

PBBM MESSAGE ON RECENT ACCIDENTS ON SCTEX AND NAIA TERMINAL 1

I extend my heartfelt condolences to all the families who have lost loved ones, and to those who were injured in the recent tragedies at the SCTEX toll plaza and NAIA Terminal 1.

Ten lives were lost in a devastating collision in Tarlac. Days later, two more—one of them a child—were taken in a tragic accident at the airport. These incidents should never have happened.

And now, we will ensure they never happen again.

I have instructed Secretary Vince Dizon of the DOTr to move decisively—first, to identify [and] to hold accountable those responsible, and second, to put in place the necessary reforms to prevent further loss of life.

We are taking the following actions:

- Review of driver licensing to ensure that only fit, capable, and responsible individuals—whether driving public or private vehicles—are allowed on our roads;
- A nationwide audit of bus operators, with clear sanctions for those who fail to comply with safety and maintenance standards;
- A directive to the Department of Labor to crack down on unsafe and exploitative practices in the transport sector—because driver fatigue, long hours, and pressure to meet quotas should never put lives at risk.

We owe it to the victims and their families to act—not only with sympathy, but with resolve. These lives will not be lost in vain.

We will make the changes that need to be made. We will demand accountability where it is due. And we will build a transport system that truly protects Filipino people. ###