



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

8F EDPC Bldg., Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Complex, Roxas Blvd. cor. P. Ocampo Sr. St., 1004, Manila
blgf.gov.ph | records@blgf.gov.ph



As we take off for the New Year, 2024 journey, I call on each and every one to pause to reflect on the 8-Point Agenda of the current Administration in line with the identified Development Plans & Programs aligned with our country's long term goals set under the *Ambisyon 2040*, and the area where the BLGF by virtue of its mandate is committed to the realization of these goals.

The implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia Case is an indication of the resolve to strengthen local autonomy leading to full LGU devolution. Thus, Executive Order No. 138, s. 2021, providing for the transition to full devolution required all LGUs to formulate and come up with their transition plans with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Interior and Local Government as Chair and Co-Chair, respectively. LGU devolution means transferring power, authority, or responsibility to local governments. However, such transfer of power, authority, or responsibility cannot be possible or operative without the needed revenues to defray the costs. Therefore, the significant role of BLGF in revenue generation and resource mobilization will come into play.

The foundation of local autonomy lies in financial autonomy for without it, local autonomy will crumble. Hence, I cannot emphasize further the significant and indispensable role of the BLGF in the devolution process.

Indeed, 2024, will be full of big challenges to BLGF, for us. Great demands will be felt more from our principals, our partners, and the LGU clientele. At this point, allow me to share with you my thoughts and perspective about the present state of BLGF, us.

I invite you to go along with me as I go around in a garden where there are overgrown plants with their branches extending to the other plants, occupying the latter's designated space to grow. While we move farther around, some plants continue to strive to bloom, to be productive and useful; others have remained stagnant and gave up growing, they are just there to survive; some have left the garden hoping to grow in another garden; and the rest have lost hope and wilted.

I am not trying to be dramatic to illustrate something that is bleak. I just want all of us to be awakened of the fact that we need to work together harmoniously and respecting one another's turf in order to attain individual growth, become productive, bloom in unison, and make the garden, BLGF shine once again and brighter!

Many self-acclaimed good gardeners will offer their cultivating expertise to help bring the garden back to life by committing to make the plants bloom, but the ultimate determination lies within us who are the plants in the garden to strive to grow, become productive and fruitful, and bloom to make our dear BLGF shine brighter.

Let us not forget the mistakes and learnings of the past years because through them, we come to better understand the present and future challenges. We start by identifying and accepting our strengths and weaknesses as an individual and as a group. Under my watch, I assure each and every one of you that your strengths will be noticed and given due recognition, while your weaknesses will be addressed with more and relevant trainings and other interventions, that is, with your cooperation and patience.

I encourage you to be collaborative and engaging in all undertakings. Let us all conspire to work together in unison, mindful of our commitment to fulfill our duties and responsibilities. While quantity and expediency are important, relevance and substance are key. Let our battlecry be, *“Together we stand, Divided we fall; We are responsible for one another; The fault of one is the fault of all.”* These battlecries indicate that we are one whole body, with our own role to play in order to make the entire body work well.

Our individual duties and responsibilities are a vital component to the fulfillment of the mandate of the BLGF towards achieving the Government’s 8-Point Agenda and the Philippine Development Plans and Programs, all the way to the realization of the expected outcomes of *Ambisyon 2040*.

Our tasks are not easy, given the unique set-up with regard to our clientele local treasurers and assessors, both on the administrative and technical aspects. Local treasurers are within the appointing authority of the National Government through the Secretary of Finance, who are dutybound to directly implement and ensure proper compliance with the fiscal and financial policies, laws, rules and regulations under our supervision within a politicized environment. Local

assessors on the other hand are appointees of the Local Chief Executives, but they remained to be under the technical supervision of the National Government through the DoF-BLGF, in the performance of their functions in revenue generation particularly the Real Property Tax. Given this scenario and the mutual and crucial role of local treasurers and assessors in revenue generation, there appears to be a disjoint since one is appointed by the National Government, while the other is appointed by the Local Government. We have witnessed the disappointing results of this incoherence, but this is just one of our many and greater challenges.

Notwithstanding, with renewed vigor, deeper faith, stronger trust and sincere resolve to unite, we will all confront these challenges and set-backs with more confidence because new year always brings much hope.

On this note, my best wishes to you all for 2024!


CONSOLACION Q. AGCAOILI
Executive Director