

## Welcome Address

ATTY. PENDALIDAY

For and on behalf of the Commissioner, Atty. Pentaliday delivered the following welcome address:

Mr. Toastmaster Bahn Guinomla, President Fernandez, our very own Asst. Commissioner Michael Mastura, our beautiful secretary of this organization Mrs. Aguilar, our special guest from the Egyptian Embassy, our brother Muslim Prof. Hassan El Zaher, my co-director Jaboneta of labor, another co-director Mari Dirawaton, Asst. Director Macuna Unda of the DEC, Asst. Director of the DLGCD, Makapangkat Tabu, my fellow participants, and of course our good friend Prof. de los Santos of U.P., my fellow participants, gentlemen and ladies:

Up to the last hour when I was called to give you the welcome address, I was not prepared because all along I was of the belief that there is no other person to welcome you as participants and special guest other than our very own Assistant Commissioner Michael Mastura who will represent the Commissioner. But this circumstance is not only fortuitous but also incidental for as I was standing and leaving my seat to come to the rostrum, fortunately my commanding officer, Assistant Commissioner Michael Mastura, arrived. And so if he is around, I feel that he should be the best to represent him. But he requested me to do it for him, not only for him but for our beloved Commissioner, not because I am better than him but because he said you are older than me. And on that score, being his elder brother, I have to accept it.

And so, Ladies and Gentlemen, to us in the region and of the city of Cotabato, we consider this a very important seminar that you are having, sponsored by the Philippine Political Science Association, not because of the beauty of the subject, nor of the importance of the visitors and their lectures, but because this is one of the most appropriate and timely subjects any government employee or members of the private sector must discuss because of what is happening around us, politically speaking. And my welcome address

to you is not only in the name of the Commissioner's Office and the staff of the Regional Commissioner, it is also in the name of the provincial administration of the provinces of Cotabato, likewise in the name of the city officials of this beautiful city of Cotabato. For I feel that every time an affair is held in the City of Cotabato, the most logical thing for us to do as host would be for the Office of the City Mayor to give the welcome address.

And so, with the permission of our Asst. Commissioner, above all Commissioner Simeon A. Datumanong and the City Mayor of the City of Cotabato, I extend to you our sincere welcome with the commitment from the Mayor of Cotabato City, during your stay here for the duration of your seminar, in the form of an ordinance he passed suspending the effect of any city ordinance that will somehow constrain your free movement, so that you may enjoy. (Applause) When that unwritten resolution was presented to the office of the Commissioner, I consulted our Assistant Commissioner and he said, "approved" without presenting it to Commissioner Simeon Datumanong.

And therefore, my friends, for these Visitors of ours who come from Manila, rest assured that all ordinances of the city will be revoked ab initio including the curfew hour to give you free movement in our city.

And so ladies and gentlemen, with open heart and in the name of the Commissioner, we welcome you and wish this seminar to be fruitful. Above all, to our brother muslim, Prof. Hassan El Zaher, whom I understand is coming for the first time, we welcome you from deep within our hearts, "Assalamo Alaikaum Marak-matullah Hi Ta allah Hamian Wabarakatohu."