

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact person:

JOVITA B. RAVAL – 0908.820.0495

National Nutrition Council

Email: [info@nnc.gov.ph](mailto:info@nnc.gov.ph) | [nied@nnc.gov.ph](mailto:nied@nnc.gov.ph)

### 2023 NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH KICKS OFF IN TAGUM

TAGUM CITY, DAVAO REGION – The National Nutrition Council (NNC), in partnership with the City Government of Tagum, held the national launch for 2023 Nutrition Month campaign on 3 July 2023 in Tagum City, Davao del Norte. The activity signaled the commencement of the nationwide Nutrition Month campaign this July, as mandated by Presidential Decree 491 with NNC as lead agency. This year's campaign theme **“Healthy diet gawing affordable for ALL!”** calls for concerted actions to increase access of Filipinos to more affordable and healthier diets to reduce all forms of malnutrition and improve food security, health, and quality of life.

The national launch served as a valuable platform for stakeholders to come together, showcase and share their programs and initiatives to improve food security in the country, and collaborate in empowering Filipinos to have greater access to affordable and healthy diets. The Tagum City Nutrition Committee, led by its Chair, Mayor Rey T. Uy, served as the host local government unit (LGU) for this year's national launch.

Members of the NNC Governing Board, NNC Technical Committee, Governor Edwin Jubahib of Davao Del Norte, Mayor Uy of Tagum City, and NNC Executive Director and Assistant Secretary Dr. Azucena M. Dayanghirang led the national launch. Among the highlights of the event were pledges of commitment and messages of support from the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement Network in the academe, business, civil society, and development partners to contribute to the campaign on affordable and healthy diets.

A panel discussion on affordable and healthy diet for every Filipino was participated in by various agencies including representatives from the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Education, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Science and Technology, and the ABC President of Tagum City. Each panelist shared their agency's current initiatives on food security, and shared ways and points for future collaboration in ensuring food affordability in communities. This was followed by a cooking demonstration by various chefs of Tagum City to provide the public with some affordable healthy recipe suggestions.

Side-by-side with the national launch was the 2023 Nutrition Month Healthy Diet Exhibit joined by invited agencies, such as Department of Agriculture and DTI, and the 23 barangays of Tagum City to show the public the effort of the government and other stakeholders in achieving affordable healthy diets.

The 2023 Nutrition Month responds to the immediate need to address the alarmingly high rates of food insecurity in the country, as shown by the results of the 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey by DOST-FNRI. It is aligned with the goals of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition 2023 and aims to contribute to the achievement of Philippine Development Plan's goals and targets where a key strategy is to ensure food security and proper nutrition through production and effective supply management.

Visit the National Nutrition Council website ([www.nnc.gov.ph](http://www.nnc.gov.ph)) and NNC Facebook Page for more updates on the month-long activities for 2023 Nutrition Month.

###