

## **ARTA calls on LGU to heed EODB Law, put up BOSS**

**August 14, 2019** - The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) is calling out to all Local Government Units (LGUs), particularly their local chief executives, to comply with the provisions of R.A. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018.

Earlier today, ARTA Director General Jeremiah B. Belgica met with the officers of the National Business Permits and Licensing Office (NABPLO) to discuss initiatives that will enhance the capacities of BPLOs and improve ease of doing business in their respective cities and municipalities.

NABPLO, headed by Atty. Melanie S. Malaya of Paranaque, proposed a standardization of the BPLO process at a national level. Also present were Assistant Secretary Mary Jean Pacheco of the Department of Trade and Industry - Competitiveness Bureau and other NABPLO members namely, NABPLO External Vice President Atty. Maribert Pagente, Atty. Nancy Teylan of Marikina, Gary Llamas of Muntinlupa, Atty. Fanela Cruz of Taguig, Atty. Ulysses Gallego Sr. of Valenzuela, Mayette Trinidad of Navotas, Bars Encarnacion of Calamba, Benjie Barredo of Zamboanga, Norman Tabud of Iloilo, and Atty. Marissa Torentera of Davao City.

In light of President Duterte's earnest will to curb red tape and corruption, ARTA is working double time to execute the full implementation of the EODB Law. This is significant especially since the President has recently reiterated his directive to all government agencies in his last SONA – to simplify and make their services more responsive to their clients, the Filipino people.

Among the many provisions of RA. 11032 that would need to be complied with is the establishment of a Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS). The law requires that all LGUs establish a BOSS, which shall serve as the business permitting and licensing system that will receive and process applications for license, clearance, permit, and authorization.

In line with this, ARTA, is urging all LGUs to comply and adopt BOSS in their city/municipality. ARTA believes that it is high time that the country prioritize measures that will make public service more effective, efficient, and pro-people. Pursuant to its functions, the Authority will do its part in arming business processing and licensing offices (BPLOs) with the proper regulatory backing to ensure that LGUs can comply with this

provision, effectively and competently. Likewise, we expect all BPLOs to do the same within their own office: strongly urge and support all concerned departments or units to do their end in streamlining systems and procedures.

Apart from the BOSS provision, the law also requires that barangay clearances and permits related to doing business shall be applied, issued, and collected at the city/municipality in accordance with the prescribed processing time, provided, however, that the share in the collections shall be remitted to the respective barangays. The incorporation of barangay clearance in the city/municipality BOSS will be a revolutionary move to expedite transactions of business processing.

Further, ARTA is also planning to lay out a series of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) workshops to capacitate top management of LGUs, starting with the Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs). The aim of RIA is to help agencies streamline their processes and reengineer their systems to ultimately develop the standardized BPLO process mentioned earlier.

In this regard, ARTA is also considering the deputization of BPLOs to become a part of the Anti-Red Tape Unit (ARTU) which shall be established in every region of the country. Once deputized, BPLOs could have the power to carry out initiatives that will support the implementation of ARTA's mandate.

The functional relationship between ARTA and NABPLO would be pivotal as we seek to establish best practices in the speedy delivery of business permits and licenses, ultimately leading to an all-inclusive growth for the country.

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