

## **Aksyon Para Sa Ambisyon: Philippine Development Expo**

### **President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's Message**

**(Delivered by Cabinet Secretary Lencio B. Evasco Jr., Office of the President)**

The President, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, wanted very much to be here today, but due to other pressing commitments, he is not able to do so. However, he has asked me to represent him, a task I am only too happy to perform since our office, the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, has worked very closely with NEDA in the planning and finalization of the Philippine Development Plan.

Besides sending his warmest regards and congratulations to all of you today, he wanted me to convey the following message on his behalf:

#### **(START OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH)**

Today we are launching the Philippine Development Plan 2017 - 2022 or the PDP. I commend the NEDA Secretariat and the NEDA interagency committees for painstakingly putting together the inputs of hundreds of stakeholders - from experts to ordinary citizens, who actively participated in numerous consultations nationwide. The coordination and cooperation among agencies made it possible to come up with a comprehensive medium-term development plan with a holistic approach. With the numerous consultations nationwide, we can say that this is truly a people's plan.

When I campaigned for the Presidency, I promised that change will come. There will be changes in the way government deals with people - my government will be clean, efficient and people-centered. There will be changes in how economic development will happen - it will benefit even the most marginalized and vulnerable, those outside Metro Manila, the small farmers, fisherfolk and the micro, small and medium enterprises. There will be changes in how Filipinos deal with fellow Filipinos - for we will build a high-trust society.

All these changes are meant to improve well-being which, for Filipinos, mean having a "matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay." This is drawn from a study that asked how ordinary Filipinos envision themselves, their families, and the country to be by 2040. According to the study, Filipinos want " ... a stable and comfortable lifestyle, secure in the knowledge that we have enough for our daily needs and unexpected expenses, that we can plan and prepare for our own and our children's future. Our family lives together in a place of our own, and we have the freedom to go where we desire, protected and enabled by a clean, efficient, and fair government." This is what we now refer to as AmBisyon Natin 2040.

The AmBisyon affirms what I have always known to be the aspiration of Filipinos. That is why I have signed Executive Order No. 5, soon after I assumed office, declaring the AmBisyon to be the basis of development planning across administrations. This PDP 2017-2022 is the first of four PDPs that will make sure that we reach our AmBisyon.

The PDP takes off from my zero to 10 point economic agenda and adds other strategies to guide our development path towards the attainment of a "matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay para sa lahat."

Allow me to highlight the three (3) pillars of this PDP that my administration has been and will be focusing on:

First is "Malasakit", which is about enhancing the social fabric. This pillar truly articulates what my administration is about -the Filipino people. Our people deserve the attention and care from government. And by this we mean having a whole-of-government approach so that citizens can expect swift action and high quality public service, including administration of justice. Malasakit is also about promoting Philippine culture and values so that we Filipinos can be proud of our identity as a nation.

Second is "Pagbabago", which is about transforming the economy so that development is equitably distributed; so that those who have been left behind all these years will have better opportunities. We will encourage inclusive business, linkages between big businesses and the micro, small and medium enterprises. We will help small farmers, fisherfolk and entrepreneurs to have access to resources, finance, technology and value chains. We will ensure that everyone will have opportunities to improve their human capital.

Third is "Patuloy na Pag-unlad", which is about making sure that growth and development will be sustained and even accelerate beyond my term.

Importantly, the PDP includes cross-cutting strategies that are necessary for all sectors to function well. We have already started setting the stage and building a strong foundation for long-term development, particularly through an ambitious infrastructure program which we intend to vigorously implement. Ensuring peace and security is very high up in my priority because I know that this will provide the environment necessary for all the other strategies to work. Peace and security is the enabling factor for Filipinos to enjoy a "matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay."

Let us remember that AmBisyon Natin 2040 is our collective ambition and ambition connotes action. We cannot allow the vision to remain a dream. And so the PDP is not just a set of recommendations. This Plan is about translating the vision into action.

I have promised that change is coming, and THIS is how we'll do it.

Mabuhay tayong lahat. At maraming salamat.