

PhilHealth Regional Office CARAGA expands office in Siargao Island

After more than one year since its inception, the PhilHealth Business Center (PBC) Siargao Island is now located at the Ground Floor, Eduhome Building, Barangay Poblacion, Dapa, Siargao Island.



On February 24, 2023, the PhilHealth Regional Office Caraga (PRO-Caraga) hosted the office blessing presided by Rev. Jeremias C. Jadulco and a ribbon cutting ceremony graced by Gov. Robert Lyndon S. Barbers, PhilHealth Chief Operating Officer Atty. Eli Dino D. Santos, Area Vice President Gregorio C. Rulloda, and some Regional Vice Presidents from the Mindanao islands.

The PBC Siargao Island started its operation on September 23, 2021 at the extension office of the Province of Surigao del Norte in Dapa, Surigao del Norte. The move to open a PhilHealth Business Center at the Siargao Island was directed by incumbent Regional Vice President Michael Jibson C. Hernandez triggered by the low number of registration at Siargao as presented during the PRO Caraga 2021 Mid-Year Assessment in August 2021.

In his speech, Hernandez said that, *"the statistics on membership coverage prompted me to do something in this part of the region.*

Also, the move is to help ease the burden of members who will have to spend at least P800 to travel to Surigao City and back to Siargao Island just to transact with PhilHealth. To access PhilHealth services is costly and time consuming for members. These are among the many reasons why I felt the urgency to set up an office in Siargao Island and I did not wait for the pandemic to be over before we could establish it."



Hernandez, moreover, expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to PCEO Emmanuel R. Ledesma, Jr., COO Atty. Eli Dino D. Santos, AVP Gregorio C. Rulloda and the rest of the officers in the PhilHealth Head Office who were instrumental to the success of upgrading the office and in providing the required resources for its operation.

The PhilHealth Business Center – Siargao Island is a milestone not just for PRO Caraga but for the entire Corporation. Despite the pandemic and the onslaught of Super Typhoon Odette, the ideas and aspirations were not halted, rather it served as fuel to the PRO-Caraga to establish a Business Center in Siargao Island to accelerate and make PhilHealth services more accessible to all Siargaonons.