

# Bohol leaders converge for PhilHealth SHInES

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Several municipal mayors and health officers from different municipalities in Bohol converged on March 30, 2023 at the Provincial Capitol for PhilHealth's Social Health Insurance Education Series (SHInES).



SHInES is an advocacy program of PhilHealth to create champions of universal health care. It aims to inform key audience on the salient provisions of the National Health Insurance Act, PhilHealth policies and benefits, and the important role of various stakeholders in fulfilling the mandate of the National Health Insurance Program.

PhilHealth's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Atty. Eli Dino D. Santos expressed his delight over the holding of the SHInES activity in Bohol as this would also create a deeper understanding among the province's local leaders on Republic Act 11223 or the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, which was signed into law in 2019.

Senior Manager of PhilHealth's Social Health Insurance Academy, Arsenia B. Torres, provided a thorough overview of the country's Social Health Insurance and supplied updates on the National Health Insurance Program and the salient provisions of the UHC Act.

Meanwhile, Renato L. Limsiaco Jr., Senior Vice President (SVP) of PhilHealth's Fund Management Sector imparted a comprehensive presentation on the Financial Coverage under UHC particularly on the Special Health Fund.

SVP Limsiaco discussed how the UHC law clearly defines the role of Local Government Units, stating that LGUs, as reflected in the Joint Memorandum Circular 2021-0001, that consign the integration of local health system into the Province-wide Health System (PWHS) shall consolidate the administrative, technical and managerial functions of PWHS over its resources.



He emphasized the need for establishing a PWHS before any release to the Special Health Fund is made.

Bohol Provincial Administrator Aster Caberte, speaking on behalf of Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado, agreed that the province has to have a network. "We should have that network to be able to work with our local government [and] executives here", he said.

Among the local leaders who participated in the activity were Mayors Jose Mario Pahang (Antequera), Alvin Uy (Baclayon), Julius Caesar Herrera (Calape), Eugeniano Ibarra (Clarín), Lynn Iven Lim (Cortés), Germinio Relampagos (Dagohoy), Roman Bullen (Dauis), Filadelfo Jess Baja III (García-Hernández), Edgardo Arcay (Panglao), Restituto Suarez III (Sagbayan), Diosdado Gementiza Jr. (San Isidro), Justiniana Ellorimo (Sikatuna), Constantino Reyes (Ubay), and Vice Mayor Esteban Angilan (Catigbian).



The local chief executives signed a expressed their commitment to PhilHealth programs through a ceremonial commitment signing along with PhilHealth officers.

PhilHealth VII Regional Vice President Marjorie Cabrieto for her part emphasized the importance of holding SHInES to Local Chief Executives (LCEs). "It is important particularly to the [LCEs], as one of the prime movers of the Universal Health Care. They should know what Republic Act 11223 is and they should know the PhilHealth programs. [SHInES] is the best way for them to become our champions [or] advocates of the program," she underscored.