

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE INAUGURATION OF
THE ESTRELLA-PANTALEON BRIDGE PROJECT
CITIES OF MAKATI AND MANDALUYONG**

[Delivered in Makati City | 29 July 2021]

Kindly sit down.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; China's Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Huang Xilian; Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III; Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar; Senator Bong Go; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade; Metro Manila Development Authority Benjamin Abalos Jr.; ambassador --- Mandaluyong rather City Mayor Carmelita Abalos; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan.

You know, Secretary Villar just whispered that --- he congratulated me for all of these projects. I had no time to explain to him but in parting I said that this is not my work. This is the work of the people involved directly, the Republic of --- the People's Republic of China, who provided the money, and the workhorse of the DPWH and its dedicated workers, at 'yung mga taong naghirap dito. Sa kanila ito ang proyekto.

This belongs --- the credit and the honor should belong to the one who funded the project and, of course, the one who toiled night and day to make this bridge a reality. *[applause]*

Workers on the way up of the echelons of government have nothing to do with this except maybe to supervise, and from time to time, ask the progress of the project in Cabinet meetings.

So today we mark another milestone under our 'Build, Build, Build Program' — the inauguration of the new Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge.

This bridge connects Estrella Street in Makati City to Pantaleon Street and Barangka Drive in Mandaluyong City, thereby linking two important business districts in the metropolis.

This two-way, four-lane, 500-meter concrete girder bridge was designed... Malayo ba ito dito? I would like to request the itong security to allow me to go there and take a good look at the bridge. Eh hindi ko kasi nakikita iyong mga project. Right after my speech, I am guided down towards the car or the helicopter, and up, up and you go away. I never get a chance to see really the project, the beauty of the hands that made it.

The two-way, four-lane, 500-meter concrete girder bridge was designed and constructed to become resilient against natural disasters.

I would like to commend the Department of Public Works and Highways and its partners for its achievement.

It is a testament to the strong commitment of this administration to improve mobility and promote ease of travel among motorists and commuters in Metro Manila and its adjacent communities.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the government of the People's Republic of China for financing the project. *[applause]*

The 1.46-billion-peso funding that they have extended highlights the goodwill of the Chinese people and its government and further cements the good relations between our two countries.

The new bridge will help ease traffic congestion along major thoroughfares in Metro Manila and will improve the mobility of people and goods between Makati and Mandaluyong.

It will also support our efforts for the gradual reopening of our economy, and improve the resilience of roads and bridges in Metro Manila against natural disasters.

On this note, I wish to reassure our people that this administration remains faithful in realizing a safer and more convenient travel experience for everyone.

We believe that part of achieving a more comfortable life for all Filipinos involves the completion of sustainable, safe, and reliable infrastructure projects under our Build, Build, Build Program.

The new Estrella-Pantaleon Bridge is now open to pave the way for greater progress. Mabuhay kayong lahat. *[applause]*

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