

## 2023 State of the Nation Address

Screenshot from the broadcast of the Presidential Broadcast Staff Radio Television Malacañang

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. delivered his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) as the 17<sup>th</sup> Chief Executive of the Republic of the Philippines. The SONA was held at the Plenary Hall of the Batasang Pambansa Complex on 24 July 2023.

It was against the backdrop of domestic and external headwinds, chief among them inflation, that President Marcos Jr. began his administration last year. In his second SONA, President Marcos Jr. reported on the successes and challenges the

country continues to face and discussed the current administration’s key policies and priorities, including priority bills and projects, moving forward.

He declared that the state of the nation is sound and is improving on the back of continuing economic, social, and institutional transformation. These cross-cutting agenda are touched on in the following thematic areas of President Marcos’ second SONA as he steers the country to a *Bagong Pilipinas*.

### Key Themes



Economy



Agriculture



Water security



Infrastructure  
development



Power and utilities



Social welfare



Education



Innovation



Healthcare



Partnership with  
international  
communities



Investment  
opportunities



Digitalization



Foreign employment



Housing



Climate change



Cooperation among the  
private and public sector



BARM



Peace and order



Sovereign rights

# Economy

## 1. The financial system has remained strong and stable.

The medium-term Fiscal Framework (MTFF) was key in creating policies that will guide the system for the coming years. Moreover, the banks which serve as the instrument for monetary policies, have strong capital and liquidity positions.

## 2. Relaxed pandemic restrictions have stimulated more economic activities.

E-commerce contributed PhP2 trillion, accounting for 9.4% of the GDP. High local demand, strong BPO industry, stable flow of remittances and continued job recovery form the basis for sustained growth for the Philippines.

“ The state of the nation is sound and is improving. *Dumating na po ang Bagong Pilipinas.* ”

## 3. Revenue collection will be critical in bolstering public investments

Under the current fiscal framework, it is envisioned that by 2028, taxes and revenue collection will improve by 16.9% and 17.3%, respectively. 2023 has seen improvements in revenue collection such as:



The BIR collected a record PhP1.05 trillion from January to May, nearly 10% higher than during the same period in 2022.



The BOC experienced increased revenues, collecting PhP476 billion, representing a 7.4% increase.



PAGCOR and PCSO have seen an increase in revenues of 47.9% and 20%, respectively.

## 4. Economic Growth Prospects

The strategies undertaken have increased the production capacity of the nation's people and sectors.



Economic and social services comprise nearly 70% of the national budget, prioritizing food, education, health, jobs, and social protection in public infrastructure and capacity investments.



In 2022, the economy grew by 7.6%. The 2023 target is 6% - 7%, and Q1 of 2023 saw a 6.4% growth, indicating progress.



Inflation has eased from 8.7% (January) to 5.4% (June) nationwide with BSP projecting a further decrease to 2.9% in 2024.

“

We are still considered to be among the fastest-growing economies in the Asian region and the world. It is a testament to our **strong macroeconomic fundamentals.**

## Agriculture



Prices of rice, meat, vegetables and sugar were lowered through the revitalization of Kadiwa Stores aimed at connecting farmers and consumers.



Over 1.8 million families benefitted from lower prices at 7,000 Kadiwa stores, generating around PhP700 million in product sales. Additionally, over 3,000 cooperatives and groups were positively impacted.

- The success of the Kadiwa Stores at the local and national levels has given reason to expand and strengthen the program
- More stringent protocols will be implemented to go after smugglers, hoarders, and manipulators.

“

*Isa sa mga dahilan ng pagtaas ng presyo ay ang mga smugglers, hoarders at nagmamanipla ng presyo ng produktong agrikultural. Hinahabol at ihahabla natin sila.*

## Key Highlights in Agriculture



The agriculture sector's transformation relies on consolidation, modernization, mechanization, and value chain improvement, with strategic importations as needed.



Improvements in the agriculture sector can already be seen. Agriculture's output increased by 2.2% in Q1 of 2023.



