**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE’S**

**SPEECH DURING THE UNVEILING OF THE MRT-7 TRAINS
MRT-7 Tracks Along Commonwealth Avenue Diliman,**

**Quezon City**

**December 16, 2021**

[00:00:09]

Hindi po ako obispo, pari. Sibilyan ho ako at huwag kayong tumindig pag tinatawag ako. Para lang ‘yan sa mga ibang tao. Eh ako I am just a worker of government like you or most of you.

House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade; Senator Bong Go; officials and employees of San Miguel Corporation led by President and Chief Executive Officer Ramon Ang; Quezon City 5th District Representative Alfredo Paolo Vargas III; San Jose del Monte City Lone District Representative Florida Robes; Quezon City Mayor Maria Josefina Tanya Belmonte; San Jose Del Monte City Mayor Arturo Robes; fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to join all of you today --- in the presence of our fellow workers in government, as well as our private partners --- for the unveiling of the trains of the MRT-7 Project. We can proudly say that this new Metro Rail Transit System, which spans more than 24 kilometers from North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose Del Monte in Bulacan, is a world-class mode of transportation for the benefit of the people.

The project is more than 60 percent complete and we are committed to make it partially operational by the fourth quarter of 2022. With a total cost of 77 billion pesos, the MRT-7 was funded through a Public and Private Partnership with the San Miguel Corporation under a Build-Transfer-Operate Arrangement, with a concession period of 25 years.

The MRT-7 project will provide the public with a fast, efficient, convenient, safe and reliable transportation system that would result in the increased productivity of workers and businesses in Metro Manila and its nearby provinces. It is also good to know that this new train system will help minimize air pollution as it is a greener and more energy-efficient means of transportation. It will likewise contribute to a healthier and cleaner environment, thereby improving the livability --- it’s my eyes that’s not working --- of the nation’s capital.

[00:04:20]

On this note, I wish to thank the hardworking people of the Department of Transportation and of San Miguel Corporation, as well as other partners, for making this milestone possible. The arrival of the trains and the significant progress made on the MRT-7 project confirm this Administration’s strong commitment to pursue critical infrastructure projects even amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, I enjoin all government agencies to ensure the prompt implementation and completion of significant government projects, while still upholding transparency, integrity and accountability in the --- in each operation. Let us fulfill our promise and commitment to the entire nation to accomplish sustainable projects that will continuously improve the lives of Filipinos, even beyond the term of the President.

On a more urgent note, we are closely monitoring --- through our various government agencies --- the movement of Typhoon Odette over this country at present. We have undertaken all the necessary precautions, prepositioned resources and closely coordinated with the localities to prepare for immediate emergency and relief response. Still, we must remain watchful and careful of the developments. Let us ensure that our people in areas on the path of the typhoon will be safe and well.

Maraming salamat po. [applause]

[00:06:32]

\*W\*M\*