and going through the right process?"

Rumor Risk Level: Medium
Platform: Facebook Reactions: 655
Comments: 47 Shares: 1K



Salig Bangsamoro
(Trust Bangsamoro) is Rooted in Trust Philippines' biweekly rumor bulletin for journalists. Rooted in Trust is a global and local humanitarian response run by Internews to fight the spread of rumors on COVID-19. In the Philippines, the focus is on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

IN THIS ISSUE

We dig deeper on implications of declining trust towards institutions and the multiple crisis that the Bangsamoro Region faces and provide resources and suggestions on what local media can do. Three concerns from the ground are featured this week. People questioned the implementation of social distancing measures in public transportation in Marawi City. Allegations of corruption were also made on the process of hiring contact tracers in Lanao del Sur. While residents of Cotabato City claimed they need bulletproof vests, not face shields, as more people are reported to be killed from senseless violence than from COVID-19.

Reporting tips

1. Consider whether debunking is the right move

- You must make a careful judgement in debunking a specific rumor or misinformation. In some cases, reporting about a rumor that is just slowing being spread around may risk to even drawing more attention to it. Avoid false balance. Do not be a platform for ill-intentioned people like creationist, anti-vaxxers, or similar groups in amplifying their agenda.
- In rumor #3, we see that this kind of mistrust on government's processes is apparent with or without pandemic but this concern has implications on the growing fears of people on to whether they could trust the government's action against COVID-19. We can highlight the importance of contact-tracing and the science behind it in aid of controlling the spread.

2. Focus on reporting that helps assess risk

- Providing clear information on what we know and don't know about risks based on the best available evidence also helps combat false information. Be transparent, and distinguish between knowns, maybes, known unknowns, and speculation.
- In rumor #1, one might not be able to tell whether the photo could have been taken from any other vehicle (government-provided, private, etc) Nevertheless, it's clear that the people in the crowded vehicle are at the risk of infection. Coverage that prioritizes science and public health over the politics and economics of the response can help keep fears from being exaggerated on the one hand and highlight real health risks on the other.

3. Don't dismiss all speculation outright and recognize people's anxieties

- When communities don't have trustworthy sources of information available to them, rumors and misinformation spread like wildfire. Because of uncertainties, it is likely the case that people cling on to stories to make sense of the situation. Most of the time, rumors are founded legitimate anxieties by well-intentioned people.
- You must consider the serious underlying reasons of why such falsehood exists. Keep in mind that little is known about the virus still, and guidance can evolve rapidly. If you're dealing with a rumor circulating an anxious public, seek input from social scientists and psychologists on how best to understand and respond to it.
- In rumor #2, instead of fueling public's frustration about the cyclical conflict they are experiencing you must emphasize that efforts against COVID-19 are not here to replace peace and order issues which is of equal importance.
- [Click here to see a good report by The New Humanitarian](#) in the balance of speaking about how pandemic worsens the life of people in communities that are always facing conflict and violence.

USEFUL CONTACT FOR MEDIA

Visit the official DOH website at <http://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>

AMAI PAKPAK MEDICAL CENTER- COVID HOTLINES

Smart: 09991909488
Globe: 09955632722



The Ministry of Interior and Local Government

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(064) 421 2178
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If you see suspicious activities,
please report them to:



Philippine National Police Hotlines:

Regional Headquarters: 09053524920
Maguindanao: 09177034075
Lanao del Sur: 09177909115
Basilan: 09976643779
Sulu: 09457236318
Tawi Tawi: 09177048927

USEFUL READINGS

Click the titles to go to the link

1. [Verification Handbook](#)
2. [MSNBC public editor: Chris Hayes on how to cover COVID-19 responsibly](#)
3. [Tipsheet: Covering the Coronavirus Epidemic Effectively without Spreading Misinformation](#)



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Local voices. Global change.



We welcome your feedback, questions, and suggestions to help local media produce reliable and accurate reporting on COVID-19. **Please contact: Denvie Balido**, Media Liaison Officer Rooted in Trust, Philippines at dbalido@internews.org.