

Speech of  
**HON. MAR ROXAS**  
Secretary of the Interior and Local Government

**10<sup>th</sup> Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS)  
Network National Conference**

CROWNE PLAZA MANILA GALLERIA

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CBMS International Network Team Leader, Dr. Celia Reyes; Dr. Tereso Tullao Jr. of the DLSU-Angelo King Institute; network members and organizers; local government partners and other stakeholders; guests, ladies and gentlemen—Good Morning!

At the outset, let me thank you for inviting the Department to this conference, which brings together all the stakeholders—local planners, policy-makers and program implementers, who will share their success stories and best practices in the use of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) tool.

Over the years, CBMS has nurtured growing partnerships among national government agencies, including the DILG and local government units (LGUs), the academe and research communities, non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society and other development partners on the use of CBMS data to inform poverty reduction efforts in the country.

I am pleased to note that the CBMS network is continuously growing as it is now being implemented in 69 provinces, 63 cities, 779 municipalities

and around 21,000 barangays nationwide. Let us give ourselves a round of applause!

The challenge is now for us to reach out to the rest of the LGUS and encourage them to join the movement and use the CBMS for local planning and decision-making.

In fact, I am really wondering why it is taking other LGUs too long to realize the benefits of this tool which will give them a clear picture of their locality's poverty incidence, unemployment rate, health condition and several other areas.

As frontliners, LGUs are expected and mandated to provide basic services and facilities and improve the quality of life of their constituents. Hence, they should be armed with all the necessary information that could help them formulate and chart their development agenda to address the priority needs of their constituents.

As it is, while there are surveys being done by different groups and agencies, such surveys are reliable down to the regional and provincial levels only and these may not actually capture the realities on the ground. They are also very few and far in between that the data culled from these surveys may not be relevant anymore for policy and program design.

But thanks to CBMS, LGUs now have reliable and credible information up to the household level on child death and maternal mortality; malnourished children; access to safe water system or sanitary toilet

facility; makeshift housing; unemployment rate; and education participation rate, among others. If this wealth of information that can be provided by the CBMS could not move LGUs into action, I don't know what will! These are actually all the information LGUs need as basis for the preparation of their local development plans, budget and other policy-action programs.

Later on during the day and in the next two days, we will be listening and learning first-hand from LGUs how CBMS has helped them scale-up their anti-poverty and development efforts.

We have the LGU of Naujan in Oriental Mindoro that will share with us how the results of CBMS have become useful for Bottom-Up Budgeting; and the LGU of Torrijos, Marinduque on CBMS vis-à-vis Gender Equality and Development.

We will also be able to listen to the CBMS utilization of the LGUs of Motiong in Samar, Balangkayan in Eastern Samar and Tacloban City for post-disaster operations.

With the impact of the recent disasters and calamities that hit the country last year, CBMS results would come in handy for LGUs which are expected to revisit, review and update their local disaster risk reduction and management plans. As we all know, Typhoon Yolanda is a game changer and it brought down all our defences and completely redefined our concept of disaster preparedness.

Yolanda has also all the more stressed the importance of data, before and after disasters, not only to track people and communities, but to

match risk profiles with CBMS data and to make real-time information available for disaster preparedness, and in the case of Eastern Visayas and neighboring regions, for early recovery, rehabilitation and development.

With CBMS data as guide, local governments will be able to generate data on the vulnerability of composite areas to climate change in terms of exposure to hazard, sensitivity and lack of adaptive capacity. I think the province of Marinduque is already doing this, and they have the latest data on municipalities and barangays most exposed to hazards. With useful data come action commitments. We will hold LGUs accountable over this.

*Iba na ang panahon ngayon. Mapanganib. Mabangis. At kailangang maghanda sa anumang nakaambang panganib dulot ng pag-iiba ng klima at ang mga sakunang dulot nito. Ang hamon natin para sa LGU ang maging handa lagi, 24-7.*

I hope that all these best practices are documented so that other LGUs would be inspired and learn from your CBMS example. We want to see all provinces and their component cities and municipalities, as part of the network, to help them plan the right projects and set their priorities better.

I also laud the organizers for putting up a mechanism to recognize the LGUs that have been featured in the MDG report. These are the local governments that have relied on the data that they have been generated from the CBMS to optimize development efforts in support of

the country's commitment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Congratulations too for continuously upgrading the CBMS modules and accrediting CBMS trainers who will help explain the mechanics and importance of this tool to our people on the ground.

I am therefore very pleased that the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is part of this very significant undertaking. Rest assured that we will continue to work hand in hand with the CBMS Network Office and other stakeholders to encourage LGUs to embrace the CBMS tool.

Before I end, I would like to pose these challenges, especially for the LGUs and the DILG:

1. As I have said earlier, we should broaden CBMS to include relevant information on disaster preparedness. As Vice Chair for Preparedness of the NDRRMC, I am particularly interested on how the national and local governments can invest more on the preparedness side, instead of the response side using the broadened CBMS information;
2. We should ensure meaningful participation of CSOs as the LGU's frontline development partners and not just as beneficiaries. We should always endeavour to provide broad and inclusive spaces for citizen participation in all these processes. This way, our communities exercise their active citizenship and claim their stake in local development; and,

3. We should ensure that the delivery of programs and projects translate to the improvement of the quality of lives of our constituencies. Let us all remind ourselves that the end all and be all of CBMS is not just improved programs and projects, but more importantly, these should be felt by every Juana and Juan, as envisioned by our Social Contract.

In closing, I urge all of you to seize this moment to take full advantage of the wealth of knowledge and exemplary practices as well as the exchange of ideas in this conference.

Thank you very much and a pleasant day to everyone!