



## PRESS RELEASE

### 33<sup>rd</sup> National Statistics Month (NSM) Opening Ceremony



From left: **Ms. Ma. Florida E. Tan**, OIC SOCD Chief, **Hon. John M. Dalipe**, City Mayor of Zamboanga, **Ms. Roxan Kastine M. Lumapas**, Registration Officer IV/Officer-in-Charge, **Mr. Ric Mark Anthony B. Garcia**, Statistical Specialist II.

Philippine Statistics Authority IX hosted the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Statistics Month (NSM) Opening Ceremony. The 33<sup>rd</sup> NSM carries the theme “Boosting the Country’s Economic Recovery with Informed Decisions, Better Policies”. This theme was chosen as it signifies the importance of informed decisions and better policies in pump priming the country’s socio economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

The celebration of the 33<sup>rd</sup> NSM kick started with a hybrid opening ceremony on 03 October 2022 at Astoria Plaza, Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City. The activity was participated by the heads and representatives of the different Regional Line Agencies, Local Government Units, Government Owned and Controlled Corporations, Academe and the Private Sector within and outside the region. The opening remark was delivered by Regional Statistics Committee (RSC) IX Chair and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) IX Regional Director Phlorita A. Ridao. RD Ridao expressed her support to the National Statistics Month celebration as timely statistical data played a vital role on how we have approached and fought the virus. She thanked the data providers and statisticians who processed the data and reiterated that NEDA supports policies that are fact based and data-driven.



*Hon. John M. Dalipe, City Mayor of Zamboanga posed for a group picture together with the participants from the different Regional Line Agencies LGUs, GOCCs, SUCs, and the Private Sectors and the PSA IX staff.*

Meanwhile, the keynote speech was given by Zamboanga City Mayor, the Hon. John M. Dalipe who acknowledged statistics and a data-driven culture as valuable tools for good governance. According to Mayor John, statistical data and information is the foundation of good planning, which leads to the judicious utilization of government resources and the alignment of local priorities with national development agenda. "This synergy is crucial to achieve the theme of this year's Statistics Month celebration, which is to boost the country's recovery with informed decisions and better policies," said the Mayor. One of the highlights of the activity was the presentations delivered by the PSA IX officials. Ms. Ma. Flerida E. Tan, OIC -SOCO Chief presented the Highlights of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing (CPH) while Mr. Ric Mark Anthony B. Garcia discussed the 2021 Official Poverty Statistics at the national level. An open forum followed allowing the participants to lodge their questions, issues and concerns based on the presentations. The activity concluded with the closing remarks of Mr. Camilo M. Bagsican, Senior Statistical Specialist, who on behalf of Regional Director Mewchun WS. Pamaran who is currently in Manila attending the 33<sup>rd</sup> National Statistics Month Opening Ceremony and 15<sup>th</sup> National Convention on Statistics expressed his gratitude to all participants online and offsite for their presence and support to the nationwide month long celebration of the NSM.

  
**MEWCHUN WS. PAMARAN**  
Regional Director

  
MFET/RMABG/mgch