

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.'s
MEDIA INTERVIEW**

City of San Juan
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[00:00:00]

PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.: Ang dahilan nitong forum na ito ay para masabi natin, maipaliwanag natin na ito iyong mga plano namin gawin. At ano iyong aming pangangailangan sa iba't-ibang mga stakeholder upang maging maganda ang sitwasyon ng trapiko.

IAN CRUZ (GMA 7): Hi, Mr. President, I'm here.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Oh, yes.

REPORTER (GMA 7): Sir, as we all know 'yung mga face-to-face classes na-suspend po in many schools kasi po sa extreme heat. We might face the same problem po sa 2025 and 2026 dahil sa projection po ng DepEd, 2026 to 2027 pa maibabalik sa old school calendar 'yung mga pasok ng mga bata. So, ang hiling po ng ibang mga sector baka daw po puwedeng pabilisin para hindi na po mahirapan ang mga bata, ibalik na po sa April-May ang bakasyon nila. Ano po ang take niyo dito, sir?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Oo, ang problema talaga diyan—ang naging problema diyan is the climate change dahil nagbago iyong season. At kagaya ngayon, hindi naman natin inaasahan na ganito. Usually, by now, napakainit na pero maaga pa mainit na talaga kaya't kailangan naming mag-adjust.

So, we—constant iyan, hindi naman... ‘pag syempre, sa— hangga’t maari gusto nating ibalik sa dati dahil medyo may consensus na talaga na mas maganda iyong dating schedule.

Kaya’t hindi naman sinasabi na hindi nating gagawin before next year, or the year after that. Susubukan namin gawin na sa aming palagay mahihirapan pa tayo ngunit hangga’t may paraan ay gagawan natin ng paraan para mapaaga at mapabilis ang pagbalik sa normal na schedule ng mga bata.

MS. JULIE BAIZA (ONE PH): Sir, ano po ‘yung inaasahan nating specific commitments or deals from the trilateral summit po in Washington?

[00:02:03]

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Ah, well, this is essentially an agreement between the United States, Japan, and the Philippines on cooperation in terms of maintaining security and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. And that is the essence of it.

But, of course it will contain more details in the sense of how, in terms of cooperation, it will be implemented. So, that is what we are going to discuss now when we go to Washington and speak with Prime Minister Kishida and with President Biden.

MS. KRIZEL INSIGNE (IBC 13): Sir, sinabi po kahapon sa NHA na aprubado na po ‘yung budget for Cavite-Bataan inter-link bridge. So, kailan po ‘yung possible na matatapos po ito saka ‘yung, ano po ‘yung tulong nito sa economy dahil madadagdagan daw po.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Ng? tulong ng?

REPORTER: Sa economy dahil madadagdagan daw po ‘yung mga trabaho, para once ma ano—

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Oo, napakalaking tulong. Well, sa traffic lang, malaking bagay ‘yun dahil hindi na magiging dead end iyong Bataan kasi may tulay na.

So, this is one of the big advantages of that. At very progressive naman ang probinsya ng Bataan. So, we can give it even more impetus. Basta't ang advantage ng kalsada, ng tulay ay iyong lugar na hindi masyadong madaling mapuntahan ay bubuksan mo.

That will make it cheaper to transport goods, make it cheaper to transport passengers, it will make it easier for the infrastructure to be built up because siyempre may— mayroon na tayong puwedeng gamitin.

So, the only downside to that is that it takes a long time. It's a 32-kilometer bridge. A 32-kilometer bridge is the second longest bridge in the world ang ating ginagawa. So, it will take a little bit of time but I do not see any delays. Sa ngayon, anong projection natin sa Bataan-Cavite?

Well, as I said, we are still—we have started already the pre-engineering, the pre-planning. So, it will take a little time but we have to start some time.

The other bridge that we are now looking at very closely is the Panay-Guimaras Negros, that is also another long bridge that we are doing; the same thing, bubuksan mo, that's what happens, is you open to business, you open it to all of the opportunities in place that did not have that access. That's the main point of all of these.

Ah, they're asking when do we—the Bataan-Cavite...

[00:05:09]

DOTR SECRETARY JAIME BAUTISTA: Actually, 'yung Bataan-Cavite bridge is a project of the Department of Public Work and Transport. They are now working closely with ADB, ginagawa na nila 'yung detailed engineering design, but 'yung procurement mag-start na. 'Yung phase one—Phase 1, this is from Cavite going to Bataan, and then Bataan going to Cavite also. Ayan, ito si Secretary Bonoan.

DPWH SECRETARY MANUEL BONOAN: 'Yung first semester po nito, we are now inviting ho 'yung mga international contractors who has the experience dito sa ganitong klaseng proyekto. And by siguro itong first semester, we will now be bidding out 'yung dalawang land-based segments sa Bataan at saka dito sa Cavite and then by the second semester 'yung additional two other segments para this year siguro mga four segments kasi anim na segments po 'yan eh. So, mahaba 'yung gitna, 'yung pinamakamahabang segment nito 'yung 900 meters na cable-stayed bridge, cable-stayed structure. Siguro ay baka mai-bid na rin namin this year.

MS. PIA GUTIERREZ: Sir, your reaction lang po on the supposed gentleman's agreement between your predecessor and China. Do you believe that this supposed agreement—gentleman's agreement on the West Philippines Sea, do you believe that the supposed agreement placed our national position at risk in the West Philippines Sea? And if so, should the Former President be accountable for that?

[00:07:03]

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: Well, it turns out it was a secret agreement. We don't know anything about it. There is no documentation, no record, there is no—we were not briefed when I came into office, walang nagsabi sa amin na mayroong ganoong usapan.

So, I—we're trying to really—up to now because from the former administration, iba-iba ang sagot eh. Sabi ng isang opisyal na dating government official under the previous administration, there is no such agreement. Sabi naman ng isa, no, there is and we should honor it. Sabi naman ng iba, maganda iyan. Sabi naman ng iba hindi maganda iyan.

Hindi pa namin alam kung ano ba talaga iyong agreement na iyan. But kung—ay ang sinasabi sa agreement na iyan na kailangan tayong magkumpormiso sa ibang bansa para gumalaw sa ating sariling teritoryo, ay mahirap sigurong—mahirap sigurong sundan iyang ganyang klaseng agreement.

I am horrified by the idea that we have compromised in—through a secret agreement, the territory, the sovereignty and the sovereign rights of the Philippines. That is something—we still have to clear it up, we are waiting for Ambassador Huang to come back from Beijing na—umalis siya and I asked to see him, baka siguro sa pagbalik na.

At ipaliwanag niya, ano ba, sino bang kausap mo? Sino ba talagang kausap mo? Anong pinag-usapan ninyo? Ano'ng pinag-agreehan ninyo? Was this an official thing or was it a personal thing? Ano ba ito? Dahil wala kaming record, kahit saan ka tumingin, walang record.

So, sikretong ginawa lahat ito. Bakit nila ginawa? Kung gagawin man nila, ba't pa nila ginawang sikreto? Nakakapagtaka nga eh. Kaya it's not a good situation.

REPORTER: Sir, do you plan to talk to former President Duterte about this?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR.: I'm talking—we're talking to his former officials, maybe not the President himself, but always former officials. Tinatanong namin, ano ba iyan. Ipaliwanag ninyo naman sa amin para alam namin iyong ginagawa namin. And we still haven't gotten a straight answer.

Alright? Thank you!

[00:09:22]



BAGONG PILIPINAS