



Health OIC Secretary Vergeire visits PhilHealth Regional Office in Bicol

by Leri L. Ilagan, Public Affairs Unit, PROV

Legazpi City – OIC-Secretary of Health Dr. Maria Rosario S. Vergeire visited PhilHealth Regional Office V on October 20, 2022 as part of her two-day visit in the Bicol Region. She was accompanied by Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Dr. Nestor F. Santiago, DOH Center for Health and Development Bicol (DOH CHD Bicol) Regional Director Dr. Ernie Vera, and Bicol Medical Center (BMC) Chief Dr. Ronnie Gregorio Gigantone III.

On the side of PhilHealth Bicol, Regional Vice President Henry Almanon, Health Care Delivery Management Division Chief Dr. Veronica Mateum, Management Services Division Chief Lorena Rubis, Field Operations Division Chief Dr. Ronald Santelices and other officers were in attendance.



During the one-hour-visit, a briefing was conducted wherein RVP Almanon and Planning Officer Andy Valdemoro presented the PhilHealth Bicol stats and charts, particularly the Konsulta Package implementation, claims payments, accreditation of health care institutions (HCIs), and turn-around-time (TAT) of claims processing and payments, among others.



OIC Health Secretary Vergeire, USec. Santiago, RVP Almanon, CHD 5 RD Dr. Vera, BMC Chief Dr. Gigantone with PRO V Officers.

In her brief address to the PhilHealth Bicol employees, she stressed the role that PhilHealth plays as partner of the DOH in achieving Universal Health Care (UHC). The OIC health secretary recognized the above par performance of PRO V in the implementation of Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta), considered as one of the flagship programs in universal health care. More than 500 thousand Bicolanos have already been registered in 84 Konsulta accredited facilities in the entire region. Beyond exceeding the accreditation target, the office is also leading in terms of payments made to Konsulta facilities amounting to almost P7 million or more than 50% of total Konsulta payments nationwide.

Moreover, Vergeire acknowledged the efforts of RVP Almanon and the regional office as a whole for achieving an average TAT of 22 days for good claims despite the on-going pandemic. She was impressed with PRO V's constantly ranking second across PhilHealth regional offices in terms of TAT. For COVID claims alone, PRO V paid nearly P700 million as of September 2022.

For his part, RVP Almanon expressed gratitude and recognized Vergeire for her solid integrity and sterling performance during the pandemic which redounded to the good image the DOH currently enjoys before the Filipino public. ###



Discussion of PhilHealth ROV statistics.



OIC Health Secretary Vergeire during her speech.