

Opening Message of  
Martin B Delgra III  
Chair, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board  
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“AKO ANG INYONG SOLOGO-ON!” (I am your servant!)

The oft-repeated phrase that our *Mayor ng Bayan*, President Rody Duterte, would emphatically extol what a public servant is and should be. He has articulated these hollow words before his co-workers in the Davao City Government when he was Mayor for many years urging them to internalize the character of a true public servant.

When the President asked me to join government service for the first time in my life and to lead this agency, these words become personally real to me. I have been inspired by his brand of leadership – where to serve others in public governance is truly a **vocation**. I have seen it up close in many occasions.

He may have his own frailties and as expected he has been misunderstood by many, because of his demeanour or manner of expression, but many more, perhaps many a million-fold over, believe in his sincere and unreserved, at times, raw brand of public service. For him to say “... *akoanginyongsologo-on...*”, is a gross understatement.

And so as we start a new beginning, not just a change in government leadership but with the overwhelming mandate given our President, there is a concrete call for real change – *TunaynaPagbabago*. It is but fitting that we take a hard look into ourselves, a self- introspection as it were, to see, feel and realize, if we are still capable to be agents of real change.

I invite you all therefore to recall the day you first entered government service. What was your basic motivation then? Was it out of pecuniary need, a pre-determined career path or perhaps as basic a human need as trying to support one’s family? Whatever be your positive motive in joining the ranks of government employees, one must understand and truly realized that we are all here to serve with dedication and utmost competence our fellow *kababayan*.

I call upon you today to re-dedicate yourselves to the noble calling of public service. Let this day be your first day in government service.

Unfortunately for others, they join government service for self-conceit aims, for self-contained fame or misplaced awareness of power as if there is a sense of self-righteous entitlement. Even worse, is the insidious motive of government employees and officials who think, act and feel that their government position is their exclusive domain – to financially enrich themselves at the expense of others, of money that is not even theirs. They are the worst kind of people, perhaps even worse than – *mas masahol pasa* - drug pushers and drug lords, because at least to the latter they do not assume a position of public trust.

This agency, much like any government agency, is not immune from issues and realities of corruption. Most regrettably, when it happens, public service suffers terribly. So, to the incorrigibles, if you do not wish to reform yourself – stand aside or better yet do the first honourable act - leave government service now!

With our collective resolve and with the public affirming support, we shall address the issue of corruption fairly but firmly.

Another lingering yet pressing issue is the continued proliferation of *colorum* vehicles which has undermine public safety. The operators of these *colorum* vehicles are motivated principally by greed without any public accountability. We hear of lack of safety standards of these unlicensed public utility vehicles or PUVs. Even worse, these PUVs are manned by untrained drivers who in a number of occasions even harass or abuse unsuspecting passengers. This has to stop. The campaign against *colorum* vehicles will be relentless but unpredictable. You will not know the time and place we will hit you.

Equally important is how we shall make this agency effectively relevant in addressing pressing public service – making public transportation as the principal mode of bringing people from one place to wherever they want to be.

We wish to assure the public in general and particularly the millions of commuters in Metro Manila and other major cities in the country who have to suffer the daily grind that the Department of Transportation, under the leadership of Secretary Arturo Tugade and with the guidance

of our beloved President, is hell bent on addressing this extreme anomaly head-on.

We, in the Department of Transportation, have develop the working philosophy that ROADS ARE FOR PEOPLE NOT CARS. EDSA, the most famous highway in the country, has become infamous of what is fundamentally wrong in the way we manage traffic congestion. There should be more people with less cars on the road.

We ought to revisit our Mission – “To ensure that the commuting public has adequate, safe, convenient, environment-friendly and dependable public land transportation services at reasonable rates through the implementation of land-based transportation policies, programs, and projects”.All our efforts every single working day should be focused on this our most important task.

To the good men and women of this agency, I call upon you to join me and the new members of the Board of the LTFRB that together – WE SHALL BE TRUE TO OUR MISSION TO THE PUBLIC WE SERVE AND COMMIT TO RESTORE DIGNITY IN THIS AGENCY!

MABUHAY TAYONG LAHAT!