



UNION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES INC.

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PRESS RELEASE

19 APRIL 2023

SUPPORT FAMILIES DEALING WITH AUTISM, CUA URGES LGUS

Quirino Governor Dax Cua, President of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), has called on all local government units (LGUs) to undertake initiatives that support individuals with autism in their respective areas.

"Nakikiusap tayo sa ating mga kapwa LGU leaders to take steps to help our families who deal with autism and make our communities more inclusive," Cua said.

The governor's call came after a meeting with Tuguegarao Mayor Maila Rosario S. Ting-Que, an autism advocate who highlighted the importance of addressing the needs and concerns of individuals with autism and their families.

"As a mayor and an autism advocate, LGUs must undertake initiatives that promote awareness, understanding, and inclusion of individuals with autism in our communities. We have to work together to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals with autism and their families," said Ting-Que.

Cua underscored the critical role of LGUs in ensuring that individuals with autism have access to necessary services such as education, health care, and social welfare.

He urged LGUs to implement policies and programs that promote awareness, understanding, and inclusion of individuals with autism in the community.

These include the collection of data on individuals with special needs at the local levels, having developmental pediatricians, and the establishment of Transitional and Learning Centers at the local level.

He also called on PhilHealth to update its package for children with developmental disabilities, including diagnosis, to make the same accessible to even the poorest families.



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"Autism is a complex developmental disorder that affects individuals and families across the country. As leaders in our communities, it is our responsibility to ensure that individuals with autism have access to the resources and support they need to thrive," said Cua.

Cua also encouraged LGUs to work closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and advocacy groups to develop effective strategies and initiatives to support individuals with autism.

He also emphasized the need for collaboration among LGUs and with the national government to create a comprehensive national autism plan that addresses the needs of individuals with autism and their families.

"As leaders, we have a responsibility to ensure that no one is left behind, including those with autism. Let us work together to create a more inclusive and supportive society for all Filipinos," the governor said.

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ULAP is the umbrella organization of all leagues of local government units and local government officials in country, serving as the focal representative and mouthpiece of the subnational government in all policy and program platforms to amplify our unified advocacy towards the strengthening of LGUs into able partners in nation-building.

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