

DSWD hosts ASEAN Inter-Sectoral Consultation to develop Regional Guidance to strengthen social workers, wider social service workforce

In line with its role as the focal agency representing the Philippines to the ASEAN Sectoral Body on Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is set to host the ASEAN Inter-Sectoral Consultation for the Finalization of two outcome documents on February 7 and 8, 2023, in cooperation with the ASEAN Social Work Consortium, the ASEAN Secretariat and with support from UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office

These documents are the Regional Guidance on Strengthening the Role of Social Workers and the Wider Social Service Workforce in Health; and the Regional Guidance on Strengthening the Role of Social Workers and the Wider Social Service Workforce in the Justice System.

The virtual consultation will provide an opportunity to feedback and further gather inputs from ASEAN Member States, relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and other international partners to enhance and finalize the regional guidance. Likewise, the consultation will address challenges and discuss opportunities to strengthen roles, competencies and capacities of social work, and the wider social service workforce in the health sector and justice system.

On the other hand, the regional guidance will be a significant document that will assist policy makers, managers, government

officials, and the whole social welfare and development sector in ASEAN Member States (AMS) in planning, developing and supporting social workers and the wider social service workforce. It will be essential to the delivery of inclusive, accessible, multidisciplinary and responsive social services to raise quality of life, as well as in responding to the needs of the vulnerable and marginalized sectors of the society.

Pursuant to its commitment, the Department will continue to support activities of the ASEAN to foster camaraderie and international solidarity. ###

Newly appointed DSWD Secretary Gatchalian meets with agency execs

Following his appointment as the new head of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Secretary Rex Gatchalian met with the undersecretaries of the Agency on his first day, on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 where he was briefed on the operations of the Department as well as on the programs and services being implemented.

As the new Secretary of the Department, he also initially laid out his major priorities that he wants to focus on such as the digitalization of the systems, processes, and programs and services of the DSWD. He also mentioned his plan on cleansing the database of beneficiaries to ensure that deserving and eligible families and individuals will be served.

Furthermore, Secretary Gatchalian also plans to set up

logistics networks and additional warehouses for relief goods and family food packs in strategic locations in the country that are closer to the people, to provide immediate and prompt assistance to the families that will be affected by disasters and calamities. This, he said, is also in line with the directive of the Chief Executive, President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

His first order of the day was to do away with formalities and to make things happen in a timely manner.

To allay the fears of personnel, Secretary Gatchalian gave his assurance that the existing structure will remain, emphasizing that he is willing to work with the present workforce of the Department.

Meanwhile, briefing sessions on the functions and key results areas of the different offices, bureaus, services and units (OBSUs), as well as the different Field Offices of the Department will continue in the days ahead. The new Secretary will also make the rounds of the OBSUs, meet with the staff, and familiarize himself within the DSWD premises. He is also set to meet the Regional Directors of the Department next week.

Secretary Gatchalian was appointed by President Marcos, Jr. and took his oath of office on January 31, 2023.

The entire DSWD workforce has expressed their full support to the new Secretary. ###

DSWD Secretary Gatchalian shares thrusts, vision with members of the media



Newly appointed Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian outlined his major thrusts and priorities to improve the quality of service of the Agency for the poor and the vulnerable sectors, during his first press briefing on Friday, February 3, at the DSWD Central Office.

To better serve the clients, Secretary Gatchalian said that he will focus on further streamlining and digitizing the systems and processes of the programs and services being implemented by the Department.

Food stamps: aid with dignity

The Secretary also stressed that the priority is to address hunger in the fight against poverty. Secretary Gatchalian added the idea is to locate those in need and provide them food stamps, instead of food boxes, to avoid lining up in adverse conditions.