

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 18-KM PORTION OF THE CENTRAL  
LUZON LINK EXPRESSWAY (CLLEX) PROJECT PHASE I (TARLAC  
INTERCHANGE TO ALIAGA)**

**[DELIVERED IN BARANGAY BALINGCANAWAY, TARLAC | 15 JULY 2021]**

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar; Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuhiko Koshikawa; Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque; Nueva Ecija 3rd District Representative Rosanna Vergara, ma'am; Governor Tarlac Susan Yap; Tarlac City Mayor Maria Cristina Angeles; Cabanatuan Nueva Ecija Mayor Mica Elizabeth Vergara --- puro babae man ito; La Paz, Tarlac Municipal Mayor Venustiano Jordan; Aliaga, Nueva Ecija Municipal Mayor David Angelo Vargas; Presidential Anti-Corruption Commissioner Danilo Yang; Japan International Cooperation Agency Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan.

This day marks another milestone in our flagship “Build, Build, Build” Program as we inaugurate this 18-kilometer portion of Phase 1 of the Central Luzon Link Expressway or CLLEX.

Once completed, this 30-kilometer four-lane expressway will not only connect Tarlac City and Cabanatuan City, but will also improve access to several localities in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

I am sure that our kababayans will be pleased that the usual 70-minute travel [time] between these two major cities in Central Luzon will be reduced to just 20 minutes. [applause] Wow.

Directly linked with SCTEX and TPLEX, this new expressway will greatly benefit commuters going to and from Metro Manila and Cabanatuan City, with a shorter commute allowing them to have more time for their families and other productive activities.

This project will improve movement of goods going to and from Metro Manila and Central Luzon, which will be beneficial to entrepreneurs, consumers, and the economy.

On this note, allow me, on behalf of the Filipino people, to thank the Government of Japan for helping fund the construction of CLLEX in support of our national infrastructure program. [applause]

The infusion of 12 billion pesos by the Japan International Cooperation Agency or JICA attests to the indispensable role of Japan as one of our most important partners in attaining inclusive progress through infrastructure development.

I also commend the Department of Public Works and Highways and its partners for the speedy, efficient, and timely completion of this part of CLLEX. [applause]

Just keep in mind that transparency, accountability, and integrity must be upheld in all our development projects.

To our kababayans, be assured that this administration will remain committed in fulfilling its mission of providing a more comfortable life for all Filipinos.

And this assurance includes the effective, efficient, safe and timely completion of major infrastructure- and transportation-related developments.

Maraming salamat po.

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