Food security and sustainability is pursued through promotion and prioritization of science-backed farming however fisheries codes needs to be revisited to align with these objectives.



Almost 4,000 agriculture facilities like cold storage facilities and fabrication labs were set up.



The Department of Agriculture (DA) has Improved access to quality fertilizer for farmers via the Balance Fertilizer Strategy, reducing reliance on costly imported alternatives.



Identified around 300 farmer clusters through their produce, forming 900 cooperatives while also covering 200 thousand hectares of land.

Key Highlights in Agriculture (cont'd)



Amendments by Congress to the Cooperative code are needed to promote and facilitate Cooperative formation.



Additional 600 km of farm-to-market roads (FMRs) were laid down to support the 14 million hectares of farmland enhancing farmer access to markets.



28,000 new tools and machineries were distributed to farmers throughout the country.



Buffer stocks will be accumulated for El Niño; cloud-seeding will be used if necessary.



The government continues to be vigilant in protecting crops against pest and plant diseases.



In line with EO No. 4, the Agrarian Emancipation Act has condoned PhP57 billion worth of farmers' debt.

“

Our aim is to boost our local agricultural production — through consolidation, modernization, mechanization, and improvement of value chains — augmented by timely and calibrated importation, as needed.

Water Security and Management

The Water Resources Management Office (WRMO) was established to manage and oversee the supply of water resources. In addition, a pending bill has been drafted in the legislative body calling for the creation of the Department of Water Resource Management. Over PhP14.6 billion has been allocated for water supply projects with over 6,000 rainwater collection systems installed throughout the country. One of the notable water supply projects is the Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project.



Wawa Bulk Water Supply Project

- Services NCR and Rizal
- Expected to increase water supply by the project's 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase

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*Ang tubig ay kasing-halaga rin ng pagkain. Kailangan nating tiyakin na may sapat at malinis na tubig para sa lahat at sa mga susunod na salinlahi. Kasama na rito ang tubig na ginagamit natin para sa mga sakahan.*

Infrastructure Development

According to President Marcos Jr., infrastructure development will continue to be a key priority for the administration, with infrastructure spending continuing to make up 5-6% of the GDP.

Build, Better, More Infrastructure Program

The infrastructure program, which is valued at PhP8.3 trillion, consists of 194 flagship projects. Among these, 123 flagship projects have been identified as new infrastructure projects. This program will cover six sectors – physical connectivity, water resources, agriculture, health, digital connectivity and energy. Among these, 83% of the flagship projects in the program fall under physical connectivity, which include roads, bridges, seaports, airports, and mass transport. The program's primary consideration is to improve inter-modal connectivity through creating physical linkages between economic markets around the country.

Highlighted Infrastructure Projects



Roads

Luzon Spine Expressway Network Program

- 1,200 km project
- Connects Ilocos to Bicol
- Shortens travel time from 20 hours to 9 Hours



Bridges

Mega-Bridge Program

- 12 Bridges (90 km)
- Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge (32 km)
- Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridge (32 km)
- Samal Island-Davao City Connector Bridge



Airports

- New Passenger Terminal Building of Clark Airport



Seaports

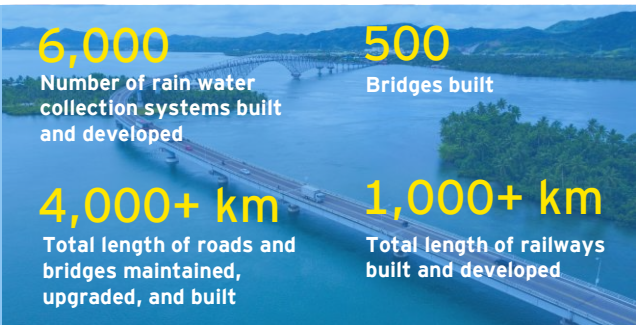
- Cebu Pier 88 Small Port
- New Passenger Terminal Building of Port of Calapan



Railways

Southern Portion of North-South Commuter Railway System

- Links Pampanga to Laguna
- Reduces travel time by two hours



## Maharlika Investment Fund

The Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF) was created to utilize portions of underutilized government funds as sources of financing for high priority projects, such as the Build, Better, More program, without added debt burden. The gains from the programs covered by the Fund will be reinvested into the country's economic development.

