

MAGUINDANAO TO MARK WOMEN'S MONTH WITH TWO-DAY CELEBRATION

16 MARCH 2017, MAGUINDANAO, PHILIPPINES

SUMMARY

IOM X and USAID to premiere video “Kwentong OFW: Saki si Fatima” (OFW Stories: I am Fatima) during the event on 21 March. The video tells the story of Fatima, a young women from Maguindanao who – motivated by family needs – chooses to leave her home to work as a domestic worker abroad.

Over 1,000 women from Maguindanao's 36 Local Government Units (LGU) will join a two-day Women's Month Celebration in Buluan from 21-22 March, hosted by the Office of the Provincial Governor.

The first day of the event will start with a parade from the Maguindanao Women and Children Peace and Action Centre (MWCPAC) to the Provincial Gym where “Kwentong OFW: Saki si Fatima” (OFW Stories: I am Fatima) will premiere. The video, spearheaded by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) IOM X campaign, tells the story of Fatima, a young women from Maguindanao who – motivated by family needs – chooses to leave her home to work as a domestic worker abroad. The video focuses on her decision-making process and provides tips on how to migrate safely. The video was produced as part of USAID's regional counter-trafficking efforts across Asia, including in the Philippines.

Following the video premiere, Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu will speak on the issue of women's rights and answer media questions alongside other key partners during a short press conference.

In the afternoon, the women will be offered free medical services, such as blood tests, foot reflexology, pap smear and breast examination, which will take place in front of MWCPAC. There will also be an information booth providing guidance on safe recruitment and migration practices.

In the evening, Mindanao's own Bayang Barrios will sing crowd favourites from 18:00-19:00 from the central stage in front of MWCPAC. A second screening of “Kwentong OFW: Saki si Fatima” will take place during Barrios' set. The evening will conclude with a videoke challenge and a chance for participants to compete in the “Mutya ng Maguindanao” pageant.

The second day of the Women's Month Celebration event will kick off with an energetic Zumba session, followed by a morning of parlor games.

“Kwentong OFW: Saki si Fatima” is the result of an eight-month collaborative process, known as the IOM X Cotabato Roadshow, that brought together local, regional and national stakeholders to develop media content to help prevent human trafficking. Partners in this process included the Maguindanao Provincial Government, IOM, USAID, the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, the Philippines Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and Dakila.

Media are invited to attend the Women’s Month Celebration on 21 March 2017. To register, please contact Pol Ampatuan at pol.ampa21@yahoo.com by 20 March 2017.



SPOKESPEOPLE



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ABOUT IOM X

IOM X is the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop exploitation and human trafficking.

The campaign leverages the power and popularity of media and technology to inspire young people and their communities to act against human trafficking. IOM X moves beyond raising awareness to effecting behaviour change by applying a Communication for Development (C4D), evidenced-based and participatory framework to tailor messaging for its activities.

The campaign is produced in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Learn more at IOMX.org



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