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HU-006-2007



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

April 9, 2008

HU-006-2007

Mr. Danilo Reyes
danilo@ahrchk.org

Dear Mr. Reyes:

This refers to your e-mail dated April 5, 2008 concerning the death of Maricel Mahinay and her son, John Paul of Brgy. Apopong, General Santos City, Mindanao. Relative to this, we are providing you the following report:

- 1) As reported by the City Social Worker, the death of Maricel was caused not by severe malnutrition but by cardio pulmonary arrest secondary to acute blood loss due to retained placenta/fetal death in utero, while John Paul's death was caused by severe dehydration due to diarrhea. The family failed to bring the child to the health center despite advice to the couple.
- 2) It is not true that Maricel and her family were not included as beneficiaries of social services because she has relatives working in the government. In fact, from the time Maricel was hospitalized, her medical needs were attended to by the social workers in the hospital. Likewise, her hospital bill was covered by the health card paid by the LGU and the balance was charged to the LGU Indigent Fund.
- 3) At her death, the LGU provided her a coffin and facilitated for her burial at the GSC public cemetery. However, the family decided to bury her in her father's tomb.
- 4) On the other hand, her son, Daryll was not included in the supplemental feeding program because he was overage and was not malnourished, therefore ineligible for the program.
- 5) On the alleged family's deprivation of adequate assistance and the failure of the social workers to assist them i.e. seeking assistance from health centers, please be informed that barangay Apopong is a compact community where health and basic services could be quickly accessed. Residents can actually access services of the health center, as it is just a walking distance and therefore, transportation is not required.

Be assured that this office continues to work with the local government of General Santos City to ensure basic social services are made within reach of the poorest segment of the population.

We hope we have clarified this matter with you.

Very truly yours,


RUEL G. LUCENTALES, CESO II
Assistant Secretary

cc: Office of the Secretary