DILG V – DTI joins LGUs to upscale reforms in Business Permits and Licenses

LGGO V Bem Rosal

To improve and speed up the issuance of business permits and licenses in cities and municipalities of the country, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in coordination with the Local Government Academy conducted the Training of Trainers on Streamlining of Business Permit Licensing System on August 9-12, 2010 at the Coastal View Beach Resort, Sto. Domingo, Albay.

A priority project under the Strengthening of Local Governments in the Philippines (SLGP) funded by the Spanish government thru the AECID, forty-four (44) participants from DILG and DTI field personnel and Business Permits and Licensing Officer/staff from ten (10) local government units coming from three (3) capital towns and seven (7) cities in the Bicol Region attended the 3-day activity. This activity is being pilot tested in the Bicol region for the 10 LGUs, with a roll-out activity for more LGUs in the next few months.

During the opening program, DILG Regional Director Blandino Maceda stressed the need for a more business-friendly climate in the local government units. “Our concern is to reduce Red Tape in LGUs and that is the reason why we required the LGUs to come up with a Citizen’s Charter.” This undertaking will reduce the number of steps and days in processing their business licenses. He also acknowledged RD Jocelyn Blanco’s initiative to harmonize and unify the projects that both the DILG and DTI are providing and implementing for the local government units.

DTI Regional Director Jocelyn Blanco said that BPLS Upscaling must be given priority by the local government units. “The Bicol Region, despite the calamities that we have experienced, has conquered business.” She added that Region V is a “growing region” and is now globally competitive. We shall work altogether not only to plan. What is important is to begin truly and BPLS will not only be growing but growing faster.”

Participating LGUs expressed eagerness and commitment to implement the project in their respective level. Priority LGUs in the Bicol Region for the National BPLS Streamlining Project for CY 2010 include Legazpi City, Naga City, Daet, Camarines Norte, Virac, Catanduanes, Sorsogon City and Masbate City while the cities of Iriga and Tabaco for CY 2012 and the City of Ligao will be covered in 2013.

To pursue the BPLS Reform Project for local government units (LGUs), a joint Memorandum Circular was signed by DILG Secretary Jesse M. Robredo and DTI Secretary Gregory Domingo at the DTI Office in Makati City last August 6, 2010. The signing of the JMC was witnessed by representatives of the different LGU Leagues and other local and international partners.

For the legal basis for the BPLS Project, the LGUs will be guided by RA 9485, An Act to Improve the Efficiency in the Delivery of Government Service to Public by Reducing Bureaucratic Red Tape Preventing Graft and Corruption and Providing Penalties Therefore” or (Anti Red tape Act) and the JMC on “Guidelines in Implementing the Standards in Processing Business Permits and Licenses in all cities and municipalities.
The Validating Team of the National Screening Committee for the Best MDCC (1st – 3rd Class Municipalities) Category visited the municipality of Calabanga last July 6-7, 2010, having been chosen for the second time as the Best Regional MDCC and the defending National Champion of the Award for the 1st to 3rd class category. The team, composed of Mrs. Candelaria F. De Juan from the DepEd as the team leader and Mr. Jerome L. Mateo from the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), validated the MDCC’s 2009 accomplishments as reflected in the documents previously submitted.

The validation focused on the four criteria of the Search as follows: Mitigation (28 points); Preparedness (44 pts); Response (16 pts); and Rehabilitation (12 pts). Highlight of the activity was the field visit wherein the evaluators were able to validate the projects undertaken by the LGU under each category.

Other national finalists and contenders for the award are the municipalities of San Juan De Buena Vista of Antique and Peñablanca of Cagayan.

VMLP Albay Provincial Chapter holds election
LGGO II Aniza D. Rint

The VMLP-Albay Provincial Chapter in coordination with the DILG-Albay Provincial Office conducted the VMLP Election for the term 2010-2013 on August 27, 2010 at Kanzo Hotel Restaurant, Legazpi City. The event was participated by 17 Vice Mayors from the different cities and municipalities in the province of Albay.

The activity started with the registration of attendees followed by the opening program, and the election proper. There were two members selected from the VMLP who acted as COMELEC members while PD Danton M. Vibar acted as COMELEC Chairman. The activity was highlighted by the proclamation of winners and the oath-taking ceremony was administered by PD Danton M. Vibar.

