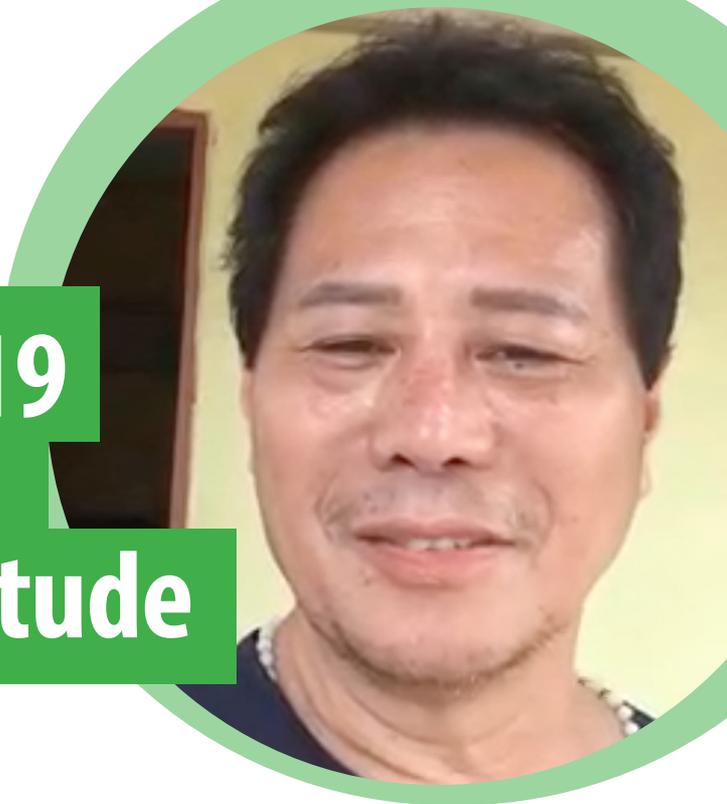


Surviving COVID-19 with courage and overflowing gratitude



He is COVID-19 patient number 3669.

He is William Lu Gonzales, 59, owner of a scraps and metal shop in General Santos City. He was admitted to the General Santos Doctors Hospital sometime in March 2020 after experiencing cough, fever, colds, and diarrhea after arriving from Davao City in the previous three days.

He imagined the worst when he felt all these because he knew very well what the COVID-19 symptoms are. It did not help that he is immunocompromised being a diabetic, so he wasted no time and had himself immediately brought to the hospital for the needed treatment.

After being tested positive for COVID-19, Gonzales was put in isolation for 14 days. He did not mind the inconvenience as long as he gets better and recovers from what he considers a “nightmare.” Fortunately, Gonzales did not need to be intubated, however he was put on a ventilator.

After 21 days of confinement, he is now on his way to full recovery. He is currently on quarantine in a separate house from his family for another two weeks before he can finally rejoin them.

Despite his total hospital bill reaching the vicinity of P700,000, Gonzales delightedly shared that he did not shell out even a single centavo for his hospitalization because

PhilHealth paid the full cost of his treatment for COVID-19. For this, Gonzales profusely expressed his gratitude to PhilHealth for staying true to its commitment to support COVID-19 patients with their hospital expenses.

“Nagpapasalamat po ako sa PhilHealth dahil ang laking tulong talaga kayo sa mga nangangailangan tulad ko lalo na sa panahon ng pagkakasakit. Natutuwa po ako kasi binayaran lahat ng PhilHealth ang lahat ng ginastos ko sa pagpapa-ospital dahil sa sakit na COVID” he happily shared.

At the same time, Gonzales also thanked the doctors and nurses and all the other medical attendants who took care of him while in confinement.

“Salamat din sa kanila na sa kabila ng nakakahawang sakit na ito ay inasikaso pa rin nila akong mabuti at inalagaan upang lubusan akong gumaling.” For other COVID-19 patients, Gonzales has this to say, *“nakakatakot man pero sa panahong ito wala po tayong ibang makakapitan kundi si God lamang, kailangan lang pagtibayin natin ang ating faith sa Kanya, lakasan ang ating loob at tibayan ang dibdib, prayers lang po ang katapat ng lahat ng ito.”* END

Reference: Dr. Shirley B. Domingo, Vice President for Corporate Affairs and Official Spokesperson | Mobile No: 09171360964