To ensure transparency and accountability, internationally recognized economic managers shall be selected to oversee the operations of the MIF.

“The underlying logic to our infrastructure development is economic efficiency. We are opening up all gateways to mobilize goods and services at less cost and in less time, and ultimately, to drive the economy.

## Healthcare

### Improved healthcare system

- ▶ To address hunger and nutrition-related issues, numerous programs have been launched:



Food Stamp Program (FSP) - helps address the nutrition needs of food-poor Filipinos



First 1,000 Days program - ensures nutrition for the first three years of a child's life



Supplemental Feeding Program - for children attending daycare centers



The K-to-6 Program - for Kindergarten to Grade 6 public school students suffering from severe wasting

- ▶ More than 80% of eligible children have been vaccinated against measles, rubella, and polio.
- ▶ To halt the alarming rise of tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, efforts must be directed towards early diagnosis and treatment as well as enough testing sites and medications.

“Healthier communities and lifestyle are our advocacy.

## Structural enhancements



More than 3,400 projects were completed last year to increase the number and capability of public health facilities.



To improve the capacity for specialized medical treatment, specialty centers in various fields are being established. Last year, there were 60 specialty centers that were opened to the public.



Currently, a 5-hectare specialty center in Pampanga is being developed. This would specialize in pediatrics, cardiology, kidney diseases, and cancer.

The government is working towards a more direct and efficient delivery of services through the integration of primary care providers and networks, LGUs, and the private sector.

### Medicine prices

- ▶ Prices of essential and important medicines have decreased by 40% whereas those of other medicines have dropped by 90%.
- ▶ Due to the maximum retail price regulation and the strategic VAT exemption, prices of 59 essential medications, such as for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease, and mental illness, have decreased.

### Delivery of Medical Services

- ▶ More than 93% of Filipinos are PhilHealth members.
- ▶ Through the *Konsulta* Package, there are 21 types of medicines, and 13 laboratory services free of charge.
- ▶ Currently, there are over 2,000 *Konsulta* centers in the entire country, 35% more than last year.
- ▶ Before there were only 90 free dialysis sessions, whereas now, it has increased to 156 free dialysis sessions.
- ▶ Last year, the government was able to help more than 3.4 million Filipinos through the Department of Health's Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients (MAIP) program.
- ▶ To solve the country's shortage of doctors and nurses, reforms on education, continuous training and development, and on their overall welfare have been put in place.
- ▶ The government has deployed doctors to about 200 municipalities. Doctors will be mobilized to 16 municipalities that do not have a doctor.



“We are now refocusing our health priorities, applying the lessons learnt from the pandemic and addressing the weaknesses that it has exposed.





## Partnership with international communities

President Marcos Jr. mentioned that he still wants to generate more jobs for the unemployed and underemployed even with the current high employment rate.



**95.7%**  
Employment rate as of May 2023

“ Our independent foreign policy — a friend to all and enemy of none — has proven effective.

President Marcos Jr. has been aggressive in promoting and facilitating investment and business not only in the local economy but also in the global economy. Strategic alliances with old and new international partners have been formed through independent foreign policy and engaging in foreign trips producing:



**Php3.9 Tn**  
Investment value



**175k**  
Potential jobs

With the implementation of recent economic reforms, BOI-approved investment projects reached Php1.2 trillion. Strategic investments approved for processing through the newly established “green lanes” amount to Php230 billion.

The Philippines’s existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, notably within the ASEAN framework, and with Japan, and with Europe, have allowed the country to leverage on its competitive advantages and gain economic benefits. President Marcos Jr. will continue to create more international partnerships that will be beneficial to the country such as RCEP.



### Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

- ▶ Multilateral arrangement with the ASEAN and other countries: Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand
- ▶ Gives the Philippines access to a market of two billion people

“

*Mga kababayan, ang lahat ng mga ginagawa nating ito ay magbibigay-bunga sa libo-libong hanapbuhay sa ating bansa.*

A “service export powerhouse”, the Philippines must foster the growth of the services sector, specifically the Information Technology-Business Process Management (IT-BPM) and tourism industries.



### Tourism

- ▶ Provides livelihood to five million Filipinos
- ▶ Three million international visitors in the country from January to June 2023, which is 62% of the 4.8 million target for the year

## Investment opportunities

In creating investment opportunities, an enabling business environment must be in place. As part of the enabling business environment, “green lanes” for strategic investments were created and businesses processes have been improved.

The CREATE law has made corporate tax and incentive schemes more equitable and business-friendly. President Marcos Jr. emphasized that more structural reforms must be done to reach the socioeconomic targets of the country.

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*We will solidify our country’s reputation as an attractive and reliable investment destination.*

## Digitalization

President Marcos, Jr. stressed that the government must seize this moment to enhance services for the people, leveraging digital tools for data-driven decisions, science-based planning and proactively combating corruption.

### Key Highlights on Digitalization in the country



Digital payments accounted for **42% of total retail payments last year** with the goal to reach **50% of total retail payments by this year**.



**87% total registration** for the National ID system has been achieved.



Internet speed ranking: Fixed broadband - **47<sup>th</sup> among 180 countries** (11 places higher than 2022), Mobile internet - **83 out of 142 countries** (8 places higher than last year).



**Signing of the SIM Registration Act** to provide a **safer space** to Filipino mobile subscribers.



Launched the **E-Gov PH app**, envisioned to be a **single and centralized mobile app for all key government services** easing convenience to the general public.

“ Digitalization is the call of today; not of the future — but of the present. It is here. It is needed, and it is needed today.

### Digitalization of different services in the country

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has received directives to consolidate all digitalized government services into the eGov PH app, create the National Government Portal and the Philippine Business Databank, and enhance internet speed nationwide.

The National ID system is central to this transformation, fundamentally changing the lives of every Filipino. Nearing the establishment of a complete, accurate and reliable digital database through the eGov PH app for the entire population.

Crucial safeguards are in place for these projects to protect digital users from identity theft, phishing, and scams, bolstered by cybersecurity, data privacy measures, consumer complaint mechanisms, and financial literacy campaigns.

The government is committed to supporting the workforce through training programs during the transition to digitalization.



### Significant benefits offered by Digitalization



Boosted efficiency in government payments, business registrations, permits, licenses, loan applications, and revenue collection.



Integration of key government services (i.e., National ID) into the eGov PH app for public convenience.

### Other notable Digitalization initiatives in the country:

- ▶ The launch of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Mobile to ease the journey of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).
- ▶ Advancements in the country's internet infrastructure, highlighted by the introduction of high-speed satellite broadband like Starlink.
- ▶ Implement connectivity projects prioritizing Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA), with the National Fiber Backbone and Broadband ng Masa promising to deliver high-connectivity through their projects.

## Foreign Employment

The government led by President Marcos, Jr., continually engaged with the country's partners in the international community, ensuring a safe working environment with a responsive social welfare mechanism, repatriation, and reintegration for our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

The President emphasized the government's priority to ensure principles of ethical recruitment, fair employment, and the safe and orderly migration of Filipinos to be embodied in our agreements with other countries.

The continued efforts has led to the following results:



Overseas Filipino deployment increased by 62% with the reopening of the world economy.



OFWs contributed 32.5 billion dollars or roughly Php1.8 trillion with overseas remittances to our economy.



Resolved deployment issue with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led to the deployment of 70,000 OFWs for employment.



14,000 unpaid salaries and other claims of OFWs from Saudi Arabia are now being processed.



Assured employment of 50,000 workers and the deployment of Filipino seafarers aboard EU vessels.

