

PhilHealth-CAR bags another CSC Regional Dangal ng Bayan award

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PhilHealth Regional Office-Cordillera Autonomous Region (PRO-CAR) was once again conferred with yet another Regional Dangal ng Bayan Award by the Civil Service Commission-CAR when it recognized Atty. Eric L. Mandiit, Attorney IV, for his extraordinary act of public service and consistent demonstration of exemplary ethical behavior during the *Parangal Para sa Mga Katangi-tanging Lingkod Bayani ng Kordilyera* on September 29, 2023. The event was held in celebration of the 123rd Philippine Civil Service Anniversary.

PRO-CAR Regional Vice President (RVP) Dr. Dominga A. Gadgad nominated Atty. Mandiit, head of the Regional Office's Legal Section, citing his commitment to public interest and for championing the welfare of the less fortunate and vulnerable members of the community. Atty. Mandiit and his team worked to ensure deduction of the 20% senior citizen discount during hospitalization; compliance of government hospitals on the implementation of the PhilHealth policy for the No Balance Billing; and protection of the rights of employees on the prescribed Employer-Employee sharing of PhilHealth premium contributions; among others.

These efforts proved crucial since some Healthcare Facilities (HFs) in the region fail to correctly implement the 20%-senior citizen discount resulting in higher out-of-pocket hospital expense among the elderly. Atty. Mandiit led his team to prepare fact-finding and investigation



reports recommending the filing of appropriate cases for erring HFs. The team's first case was filed on March 2, 2017, which was followed with succeeding cases stemming from their investigations.

The team's efforts to monitor these cases resulted in lower violation rate among HFs in CAR. In addition, the Commission on Audit has never issued any findings to PRO-CAR since its Legal Section consistently examines compliance of HFs regarding the senior citizen 20% discount.

Another pursuit of Atty. Mandiit was to monitor employers who fail to remit their employees' PhilHealth premium contributions. In 2022 alone, the Legal Section was able to collect a total of Php911,189.15 after serving Final Demand Letters and another Php229,195.19 after filing cases. He said that while employers must comply with the applicable rules to avoid such cases, employees, on the other hand, must be vigilant in monitoring their records, which they can now access anywhere using the PhilHealth Member Portal.

Being a vanguard of the National Health Insurance Program and the Universal Health Care, Atty. Mandiit and his team will continue to strive to protect PhilHealth funds and members' best interests. *"Ibalik natin 'yong trust and confidence ng mga tao sa gobyerno. We should be models, kahit maliit man tayo, sa lahat ng transactions. Kailangan nating ipagmalaki na nasa gobyerno tayo and we have to bring back 'yong good image ng public service. Public service is public trust,"* said Atty. Mandiit. ###

