PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.'s
PRESS BRIEFING AT THE INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
IRRI Headquarters, Los Baños, Laguna
November 29, 2022

[00:00:01]
USEC. CHELOY VELICARIA-GARAFIL:
Good afternoon, His Excellency, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Sir, we have a few questions from the media. Allan Francisco from PTV 4.

ALLAN FRANCISCO:
Hi Sir, magandang hapon. Sir, kumusta, sir, 'yung pagbisita rito sa International Rice Research Institute? Ano po ang objectives, sir?

PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.:
That's what--- iyon ang pinapaliwanag ko din sa kanilang board of directors kasi lagi nating pinag-uusapan na kailangan patibayin 'yung value chain ng agrikultura. Eh sa umpisa niyan, 'yung umpisa ng value chain, the first link is R&D. And that's why we came here--- I came here with some of the other officials from the DA. Pumunta kami rito para patibayin 'yung partnership in the sharing of information. Mukha namang maganda naman pero sabi ko patibayin pa natin ng mas…

Ang maganda sa naging resulta nitong bisita ay marami tayong nakita na mayroon talaga silang bagong technologies that are completely appropriate to the Philippine setting, so nabigyan kami ng pag-asa. Now, it's up to us now in the Philippine government to make sure those technologies, those products, go down to the grassroots.

Allan Francisco:
Thank you, sir.

[00:01:19]
PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Thank you.

USEC. GARAFIL:
Sir, Nel Maribojoc from UNTV.

NEL MARIBOJOC:
Magandang hapon, sir.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Hi, good afternoon.

Nel Maribojoc:
Sir, any update po may napipisil na po ba kayong magiging Kalihim ng Agri?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Sa?

NEL MARIBOJOC:
May napipisil na po ba kayong magiging Kalihim ng Department of Agriculture, sir? May mga pangalan na daw po kayo?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Agri? [laughter] Ayaw pumayag nitong si Usec eh. Sabi niya masyadong mabigat daw 'yung trabaho.

Actually, I have a timetable for that. There are certain things that I would like to achieve before leaving the department. So hindi pa tayo nandoon. But of course, maraming lumalabas na pangalan. Tuloy-tuloy ang pagtingin namin, pag-ano. So, hopefully, by the time na 'yung checklist ko natapos na, mayroon na tayong pwedeng i-nominate na DA.

NEL MARIBOJOC:
Sir, mga ilan po 'yan na mga pangalan na tinitingnan niyo po?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Well, that list keeps changing. May nawawala, may nadadagdag. May nawawala, may nadadagdag.

NEL MARIBOJOC:
Thank you, sir.

USEC. GARAFIL:
Ms. Cresilyn Catarong from SMNI.

CRESILYN CATARONG:

Good afternoon, sir.

[00:02:23]
PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Good afternoon.

CRESILYN CATARONG:
Sir, if not po ‘yung 20 pesos per kilo na rice, ano po ‘yung magiging Christmas gift niyo po sa ating mga kababayan?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Saan?

CRESILYN CATARONG:
If not the 20 pesos per kilo ng rice, ano po ‘yung magiging Christmas gift po natin sa ating mga kababayan po?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Ah, no [chuckles. The 20 pesos was really the goal. The dream is paabutin natin ng 20 pesos. We are continuing with the transfer payments that we have begun with.

We are going to widen the scope of the Kadiwa so that it is now… The Kadiwa was always conducted sa LGU, at LGU level individually. Ngayon, ginawa na naming national program. Sinama na natin lahat-lahat nung mga Kadiwa.

I’m hoping that we will see some adjustment in prices for Christmas and it looks like baka naman swertehin tayo. ‘Yung worry ko lang itong nangyari sa--- ‘yung TRO na binigay ng CA doon sa PSA ng San Miguel at saka MERALCO. ‘Yun ang worry ko, ‘yun ang inaano namin ngayon, ‘yun ang talagang tinatrabaho namin ngayon na hindi tumaas ang fuel. At least not for Christmas man lang.

If we could postpone and padahan-dahanin lang natin. Kung tataas man, dahan-dahanin natin ang pagtaas. Masyado nang mahirap --- masyado nang nahihirapan ang tao.

USEC. GARAFIL:
Last question from Mr. Rex Remicio from CNN.

REX REMICIO:

Mt. President, good afternoon.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Good afternoon.

REX REMICIO:
Any thoughts on the results of the OCTA Research Survey saying na based on the administration's programs and policies…

[00:04:20]

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Any thoughts on?

REX REMICIO:
OCTA Research Survey, 'yung "Tugon ng Masa"…

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Iyong…?

REX REMICIO:
Ang sabi sa result is 85 percent daw ng Filipinos believe na…

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Oh, the OCTA Research… Well, of course, it's very encouraging that people think that we are moving in the right direction. Also specifically, I haven't been able to study it really but nakita ko 'yung --- it crosses demographics, the number is more or less the same across the demographics.

So that is important to me because every class of society must feel that they are being served by the government. And with that kind of statistic, then it looks like we have at least --- we have made the government felt at every level of society. That's what's important to me.

USEC. GARAFIL:
Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Malacañang Press Corps.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:
Sige, salamat. [00:05:18]

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