

Distribution of unclaimed ayuda starts

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Beneficiaries in Quezon City who have not received the second tranche of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Social Amelioration Program (SAP) will finally receive their unclaimed financial aid. The assistance, as provided in Republic Act 11469, or the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, will be given as cash aid via a two-week manual payout at the Quezon Memorial Circle covered court.

A total of 40,699 beneficiaries have been advised to follow the schedule assigned to their barangays to avoid overcrowding at the venue and ensure observance of minimum health protocols.

Last year, the second tranche of SAP was distributed by DSWD's financial service partners, such as Starpay and GCash. However, due to various challenges presented by these digital platforms, some residents were not able to claim their ayuda.

"Our citizens encountered various problems when they were trying to claim their second tranche of ayuda when this was being fully distributed via digital and automated means. Some of the beneficiaries did not have smartphones or Internet access for them to have an e-wallet account," the city mayor said.

"That's why the national government, through much prodding by the city government and barangays, finally started the manual distribution of the unclaimed cash aid yesterday," the official added.

The complete list of the beneficiaries who have yet to claim their cash aid along with their payout schedule is posted in their respective barangays. This will also be made available in the city government's website.

According to **Social Services Development Department** head Fe Macale, the Department of the Interior and Local Government has given local government units until Thursday, 15 July to finish the aid distribution.

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"We started the distribution of the first batch of unclaimed DSWD SAP waitlisted on Tuesday with 3,649 beneficiaries. This week, a total of 20,852 individuals from the second batch of unclaimed SAP waitlisted beneficiaries are scheduled to claim their ayuda and another 16,198 waitlisted are due to receive their aid next week," Macale said.

Beneficiaries need to bring a valid ID, a photocopy of the ID with three signatures and their Social Amelioration Card form signed by authorized signatories.

The city government has tapped the **Quezon City Police District** and **Department of Public Order and Safety** to ensure the orderly distribution of the cash assistance.

SAP is the national government's financial assistance for families whose livelihoods were affected by the pandemic.