Along with the issues of employment, several countries have signified interest to explore bilateral labor cooperation with the Philippines in areas of healthcare, tourism, hospitality, engineering, construction and information technology, signing agreements with countries such as Singapore, Austria and the province of Alberta in Canada.

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It is our wish that one day foreign employment will be driven by choice, not by necessity.

## Housing

Together with the local government and the private sector, President Marcos, Jr. ensured to provide housing aid and programs to the Filipinos. In the past year, Pag-IBIG Fund continually provided service to its 15 million members which delivered the following:

- ▶ Issued more than 100,000 housing loans worth Php117 billion; highest recorded in Pag-IBIG history
- ▶ Awarded more than 148,000 houses and more than 30,000 certificates of eligibility of lot award were issued
- ▶ 35,000 residential free patent and agricultural patent titles awarded
- ▶ Launched Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Housing Program or 4PH
- ▶ More than one million houses are expected to be built all over the country

The President has set his goal to expand housing programs and make housing more affordable to Filipinos.



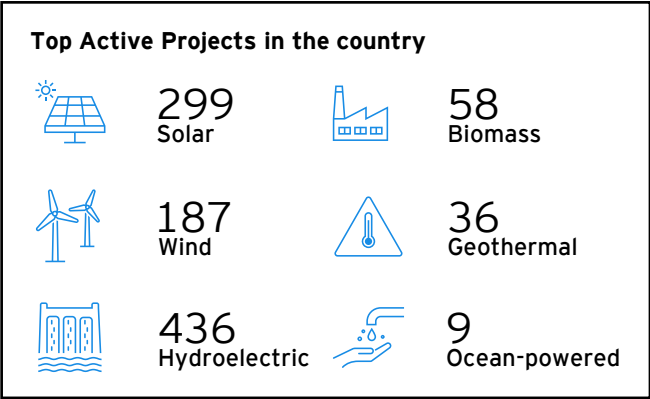
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*Kung susumahin natin ito, mahigit isang milyong kabahayan ang maiaalay natin sa ating mga kababayan sa buong bansa!*

## Power and Utilities

Due to favorable market conditions, prices of crude oil have stabilized, leading to an **18% decrease in gasoline prices** and a **29% decrease in diesel prices since last year**. Additionally, eight new power plants have been constructed, bringing the total number of operational facilities to 17, resulting in a significant boost of 1,174 megawatts of energy production across the country.

Moreover, the government is pushing for a boost in renewable sources of energy so that it provides 35% share by 2030 and 50% by 2040. To accelerate the realization of this green energy goal, we have opened renewable energy projects to foreign investments. Since 2022, an additional of 126 renewable energy contracts with 31,000 megawatts potential capacity were awarded.



### Renewable Energy Towards Growth



The Malampaya project energizes 20% of Luzon and its renewed contract ensures 15 more years of revenue and energy production.



The national government collaborated with Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) for energy exploration, development, and utilization, anticipating increased investor interest in its potential sites.



The Unified National Grid interconnects Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, creating "One Grid, One Market" for efficient electricity transfers and competitive pricing nationwide.

## “Renewable energy is the way forward

Along with power generation, full-household electrification is also a priority. Since President Marcos Jr. stepped into office, almost 500 thousand homes have been given access to electricity. President Marcos Jr. emphasized that he would push for full-household or 100% electrification by the end of his term.

President Marcos, Jr. has noted 68 delayed grid connection projects, as confirmed by the ERC. A performance review of the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) is underway, with a focus on prioritizing essential deliverables, particularly the Mindanao-Visayas and Cebu-Negros-Panay interconnections.

## Social Welfare

President Marcos Jr. emphasized that no Filipino will be left behind in the continuous development of the Philippines and that each Filipino is important and will be supported. He also mentioned that a portion of the budget is allocated for those in need.

