

## **MALACAÑANG PRESS BRIEFING**

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(00:00:00)

SEC CHELOY VELICARIA-GARAFIL: May we open the floor to a few questions?

**PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:** Sige.

SEC. CHELOY VELICARIA-GARAFIL: Ryan Remigio from CNN... Rex Remitio. Sorry.

REX REMITIO (CNN): Mr. President, good morning.

**PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:** Good morning.

REX REMITIO (CNN): So, ano po iyong pinaka-unang marching order niyo para sa Department of Agriculture?

**PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:** Well, the obvious one is try and gain control of the prices of all the agricultural commodities that are going up at tinatamaan tayo, iyon na nga, iyong napag-usapan ko, climate change. Alam niyo na lahat iyong swine flu. Alam niyo na lahat iyong avian flu na tumatama sa atin. Kaya't iyan ang una natin. In the immediate term, hindi lang short-term, kung hindi in the immediate term kailangan natin ma-control at tingnan natin kung paano natin gagawin. At the same time, kasabay nito is the longer term, iyong production at saka cost of production, mechanization, lahat ng mga bagay na iyan. At we will --- tinitingnan natin ang mga ginagawa ng ating mga karatig bansa such as Thailand, such as Indonesia, such as Vietnam at baka mayroon tayong matutunan sa kanila na pwede nating --- na bagay dito sa Pilipinas and that's the first thing that our new Secretary will have to do.

SEC. GARAFIL: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. Kenneth Paciente of PTV 4.

KENNETH PACIENTE (PTV 4): Good morning, Mr. President and good morning, Secretary. To Secretary Laurel po, Sir, following your appointment, ano po iyong marching order niyo naman po sa Department of Agriculture, Sir? Thank you.

SEC. TIU LAUREL: Well, today, I will proceed to the Department of Agriculture and meet everybody.

Well, ang hingiin ko lang sa kanila talaga sa ngayon is their full cooperation dahil importanteng buo ang departamento sa isang goal 'no which is basically modernization at increase of production. Iyan ho ang marching order sa atin ni Presidente.

At iyong mga plano ni Presidente i-implement namin to the letter. But I need the team to be intact and buo ang loob para magawa ang --- at para ma-meet ang target and goals natin.

Thank you.

SEC. GARAFIL: Thank you, Secretary Laurel. Thank you, Mr. President.

(00:02:32)

**PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.:** Before we finish, I would just like --- I know many people are worried about our people, our Filipino nationals in Gaza, in Israel in the middle of the war. At saka dumating ang balita sa atin na iyong mga nasa Gaza hindi pinapalabas pa sa Rafah crossing. And nagtataka ang iba bakit nga hindi. Well, it is unfortunately completely out of our hands. We have no control over this. It is between the Israelis and the Palestinians. There is also a complication because some of the Filipino nationals, mga babae na may napangasawa na na Palestinian. Hindi pinapalabas iyong Palestinian. So, many of them are undecided kung gusto nilang umalis o hindi dahil syempre, ayaw naman nilang iwanan ang asawa nila, ayaw nilang iwanan iyong kanilang anak. So, these are the problems that we are facing.

However, we have been --- I've asked Secretary Ricky Manalo to make --- well, the Ambassador, Ambassador Ilan Fluss and, of course, he has been able to get in touch with the Foreign Minister of Israel and our Ambassador. Ambassador Junie Laylo was able to see the President yesterday --- the President of Israel yesterday. So, may pangako sila sa atin na maipapalabas na ang mga Pinoy, ang mga Pilipino, maipapalabas na by today or tomorrow. That is what they promised us. Saturday daw at the latest. So, that's what we're...

Nakahanda naman lahat ng ating mga bus. Nakahanda na iyong mga embassy natin sa Cairo na napunta... Nandoon lang sila. Matagal na silang nag-aantay

doon sa tawiran, iyong Rafah crossing. And they are ready for when the time comes na tumawid na ang mga Pinoy dadalhin at pauwiin. We have also offered our assistance to other ASEAN countries. Maraming Thai, may mga Vietnamese, mayroong mga iba't iba. So, sabi namin kung sino mauna, magtulungan na lang tayo. And it looks like we are the ones there first because ang presence naman ng Pinoy in the area is much higher than the others.

So, that is the latest news that I received today, early this morning from our Secretary of the DFA. And sana naman totoo na para mailabas na natin lahat ng gustong lumabas and bring them back home to safety.

Thank you. Magandang umaga sa inyo. [applause]

SEC. GARAFIL: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Secretary Laurel. Thank you, Malacañang Press Corps.

(00:05:16)

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