



*The best is yet to come .....*

## ***Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo orders surge in infras spending as a hedge against U.S. recession***

MANILA, Feb. 2, (*PinoyGlobal*) - President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo dropped today the time capsule for two infrastructure projects – the first for a C-5 fly-over and the second for a 16-classroom school building – as she ordered a “surge in infrastructure spending as a firewall against the United States recession.”

“Dahil meron tayong slowdown sa America, I am ordering a surge in infrastructure construction,” the President said just before dropping the golden time capsule that signaled the start of the construction of the C-5 Extension Project in Sucat, Paranaque City.

President Arroyo added in her short message this morning that “itong fly-over na ito ay magsisumula sana sa Abril, pero kailangang i- ‘front load’ natin. Ayaw nating matamaan ang ating ekonomiya ng mga problema ng mga ekonomiya sa ibang bansa.”

“Kailangang meron tayong sariling mga activities. Sisimulan na natin ito ngayon, at ito ay bahagi din sa halos tatlong libong kilometro ng mga daan at kalsada na itatayo natin sa taong ito,” the President further revealed.

The President’s order for a surge in construction as a hedge against the US recession was also relayed to media by Press Secretary and Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio R. Bunye who said that the President hopes the infra surge will also serve as a “springboard for further growth.”

The C-5 Extension Project’s 190-meter flyover portion shall link Pulang Lupa-Las Pinas Road with the soon-to-be-completed Sucat to Multinational Avenue section of Circumferential Road 5 (C-5).

The P200-million fly-over, whose construction proper will start by April, will ensure uninterrupted traffic flow both along Sucat Road and C-5, to minimize if not eliminate traffic congestion along Sucat Road and nearby road networks, including the Coastal Road, Roxas Blvd., President Quirino Avenue, the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), and the vicinity of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA).

It also aims to serve as an alternate route from the southern part of Metro Manila to Cavite, and vice versa.

“Kung maaliwalas ang daan, darating ang puhunan, lalaban ang kahirapan,” stressed the President in her short message just before dropping the golden time capsule for the road project that is scheduled to be completed by December.

The President said the skyway project is just a portion of the 3,000 kilometers of roads to be constructed this year.

The President’s second time-capsule laying activity for the day was in Sta. Lucia, Pasig City where a P25-million four-storey school building will be constructed for 3,582 students of the Sta. Lucia High School.

Earlier last Thursday, the President announced in her keynote speech at the opening of the First Biennial Education Congress that her administration is going on a “construction season” for 10,000 classrooms this year – starting today, Saturday (Feb. 2).

President Arroyo was joined in the Sucat, Paranaque event by Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane and other DPWH officials, Mayor Florencio Bernabe, and El Shaddai’s Brother Mike Velarde whose headquarters is in Paranaque.

Meanwhile, the President was joined in the Pasig City groundbreaking activity by Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Pasig City Rep. Roman Romulo, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus, Pasig City Mayor Robert Eusebio, and his father, former Pasig City Mayor Vicente Eusebio. #

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