

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
PRESIDENTIAL NEWS DESK**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
AT THE NATIONAL JAIL DECONGESTION SUMMIT**

*[Delivered by Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin
at the Diamond Hotel in Manila | 06 December 2023]*

A good day to all!

I welcome everyone as you convene for this National Jail Decongestion Summit, organized by the Justice Sector Coordinating Council or JSCC.

I would like to recognize the members of the JSCC for their efforts in spearheading this important gathering.

This event is in line with our Administration's priority to decongest our jails and prison facilities, and to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of our justice system.

This gathering is most welcome, as it demonstrates the commitment of the entire government to expedite the processing of criminal cases and alleviate the chronic problem of jail congestion.

Indeed, it would require a whole-of-government approach to ensure the efficient, effective, and compassionate administration of justice in the country.

I am, therefore, confident that the discussions in this summit will pave the way for better policies and initiatives that will address the root causes of our problems.

I urge the JSCC to pursue the streamlining and digitalization of your frontline and back-end services.

By embracing technology and innovative practices, we can enhance our efficiency, reduce delays, and ensure swift and fair legal proceedings.

As we delve deeper into the various plenary sessions and workshops, I also urge the participants to actively share your insights, experiences, and best practices.

Let us learn from the successes and best practices of other countries, where innovative solutions have been implemented to address challenges in the justice system.

In our pursuit of a Bagong Pilipinas—where communities and government institutions have respect for the law and human rights—it is vital that we work together to come up with measures to decongest our jails and improve the condition of persons deprived of liberty.

Rest assured, this Administration remains steadfast in its commitment to support collaborative efforts between the Executive and the Judiciary.

Through our collaborative efforts, we can ensure that justice is not delayed and denied, and that the rights and dignity of every individual are upheld and protected.

Together, let us build a society where justice is swift, fairness is paramount, and compassion prevails.

I wish you a successful gathering.

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