



10th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF SOLEMNIZING OFFICERS

"Pilipinong Rehistrado, Matatag na Kinabukasan ay Sigurado."

23-25 May 2017

Atrium, Limketkai Mall

Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City

Highlights of Day 1



Stakeholders converge once more in CDO for the 10th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers

A total of 2,543 priests, pastors, imams, and other solemnizing officers from various sects and denominations; judges; city/municipal mayors and their local civil registrars and barangay captains as well as other concerned personnel from all over the country gathered together once more in Cagayan de Oro City (CDO) today, 23 May 2017 to attend the 10th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers (10NCSO) at the Atrium, Limketkai Mall.

The three-day activity organized by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and which has for its theme *"Pilipinong Rehistrado, Matatag na Kinabukasan ay Sigurado"* serves as a forum for the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences on the solemnization of marriages and the implementation of marriage registration procedures and laws as well as those ceremonies contracted under Islamic Law and tribal rites for Indigenous Peoples. Issues and concerns about marriages including dissolution, annulment and divorce are also up for discussion, among others.

The first day kicked-off with the processional entrance led by Capitol University Nautical Students of the host city



Ecumenical Prayer

followed by ecumenical prayer from PSA-RSSO ARMM Regional Director Abubakar Asaad; Opol, Misamis Oriental Tribal Chieftain Datu Norberto Pusan and PSA-Lanao del Norte Provincial Statistics Officer Osler Mejares. Ritchie Raagas and Danina Aia Baclayon of the host region sang the doxology and the National Anthem.

Participants to the 10NCSO were welcomed to *"The City*



Intermission number



Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales, Civil Registrar General and National Statistician



Hon. Mayor Cristina C. Diaz of San Mateo City, Rizal

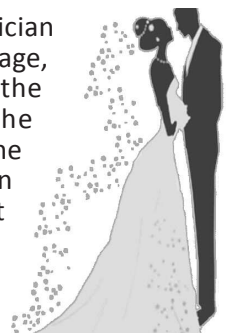


NS CRG Lisa Grace S. Bersales and DNS CRCSO Estela T. De Guzman with Former Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection, Secretary Neric Acosta, Mayor Cristina C. Diaz, and City Councilor Ian Mark Nacaya

of Golden Friendship" by City Councilor Ian Mark Nacaya who represented Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar S. Moreno. According to Councilor Nacaya, solemnizing officers create good expectations when they solemnize marriage because they echo expectations, echo the future of the society, and they have the power to deliver on behalf of the society in breeding stronger families.

This is the third time that the CDO has been chosen to be the venue for the event. The very first NCSO in 1998 and the 5th, conducted in 2007, were likewise held in the city.

Civil Registrar General and National Statistician Lisa Grace S. Bersales of the PSA, in her message, emphasized on the partnership between the solemnizing officers and the PSA in the solemnization of marriages of Filipinos. She also viewed today's gathering as a venue in support of the current administration's thrust of *"AmBisyon 2040: Malasakit, Pagbabago, Patuloy na Pag-unlad,"* wherein Filipinos will enjoy strong bonds with family and friends, living a comfortable lifestyle with a secure future.



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Deputy National Statistician Estela T. De Guzman of PSA-Civil Registration and Central Support Office introduced the keynote speaker - San Mateo City Mayor Cristina C. Diaz.

In her keynote message, Mayor Diaz highlighted on the need to escalate Filipino consciousness of greatness and dignity. She also cited alarming relevant statistics about nullity and annulment of marriages and mentioned about the relationships outside marriages, which in both instances, it is the children that suffer. She challenged the participants to remind fellow Filipinos that the family is great and to make it imperative to inculcate this into the minds of the soon-to-be-married couples.

The Mayor also added that *"Kapag narehistro sa puso at isipan ng bawat Pilipino na siya ay may dakilang pamilya at magulang, tiyak rerehistro ang isang magandang kinabukasan."*



Intermission from PSA RSSO 10 during the opening ceremonies

A surprise guest also graced the opening ceremony and gave a brief message to the participants and organizers of the event. Former Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection, Secretary Neric Acosta expressed gratitude to the PSA for having chosen Northern Mindanao as the venue for the event and invited everyone to take time also to visit his hometown, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

The opening ceremony was hosted by Janith C. Aves, Provincial Statistics Officer of PSA-Misamis Oriental. Intermission numbers were likewise showcased by local talents from the PSA-Regional Statistical Services Office X. Photo opportunities with the guests and PSA officials capped the AM session.



TALAKAYAN

The *Talakayan* with a theme *"Pagpapakasal, Pagpapawalang Bisa ng Kasal at Diborsyo"* highlighted the emerging issues and concerns relative to the solemnization of marriage from exchange of ideas and sharing of views as gleaned from the point of view of a Judge, Mayor, Shari'a judge, Pastor, tribal chieftain, minister of a religious sect and a Catholic priest.

For the second time, Atty. Claire A. Castro of DZMM Teleradyo expertly hosted the *Talakayan*. Panel guests composed of Judge Evelyn Gamotin-Nery of the Regional Trial Court, Cagayan de Oro City; Judge Abdilah K. Nul of Shari'a Court, Maguindanao; Mayor Renante V. Inocando of Cabanglasan, Bukidnon; Datu Norberto M. Pusan of Opol, Misamis Oriental; Rev. Goel B. Bagundol of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Cagayan de Oro City; and Rev. Roel Bontol, Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro City imparted new learning and insights on marriage procedures.

As of Day1 6:25pm 2,549 Participants

Solemnizing Officers - 804

Civil Registrars - 537

Mayors - 79

Judges - 10

Brgy. Captains - 260

Others - 859

Excerpts from *Talakayan* Open Forum

Q - What are the procedures in solemnization of marriage by a Judge?

A - In civil rites/wedding, the marriage license should be presented to the clerk of court and under the present rule a mandatory raffling of Judge is necessary before he can officially solemnize marriage. In all cases, the parties must comply with the essential and formal requisites of a valid marriage.

Q - Is the annulment of church wedding granted by the court has the same effect in the Canon Law of Catholic Church?

A- No, there should be a separate filing of annulment filed by the parties concerned in the Catholic Church and vice versa.

Q - Is a solemnizing officer allowed to officiate the marriage of his own child?

A – There is no direct prohibition under the law for civil rites wedding. On the other hand, under the Muslim law the solemnizing officer can officiate the wedding of his own child.

Q - Which court has Jurisdiction over a petition for recognition of foreign judgment of divorce?

A – Based on the En Banc resolution of the Supreme Court it can be filed at the regular court.