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President Aquino declares the years 2015 to 2024 as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade

President Benigno S. Aquino III recently signed Proclamation No. 1106 which declared the years 2015 to 2024 as Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Decade (CRVS). Said proclamation is a concrete manifestation of the Philippine government's support to the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific held in November 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as the agency mandated by Republic Act No. 10625 to carry out, enforce and administer civil registration functions in the country, shall lead all relevant activities that seek to: uphold the continuous and compulsory recording of births, death, marriages and other acts and events concerning the status of persons; enhance awareness on the importance of civil registry documents; and, produce accurate, complete and updated vital statistics.

As the Philippines also agreed to adopt the Ministerial Declaration to "Get everyone in the picture" in Asia and the Pacific, Proclamation No. 1106, likewise, enjoins "all agencies and instrumentalities of the National Government and local government units, including government-owned or -controlled corporations, in consultation with the private sector, development partners and the citizenry" to actively support all activities and programs relevant to "Get every *Pinoy* and *Pinay* in the Picture!"

In a related development, the PSA just successfully concluded the conduct of the 9th National Convention of Solemnizing Officers at the SMX

Convention Center, Mall of Asia, Pasay City. Held on August 25-27, the activity successfully gathered more than a thousand priests, pastors, imams, tribal chieftains and other solemnizing officers from various religious sects and denominations; city/municipal mayors, members of the judiciary; and local civil registrars from all over the country, among others, for the presentations and discussions on marriage laws and registration procedures; roles and responsibilities of solemnizing officers; and, the sharing of experiences and best practices in the solemnization of marriages. The three-day event had for its theme: "Get every Solemnizing Officer in the Picture."

Moreover, a two-day Orientation Workshop for the Inter-Agency Committee on CRVS was held this September in Tagaytay City. The workshop aimed to: 1) prepare the work plan for the CRVS Decade; 2) set the national targets of the Regional Action Framework; 3) get the commitment of the member agencies (created pursuant to PSA Memorandum Order No. 1 Series of 2015); and, (4) discuss and come-up with recommendation on issues and concerns on CRVS.

For updates and other relevant activities in connection with the CRVS decade, please log on to <https://www.facebook.com/geteverypinoyinthepicture> or visit www.psa.gov.ph. ###

LISA GRACE S. BERSALES, Ph.D.
National Statistician and Civil Registrar General