

MESSAGE

SEC Chairperson Herbosa, Insurance Commissioner Dooc, the AMLC Secretariat headed by Executive Director Julia Bacay-Abad, special guests and friends, good evening. We are gathered to celebrate the 14th anniversary of the AMLC and its Secretariat.

For an institution mandated by our laws to lead the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, this is a simple and low-key celebration indeed. But then again, this is the AMLC way. In keeping with our mandate, we continue to maintain a low profile even as we do our best to enforce the laws we are duty-bound to uphold despite false accusations, the backbreaking work, and threats to the security of our investigators and lawyers. Ladies and gentlemen of AMLC, we can face all these because we know we are doing this for our country and our people.

The AMLC has taken on bigger and bolder challenges in its fight against money laundering and terrorism financing, with cases involving huge amounts of plundered money, hardened drug lords, complicated pyramiding scams, and high profile cases against officials in government. In the process, the AMLC has been accused of being biased, partisan, and/or being an instrument for political persecution.

Of course, you and I know that AMLC makes decisions purely on the basis of evidence. As stated in our vision statement, the AMLC shall, without fear or favor, investigate and cause the prosecution of money laundering offenses.

Successive high profile cases continue to test the mettle of the AMLC and the Secretariat. Through all these, we stand firm and resolute in continuing the fight against those who would undermine our economy, our legal system and threaten our peace with dirty money.

Together, we stand our ground and make our country safe and strong against these criminal elements. We also continue to work with other countries to fight global threats from money laundering and terrorism financing.

You are all part of AMLC's success. Every Resolution issued, every petition filed in court resulted from countless hours of going over thousands of records, following up on leads, and sometimes staking out suspects. We are proud of you. For this, the Council commends the Secretariat for its commitment, courage, and remaining faithful and true to our mandate.

On behalf of the Council, I thank and congratulate all of you for a job well done!

Happy 14th anniversary! Mabuhay ang AMLC, Mabuhay ang ating mahal na bansang Pilipinas! Mabuhay po tayong lahat!