“*Layunin natin na sila ay makabangon, mabigyan ng sapat na kakayahan, at maging produktibo.*”

### Government agencies supporting our countrymen and small businesses



### Government programs



#### Social equity

- Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AICS), Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)



#### Indigent

- Social pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC)



#### PWD

- Cash-for-Work



#### Small businesses

- DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program-Kabuhayan (DILP - Kabuhayan)

In pursuit of social protection, the government prioritizes inclusivity. The pension of military and uniformed personnel is of equal importance, urgency, and humanitarian concern as that of civilian Filipino employees.

The government is actively striving to ensure the system's complete functionality and financial sustainability. By closely collaborating with congress, it seeks to facilitate a seamless transition from the old system to the new one, safeguarding those in the uniformed services from any adverse effects.



## Education

The **MATATAG Agenda** has been introduced in the field of basic education, with a primary focus on ensuring a **relevant curriculum, swift and adaptable delivery**, and the **well-being of both students and educators**.

In strengthening the school workforce, 90 percent of the new teaching positions have been filled and additional administrative personnel have been hired to support the teachers.

### Key education highlights of the Government



Efforts to address the classroom and facility shortage in schools include constructing new buildings and retrofitting existing ones for hybrid and high-tech learning, climate readiness, and disaster-proofing. Private sector partners are actively supporting these initiatives through the DepEd Partnership Assistance Portal as part of their corporate social responsibility.



DepEd guarantees that K to 10 curriculum remains consistently relevant, responsive, and in line with international standards, with a focus on strengthening literacy and numeracy skills as well as integrating the values of good citizenship and community within the curriculum.



DepEd safeguards youth through diverse educational pathways like formal schooling, alternative learning, non-diploma courses, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). TVET empowers graduates, securing competitive technical jobs. Last year, over a million Filipinos graduated from TVET, with one-third as TESDA scholars.



This year, the number of Philippine Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) included in the World Universities Rankings has significantly increased, with 52 institutions making the list compared to only 15 last year.



The government has implemented social safety nets, including skills development training and youth employment programs. Additionally, eligible students will continue to benefit from free tertiary education at state universities and colleges.



Last year, nearly 50% of the 4.1 million enrolled college students were recipients of the country's free higher education program known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education program.



**Learning recovery will be at the forefront of our education agenda.**



**A culture of innovation, working hand-in-glove with a culture of entrepreneurship, must be fostered. This is “FILIPINNOVATION”. Science and technology, especially R&D, will be at its foundation.**

## Innovation

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) leads the development of the Philippines's capabilities in science, technology and innovation.



Available science and technology-related scholarships are offered from high school to graduate school.



Foster Balik Scientist Program - 44 Filipino scientists to conduct research, supported by upgraded facilities and R&D funding.



Developed two satellites to provide vital environmental data for Filipinos, including weather patterns, storm tracking, soil and water supply analysis, population shifts, traffic management, geo-hazard mapping, risk assessment, and security and defense purposes.



Manufacturing, export, creative and service, science, technology, and innovation are key to the quality and competitiveness of the Philippine workforce.



Revamped partnerships, and continuous reskilling and upskilling training programs to address job-skill mismatch among our workforce.



**The question about the European Union's recognition of the standards of training of Filipino seafarers has, after 17 years, finally been resolved.**

### Seafarers

Maritime education in the Philippines has been strengthened. With this, there will be steady supply of competent Filipino seafarers to foreign merchant marine vessels. This will progress and solidify the country's position as a “global maritime hub” due to Filipino seafarers maintaining its competitive advantage.

## Climate Change

President Marcos Jr. emphasized climate change as an important criterion in the creation of national policies, planning, and decision-making, up to the implementation of programs - highlighting the advantage of these new enlightened policies in our jobs and livelihood.

### Creating green and blue economies



The government reorganized its response teams to make them more adaptable, agile and effective in times of calamities and crises, with a clear unity of command.



Existing evacuation centers are being upgraded to withstand the greater forces of the new normal of extreme weather, as well as other natural and man-made disasters. Furthermore, new evacuation centers are being built, 55 of which have already been completed.



Adopting the concept of the "circular economy" which aims to keep raw materials in a closed loop allows the full use of resources, minimizing waste and reducing the need for new resources.