**VMLP Officers**
**Albay Provincial Chapter 2010-2013**

- Wilfredo V. Maronilla, Libon, Albay President
- Carlos V. Baylon, Daraga, Albay Vice President
- Elisa G. Nebres, Camalig, Albay Secretary-General
- Elena B. Bonafe, Malilipot, Albay Treasurer
- Jose Morel L. Climaco, Tiwi, Albay Auditor
- Vittorio C. Roces, Legazpi City PRO

**Board of Directors**
- Reynaldo B. Bragaès, Tiwi, Albay
- Jose A. Galicia, Rapu-Rapu, Albay
- Henry P. Callope, PioDuran, Albay
- Patricia G. Alsua, Ligao City
The 15th Police-Community Relations Month (PCRM) was celebrated last July 2010 pursuant to Presidential Proclamation No. 764 dated January 24, 2005, as amended with the aim of enhancing interaction between the community and the law enforcers in ensuring a peaceful, orderly and progressive Bicolandia.

Various activities were conducted starting with a foot parade from Embarcadero-Legazpi City to Camp Simeon Ola followed by a holy mass and a short program. The parade was participated in by various sectors including the youth sector. An awarding ceremony for the Best Police Community Relations (PCR) Stations and Officers, CY 2010 was held. Among the awardees were: Best PCR-Police Provincial Office-PNP, Albay Provincial Office; Best PCR City Police Station - Masbate City Police Station; Best PCR-Municipal Police Station - Tiwi Municipal Police Station; Best PCR Chief of Police - PSUPT Jose G. Gerero, Jr. and e) Best PCR Police Non Commissioned Officer - PO2 Michelle H. Morales. The following activities were also conducted in different areas in the region namely, Dialogue with the Muslim Community (July 9-Barangay Oro Site, Legazpi City wherein issues and concerns of our muslim brothers and sisters were taken up and corresponding recommendations were considered; Fora on Police Recruitment and Crime Prevention and Control (July 9-Naga City and July 12-Bicol College, Daraga, Albay); Drug Reduction Awareness and Supply Reduction Seminar (July 13-14-Camp Simeon Ola, Legazpi City); Press Conference with the RMCC Regional Heads (July 9-Camp Simeon Ola); Trade Fair/Product Exhibit/One-Stop-Shop (July 19-23-alley of Albay Capitol) joined by representatives of the Muslim Community in Legazpi City and LGU Tabaco City; Disaster Preparedness Awareness Search and Rescue Basic Training; Blood Letting; Joint RMCC-PDEA 5 Medical and Dental Mission and Feeding Program which served more than 300 indigent adults and children (July 27-Bgy. Kilikao, Daraga, Albay); Sports Olympics (July 28-Camp Ola) which featured healthy competition among the DILG Family athletes in events like chess, scrabble, tug-of-war and sack race (July 28- Camp Simeon Ola); and Culminating Program hosted by PRO5 (July 30-Camp Simeon Ola).

Throughout the duration of the PCRM celebration, streamers were displayed on the façade of participating agencies and other conspicuous areas bearing the theme “MATATAG NA PAGKAKAISA NG PAMBANSANG PULISYA AT MAMAMAYAN TUNGO SA KAPAYAPAAN SA KAUNLARAN” and simultaneous broadcasts were done thru PIA 5 Radyo ng Bayan about the activities/efforts of the DILG Family particularly the PNP in ensuring that every person in the community walks safely to his/her home and family.
After concluding the baseline research on the level of Awareness, Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (AKAP) of stakeholders of the MDGF 1919 Project, the Communications Team of the project convened all PDMU Chiefs, Regional Information Officers and representatives of LGU-beneficiaries in Davao City from July 5-7, 2010 for a three-day workshop on the formulation of the National IEC and Communication Plan.

The workshop output was the accomplishment of the Communication for Development (C4D) Form thaw will serve as input to the formulation of the Strategic Communication Plan for MDGF 1919. The same will be localized at the level of all LGU-beneficiaries. The C4D contained situational analysis pertaining to policy/decision level, community and individual level. Setting of SMART objectives that can be attained or addressed by communication, communication strategies, and monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop was facilitated by the communication team of the MDGF 1919 project. DILG V's Information Office Ma. Grace Joy Tango attended said activity.

