PhilHealth decries 15-B scam allegations, discloses latest IRM liquidation tally

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S heer imagination and baseless accusations have misled a few to believe that some officials of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) pocketed around P15 billion in public funds – an enormous lie paraded as irrefutable fact by its purveyors. PhilHealth counters the tall tale as it bares the latest liquidation figures of funds released under the Interim Reimbursement Mechanism (IRM), the full update can be found in its official website through this link: https:// www.philhealth.gov.ph/irm/#gsc.tab=0.

As part of the Government's COVID-19 response, the State health insurer released a total of P14.97 billion to 711 health care institutions (HCIs) nationwide to ensure patients of uninterrupted access to healthcare services and PhilHealth benefits. The HCIs have utilized these funds to procure needed medical supplies, personal protective equipment, and even compensation of hospital staff. The first reported IRM liquidation figures came in September 2020 which recorded close to P7 billion in liquidated funds. As of December 13, 2020, P13.03 billion representing 87 percent the total funds released have been liquidated and accounted for. Furthermore, 353 out of 711 HCIs have fully liquidated their IRM funds, 273 have filed at least 50% while 85 partner-institutions reported below 50% of their received funds.

Based on these, PhilHealth puts to rest the question *"Nasaan na ang P15-B?"* and appeals like *"Huwag kalimutan ang P15-B"* since the funds are neither pocketed, lost, nor forgotten – all are accounted for and most importantly, felt by those who availed of care in their time of medical need.

Much like the spread of virus in a pandemic, PhilHealth appeals to curb the spread of lies and unfounded accusations – first by being more discerning specially to fake news, and by looking into hard data. It invites its members and the general public to see if the P15 Billion is really gone, here: <u>www.philhealth.gov.ph</u>, facebook.com/PhilHealthOffical; and Twitter (@ teamphilhealth). ###

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