



January 3, 2022

ROSARIO B. SUYOM, M.D.

Acting Regional Vice President
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
Region VIII
Tacloban City

Thru : **HENRY S. MADULA**
LHIO Head, Ormoc City

Dear Dr. Suyom:

Good day!

This is in relation to the imposed interest for the month of May 2020 amounting to P 17, 353.75 as reflected in our Statement of Premium Account (SPA) for the month of December 31, 2021. This interest caught us by surprise considering that it was already one and a half year since May 2020. However, we appeal to your kind heart to please waive this interest/penalty for late remittance of contributions for the reason of "force majeure" as cited in letter h (under V Policy Statements, D:1. for government sector employees) of Philhealth Circular No. 2021-0010. We would like to convey that during this time the President of the Philippines issued the Proclamation No. 929, s 2020 dated March 16, 2020 declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of six (6) months due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). In this relation, the City of Ormoc also issued the Executive Order No. 63 series of 2020 (see attached copy), which is the " Revised guidelines on Covid-19 response in LGU Ormoc for the period June 1 to 15, 2020", which states that entry of all persons coming to Ormoc by land, sea or air travel shall be prohibited. Although there were cited exceptions, but, we were not part of it. In addition, the Visayas State University , Office of the President also issued the Memorandum Circular No. 56 dated May 7, 2020 (copy is attached), stating that official travels shall generally not be allowed except in extraordinary cases, but, the personnel who travelled shall be subjected to 14 days quarantine. With this, since the VSU Cash office is undermanned, we cannot afford that our liason officer be subjected to 14 days mandatory quarantine upon return from places with covid19 cases for this will hinder and affect our services and operation.

Thus, we refrained from travelling to Ormoc City, after considering the various constraints and restrictions cited above. We made many phone calls to your personnel assigned here in Baybay , but we were informed that he also was not anymore allowed to travel to Baybay City. I also personally called Philhealth, Ormoc City office regarding this concern, but, I was not given any sure answer and options as to what are we going to do in our given situation.

Moreover, during the month of June, we were happy to hear verbally from our remittance in-charge that the deadline of remittance for May 2020 was extended up to July 15, 2020. This was the reason why we did not expect this interest to be imposed. Nevertheless, despite many obstacles, we continue to find ways and make necessary arrangements to follow our