

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE  
PRESIDENTIAL NEWS DESK**

**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. AT THE OATHTAKING OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE JOURNALISTS (APJ)–SAMAHANG PLARIDEL  
FOUNDATION INC. BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

[Delivered at Kalayaan Hall, Malacañan Palace | 2 August 2024]

Well, first of all, allow me to greet the newly-elected officers of the Association of Philippine Journalists ng Samahang Plaridel Foundation Incorporated, other distinguished guests who have joined us here today, ladies and gentlemen, a good afternoon to you all.

I am, of course, delighted to join our friends from the press in the oathtaking of the Board of Trustees of the Association of Philippine Journalists–Samahang Plaridel Foundation Incorporated.

This Administration recognizes the invaluable role of a free press and a robust media in ensuring a vibrant and functioning Philippine democracy.

For one, you help keep our people informed of important news and current events, ensuring that there is a healthy, and enlightened, meaningful discourse on matters of public importance.

You likewise help in holding public officers, including myself, accountable for our actions—recognizing our work when we do well, and pointing out shortcomings whenever our work does not measure up to our sworn duties.

In this time of unregulated social media, of fake news, [and] artificial intelligence, now more than ever, we need your help in empowering our people to distinguish the truth from fiction, and facts from blatant lies.

Indeed, the APJ-Samahang Plaridel Foundation is crucial in all of these by upholding the freedom of the press, fostering accuracy in journalism, and policing errant practitioners within your ranks.

I also trust that you will continue upholding the integrity of your profession by ensuring that practitioners live up to the highest ethical and professional standards of journalism.

Let your commitment to responsible, ethical, and fair reporting be the guide in inspiring your colleagues and aspiring journalists to follow your footsteps in the Fourth Estate.

May you also find inspiration and guidance in the life and works of Plaridel, or Marcelo H. Del Pilar—the Father of Philippine Journalism—by practicing courageous, compassionate, and committed journalism.

So, as you move forward, continue holding activities that promote rapport within your organization so it can expand its reach and endeavors.

Be assured of this Administration’s support in ensuring the safety and welfare of all media workers and practitioners through the Presidential Task Force on Media Security.

We will also foster an environment where members of the media can continue to freely practice their profession in a manner that is fruitful, rewarding, and meaningful.

Let us continue to work together in nurturing a truly free and safe environment for all media personnel toward the Bagong Pilipinas that we dream of in the years ahead.

Once again, congratulations to the members and trustees of the APJ-Samahang Plaridel Foundation.

At mabuhay kayong lahat. Congratulations!

Mabuhay ang Bagong Pilipinas! Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

**--END--**