



WELCOME REMARKS

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Awarding of Outstanding LCROs for CY 2020

1st National Convention on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

03 September 2021

To Undersecretary Dennis S. Mapa, our National Statistician and Civil Registrar General, PSA ExeCom members and Assistant National Statisticians, PSA Regional Directors, Provincial Statistics Officers and Staff, our partners from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) - Doctors Petra and Rikke, our beloved City Municipal Civil Registrars, Consuls, Vice Consuls and Consular Officers, academicians, statisticians, guests and other participants, good morning.

Magandang umaga sa ating lahat, *maayong buntag sa tanan!*

This year's LCRO Awards is a much-awaited major event in our 1st National Convention on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics. I can still recall that this is an event that involves a lot of crying, a lot of jumping and a lot of shouting. So, every year the PSA recognizes LCR offices that have exhibited exemplary performance in the delivery of civil registration services and vital statistics not only to the general public but also to our partner agencies and stakeholders as well.

As done before and for purposes of the awards, all the LCR offices are classified into different categories, the details of which will be discussed later in the program together with the criteria used in this year's awards. In advanced, allow me to congratulate not only those who will be receiving the awards but all LCR Offices nationwide for a job well done. Despite the limitations and challenges thrown our way in these trying times, you continuously delivered civil registration services.

In this sense you are all winners! In fact, you continued to report for work to your offices in order to provide continuous services to the public even if it means exposing yourself and your family to the risk of being infected with the virus. In this sense you are all heroes. Indeed, winners and heroes you all are!

And, as winner and heroes we understand that a child or person without a birth certificate means another child deprived of the right to education. Without a birth certificate, we understand that a father or a mother or any member of the family may be deprived of any social, economic, and financial opportunity. Without a certificate of death, we understand that there is a family deprived of their social benefit claims, among others.

Every single day that you report for work in your respective LCR Offices means that at least one family is given the opportunity to survive in the minimum and a chance to elevate their social, economic status or even to actualize their full potential. Multiply that with the number of persons who

visited our LCR offices every day by the number of family members and finally multiply that number again by the number of LCR offices nationwide that is in fact comprised of this group, that my dear LCRs is your group's contribution to the economic growth and well being of our nation. As winners and heroes, indeed, you all play a very important role in building our nation, in making this country, our one and only beloved country great.

We also offer this award to honor the memory of our fallen colleagues in all LCR Offices nationwide who have succumbed to the virus while in the line of duty. To our fallen colleagues who selflessly and untiringly served the public even it means risking their health and even their lives. We hope that we will honor them by continuously fulfilling our mandate to the general public with passion and dedication. Passion and dedication, however, will not be sufficient for even heroes need support, recall the side kick of Batman's Robin.

On this note on technical and operational support, we would like to emphasize that the Philippine Statistics Authority will continually strengthen its coordination and support to the LCR Offices in the processing of petitions and other related undertakings related to the registration of births, marriages, deaths, and registrable documents. Some initiatives (to be conducted) in the near future are the continuous capacity building of the civil registrars and staff on the basic concept laws and procedures, processes on filing petitions under RA 9048 and RA 1172 and data appreciation on CRVS.

The PSA will further enhance the LCR's Desk into an LCRs Coordination Unit that will closely be in-charge of catering to queries, follow-up, processing and monitoring of out-of-town registrations and other concerns of our LCRs. In simple terms, we will conduct regular trainings to be initiated by the Civil Registration Services and our Legal service through our field offices lead by our beloved Regional Directors.

In addition, we propose to conduct quarterly online meetings with all the LCR Offices nationwide on operational and technical matters. For the past two days, we noticed your thirst for knowledge but a number of very important questions were left unanswered, this is due to time constraints. For this reason, we propose to meet online quarterly to hopefully address your questions, concerns and act on your suggestions and proposals as well.

Going back to the training which the Legal Service and Civil Registration Service would like to conduct, we would like to have coordination with Sir Jude and Ma'am Evangeline, if they could grace our one-on-one training and make the orientation with respect to their program - the computer program that they have shown a while ago.

In between this nationwide quarterly meetings online, please visit our virtual Zoom office for urgent concerns. The Zoom virtual office is open from Monday to Friday within office hours. I have requested the Secretariat to kindly share on the chat box the link to this virtual Zoom office including the specific hours of operation. We may not be able to answer all your questions, but we will ensure that we will find that person or that office that can provide solution to your concerns.

Today, we witness the sharing of the best practices and innovation of five (5) selected civil registrars. Let these be our inspiration to improve our civil registration services and inspire us to be more creative and adaptive to the new normal. Let us embrace the new technology to improve our processes and be more responsive to the needs of our people. We appreciate the remarkable effort of LCR Jude of Pangasinan, who is also a member of PANCRA (Pangasinan Civil Registrars Association), and LCR Evangeline of CDO (Cagayan de Oro) in initiating the use of information technology in the performance of their duties. I understand that LCR Jude has shared the same tool with the other LCRs as well.

Upon consultation with all stakeholders and as a part of the vision of our beloved Civil Registrar General, we shall explore the possibility of digitizing civil registration services including making it primarily online and networking all concerned offices nationwide. As you can see, LCR Jude and LCR Evangeline have done it on their own, there's no reason for us not to adapt the same way. What the PSA can do is to pursue such initiative by giving technical support and giving legal and policy guidelines and directions. This is our only way forward - this is the future of our civil registration service and vital statistics.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all local civil registrars across the country for your untiring dedication. Our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to your service to our country.

Lastly, as I now formally open the awarding ceremonies of the Outstanding LCR Offices, let this activity be a symbol of hope and perpetual motivation to continuously perform and impart the best in the delivery of services to the Filipino people specially those who are marginalized: women, children, the poor, the deprived, the oppressed and the exploited.

Thank you very much and welcome to the awarding ceremony of the outstanding LCR offices for the year 2020.

Daghang salamat!

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