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**MEDIA INTERVIEW BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS FOLLOWING A
SITUATION BRIEFING ON THE EFFECTS OF TROPICAL STORM 'PAENG' IN THE
PROVINCE OF CAVITE**

[Held at the San Jose Evacuation Center in Barangay San Jose II in Noveleta, Cavite |
31 October 2022]

PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS: ...a situation report, sa taas, of the situation here in Cavite. I think we are already at the stage dito sa Cavite at least 'yung karamihan daw --- 'yun ang report sa akin ni Gov. --- na karamihan ng mga evacuees ay nakabalik na sa kanilang mga bahay.

Ang inaalala namin ay 'yung mga infrastructure na damaged kasi maraming nasira na mga flood control. Doon 'yung --- noong inikot namin ng helicopter kitang-kita mo talaga sirang-sira na 'yung mga ano. At saka kasi lumagpas na 'yung tubig, ang taas na ng tubig eh. So that is the...

Eh lahat ng tubig galing Tagaytay dito pumupunta eh. So talagang ang lakas ng tubig. Nasira 'yung mga flood control kaya't nakapasok 'yung tubig, nabaha nang husto.

But ang situation ngayon is very simple, nakauwi na nga at mayroon din patuloy ang pagbigay namin ng tulong para makabili na --- 'yung mga residents, returning residents doon sa kanilang mga bahay --- ay makabili na ng building materials, ayusin na nila 'yung kanilang mga bahay.

So that's the stage that we are right now. Ngunit napunta ang usapan hindi lamang --- sabi namin kung aayusin lang natin ito, aayusin lang natin 'yun --- pagka may malakas na naman na ulan, balik na naman tayo dito sa sitwasyon na ito.

Kaya't naghahanap kami ng long-term solution para dito. May possibility na mayroong project na approved na galing sa Japanese --- sa JICA --- na palalakingin nila 'yung ilog para mas malaki ang dadaanan ng tubig and then mayroon siyempre may mga flood control na gagawin. So iyon ang long term.

Pero in the short term, I think more or less nabantayan na natin, naalagaan na natin lahat ng mga naging biktima, so we are at the stage now of rebuilding. So any questions?

NEL MARIBOJOC (UNTV): Hi sir, magandang hapon. Aprubahan po ba ninyo sir 'yung rekomendasyon ng NDRMC na one year na declaration po ng [national state] of calamity?

PRESIDENT MARCOS: I don't think it's necessary. I don't think it's necessary.

I came to that conclusion with the --- in consultation with the DENR. Sabi hindi naman kasi extensive --- very, very... *[How do we say?]* Not naman isolated --- highly localized --- *[thank you]* --- highly localized ang mga damage.

We're talking about the east coast, Quezon; dito sa Cavite; and then Maguindanao --- tinamaan pa rin 'yung Maguindanao.

So those are the areas. It does not need to have the... Like in the Visayas, there's no need for a national calamity.

For Region I, II, hindi naman kailangan mag-national calamity. So I don't think it's necessary. I think we will focus better if we stay with the calamity status that as we have now.

MR. MARIBOJOC: Thank you very much, sir.

PRESIDENT MARCOS: Thank you.

ALLAN FRANCISCO (PTV-4): Hi, President. Magandang hapon po. Sir, kumustahin lang po namin 'yung kabuuang halaga ng mga napinsala sa sector ng agriculture at infrastructure, sir?

PRESIDENT MARCOS: Well, hindi pa tapos ang estimate dahil siyempre umiikot pa 'yung mga nasa DA.

Ang latest na figure namin is what --- 260? Ang assessment diyan hindi lamang kung saan dumaan 'yung tubig kung hindi kailangan din maano. Eh kakatanim lang daw eh, planting season daw, planting season ngayon dito so baka magtatanim ulit.

So we have to see kung ano pang puwedeng buhayin, ano 'yung talagang hindi na kakayanin and we will have to provide --- magpo-provide na naman kami ng inputs para sa agri section.

But it is the built-up areas na nagkaproblema talaga dito, more than the agriculture. Of course, agriculture is still --- always very important. So malaking numero pa rin 'yung 260 million at lalaki pa 'yan, I'm afraid to say, lalaki pa 'yan as we get more reports to come in.

MR. FRANCISCO: Okay. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT MARCOS: All right. Salamat. All right? Thank you. Maraming salamat. Thank you. Welcome to Hokkaido. *[laughter]*

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