



Health workers bang pots, pans to show hunger

By Willie Casas

HEALTH workers from different public hospitals in Metro Manila initiated a "noise barrage and die-in protest" in front of the Department of Health (DOH) gate on Thursday.

They expressed their anger and frustration regarding "the insincerity and negligence" of the DOH to health workers' welfare by not releasing the funds for their meals, accommodation, and transportation benefits.

The benefits are stated under Republic Act 1494 or Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, in recognition of the health workers' contribution in the mitigation of COVID-19 pandemic.

They also rattled empty pots and expressed that more delays in providing this benefit would cause them more misery and hunger.

A list of the DOH hospitals in NCR that are forced to return funds compliance to DOH Department Order No. 2020-0759 and the amounts they returned include:

- Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center – P56 million
- Tondo Medical Center – P20 million
- Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital – P59 million
- National Center for Mental Health – P62.4 million
- Philippine Orthopedic Center – P35 million
- National Children's Hospital – P10 million
- Research Institute for Tropical Medicine – P57 million