The new system requires the participation of everyone in society to succeed.

“ The building blocks of progressive, livable and sustainable communities will never be complete without appropriate and responsible action to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

### Cooperation among the private and public sector

President Marcos Jr. underlined the need for a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach - applying all the resources that are at hand to quickly progress.

Collaboration is key to success. This is operationalized through inter-agency cooperation, as well as through coordinated efforts between and among the three branches of government, and the independent constitutional bodies.

President Marcos Jr. sought the Congress' assistance to enact the new Government Procurement Law and the new Government Auditing Code to make government procurement and auditing more attuned to these changing times.

“ We seek not only to become more effective, but more, to become truly transformative.

The current administration will give effect to the mandate of the Constitution and the Local Government Code, as clarified by the Supreme Court, at the soonest. As almost all of the required Devolution Transition Plans of the LGUs are done to fully prepare them for optimal devolution, the necessary technical and financial assistance is being extended to our local governments.

“ In everything that we do, the enduring Filipino quality of *Bayanihan* will be our guide.

### BARMM

Marawi has witnessed its local economy recover since its siege 5 years ago. Several projects and programs have been completed. The Philippine government also extended financial support to Marawi residents to begin life anew.

“ We are proud of the progress that the BARMM has taken. It will be self-governing, progressive and effective.

This progress was made possible only because of the cooperation of all key groups. Key stakeholders, including the local government, the royal families, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the international community, were all consulted and represented in the transition phase, with former adversaries now considered as partners in peace. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) functions have been defined and its basic laws are being written.

Through the establishment of the BARMM, the nation's prospects for finally achieving sustainable progress anchored on a true and lasting peace in Southern Philippines have strengthened.

“ We will continue to support the progress of the BARMM, apace with our singular vision for all Filipinos.

## Peace and order

President Marcos, Jr. stressed the importance of the country's justice system and upholding constitutional rights in our society's development. The administration will continue to modernize our armed forces, campaign against illegal and dangerous drugs, and address armed conflict through reintegration programs and social protection.

### Campaign against illegal and dangerous drugs



The battle against illegal and dangerous substances takes on a new face in the form of community-based treatment, rehabilitation, education and reintegration.



The *Buhay Ingatan, Drogay' Ayawan* (BIDA) program was launched last October 7, 2022, by the Department of the Interior and Local Government. It is a nationwide advocacy program to reduce drug demand and focus on rehabilitation. The President said that 102 reformation centers nationwide have been established for drug offenders.



The President also called for the resignation of law enforcers involved in drug trade and their replacement with those who can be trusted to fight corruption and incompetency in the government.

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A strong and stable rule of law will strengthen the foundation of our transformation.

### Addressing armed conflict



The government aims to fully decommission former combatants through capacity building and social protection.



