



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

On the deployment of Doctors to the Barrios (DTTBs) to Cebu City

Due to the increasing number of new cases and widespread community transmission in majority of barangays in Cebu City, as well as the consistent case doubling time of less than seven (7) days and the significant increase in critical care utilization against critical care capacity, Cebu City was placed under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) through the Inter-Agency Task Force for Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) Resolution No. 46-A.

Following the observation of National Task Force Leads Secretary Carlito Galvez and Cebu Overseer Secretary Roy Cimatú and reports of CHD 7 Director Jaime Bernadas that the Cebu City health care system is overwhelmed with patient load at the moment, Health Secretary Francisco T. Duque III issued a directive to deploy Doctors to the Barrios (DTTBs) and other healthcare workers to urgently respond to the brewing situation. Also among those who were quick to rise to the call were health care workers from the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The DTTBs will be temporarily assigned to Cebu City to provide critical relief as part of the national response to the emergency situation. This temporary assignment is not new as DTTBs have been temporarily redeployed in the past under similar emergency situations such as the Marawi siege and the Super Typhoon Yolanda response.

The redeployed doctors are Rural Health Physicians, not Municipal Health Officers, which means that their respective municipalities will not be left doctorless during their assignment and health care services will continue.

A pre-deployment orientation will be conducted and the DTTBs will be provided roundtrip transportation, statutory allowances, actual hazard duty pay, accommodations, and other incidental expenses during their deployment period in Cebu City, including post-deployment quarantine.

The very nature of the DTTB program is to deploy doctors, usually to remote areas where access to healthcare is a challenge, and where quality health care service is most needed. As the country remains in a state of public health emergency due to COVID-19, and cases reaching a critical point in Cebu City, the Department is grateful to all who heeded the call of duty during these daunting times.

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