

Public-Private Mix DOTS initiative gives hope to Mamanwas

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Tuberculosis is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity among the Mamanwa communities in Surigao del Norte. For this, the Provincial Coordinating Committee (PCC) in the province has sought the involvement of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) agency to strengthen the campaign against TB, especially among vulnerable groups like the Mamanwas.

Partnership between the PCC and NCIP started when NCIP was invited to the orientation on the Public-Private Mix DOTS initiative. Seeing that both parties had the common goal of eradicating TB in vulnerable populations in Surigao del Norte, subsequent meetings were then conducted to address issues concerning indigenous peoples (IPs) and TB control, which eventually stamped the partnership between NCIP and PCC.

Together, they devised the following collaborative activities for the province:

- crafting of advocacy materials that IPs can readily relate to;
- case finding and tracing of contacts of MDR cases;
- identification of reliable and willing TB treatment partners within indigenous cultural communities (ICCs);
- orientation/training of TB treatment partners; and
- close follow up and monitoring of TB cases.

Ultimately, it is hoped that the collaboration between the NCIP and PCC will result into:

- better understanding of IP's traditional practices and way of life that will be relevant to the success of the TB program implementation;
- establishment of rapport with the indigenous cultural communities (ICCs);
- shared information on patients' history, immediate contact and health practices;
- easy tracking of PTB cases and contacts;
- close coordination in treatment and monitoring; and
- reduced rate of default in treatment.

The NCIP is a primary government agency that formulates and implements policies, plans and programs for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of ICCs/IPs with due regard to their ancestral domains and lands, self-governance and empowerment, social justice and human rights, and cultural integrity.



The Mamanwas actively participating in TB health education activities conducted by PCC and NCIP in Surigao del Norte, PHL.



Team up among local government units, PCC and NCIP for TB Awareness in Surigao del Norte, PHL.