

Committed to the advocacy to strengthen Muslim-Christian relationship, District I Congressman Celso Lobregat yesterday afternoon joined the Muslims in the pagbukah or breaking of the fast in observance of the month of Ramadan.

The Pagbukah (If'tar in Arabic) was the 11th since Lobregat started initiating such significant event in 2004 when he was first elected mayor. It is a demonstration of Lobregat's sincere appreciation and show of solidarity and respect for the Muslim community in the city.

Facilitated by Amilpasa Bandaying, a respected Muslim leader, hundreds of people from the city's Muslim community composed of Ulamas, barangay leaders, city officials, police and military officers and representatives from the academe and non-government organizations (NGOs) participated in the Lobregat-sponsored breaking of the fast at the Convention Center of the Garden Orchid Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Cong. Lobregat said Islam, like all other faiths, is respected and practiced in Zamboanga in complete freedom as guaranteed under the constitution. He likewise stressed on the importance for all sectors to emphasize on the things that bind Muslims and Christians together and not on the differences. — Melcah Yee