

WELCOME ADDRESS

SALVACION OPPUS-YÑIGUEZ

Our distinguished guests from Regions IX and XII, led by no less than Hon. Tugung and Hon. Rabang, other members of the party, Dr. Sicat, Dr. Fernandez, Mrs. Aguilar, my colleagues in public service.

I think the region has dared to initiate this kind of dialogue. I understand it is the first of its kind, where we have invited two other regions to share with us their thoughts, their ideas, for it cannot be denied that in the integration concept of the national government, we must first understand among the lower level.

That is why, we jibe to integrate the thoughts and ideas of the municipalities to the IAD concept, so that way the development of the province would become more challenging. We hope to be able to integrate again the ideas, the developments and the concepts of each province into a regional program.

With this base-affair, we are very grateful that Regions IX and XII have honored our invitation. By initiating the concept of changing of ideas we may be able to contribute in the overall development of our country on the national level. We hope that other regions may take up the idea.

It cannot be denied that each region has its own characteristics. So with that in mind, I am also very glad to add that instead of a regional convention, our Regional Executive Director, Lindy C. Morrell, has conceived the idea of having it in the form of dialogue so we could have a free-wheeling discussion, and real exchange of ideas.

I know that in the concept of diplomacy, we have to be diplomatic. Perhaps we can really attain a better understanding. Although basically we are all Filipinos with different religious sects, we still have a common factor — we all believe in one Creator, we are one nation.

With that concept, I hope that this two-day dialogue will come out a success. I greet everyone warmest and sincerest welcome. May you feel at home with us, just as when we have to visit your area, we also feel at home with you. Good morning and thank you.