



KEYNOTE MESSAGE

Hon. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D.

Representative, Lone District of Guimaras

Chairperson, House Committee on Population and Family Relations

01 September 2021

Secretary Karl Kendrick Chua, Undersecretary Claire Dennis Mapa, all civil registrars, fellow guests, a wonderful morning!

It is indeed an honor to be invited to your 1st National Convention of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (1NCCRVS).

Let me start congratulating each and every one of you for taking the herculean task of registration, data processing and also taking the responsibility as custodians of all vital events of each and every Filipino from birth to death and everything in between.

I should deal with information and facts that the job of the Civil Registrar has always involve facing voluminous documents and I believe that everyone will agree with me that the storage is really a nightmare in certain unfortunate cases like accidental fire, and other such eventualities. Records can just disappear in a blink of an eye, and you have fought your way thru all hindrances.

Lucky enough, in this modern world and in these incredible modern times, every information can already be accessed with just a few clicks. Information of every Filipino from the farthest areas in the Philippines can now be accessed in our major and central offices. Though we can never do away with paper, these digital tools are already within our grasp to essentially transform the dynamic of our mandate.

Digital information is readily available and provides us the convenience of all those effortless access, storage and distribution of data. These tools I hope will be maximized to the fullest. I can only imagine what huge benefit digital transformation can do not only to your respective offices but most especially to your clients - the public.

This is also in line with the theme for this event “Strengthening Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Digital Information the Ways to Manage the New Normal”. I am very thankful for this opportunity to share with you an overview of the pending legislations that will enhance your role as the officers and keepers of the records and ensure 100% access of your services to all and possibly facilitate use of transactions most especially during this time of the so called new normal.

As of even date, there are pending bills in the Committee of Populations and Family Relations which all aim to introduce comprehensive, responsive, and culturally sensitive Civil Registration and Vitals Events System or the CRVS. Some of the distinctive proposed features of these are the Barangay Civil Registration System, the free delayed registration of unregistered birth and of indigenous persons.

In a nutshell, these measures propose to establish a Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System that will provide for free accessible, simple and expeditious birth registration for all especially for children with no discrimination. Such a system is envisioned to be more inclusive thru the establishment of a culturally sensitive registration process addressing the unique cultural practices and Identification Systems of these indigenous peoples. With this we will not deprive individuals of their inherent right to identity and recognition as well as civil rights. These would also highlight the Fundamental function of the National Government to record vital events and would help in generating reliable data critical for the crafting of national development plans and monitoring programs across several sectors. Given the importance of these measures to the Filipino populace, rest assured that they will be deliberated at the proper time.

Let me also congratulate all of you under the leadership of Usec Mapa for pushing on with urgency the implementation of the Philsys ID. I cannot emphasize the profound impact these would have on the provision of public and private services and transactions.

So, on the final note, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, our dedicated and hardworking civil registrars for continuously being a stable and dependable institution and being the protectors of the vital data of each and every Filipino. We salute you all!

Thank you and *Mabuhay*.