

## **Make lasting imprint in governance**

*Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III*

LMP General Assembly

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My dear chief executives comprising the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), distinguished speakers and guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I thank the LMP led by National President Mayor Bubut Brondial for this opportunity to join you and share how DOLE plans and programs can further empower the chief executives of our municipalities.

Thanks to former Senator Nene Pimentel for giving us Republic Act 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991. It has become an instrument in transforming LGUs into self-reliant communities and active partners in nation building. RA 7160 continues to serve as the bible in delivering good governance at the local level.

Good governance is the key that opens vast opportunities for development in the provinces, cities and municipalities resulting to accelerated national growth and development.

LGUs have been our partners in our employment facilitation program. We have been bringing to the far flung areas and communities jobs facilitation service of the national government.

Employment is always one of the priorities of any Local Chief Executive. No less than our President, Mayor Rodrigo Roa Duterte, considers the Public Employment Service Office (PESO), as among the units he depends upon for the needs of his constituents.

As seasoned Local Chief Executive, he had first-hand experience on matters pertaining to employment.

Republic Act 10691 or the amended PESO Law of 2009, mandates that “there shall be established in all provinces, cities and municipalities a Public Employment Service Office which shall be operated and maintained by the LGUs.”

Sadly, however, there are only 496 institutionalized PESOs representing 31.16% of the 1,592 total LGUs all over the country.

Although the number of institutionalized PESOs is far shy from the goal, we are grateful to all local chief executives for their support to the Department’s employment facilitation programs.

We recognize the many achievements of institutionalized PESO, as well as those operating while working for their institutionalization. PESOs bridge us in implementing our programs in fulfillment of our mandate of providing full and equal employment opportunities for all.

We highly value their efforts and dedication in bringing close to the public the employment services of the government.

Let me cite studies of PESOs that were awarded the National Best PESO Hall of Fame under the Search for Best PESO Program of the Bureau of Local Employment.

The studies showed that the support of local chief executives was among the enabling factor in the high performance of the PESOs. This is coupled with competent personnel and assistance from external organizations and individuals.

Having taken note of this, allow me to reiterate my appeal to everyone to fully support the institutionalization of PESOs in your respective jurisdictions.

The tasks at hand may seem overwhelming particularly to the third, fourth and fifth class municipalities. But institutionalizing PESO invariably helps boost local economies by helping your

constituents avail of the multi-employment facilitation service of the government.

I urge those dilly dallying or de-prioritizing the institutionalization of the PESO in their locality. Take on the challenge and consider this as an opportunity in building a responsive local government structure.

Whether you are seeking re-election or other elective post, it is imperative for you to rein and grow a stronger local economy from within. This is especially necessary in a rapidly evolving business and workforce demands.

Perhaps now, more than ever, your constituents need leaders who will bring different perspectives to the table. Besides, it is you who will make a lasting imprint in local governance.

Together with DBM and DILG, our efforts in fortifying our partnership in helping more Filipino jobseekers build better lives through full and productive employment is long overdue.

I wish you all success in the forthcoming elections.

Mabuhay ang LMP!