

**SULONG PILIPINAS 2019**  
**TOP 10 ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MS. MA. ALEGRIA S. LIMJOCO, PRESIDENT OF PCCI:**

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY MARTIN ANDANAR AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT;**

**COLLEAGUES IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY; FRIENDS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY, THE ACADEME, YOUTH, AND OTHER SECTORS; LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

**GOOD AFTERNOON.**

**SULONG PILIPINAS HAS INDEED BECOME A VALUABLE EXERCISE FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

**EVEN BEFORE THE DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION FORMALLY ASSUMED OFFICE IN 2016, SULONG WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF ITS WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN - TO ENGAGE WITH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY KEY INTERVENTIONS THAT WOULD PROMOTE THE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH OF THIS ECONOMY.**

**TODAY'S SULONG PILIPINAS EXPANDS OUR ENGAGEMENT FURTHER. THROUGH THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY, YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND THE ACADEME, CORPORATES AND MSMES, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, AND MANY OTHER SECTORS, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ARTICULATE MORE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT.**

**SECRETARY MARTIN ANDANAR: ON BEHALF OF EVERYONE HERE TODAY, MR. GEORGE BARCELON,**

**CHAIRMAN OF PCCI, AND I SUBMIT THE TOP TEN ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP:**

**[RECOMMENDATIONS 1-5 OF SULONG PILIPINAS]**

**1. TO ENSURE THAT K-12 IS WELL IMPLEMENTED AND EDUCATION IS RELEVANT, DEPED AND CHED SHOULD ENHANCE THE SKILLS OF INSTRUCTORS, AND IDENTIFY AND INTEGRATE EMERGING IN-DEMAND SKILLS FOR STUDENTS INTO CURRICULA. TEACHERS' SALARIES SHOULD INCREASE BY 2020.**

**2. TO ACHIEVE WATER SECURITY, THE DPWH SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE REHABILITATION OF EXISTING WATER DAMS, AND THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE SHOULD CONSIDER THE CREATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF**

**WATER, WATER REGULATION COMMISSION, AND  
NATIONAL WATER CORPORATION**

**3. TO ATTRACT INVESTORS AND SPUR BUSINESS, THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE DTI, AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES SHOULD ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS LAW, AND APPOINT THE HEAD OF THE ANTI RED TAPE AUTHORITY (ARTA)**

**4. TO SUPPORT AND STIMULATE THE GROWTH OF INNOVATIVE DIGITAL STARTUPS IN DIFFERENT FIELDS (INCLUDING IN MEDICINE), THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, SHOULD MAKE GRANTS AVAILABLE TO STARTUPS AND ENABLE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS**

**5. TO IMPROVE FARM PRODUCTIVITY, THE DPWH AND DA SHOULD IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS BY 2020**

**MR. GEORGE BARCELON, CHAIRMAN OF PCCI:**

**[RECOMMENDATIONS 6-10 OF SULONG PILIPINAS]**

**6. TO SPUR BUSINESS AND JOB CREATION, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE MAGNA CARTA FOR MSMES, WAREHOUSE RECEIPTS ACT, WEATHER-INDEXED AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE, AND THE FASTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT MEMORANDUM ORDER ON HIGH FOREIGN SHIPPING COSTS AND PORT CONGESTION TO HELP IMPORT/EXPORT INDUSTRIES**

**7. TO ENSURE STRONG AGENCY PERFORMANCE, COMPETENT TECHNOCRATS SHOULD BE APPOINTED AS SECRETARIES OF KEY DEPARTMENTS**

**8. TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF, AND EFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES, AGENCIES SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM SHOULD ENACT A MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL LAND USE AND MARINE USE POLICY**

**9. TO INCREASE TRADE, COMMERCE, AND TOURISM, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHOULD COMPLETE THE REHABILITATION OF THE PNR AND MAJOR AIRPORTS**

**10. TO IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, CONGRESS SHOULD AMEND THE PUBLIC SERVICES ACT,**

## **RIGHT OF WAY ACT, AND ECONOMIC PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**SECRETARY ANDANAR, ALL OF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PHILIPPINES' ATTAINING UPPER MIDDLE-INCOME STATUS WITHIN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. THEY FORM OUR THOUGHTS ON SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEASURES THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD PRIORITIZE TO ENSURE THAT THE PHILIPPINES' PROGRESS IS INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE.**

**IN OUR EXPERIENCE, THESE WORKSHOPS WITH THE PUBLIC HAVE BEEN COMPLEMENTED BY DECISIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT. THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

**(PCCI) HAS BEEN A KEY PARTNER OF SULONG SINCE THE BEGINNING.**

**I REMEMBER BACK IN 2016, WHEN WE FIRST RECOMMENDED TAX REFORM, A NATIONAL ID SYSTEM, AND MEASURES TO PROMOTE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, AMONG OTHERS. IN 2017, WE RECOMMENDED WIDER ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE.**

**THE GOVERNMENT LISTENED, AND THESE ARE NOW A REALITY, INCLUDING OTHER INITIATIVES SUCH AS STRENGTHENING THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR, AND INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH "BUILD, BUILD, BUILD."**

**EVERYONE HERE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SULONG 2019 BECOME REALITY. FROM EXPERIENCE, WE KNOW THAT THE**



**DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION LISTENS AND ACTS DECISIVELY ON OUR COUNTRY'S SOCIOECONOMIC AGENDA.**

**REST ASSURED: WE WILL CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH YOU, IN WORKING TOWARDS UPPER MIDDLE-INCOME STATUS FOR THE PHILIPPINES AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.**

**THANK YOU, AND GOOD AFTERNOON.**