

## **DOLE Turns Over Bicycle Kabuhayan Sets to Families of VMMC employees.**

Fifty (50) Bicycle Kabuhayan sets were distributed by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to eligible family members of selected staff of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center during the Bikeccination Project awarding ceremony on April 11, 2022 at the Main Lobby of the hospital.

The awarding of the Bike Kabuhayan sets is part of the DOLE's Bikeccination drive which aims to encourage individuals to get vaccinated by awarding bicycles to workers who have completed their doses of any of the available vaccines against COVID-19 and to contribute towards gradual recovery of the economy.

The beneficiaries received a total of P20,000 worth of livelihood grant that were composed of the following: a bicycle unit, insulated carrier bag, water bottle, headgear, front and rear lights, vest, android cellphone, and P5000 worth of load cards.

With the DOLE assistance, said beneficiaries will also have an opportunity to create a small business or complement their existing livelihood.

The DOLE-National Capital Region (NCR)) led the awarding ceremony. Gracing the event was Secretary of Labor and Employment Silvestre Bello III and top hospital officials as well as representatives from DOLE main office and their satellite offices.

In his opening remarks, VMMC Director Dr. Dominador M. Chiong Jr. said that VMMC is very grateful to be chosen as recipient for this special privilege.

“Ngayong hapon po ay VMMC is very lucky to be the recipient of this Bikeccination project. We would like to inform our good Secretary na ang VMMC ay isa sa mga unang ospital na nagroll out ng vaccines. We have done our share in the vaccination at our own expense and we have vaccinated more than 60,000. Until now, we are still doing it. In our country there is no room for complacency, dapat magingat po tayong lahat lagi. Here in VMMC we are ready for another surge, ready na po kami ang aming mga gamut at tao our staff is battle tested, we have our fair share of treating COVID patients., hopefully it does not come anymore. Hopefully this would really encourage everyone to continue with our vaccination program”

*In his message, Secretary Bello shared the objective of the program “*

“Bigyan ko kayo ng kaunting istorya tungkol sa Bikeccination. Itong Bikeccination, ay isang programa sa Department of Labor. Para maudyok namin yung mga tao na magpabakuna. Sabi namin : Magpabakuna ka, bigyan kita ng bisikleta. Ayan tumalab naman, dumami ang nagpabakuna dahil sa bisikleta. Nagyon itong bisikleta na ibibigay namin dito sa Veterans, kayong mga healthcare workers, hindi kayo pwede bigyan ng bisikleta. Kasi itong programa na ito ay para sa mga informal workers. Yung mga kulang at walang hanapbuhay. Halimbawa, yung mga sidewalk vendors, tricycle drivers, mga labandera etc. Pero nung nagpabakuna ako dito, booster pa, moderna pa. Sabi ko ang laki ng utang na loob ko dito sa mga healthcare workers, lalo na yung nag turok sakin. Di ko naramdaman yung sakit. Alam ni director yan na may phobia ako sa injection. Makakita pa lang ako ng needle nanginginig na tuhod ko. Kaya palagi ko sinasabi na pag may nag injection sakin, kailangan maganda, or at least may hinahawakan akong maganda. Yun nakuha ko dito sa Veterans, kaya sabi ko kailanganbigyan natin ng konting pagbayad utang

sa mga healthcare workers. But since your not qualified under this program, you can qualify thru your relatives. Yung mga kamaganak nyo na walang hanapbuhay. Sila ang tatanggap ngayon. So 50 of you will be receiving for your relatives. Itong bike may kasamang cellphone. Itong cellphone may kasamang load. Kung gusto nyo pa, mag sabi lang kayo. Dadagdagan pa natin ng bisikleta yan. Pero kung ako sa inyo, humingi kayo ng pang livelihood. Pwede kayo bigyan ng kapital. Yung mga kamaganak nyo na nangangailangan. Bibigyan kayo ng puhunan. Pang negosyo. Kaya yun lang ang mga available amelioration program in the Department of Labor”.

“Wag kayo magatubili na lumapit, wag kayo mahiya na humingi sa akin, dahil iisa lang ang utos ni Pres. Duterte sakin. Madalas sabihin sakini: Yung pera ng gobyerno, yung pera ng department of labor pera ng tao, kaya ibigay mo sa tao. Yan ang aming trabaho. Bigyan namin kayo ng trabaho. Today, ayan po, ipinarating po namin sa inyo ang konting ayuda, sana makatulong. At kung gusto pa ninyo, mag sabi lang po kayo, nandiyan yung anak ko, pwede nyo lang ibulong sa kanya para ready lang kami, hindi lang naman kayo eh, lahat naman. Ang paborito pa naman ni Director Reyvila, Kung meron ditong mga bakla, binibigyan namin ng bisikleta, at hindi lang mga bakla ah, pati mga tomboy. Kaya kung bakla ka, magpalista ka ngayon kay Director. Gusto kong malaman nyo na meron kaming programa para makatulong sa ating mga kababayan. Yun lamang. And thank you.”

Secretary Bello also committed additional fifty (50) bikes to VMMC to cater to family members of other hospital staff to be able to help as many individuals as possible.



***Bikeccination Turnover Ceremony at the main lobby of the hospital.***



*VMMC Director Dominador Chiong Jr. conveyed his gratitude to the DOLE officials during the turnover ceremony.*



*Beneficiaries from the VMMC pose for a souvenir photo with Dr. Dominador M. Chiong Jr. ( 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and DOLE Secretary Silvestre Bello III ( 6<sup>th</sup> from left)*



*Dr. Dominador M. Chiong Jr. hands over the livelihood grant to a beneficiary.*