

# **SPEECH OF SECRETARY FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSC FOR THE 2006 ZONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF FOURMULA ONE**

Dakak Park, Beach Resort

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Greetings (VIPs)

Fellow public servants, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant morning to all of you.

It is always a pleasure for me to be addressing my colleagues from the DOH especially today as we gear up for an enormous task ahead of us --- that is driving much needed reforms in the health sector and making our vision of Health for All a reality for the Filipino people. We are definitely moving forward! And we aim to mobilize the entire health sector and lead in the quest for excellence in health.

We have shaped and fine-tuned this great vision through the enormous collaborative work we have already done. The different teams of the DOH went through a series of brainstorming sessions enjoining the 16 participating provinces in giving flesh to Fourmula One for Health. This is the new flagship program of the DOH. It is designed to implement critical health interventions with 3 main goals of achieving better health outcomes...a more responsive health system...and equitable health care financing.

Under the Fourmula One framework, we have clearly defined four main strategic thrusts, which we have extensively tackled during the various orientation workshops and many other consultative processes in the past months. We have polished our efforts so as to implement critical programs with **speed, precision and effective coordination** in delivering health services at all levels. We are not stopping in pushing for reforms and in sharpening future actions to achieve the best health outcomes for our people.

The first wheel of Fourmula One is better **Health Financing** by **fostering greater, increased and sustained investments in health**. This component will be led jointly by the PhilHealth through the NHIP and the DOH through sector-wide policy support on health financing.

Secondly, we have **Health Regulations** to assure **the highest quality as well as affordability of health goods and services**. This will be jointly implemented by PhilHealth and the Health Regulation cluster of DOH.

**Health Service Delivery** is the third component of Fourmula One. Through this we want to **secure the accessibility and availability of basic and essential health care for all, most especially the poor**. This will be led jointly by Health Program Development cluster and the field operations clusters, with support from PhilHealth.

Finally, **Good Governance** is needed to **enhance the performance of the entire health system**. This will be implemented jointly by the External Affairs cluster through the BLHD and BIHC and the Sectoral Support cluster particularly by the HPDPB.

The extent of the challenge for governance rings loud and clear as the health sector now faces a host of emergencies --- the exodus of doctors and other health professionals, meager health resources threatening to buckle down against the rising pressure of a triple burden of disease...and the continued fragmentation of the health system under a devolved setup. These challenges serve not as deterrents but as a strong impetus for us to do things more efficiently and rationally in response to the real needs of communities, families and individuals.

We in the DOH are bent on leading the entire health sector to steward the health of every Filipino whom we serve. However, we recognize that government efforts are never enough. Governance, to be effective, will have to hinge on strong partnerships from different sectors. We will need all the help we can get from other national agencies, local government units, civil society, and Filipino communities. Indeed, uncompromising integrity and accountability are needed for a truly effective leadership. But a unified system is as equally important in the seamless delivery of services where they are actually needed.

Certainly, we are beginning an ambitious race under very challenging circumstances. But all road signs are pointing to the only direction which is the way FORWARD... and that we can speed our way towards the finish line with optimism and hope rather than fear. Things are definitely looking up for the DOH as we ended the previous year with a bang.

- We have finally laid out the strategic plan for Fourmula One for Health, which defines our road map designed for our most urgent and intelligent actions to achieve “Health For All.”
- And we are starting this race armed with the confidence and faith of our people. Once again, we have been recognized as the # 1 government agency most transparent in its efforts in fighting corruption and inefficiency among our ranks (by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission). The latest SWS survey also reveals a high net satisfaction rate for DOH at 70% with Philhealth following closely behind at 69%.

Hence, let me personally congratulate all of you for a job well done! I have nothing but pride and privilege to be joining you at a time when we are truly changing history for the Department and making a difference in the lives of our people.

As we scan the future and re-affirm our collective efforts, let us transform our well-intentioned plans into concrete and meaningful actions. Let us invest in building more leaders and drawing inspiration in the various areas of the health system by wielding effective leadership through our own little examples.

Finally, let us remember through our triumphs now that we are achieving great things because we have been jointly working and giving our own selfless contributions. This is how striving as a TEAM truly means --- **Team Effort Achieves More!** So let us bravely take on bigger challenges in the health sector and win this big race for a better health and a better life for the nation !

Happy New Year to All and *Mabuhay Tayong Lahat!*