Go aids quake victims in NCotabato, Davao Sur

Senator Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go distributed cash assistance and grocery packs on Monday in towns that were hit hardest by a recent 6.3-magnitude earthquake in the central and southern parts of Mindanao.

Go first visited Tulunan, North Cotabato, the epicenter of the October 16 earthquake and then proceeded to Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, where a 22-year-old mother and her nine-month-old child were killed in a landslide during the quake.

The senator was joined by representatives from concerned government agencies, such as the National Housing Authority (NHA), Department of Health (DoH) and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to provide additional help to the victims.

Go emphasized the role of NHA in helping the victims rebuild or repair their houses.

He assured affected residents of neighboring towns and provinces such as Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato that necessary government assistance will also be delivered to them.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the earthquake affected a total of 5,101 families, involving 25,505 individuals, in 108 barangay (villages) in Regions 11 and 12, as of October 22.

A total of 778 aftershocks, ranging from 1.5 to 5.5 magnitude, have also been recorded, as of October 22.

Go also advised the public to be cautious and rely only on legitimate sources of information in spreading news through social media.

He warned purveyors of fake news to stop adding to the burden by deceiving the public.

In his speeches in the two towns, Go encouraged the people to avail themselves of the services of the Malasakit Center, an office where those in need of medical attention can avail of financial assistance from the DoH, DSWD, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

After the visits to the areas affected by the earthquake, the senator went to the Davao Regional Medical Center in Tagum City, Davao del Norte, and attended the opening of the 47th Malasakit Center in the country.