

September 25, 2018

**Health Leadership and Governance Symposium
AIM Conference Center, Makati City**

**Message of Support from the Department of Health
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Chief of Staff/Undersecretary of Health***

Good afternoon everyone. Please allow me to acknowledge our valuable partners. To ZFF chairman Roberto Romulo, president of Zuellig Family Foundation Mr. Ernesto Garilao, our distinguished provincial governors, DOH regional directors, participants and guests, a pleasant afternoon to all. I know it has been a long day for all of you so this will not take long.

It is an honor to join you today, and on behalf of our Secretary Francisco Duque and the Department of Health, I congratulate the Zuellig Family Foundation for all the initiatives and support it has rendered to the national and local government leaders for the advancement of health. Through the years, ZFF has been a partner in sustaining the implementation of the Health Leadership and Governance Program helping to improve the national health situation, with emphasis on rural communities and underserved areas.

The devolution of health services delegated responsibilities to the local government units. ZFF recognized that leadership and governance are keys to creating healthcare systems that are responsive to the needs of the poor. This gap was answered by providing training to local leaders, helping them appreciate the significance of their role in developing healthcare systems. Guided by the 6 building blocks of health systems, 1) leadership and governance, 2) financing, 3) access to medicines and technology, 4) workforce, 5) health information system, and 6) service delivery, the leaders are able to identify the needs and strategize on solutions to address them. This also enables them to further understand the complexities of health issues in the communities. This symposium is a testament to the good results from the pilot HLGP and it underscores the importance of developing leaders into health champions in implementing systematic health reforms.

The Department of Health appreciates the initiatives of the governors to rise to the challenge of providing better health systems in their province and also integrating preventive with curative care. Let us acknowledge the DOH regional directors who were dauntless in their engagement with the program. Everybody's efforts in identifying and addressing the social determinants of

health and their impact on the health status of the communities are laudable. These efforts will decrease the health inequities in the provinces.

It is also worth mentioning that our counterparts in the DOH central office and regional offices have strengthened their capacities to help program implementation and engage local government leaders. Each unit has an identified role and responsibility, but let us keep in mind that achievement of better health outcomes is a multi-sectoral undertaking. Let us continue to look at these reforms through a health systems approach where all factors are interrelated and effects are contributory to the function of the whole.

Aligned with the Department of Health's strategic framework in boosting Universal Healthcare, the FOURmula 1 Plus boasts 4 strategic pillars to provide holistic and collaborative approach in ensuring quality health for all. These four pillars: financing, service delivery, regulation, governance and the cross cutting pillar, performance accountability are parallel with the goals of providing universal healthcare in the Philippines.

The goal of the financing pillar is to secure sustainable investments to improve health outcomes and ensure efficient and equitable use of health resources.

Service delivery ensures the accessibility of essential quality health products and services at appropriate levels of care through increase in access, equitable distribution of human resources for health and engaging service delivery networks to deliver comprehensive package of health services.

Regulation aims to ensure high quality and affordable health products, devices, facilities and devices by harmonizing and streamlining regulatory systems and processes and developing innovative regulatory mechanisms for equitable distribution of quality and affordable health goods and services.

The governance pillar aims to strengthen leadership and management capacities, coordination and support mechanisms which are necessary to ensure functional, people-centered and participatory health systems. Key interventions of this pillar are targeted through improving organizational development and performance, improving processes for procurement and supply chain management to ensure availability and quality of health commodities and ensuring generation and use of evidence in health policy development, decision-making and program planning and implementation. Leadership and governance is essential in ensuring that a strategic policy framework exists to build a good health system.

The accountability pillar is an intrinsic and significant aspect of governance which is aimed to use systems that would drive better execution of policies and programs while ensuring responsibility to all stakeholders by instituting transparency and accountability measures at all levels and shifting to outcome-based management.

The Universal Healthcare Bill will guarantee every Filipino, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health services with financial risk protection. This encompasses all our shared burdens and goals. And as we await its ratification in the Senate, we continue taking small steps toward health reforms.

The Department of Health wishes to sustain this partnership in the service of the Filipino citizenry. We know that through our concerted efforts, we are on the way to progress in the field of health. We congratulate all dedicated leaders who untiringly work toward better healthcare for our nation. Let us continue to work together on the way to a sustainable and effective Philippine healthcare system.

Thank you very much and enjoy the rest of the day!