



ECOWEB CELEBRATES WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY 2020 IN SOLIDARITY WITH ALL #LOCALHEROES - THE LIVING SOULS THAT SUSTAIN THE HUMANITY IN US

This World Humanitarian Day 2020, the Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits, Inc. (ECOWEB)

Celebrates in solidarity with all real-life heroes who continue to serve bravely the people and communities in crisis amid the COVID-19 global pandemic – the living souls who sustain the humanity in us;

Recognizes the tireless efforts and bravery of all local heroes who without reservation face the dangers in order to provide lifesaving services to the people affected by COVID19, other calamities and armed conflicts;

Salutes and pays respect to the health front-liners who without counting the risks continue to work to provide comfort and help save the lives of those infected of SARS-Cov-2 virus. In line of duty, many of them sacrificed their lives. To them, we offer our tribute and gratitude. They are among our modern real-life heroes;

Appreciates the security sector who uphold their humanitarian mission of saving and protecting lives in times of calamities and armed conflict;

Commends our own humanitarian workers, members, staff and volunteers - our own local heroes - who continue to provide empowering services with passion and dedication amid the COVID19 pandemic to the affected and vulnerable population of both natural and human-made disasters around the country and of protracted crisis especially in Mindanao; and

Wishes that the positive efforts of our government officials this pandemic and the investigation done by the policymakers such as on the issue of PhilHealth, will ensure the protection of rights of the citizens, welfare of the health sector front-liners and the unimpeded health services to Filipinos.

While there are a lot to celebrate this WHD2020, but, ECOWEB is also

Deeply concerned on the reports about our local health heroes being harassed and discriminated due to suspicion of being potential carrier of the virus and about their sad plight of being not given enough support despite the health hazard they have to face as they continue their services to humanity this pandemic. Such discriminatory act from individuals and uncompassionate act from the government dampen the spirit of our health service providers and only discourage health professionals to join the dwindling force of our much-needed health service sector;

Alarmed on the reported cases of red-tagging of a number of local and international humanitarian actors and the growing fear on the negative implication of the passage of the Anti-Terrorism Law on the protection of rights of the humanitarian actors especially those operating in armed conflict-affected and red-tagged communities;

Saddened on the continued reluctance of the national government as well as of the international humanitarian agencies to recognize the importance of local leadership and the role of local humanitarian organizations in effective crisis management;

Dismayed on the absence of a framework putting the people at the center and lack of recognition in the humanitarian system that put the people affected of crisis at the center of humanitarian programming;

Distressed on the report of continuing cases of corruption, misuse, lack of transparency, and accountability of public funds in this time of crisis by local and national agencies; and

Worried on the increasing COVID19 cases and the economic downturn as its impact with the lack of readiness in the local and national system to address the multi-hazard challenges that our country is constantly facing.

ECOWEB with our local and community partners in crisis, **Call on**

Our Government to make use of its Authority with sense of Responsibility to ensure protection of our health service front-liners from discrimination; provision of necessary support to all our local heroes who bravely face the risk of COVID19 in the service of the people; to enable a crisis governance that is transparent, accountable and participatory that also ensure the protection of the safety and security of the humanitarian actors – the partner of the government in crisis response, our local heroes this pandemic. As we continue overcoming the impact of the global pandemic, to not forget also the people suffering from protracted crisis such as the Marawi IDPs and not to overlook the needed preparedness for other hazards the country is constantly facing;

The International Humanitarian Aid Agencies to effect real change in the humanitarian system towards valuing local leadership, real solidarity and equal dignity among people in diversity.

All humanitarian actors and agencies to make the people at the center of humanitarian actions and to recognize the capacity of people affected of crisis to help themselves. That local heroes are also found amidst the population affected of crisis. Recognizing and supporting this local capacity is upholding dignity and sharing humanity in action.

Everybody to honor all our humanitarian and local heroes in their efforts and sacrifices in service to humanity.