In a related story, Undersecretary Austere Panadero in a letter to Dir. Blandino M. Maceda, dated July 20, 2010 requested the participation of DILG and LGU information officers in all IEC activities related to Water and Sanitation, in coordination with the Project Development and Monitoring Unit (PDMU). They shall assist the National IEC focal person and the Municipal WATSAN Team in the preparation and execution of local IEC activities.
Type 2 Diabetes Can Be Better Managed With Low Glycemic Diet

1. What is type II diabetes?
   Diabetes Mellitus is a metabolic disorder characterized by chronically elevated blood glucose levels (hyperglycaemia), and abnormal metabolism for carbohydrate, fat and protein. Diagnostic criteria for diabetes are based on oral glucose tolerance test results. People with fasting blood glucose level 7.0 (mmol/L) or higher, or 2-hour random blood glucose level 11.1 mmol/L or higher, are classified as having diabetes.

   Type II diabetes is usually associated with insulin resistance and progressive impairment of insulin response. This is a silent chronic disease which may present for years before detection. The prevalence of type II diabetes has more than doubled over the last two decades.

2. What are the risk factors for type II diabetes?
   There are many risk factors for the development of diabetes including:
   a. Family history
   b. Obesity
   c. Sedentary lifestyle
   d. Poor diet
   e. Aging
   f. Hypertension
   g. Dyslipidemia (unhealthy blood lipid profile)
   h. Metabolic syndrome

3. What are the key symptoms and signs?
   In most cases, the onset of type II diabetes is insidious, and is diagnosed on routine testing. See your doctor if you experience the following symptom/s:
   a. Increased thirst
   b. Increased urination
   c. Increased appetite
   d. Fatigue
   e. Blurred vision
   f. Slow-healing infections
   g. Impotence in men

4. How is diabetes managed?
   It is important to understand the consequences of diabetes and the associated complications, which may include long-term damage or dysfunction and failure of vital organs and tissues. Diabetics are more likely to suffer from cardiovascular disease, visual loss, amputation and renal failure (decline in kidney function).

   The long-term management for diabetes is metabolic control and prevention of complications. Management of type II diabetes involves education, medication, diet and exercise to control blood sugar, with lifestyle change as the basic initial approach to help prevent and manage diabetes.

   The focus for managing diabetes is to improve glycemic control and cardiovascular health:
   A) Improve blood glucose level: fasting glucose level less than 5.5 mmol/L, and 2-hour postprandial (after meal) glucose level less than 7.0 mmol/L
   B) Decrease insulin resistance
   C) Improve blood lipid profile
   D) Decrease blood pressure
   E) Maintain an ideal healthy weight

Article Source: http://www.wellnessarticles.net
Facts:

Mr. Cesario S. Caluban of Banawang, Bato, Catanduanes lost in his bid for Sangguniang Bayan Member last 10 May 2010 elections. Now, he is being considered for appointment (was appointed?) as Chairman of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA). The OSCA Head is given honoraria.

Issue:

Will the one-year ban in the appointment of losing candidates under Section 94 (b) of RA 7160 apply in the case of Mr. Caluban?

Opinion:

Yes. Section 94 (b) of the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) provides:

(b) Except for losing candidates in Barangay elections, no candidate who lost in any election shall, within one (1) year after such election, be appointed to any office in the government or any government-owned or -controlled corporations or in any of their subsidiaries. (Emphasis ours)

The Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) is an office in the government mandated to be established in all cities and municipalities to be headed by a senior citizen appointed by the mayor under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 (RA 9994):

SEC. 6. Section 6 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. The Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA). - There shall be established in all cities and municipalities an OSCA to be headed by a senior citizen appointed by the mayor for a term of three (3) years without reappointment but without prejudice to an extension if exigency so requires. Said appointee shall be chosen from a list of three (3) nominees as recommended by a general assembly of senior citizens organization in the city or municipality. (Emphasis ours)

Thus, since the OSCA is a government office, Mr. Cabalan, despite his other qualifications, could not be appointed to head that office, as the same is prohibited under Section 94 (b) of RA 7160.