

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.'s
MEDIA INTERVIEW IN TAGUIG CITY**

Taguig City
November 24, 2023

[00:00:01]

PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.:

Good morning.

It is a very important day that we are here now in this Cancer Specialty Hospital that has been put up by Ayala Health and their partners, Varian, here in the Philippines.

Kung maalala ninyo, ito iyong prinisinta sa atin noong nasa San Francisco tayo tungkol nga sa MOU, tungkol dito. Nabuksan na, they started two years ago in the middle of Covid. Pero ngayon natapos na.

So, it is a very important development because it shows how working together can produce such impressive results. And it is something that is very clearly needed because cancer is now the number three killer in the Philippines. And so, you can see that the necessity of it is clear and the response also has been something that we consider terribly important.

So, congratulations to all those who have been involved, both in the public sector side, the private sector side. Kagaya ng nasabi ko kanina. It is a very good example of how cooperation on all different stakeholders, both in the private sector and in the public sector and the professionals and ordinary citizens can bring about such impressive results. So, we hope to do it even more. All right.

REPORTER: Sir, kanina nabanggit niyo po 'yung may mga financial burden, 'yun pong cancer assistance fund. Can you tell us more about this, sir?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Yes. Well, we're still putting up the details together, especially how to fund it. But one of the main problems that we have been seeing... Although they have made some progress— the technical progress in terms of the science, that the cost have been brought down. And I take note of the fact that AC Health has actually take on the profit margin to keep the cost down.

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And I thanked them all for that. And I think that the patients that will go through, that will be helped by this facility will also be thanking them for that for many, many, many years to come. So, these are the things that we are trying to do so that number one, the costs come down and we can support what the insurance cannot cover. PhilHealth cannot cover all the medicines. Kahit iyong private na insurance hindi nila ma-cover lahat.

So, kaya natin pinag-uusapan iyong fund para iyong --- malaki rin, malaki pa rin. So, iyong hindi pa kaya na ma-cover ng insurance baka mayroon tayong magawa from the government side para maging naman mas magaan ang financial cost sa pasyente.

REPORTER: Sir, on another issue.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: On?

REPORTER: ICC

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Oh, okay.

REPORTER: Sir, there's a resolution filed by some lawmakers asking the government to cooperate with ICC para ma-push through daw 'yung probe? What do you think of this, sir?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Well, this is not unusual. It's really a sense of the House resolution and the sense— they are just expressing or manifesting the sense of the House that perhaps it's time to allow or to cooperate with the ICC investigations.

But as I have always said, there are still some problems in terms of jurisdiction and sovereignty. Now, if we can solve those problems then that would be something else. But, medyo fundamental iyong mga question na ganun. Because if you're talking about the jurisdiction of the ICC, especially since we have withdrawn from the Rome statute a few years back, that brings into question whether or not this is actually possible.

There is also a question: Should we return under the fold of the ICC? So, that's again under study. So, we'll just keep looking at it and see what our options are.

Simple lang para sa akin. Simple lang naman iyang isyung iyan. Hindi naman siguro tama na ang mga tiga-labas, mga dayuhan ang magsasabi sa atin kung

sino iimbestigahan ng pulis natin, sino aarestuhin ng pulis natin, sinong ikukulong ng pulis natin. Hindi naman siguro tama iyon. Dapat Pilipino lang ang gumagawa niyan. May pulis naman tayo. May NBI naman tayo. May DOJ tayo. Kaya nila iyong trabahong iyan. And that's really where the conflict is. All right?

REPORTER: Mr. President, magandang umaga po.

Sir, last year po naglabas kayo ng AO na nagbibigay ng 20,000 pesos na Service Recognition Incentive para sa mga government employees. Will there be another SRI for this year para sa mga government employees?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: We'll see. We'll see what our financial position is at the end of this all. Ganyan lang naman talaga iyan.

We wait until the end of the fiscal year to see what it is that we can afford. So, we will have another look at that to see that if it's possible.

Marami tayong pinapagawa ngayon sa mga ano natin. So, kailangan natin mag-compensate naman to... Lahat ng mga Pilipino ngayon naghihirap. So, kung ano iyong maitulong natin gagawin natin. So, we'll see if it is actually viable, if it is financially feasible to do.

All right. Thank you. Ah, mayroon pa?

REPORTER: Sir, another question on health. Pero on your health. We heard that you were feeling...?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: My health?

REPORTER: Yes, sir. We heard that you were feeling under the weather yesterday. That's why you didn't attend the dinner reception?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Yeah. I, basically, just ran out of steam yesterday. Hindi pa ako nakapag-recover sa byahe. And I suppose I just needed rest. I'm fine now. Thank you for your concern though. [applause]

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