

Belmonte to DSWD: Show compassion to ailing SAP beneficiaries

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte on Saturday appealed to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to show compassion to ailing beneficiaries of the government's financial assistance.

Belmonte made the appeal after receiving reports about residents having a hard time going to payout sites due to medical conditions.

“May report akong natanggap na pati bedridden pinilit na papuntahin sa payout site para lang sa verification. Hindi naman makatao ‘yun (I received a report that a bedridden resident was forced to go to the payout site just for verification. That is not humane),” she added.

Residents who are qualified for the second tranche of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) have been advised to claim their financial aid to designated payout centers.

The DSWD completed the distribution of cash aid in Barangay Bagbag at 3 a.m. on May 15. The payout in Barangay Gulod, Capri, San Bartolome and Nagkaisang Nayon also ended in the wee hours of the night.

Some barangays reported that barangay IDs were not honored at the payout sites, and residents were instead required to submit a residency certificate.

“Minsan naman, hinihingan pa ng kung anu-anong dokumento. Sila ang nasa listahan (Sometimes they are asked to produce more documents. They are on the list) precisely because they received the first tranche of assistance, so why prolong their agony?” she added.

Payouts were reportedly delayed at the 82 sites due to limited number of DSWD personnel who delivered the funds.

“Given the volume of beneficiaries we handled and that of the waitlisted now, it is indeed reprehensible why the DSWD is making it difficult for our QCitizens,” Belmonte said.