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## **DOH STRENGTHENS UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE THROUGH HIGH-IMPACT FIVE STRATEGY**

Press Release/ August 14, 2015

The Department of Health together with the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines (EU), commence a National Health Summit with the theme “Universal Health Care: Making Local Health Service Delivery Work.” This summit aims to capture, share, and scale-up local health practices and interventions proven effective in increasing access to quality mother and child health care neonatal services.

Kalusugang Pangkalahatan or Universal Health Care is the current thrust of the Aquino administration in order to bridge the gap and reduce barriers to access health care, reduce social exclusion and work towards universal coverage of delivering health services to Filipinos.

In order to attain these goals, DOH launched the High-Impact Five (Hi-5) last June 2015, which focuses on Maternal Health Care, Infant Care, Child Care, HIV/AIDS, and Service Delivery Network. This strategy aims to produce the greatest improvement in health outcomes especially in 43 priority provinces.

“We truly appreciate the support of the European Union (EU) in helping DOH in achieving this endeavor. The success of Kalusugan Pangkalahatan relies heavily not only with DOH but also on the support and actions of the attached government agencies, developmental partners and the local government units.” Health Secretary Janette P. Loreto-Garin said.

Representatives from the executive and legislative branches of the government, local government units, government agencies, and developmental partners are present in the summit to draw out commitment and support in the implementation of Hi-5.

European Union to the Philippines Ambassador Guy Ledoux said that in the past 10 years, health was one of the priority areas for the EU’s development cooperation program. A total of Php 6.85 billion is directed to the National Treasury as a strong commitment to support Universal Health Care in the Philippines.

The European Union and the Philippines signed the Philippines Health Sector Reform Contract (PHSRC) last July 2014. This was the third EU funded program to support the Philippine Health Sector Reform Agenda. Under this agreement, EU provides Php 1.8 billion grant to generally support the Philippine Government initiatives in developing the country’s health sector.

““With all these strategies laid out for the different priority programs, we just have to improve our coordination and eliminate duplication of activities in order to guarantee our success,” Garin concluded.