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**PRESS RELEASE**

Information and Communications Technology Office

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**Ten Cities Commended for E-Readiness**

Ten Cities from all over the Philippines were recognized for their E-Readiness at the recently concluded 2014 E-Readiness Leadership Awards which recognize City Mayors who are pioneering the adoption and strategic use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to enhance their delivery of government services, improve revenue/tax collection efforts and promote transparency in government operations. The criteria for the awards were taken from the results of the recently concluded E-Readiness Assessment Survey.

A special plaque of recognition was given by the ICT Office of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST - ICT Office) during the awards ceremonies that took place on 18 June 2014 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Approximately 400 participants from various cities and municipalities attended the forum and witnessed the awarding ceremony.

The E-Readiness Survey is a joint collaborative project of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Science and Information Technology (DOST) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), with support from the US-AID INVEST Project. The Information and Communications Technology Office ICTO-DOST carried out the E-Readiness assessment of the 143 cities which participated in the 2014 BPLS Compliance and E-Readiness Survey.

According to Bettina Quimson of the DOST-ICT Office, “E-Readiness means that these LGU’s are ready for E-Government. True E-Government will not only foster an efficient, transparent and effective government that our citizens need, it will also give the Philippines a competitive edge in the global market place, creating an investment environment that can help drive local and foreign investment in the country.”

The framework to evaluate the e-readiness of local government units are based on several indicators. Among the major indicators used to assess the LGU’s E-Readiness are: (1) ICT



Capability, (2) Technology Environment and (3) Web Presence Maturity. Other sub-indicators include the following: presence of an ICT Development Plan, internet connectivity, presence of an ICT/MIS unit. In general, E-Readiness means the level of preparedness of the LGU to implement ICT projects and to participate in major ICT project initiatives such as E-Government, Smarter Cities and other projects that aim to exploit the opportunities and potentials offered by the effective and strategic use of ICT.

Among the other cities recognized (in according to ranking) were: San Fernando City, Pampanga, Makati City, Valenzuela, Mandaluyong, Cebu City, Balanga City, Bataan, Angeles City, Batangas City and Taguig.

**About DOST-ICTO** – The Information and Communications Technology Office of the Department of Science and Technology is the Philippine Government’s lead agency on ICT related matters. Its primary thrusts are in the ICT Industry Development, eGovernment, ICT policy development, Internet for all and Cybersecurity.

**Photo with Caption**



DOST-ICT Office Deputy Executive Director Bettina Quimson (leftmost) congratulates Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno, (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) after Cagayan de Oro received the E-Readiness Leadership Award having ranked #1 in the E-Readiness Survey. Also in the picture are; Undersecretary Nora Terrado (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and DILG Undersecretary Panadero (rightmost)