

## **CHED-UniFAST's Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) promoted at President Duterte's TODA Summit**

*Press Release*  
*24 January 2019*

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) on Wednesday took part in the Tricycle Operators and Drivers' Association (TODA) Summit held at the Cuneta Astrodome in Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

CHED, represented by NCR Regional Director Dr. Virginia Akiate, CESO III, provided a certificate of commitment to children of TODA drivers that offers the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), which is administered by CHED's Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST).

Tricycle drivers are considered the poorest and most marginalized among transport groups, most of them earn meager income per day, which gives them a hard time to provide for the needs of their families and for the educational expenses of their children.

As part of the solution, the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES), one of the components of RA 10931 or the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education law can be availed by poor but deserving students enrolled in the 112 state universities and colleges (SUCs) and 78 local universities and colleges (LUCs) and whose names appear in the *Listahanan 2.0* or the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* list of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). TES beneficiaries in public universities can receive PhP40,000/year that they can use for books, transportation, supplies, room and board fees and other education-related expenses.

In his keynote, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte expressed his support for the TODA drivers, "Most important thing that I could tell you right now is you have an access. *Lahat ng Pilipino, hindi lang kayo ay may access sa akin*. So (I) would be very glad if you could communicate with your barangay captain or your mayor to be your channel."

The TODA Summit was attended by around 7,000 delegates from different TODAs nationwide as beneficiaries of the National Government Agencies' existing programs, activities and projects. The event aimed to improve the TODA services and the livelihood of the TODA drivers.

The sector's leading organization, NCR TODA Coalition has over 500,000 members organized under 17 Metro Manila TODA federations.

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