

WELCOME REMARKS

Launching of the 2012/2013
Philippine Human Development Report
and
6th Gawad sa Makataong Pag-unlad
29 July 2013; 8:15 AM – 12:00 NN
Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria Hotel
Ortigas corner ADB Avenue
Quezon City

by

JOSE RAMON G. ALBERT
Secretary General, NSCB

The Senate President, Honorable Senator Franklin M. Drilon,

The Secretary of the National Economic and Development Authority, Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan

The Honorable Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, Mayor Oscar Moreno;

The Honorable Governors who are present here today;

The Honorable Members of the House of Representatives who have joined us in this affair;

The Honorable Undersecretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Undersecretary Austere Panadero;

The President of the Human Development Network, Dr. Emmanuel de Dios;

The UNDP Country Director Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka;

The Former Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning and Founding President of the Human Development Network (HDN), Prof. Solita Collas-Monsod (aka Mareng Winnie);

The Venerable Former Secretary General of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), Dr. Romulo A. Virola;

Dr. Toby Melissa Monsod, and our other friends in the Human Development Network;

Our colleagues, friends, and partners in the Philippine Statistical System (PSS), the academe, media, private sector, civil society, and international development agencies;

Fellow public servants.

Good morning!

On behalf of the National Statistical Coordination Board (the NSCB), I welcome all of you to this launching of the 2012/2013 Philippine Human Development Report and 6th Gawad sa Makataong Pag-unlad.

We, at the NSCB, have always believed that the challenge for policy-makers and decision makers in the government and the private sector to effectively further progress of Philippine society and assess good governance necessitates the provision of good quality local level statistics. Unfortunately, while the Local Government Code provided a means to empower our local chief executives, the corresponding resources, both financial and human resources, for generating statistics that may be important for local development planning have been wanting. There have been suggestions that we in the Philippine Statistical System should be looking to our neighboring statistical systems in the speed of generating statistics, but in the case of Indonesia alone, BSP or Statistics Indonesia has more than five times the number of human resources of all our major statistical agencies in the Philippines combined, and you should see their buildings and see how much financial resources the Indonesia government gives Statistics Indonesia. We are glad though that we in the Philippine Statistical System are beginning to get better support from our budget managers, but in the meantime, we are glad that we have private-public partnerships in data generation.

We highly appreciate the efforts of the Human Development Network to come up with this report focusing on geography, which they considered as “a deep determinant of human development.” We deeply thank the HDN, particularly Dr. Emmanuel de Dios, Dr. Cynthia Rose Banzon-Bautista, and Dr. Toby Monsod, for closely collaborating with the Philippine Statistical System, through the NSCB, as well as with data source agencies such as the National Statistics Office, Department of Health, Department of Education in the generation of the human development indices. Collaborations as well as consultations no doubt helped improve the statistical information contained in the report. The NSCB and HDN have further strengthened its public-private partnership in

this Launching, toward mainstreaming and releasing official human development index estimates regularly.

We would also like to thank the United Nations Development Programme, specifically Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Ms Luiza Carvalho, Ms. Corazon Urquico, and Mr. Fernando Antolin, for its sustained and strong support on human development reports and statistics.

Together with HDN and UNDP, we hope that the Report will raise awareness among the various stakeholders of statistics on human development to improve economic and social situations across provinces in the country.

The role of local governments, being the face of the country's development efforts in local communities, is crucial in ensuring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The achievement of the MDGs, and beyond the 2015 target, whatever sustainable development goals that the world will aim for, is undoubtedly an enormous task that requires good quality statistics as well as the commitment of all sectors, both the national government and the local government units (LGUs). We look forward to your continuing active participation in the improvement and support of the Philippine Statistical System of which you are all very much a part of. I have often said, statistics tell a story, and it is up to us to reflect on these stories so that we can implement interventions today towards a better Philippines tomorrow.

On behalf of the NSCB, let me express my deepest appreciation for your gracious acceptance of our invitation despite your heavy schedules, to this launching.

Maraming maraming salamat po at magandang umaga sa ating lahat.