

KEYNOTE MESSAGE

Undersecretary Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III



The keynote message of Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III was delivered by Undersecretary Ciriaco A. Lagunzad III and focused on the importance of the conference's theme "People-Centric Technologies and Breakthrough Innovation for Productive MSMEs."

The theme, according to Usec. Lagunzad, highlighted the role of people in MSMEs in managing the challenges and opportunities brought about by technological transformation in the world of work.

Undersecretary Lagunzad said that "businesses must ultimately delve into the fast changing digital-driven ecosystem by seizing every chance for growth and expansion, and capacitating workers in new technologies that will dramatically raise the country's productivity and competitiveness."

For the part of the government, he said, that it "must program coordination and ensure policy coherence in advancing measures that will encourage workers and enterprises take full advantage of the vast opportunities of rapid automation and digitalization including enhancing access to new technologies."

He mentioned that telecommuting bill which is pending in the legislature, "recognizes how digital technology has paved the way for alternative forms of work models shifting from the traditional and on-site locations to remote work."

Usec. Lagunzad said that the DOLE is exerting efforts for the immediate passage of the bill to ensure that amid technological developments, workers' rights and welfare are protected.

In closing, he congratulated the NWPC for organizing the event and bringing an avenue for notable experts to share with the stakeholders their knowledge, experience, and insights on how MSMEs can maximize digital based technologies in improving their productivity and competitiveness.

