

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**  
**Delivered by HEA Jim G. Coletto in the Opening Program of the**  
**EHEM Seminar Workshop for QROS and PACCU OFFICERS**  
Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City  
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Asst. Secretary Edgar Igano, RD Yusoph Mama, Director Nelia Manahan, Director Erlinda Manluctao, QROs and PACCU officers, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant day to all of you.

It is both my honor and privilege to stand before you today in this EHEM! Seminar Workshop for Quick Response Officers (QROs) and Public Assistance and Complaints Coordinating Unit (PACCU) Officers here in Marco Polo, Davao City.

As you all know our Quick Response Officers and PACCU Officers play a crucial role in the department. Your function has helped speed up our response to our clientele and the department would not have achieved its accomplishments especially in agrarian justice delivery without you.

I could not think of a more opportune time to discuss the current efforts of management to address the issue of corruption. I am sure all of you must have heard of the news hitting the broadsheets and television regarding the involvement of high-ranking government officials such as the "Euro Generals", "Jocjoc Bolante & the fertilizer scam" and other officials embroiled in corruption controversies.

These developments, whether proven true or not, unfortunately create the general perception of many and reinforces their impression that government does not work and those who are in government are corrupt.

The Department of Agrarian Reform, being a national government agency is not spared from such perception. This is why it is incumbent upon us to communicate to our people

and the CARP public our efforts to address the issue and to combat this misconception.

So what have we done so far to combat corruption?

The Department has embarked on the following activities:

1. Integrity Development Plan – in partnership with the Office of the Ombudsman and the European Union, the department has participated as one of the pilot agencies of the IDR. DAR's participation has resulted in the creation its own Integrity Development Plan and our Code of Conduct for Officials and Employees. The Code is our blueprint for acceptable and unacceptable behavior in the service as well as our guide in dealing with our CARP public. Recognizing the value of our personnel in this activity, we have likewise continually sent our employees to IDR seminars and training such as what we are having right now.
2. Pursuant to the instructions of the President to observe Anti-Red Tape in all government agencies, the Secretary has issued a directive to all DAR Central and Field Officials and personnel to simplify procedures in the department for easier and faster service to our clientele. It is noteworthy to mention that since the assumption of Secretary Pangandaman at the helm of the department in 2005, he has time and again stressed the importance of simplifying the steps and transactions in LAD, PBD and AJD.
3. Lastly, the leadership of Secretary Pangandaman has adhered to lead by example in the department. The Secretary believed in simple ceremonies, doing away as much as possible with elaborate and extravagant celebrations. Our CARP anniversary celebrations are clear examples of this. His directives were to observe

simple yet meaningful activities rather than expensive and frivolous events.

Before I end, allow me to update you on the progress of CARP Extension bill which are being heard in both Houses of Congress.

In the Lower House, we remain to advocate for the passage of House Bill 4077 or the consolidated bill sustaining CARP implementation. However, we have also submitted our comments on the Villafuerte Bill particularly the provisions where LAD would only be limited to VOS and VLT so more resources will be devoted to support services. Congressman Villafuerte is a member of the Special Committee of 5 tasked by Speaker Nograles.

In the Senate, SB 2666 is currently in the period of interpellations. Our sponsor, Senator Gregorio Honasan, the Chairman of the Committee on Agrarian Reform is taking up the cudgels for the passage of the bill sustaining CARP for five years. Among the salient provisions of the bill is the coverage of the remaining 1.077M hectares LAD balance. The provisions of this bill is our desired scenario as this is business as usual but with phasing of LAD

Given the time constraints, we remain hopeful that the bill will be passed by Congress before it adjourns on December. Then shall all of us both give and receive our best gift for Christmas to our farmer beneficiaries – the extension of CARP.

Thank you.