

District 2 congressional aspirant Jomar Lobregat has expressed apprehension over the dramatic increase in Zamboanga City's population, which he predicts could surely have adverse effect on the city's economic condition if no pre-emptive moves will be taken to cushion it this early.

In an interview with RMN-Zamboanga yesterday, Lobregat cited the dramatic increase of the city's population in the past two decades, specifically from 1990 to 2010, which has reached almost 365,000.

Lobregat said, from 442,345 in 1990, Zamboanga's population grew to as much as 601,794 in year 2000, and further ballooned to 807,129 in year 2010, an increase of 364,784, from 20 years backward.

"May the present set of candidates vying for different local elective positions take note of this, as it would surely crop up into a bigger problem in the city's economic well-being one day," the younger brother of Mayor Celso Lobregat said.

Jomar, who is also Adelante Zamboanga Party (AZAP) president, observed that some candidates, especially, those running for higher positions, simply confine themselves to advocating for good governance, without a clear-cut policy on how to confront the rising population in this part of the globe.

The businessman-turned politician said, unlike these candidates, he is personally taking cognizance on how an excessive population could affect the Zamboanguenos' living conditions, if local government officials would continue to undermine such a reality.

"There might come a time, that all roads leading to all directions will be filled up with all types of transportation, leaving the pedestrians very little space to cross or pass by," Lobregat said.

Apart from his concern on job opportunities, orderliness, modernization, agriculture, and respect, the younger Lobregat said, "once elected congressman, I will use the bulk of my countryside development funds (CDF) to do some research, on how to cushion the effects of the about to be more populous Zamboanga City, one of which is building new barangay and national roads". — Philip Abuy