- Government aid

Over 400K QC residents get aid from Atayde's program

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QUEZON City 1st District Rep. Arjo Atayde reported in his last Monday's State of the District Address (SODA) that more than 400,000 residents have benefited from various programs and projects he initiated since 2022.

Atayde said his "Aksyon Agad" initiatives helped address the needs of his constituents by covering employment, education, health, youth development, disaster response and infrastructure.

"Under our Aksyon Agad, we were also able to carry out numerous programs that have direct effect to the daily lives of District 1 residents," said Atayde in his SODA held at SM City North Edsa Skydome.

In his nearly three years in office, the actor politician said that his Aksyon Agad program extended aid to 11,498 individuals who were given employment via the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (Tupad) program.

Some 1,500 applicants were able to secure overseas jobs through the Taiwan job fair; 1,100 others trained under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) and other livelihood initiatives; and 245 small entrepreneurs received a P15,000 capital via the Sustainable Livelihood Program.

Also, at least 60 patients per day received free treatment at the dialysis facility in the district which opened in October 2024, while 75,466 individuals received medical assistance, and at least 4,598 students received Commission on Higher Education (CHED) educational aid.

Atayde, who also thanked his wife, Maine Mendoza, and parents for their unwavering support, said that some 929 senior high school students got a total of P2,817,000 in cash allowance under the "Tulong Eskwela" Program, while 1,410 scholars received support under "Tulong Dunong and Smart."

Also, a total of 132,567 families benefited via the Rice Distribution Program; 65,300 individuals were provided free meals through the "Kusina on Wheels," while 64,000 families were beneficiaries of Atayde's "Pamaskong Handog" initiative.

The lawmaker, who is seeking a second term in the May 12, 2025 midterm elections, reported that at least 7,789 families affected by several fire incidents were extended full assistance by his office while over 3,500 families received burial assistance and 40,684 individuals were given financial help for various needs.

Atayde said that he made sure to fulfill all his political promises, and "for every peso the government allocates for our district, we make sure nothing goes to waste and all go to the programs that directly benefit the District 1 residents."

"Public service is not about grand gestures or sweet words — it's the fast, effective and prompt response to the needs of the constituents," said Atayde, who gave special thanks to Mayor Joy Belmonte for supporting his programs and guiding him since he was elected into office for the first time.

"Projects or numbers are not at the core of Aksyon Agad, but on the number of people who benefit from it and families that improve their standard of living," he added.

The young legislator also pointed out the important role of sports development as he revealed that the Aksyon Agad Sports Program supported 987 young athletes, while the Inter-Barangay Youth Program and Council League that was launched during his first term was expanded to foster unity and discipline.

"Next year, the program will expand to include badminton, chess, darts, and bowling, giving more residents the opportunity to participate and strengthen community ties," said Atayde.