

Kuya Bong helps Batasan TODA members

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As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to affect the livelihood of many Filipinos, Senator Christopher “Bong” Go on Monday, 7 December, personally distributed assistance to members of the Batasan Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) in Quezon City.

Emphasizing that a whole-of-nation approach is needed to overcome the ongoing health crisis, Senator Go urged all Filipinos to contribute to the bayanihan effort to help the country, especially the most affected sectors, recover quickly.

Around 300 members of Batasan TODA were provided with meals, food packs, masks, face shields and vitamins in a distribution activity held at the Quezon City Polytechnic University.

The group was the second batch of beneficiaries from the Batasan TODA members that have received assistance from the senator. His team initially visited them on 5 October. The activity was conducted in strict compliance with the necessary health protocols to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19.

“You know, there are many drivers, many TODA members who have been affected and have not received their SAP (Social Amelioration Program) funds. Those we are helping have been identified to have not received any. That is the reason why we are here to provide help, especially in this time of COVID-19 and other calamities that have affected the country,” Go said.

“Now, things are not yet normal and a number of routes are still not open to some tricycle drivers. Our TODA members have been hit hardest by this pandemic,” he added.

As chair of the Senate Committee on Health, he advised the TODA members to continue following government-issued health protocols, such as the wearing of masks and face shields when in public, washing of hands, observing social distancing, and avoiding unessential travels.

He added that once the COVID-19 vaccine is available and deemed safe and effective, the government would prioritize the poor and vulnerable sectors, as well as frontliners, such as medical workers, uniformed personnel and teachers.

Some selected beneficiaries were provided with bicycles that they could use to commute to work given the current limited public transportation options.

Aside from bicycles, others were given computer tablets which their children can use for the blended learning being implemented in schools.