



PhilHealth Chief visits country's biggest provincial hospital

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To strengthen partnership with the Agency's stakeholders, PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Operating Officer, Emmanuel R. Ledesma, Jr. recently visited the Sultan Kudarat Provincial Hospital (SKPH) in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat.

Maguindanao del Sur Governor, Bai Mariam Sangki-Mangudadatu, (on behalf of Sultan Kudarat Provincial Governor Datu Pax Ali S. Mangudadatu) welcomed Ledesma and party.

"We are more than happy to have you and share with you our best health care practices in the Province of Sultan Kudarat that is run by our young Governor, the youngest actually among the Governors in this country. I believe that our beloved President Marcos supports program like this... as much as possible we should serve people in dire need. That's why a lot of them from the



nearby area come to seek help from us because our facility provides free hospitalization coverage. I hope that PhilHealth will help us with our claims," Maguindanao Governor, Bai Mariam Sangki-Mangudadatu said.

In response, PhilHealth Regional Vice President, Dr. Hector Zenon Leonardo P. Malate assured the Governor that PhilHealth will take its part on the process.



During the program, Sultan Kudarat Director for Health Affairs, Rustom David Bella, presented the health care institutions managed by the province like their mobile and floating hospitals considered to be the firsts in the country, together with their One Hospital Command Center (OHCC) with its referral system that has served mainly during the pandemic.

As reported, their Medical Social Service Department in 2022 alone has enrolled 6,256 to PhilHealth's Point of Service, their Outpatient Department has served an average of 2,600 clients per month, and their monthly admission has an average of 1,500 per month while their OHCC has served 302 patients a month or at least 10 a day from March – December in the same year.

"We are happy and grateful serving our people and we are thankful to PhilHealth for the financial support. We were given the opportunity to serve better. Our Provincial Hospital is the biggest", Bella said.

Being the biggest Provincial Hospital in the country, said facility has been providing No Balance Billing (NBB) policy since it started its operation at the height of pandemic in 2020.

From January to December 2022, the hospital has served 21,412 clients for in-patient care and 13,362 clients for outpatient services for a total assistance of P271M; of which, PhilHealth has paid a total of P122M in claims reimbursements, P103M from the Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients (MAIP) Program and P46M from the health care budget of the province.



In one of the video presentations particularly the one produced both by PhilHealth XII and said province, patients have attested and expressed their gratitude to the services provided along with the doctors and nurses and other health workers serving the institution.

"Nagpapasalamat ako dito sa Provincial Hospital 'tsaka sa lahat ng nurse dito, mga doctor para sa aking kapatid na tinamaan ng bomba... Ang bill namin po dito ay 25,200 at wala po kaming nabayaran. Nagpapasalamat din ako sa PhilHealth lalo na sa ating Governor. Maraming maraming salamat po," Morsid Damada, one of the patients said.

Having heard and seen enough, Ledesma and party thanked Mangudadatu for the time and effort done by the latter to make the former's visit meaningful and significant.

"This is my first in SOCCSKSARGEN and my journey as head of this institution has just started. This experience has given me insights on how well I should take the lead in making this organization more felt and appreciated by the Filipino people. Thank you so much," Ledesma said.

Mangudadatu in her message, on the other hand, assured support to the PCEO. *"On behalf of my son being the Governor of this province, you are welcome. I hope you will find time to visit my province, too since it is just few kilometers ride away from here. We will be very happy to have you,"* she said. ###