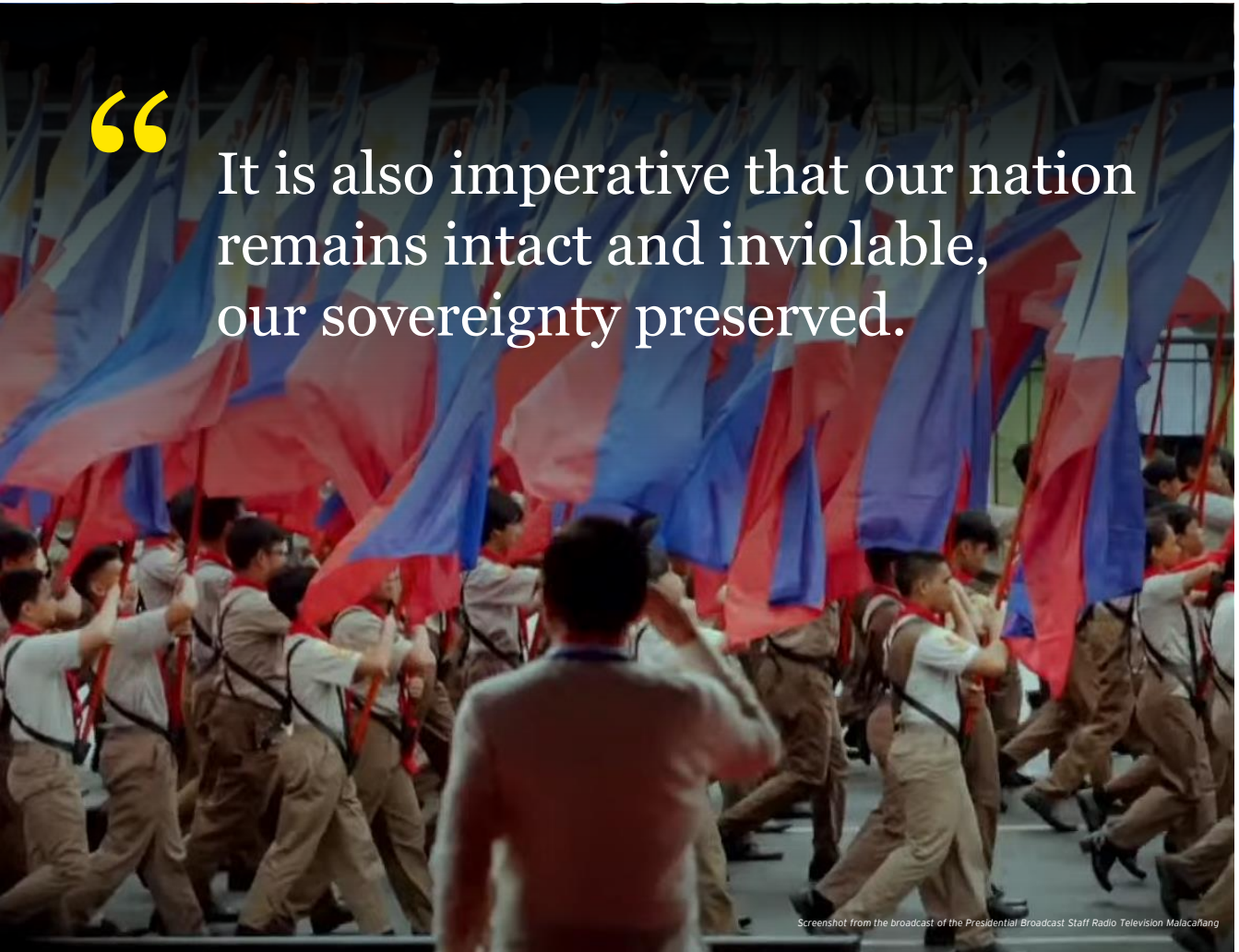
The National Task Force to End Local Communism Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) launched the Barangay Development Program and the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program to address development and security issues among former rebels and indigenous peoples.



The President will issue a proclamation granting amnesty to rebel returnees and called for the support of Congress.

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It is also imperative that our nation remains intact and inviolable, our sovereignty preserved.



Screenshot from the broadcast of the Presidential Broadcast Staff Radio Television Malacañang

Sovereign rights



The government will continue to uphold our sovereignty and territorial integrity by adhering to international rules and protocols.



The administration will pursue a diplomatic approach to resolve international issues.



“

*Makikipagtulungan tayo nang mabuti sa Kongreso para sa mga mahahalagang batas na kakailanganin natin sa ating tuloy-tuloy na pag-ahon.*

Priority Legislative Agenda



Excise Tax on Single-use Plastics



VAT on Digital Services



Rationalization of Mining Fiscal Regime



Motor Vehicle User’s Charge/ Road User’s Tax



Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP) Pension System Reform



Amendment of the Fisheries Code



Amendment of the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act



Amendment of the Cooperative Code



Anti-Financial Account Scamming Act (AFASA)



Tatak Pinoy Law



The Blue Economy Law



Ease of Paying Taxes



LGU Income Classification



Philippine Immigration Act



New Government Procurement Law



New Government Auditing Code



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