

Gov't seeks to move 3.9 million families out of poverty – Soliman

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SURIGAO CITY – With the cooperation of concerned line agencies of the government and local government units, the Aquino administration is trying its best to move 3.9 million poor families out of poverty, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said.

Soliman said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other concerned line agencies of the government are already mapping out a convergence strategy to be more efficient in the delivery of social services to maximize results.

The Aquino administration is embarking on such poverty reduction programs as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4P's, the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan – Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), and Self-Employment Assistance Kaunlaran (SEA-K).

"The government is maximizing its efforts in delivering social services to comprehensively address poverty through this program," she said.

Soliman said the department is also envisioning a strong partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs) to fully carry out its aim to engage these organizations as "gabay, kaagapay, tulay and bantay" of its services.

"We are already on track to hit our mission," she said.

Upon instruction of President Aquino to maximize all fund resources of the department to assist the the poorest of the poor, Soliman along with Surigao del Norte Gov. Sol F. Matugas reviewed the status of the existing 20,697 beneficiaries of the 4P's.

Soliman said the Aquino administration will be adding more beneficiaries including those in the tribal communities and communities who are affected by the total log ban.

She also said her department can now answer to the nutritional problem of children in public day care centers through a Supplemental Feeding Program (SFP). "The feeding will be done in two cycles for a period of 120 days," she said.

Soliman also disclosed that with the support of AusAID, the department is bent on putting up another 120 day care centers nationwide. She said the KALAHI-CIDSS will be prioritized in Mainit and Pilar, both of Surigao del Norte.

With these programs, Governor Matugas and Surigao del Norte solons Rep. Francisco Matugas (1st district), Rep. Guillermo Romarate (2nd district) and Surigao City Mayor Ernesto Matugas and the 20 mayors in the province expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Aquino for the continuing poverty alleviation program extended to the province.

Secretary Soliman was in two day swing in Surigao del Norte and Surigao City starting Thursday to also led the signing of several social services program of the DSWD and LGU's

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and also attended the 2011 Daycare Workers Convention held at the Provincial Convention Center here. (Manila Bulletin)