



BASIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Villagers Montessori College

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A SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND E. MARCOS JR.'S THIRD STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS (SONA), JULY 22, 2024

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. started off his 3rd SONA which occurred on July 22, 2024 by emphasizing that despite current statistics portraying the country as one of the best performers in Asia, these figures hold little significance for Filipinos facing rice prices ranging from 45 to 65 pesos per kilo. He acknowledged that while market forces, influenced by factors like war and natural events such as El Niño, dictate prices, this is not a concern for those struggling with high costs. The President assured citizens that their struggles are recognized and highlighted the record-breaking rice harvest of over twenty million tons, the highest since 1987. However, he noted that this yield equates to only thirteen million tons of rice, still insufficient to meet the country's demand of sixteen million tons, necessitating imports. He restated the commitment to prioritizing local production and supporting the agriculture sector to enhance production processes, mentioning the distribution of over one hundred million kilos of seeds and fertilizers, as well as more than three hundred thousand chickens to farmers for reproduction. On the other hand, fishermen were provided with more than five hundred million fingerlings and three thousand ships for sailing. Fishing ports and cold storages were also built and fixed to further support their industry in fishing. Additionally, technical and financial help as a complementary for knowledge about successive processes of gaining investment.

The government is prepared to release vaccines against Swine Fever to strengthen livestock and protect farmers from losses. Efforts are also in progress to lower food prices and increase supply. Due to illegal price manipulations and smuggling, temporary price ceilings on rice were implemented, along with reduced tariffs for rice, corn, and pork imports until year-end. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assured farmers that these measures are temporary. They highlighted ongoing agricultural changes, noting that over 130,000 land titles have been distributed in the past two years, alongside Certificates of Condonation for over 600,000 beneficiaries with debts amounting to 57 billion pesos. More than 70,000 agrarian reform cases have been resolved, including long-pending ones. Efforts to combat smuggling have led to the seizure of over 2.7 billion pesos worth of agri-fisheries products. Rice seized from smugglers is being distributed to the poor, while other products will be destroyed, and offenders prosecuted.

The government plans to implement pre-border technical verification and cross-border electronic assessing to strengthen enforcement. Local governments will no longer charge fees for goods transport on national roads and they are encouraged to do the same on local roads.

The KADIWA program has successfully helped communities during times of high food prices and will keep growing. This year, over 1,200 kilometers of roads from farms to markets are set to be finished, along with important work on machinery and irrigation. He mentioned how El Niño affects farming and pointed out that farmers need crop insurance totaling over 9 billion pesos because of this. New farming methods and early support are being put in place to deal with drought. The Philippines is taking action on climate change by securing a spot on the Board of the Loss and Damage Fund, which needs approval from Congress. Efforts to prepare for disasters include building nearly 100 evacuation centers and a



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Disaster Response Command Center. More than 5,500 flood control projects are underway, including major ones in Cagayan de Oro and Pampanga Bay.

The "KALINISAN sa Bagong Pilipinas" initiative has mobilized communities to clean up, resulting in over 40,000 tons of waste collected. The infrastructure development program is on track, benefiting various sectors, and the administration claims steady progress toward its medium-term economic targets despite challenges.

He stated that the progress of the country's infrastructure has continued to be sustained, strategic, and on schedule. When it comes to the Free Wi-Fi Program, approximately ten million users have available access to the internet which is free, including even the people who are from areas that are isolated. Also assuring power and internet services are consistently being improved to solve the needs of places which suffer from brownout and outage of power.

12,000 kilometers of roads and exceeding than 1,200 bridges were constructed and improved all over the country to connect the northern and central Luzon to Manila and southern Luzon. Marcos Jr. also mentioned the C-LEX, NLEX-SLEX Connector, and the Plaridel Bypass that will be finished at the year-end. The president acknowledged the Metro Manila Subway Project for it has reported remarkable success of its tunneling function. Other projects for railways like the MRT-7 and North-South Commuter Railway are also in the process of developing. Improvement for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) will be assisted by the private sector consistently and is expected to have better accommodation for flights per hour, increasing the local and international flight routes to serve more than 61 million passengers per year. Projects of over 70 airport and seaport development were finished and additionally 350 projects are ongoing which are planned to be done in the year 2028.

More ambulatory services and specialty centers are anticipated to be built for the necessary health needs of the Filipinos that are struggling financially. He stated that the purpose of these centers is to avoid overcrowded hospitals and provide helpful ambulatory care, particularly for the disadvantaged. He also said LGUs are helping to build "Super Health Centers" in many places in the country and provinces will be given a Mobile Clinic. The government distributed a huge amount of the portion for the medical assistance program. A program was also announced which is called "Walang Gutom 2027" that will be servicing 2,300 households to 300,000 of food-poor households starting at the end of the year 2024 for nutrition.

President Marcos celebrated the successful Palarong Pambansa 2024 held in Cebu City, thanking the cities of Marikina and Cebu, as well as the Department of Education. He emphasized ongoing government support for sports programs and noted that 28 athletes are currently competing in Paris.

Marcos Jr. stressed the importance of a smooth national learning recovery program, particularly in basic education. He called for educational reforms that promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and announced plans to equip schools with modern technology like computers, digital books, etc. He addressed the ongoing issues with outdated and incorrect textbooks, promising to reduce the approval and distribution process from three years to one. He challenged the new Secretary of Education, Sonny Angara, to improve the quality of education quickly. The president highlighted the need to support teachers through professional development and career advancement opportunities. He also announced new programs for persons with disabilities and senior citizens, including increased discounts on essential goods. The president extended job opportunities for government personnel and promoted "experiential tourism" to enhance the tourism sector, focusing on local food, culture, and arts. He expressed gratitude to overseas Filipino workers for their significant contributions to the economy, noting their remittances of around \$307 billion last year.



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On peace and order, he reported a decrease in crime rates and ongoing efforts to dismantle remaining rebel groups. He emphasized the importance of trust between law enforcement and the community and reiterated the government's commitment to peace agreements. In the fight against illegal drugs, he assured that the government would continue a "bloodless" approach, having seized over 44 billion pesos in drugs and arrested many suspects. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. affirmed the Philippines' rights over the West Philippine Sea, promising to address tensions through diplomacy and strengthen defense measures. He reported improvements in the economy, with a reduced poverty rate of 15.5 percent, and called for cooperation to sustain economic growth. Lastly, he announced a ban on all Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO), instructing relevant agencies to end operations and assist affected workers.

END OF SPEECH

Prepared by: Student's signature over printed name Grade and Section	Checked and recorded by: MR. DAN LEMUEL R. LALUCES, LPT Subject Teacher, EAPP 12
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