

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE NLEX HARBOR LINK SEGMENT
10 PROJECT

[Delivered in C3 Road, Caloocan City | 28 February 2019]

Salamat po. Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Before anything I'd like to talk about this penchant of political commentators and politicians themselves, to just say a few words for them, that we are not into a claim and credit syndrome.

All of the projects that we undertake and will do for the rest of my term be -- give our gratitude to the builders, to the contractors, the partners of government and to --- we place it in the name of the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

We do not claim any... Just because we mentioned it in passing sometimes it's not because that we are claiming any credit.

Nobody can claim credit in the name of the people, it is their money and for all of us. Iyon lang ho just a reminder to...

Former President and Manila Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Secretary of Public Works and Highways Mark Villar and other members of the Cabinet. You know Mark I do not need your voice. Your own --- toil lang, trabaho, sweat and when you are tired, you can always go home to... Ilan bahay ba iyo? Pareho tayo at least there's a choice, I know.

The honorable members of the House of Representatives; Metro Pacific Investments Corporation President and CEO Jose Ma. Joey Lim; our elected

officials here with us this evening; ah we forgot to mention the --- the Secretary and --- one of us... I forgot to mention Jeannie, the Vice Mayor of Malabon, she's over there. She is running for mayor. Other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Today, we celebrate another milestone in our "Build, Build, Build" Program with the inauguration of the new NLEX Harbor Link Segment 10 and the groundbreaking of the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road Project.

The 9-billion peso NLEX Harbor Link Segment 10 is a six-lane elevated expressway that is nearly 6 kilometers long. It will connect McArthur Highway to C-3 Road in Caloocan and it will cut across Valenzuela and Malabon.

You know as I talk I get dizzy actually. The last time I drove a car here in Manila was about 50 years ago? Pagkatapos ng law at pag-uwi ko sa probinsya dala-dala ko 'yung Volkswagen ko that was the last time that I really. I do not... I cannot even have a visual thing about... I just read on and read on, on and on.

This new highway is expected to decongest Metro Manila by providing access to NLEX without the need to pass through EDSA or the Balintawak Toll Plaza.

It will reduce traffic time --- travel time from Valenzuela to C-3 from the usual 1 hour to just 5 minutes. That's heaven. And it will benefit around 20,000 motorists per day and will also serve as an alternate route for motorists and resolve truck ban problems. –

I acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation, and the NLEX Corporation for their timely implementation and completion of the project. My salute to you, sir.

This will definitely improve access and mobility in the area and result in greater socio-economic gains for our industries and communities. I am hopeful that the remaining portions of the NLEX Harbor Link Project will be completed within the next two years.

I also recognize the private sector's collaboration with DPWH [for] the groundbreaking of the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road Project, a 23-billion peso, 8-kilometer, elevated 4-lane toll expressway also under the Public-Private Partnership Program.

This will extend NLEX southward [from] the end of the Harbor Link Segment 10 --- nahihilo na ako nito p***** --- Segment... I'm trying to figure out where I am. I said I have forgotten the --- the physical arrangement of the greater Manila area. Link to PUP Sta. Mesa, and will connect [to] the Skyway Stage 3. This project is expected to reduce travel time from SLEX to NLEX and vice-versa from the usual two hours to just 20 minutes.

It will also reduce travel time from Clark to Calamba from approximately three hours to just one hour and 40 minutes. It will also improve connectivity between NAIA and Clark Airport and will benefit at least [35,000] motorists per day. Kahaba nito Secretary Villar baka aabot tayo ng langit nito. *[laughter]* Mabuti ka kay nauna ka na. You have been in heaven for so many months.

Our administration is committed to a 10-point socio-economic agenda that includes the acceleration of infrastructure projects and the development of various industries, leading to a stronger economy and improved lives of our people.

As our lead government agencies ensure the timely implementation and completion of all government infrastructure projects, I enjoin the continued active participation of our partners in the private sector. Now, more than ever, we are called [on] to demonstrate our bayanihan spirit and strong sense of nationhood.

Let us remain steadfast as we work together in forging a stronger and more progressive future for all Filipinos.

Mabuhay tayong lahat at maraming salamat. *[applause]*

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