

# Practicing equality amidst disabilities

By: Lheny D. Fajardo, Head of PhilHealth LHIO-Olongapo

**O**LONGAPO - As steward of social health insurance, PhilHealth is mandated to ensure financial risk protection and to provide accessible, available, acceptable and affordable health care services to all Filipinos. With the Universal Health Care Act and Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, social protection of all Filipinos including Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) is a priority.



On March 30, 2023, Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Olongapo led by Lheny D. Fajardo, together with the Person's with Disabilities Affairs Office (PDAO) head Rizalino M. Jose of the City Government of Olongapo, and other participating government offices joined hands to celebrate Women's Month with the theme: *"WE Gender Equality and Inclusive Society"*. A total of 560 PWD women were registered and received different services during the *"19th Women with Disabilities Day"* held at fifth floor, SMX Convention Center, SM Central, Olongapo City.

The LHIO-Olongapo team, consisting of Ralph B. Bermido, John Ray M. Barrera, and Charizel Anne S. Maraya, provided the following PhilHealth services during the event: processing of registration or updating of records, printing of Member Data Records (MDRs) and PhilHealth Identification Cards (PINC) for walk-in clients.

Prior to the consultation, eight (8) accredited Konsulta Providers conducted enlistment of members with the use of PhilHealth Konsulta Registration Form (PKRF). In this manner, the members with disabilities were assured that the Konsulta benefit packages shall be given them and their qualified dependents until the end of the year. Under the Konsulta, PhilHealth members



are entitled to avail of health screening and assessment, diagnostic and laboratory services and medicines according to their health needs.

During the event, partner agencies also provided the following services to PWDs:

- Medical consultation facilitated by City Health Department with the barangay rural health center doctors, nurses and barangay health workers
- Free haircut and massage sponsored by Livelihood Cooperative and Development Office
- Free Certified True Copy (CTC) of Live Birth and Marriage Certificate and mobile Civil Registry sponsored by the City Local Civil Registry
- Provision of assistive devices (wheelchair, walker and crutches) sponsored by City Health Department
- Eye consultation and free eye glasses sponsored by Hon. Sarah Lugerna Lipumano-Garcia
- Distribution of maintenance medicines for person with mental, psychosocial and cerebral palsy courtesy by PhilHealth Indigent Unit and City Health Department
- PhilSys Birth Registration Assistance Project (PSA) sponsored by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Zambales

One of the highlights of the activity was when Divina M. Castroverde, a PWD from Olongapo City, received a new wheelchair sponsored by the City Health Department. Moreover, as a PhilHealth registered PWD member, she is entitled to avail of the Konsulta package and other PhilHealth benefits.

Indeed, these members may not be given equal footing brought about by their disabilities but their limitations do not hinder them to live equally with others in the society. XXX