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**MEDIA INTERVIEW BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. FOLLOWING THE
LAUNCHING OF THE TESLA CENTER PHILIPPINES**

[Held at the Tesla Center Philippines, Uptown Parade, 25th Street, BGC in Taguig City
| 20 January 2025]

Q: Sir, good morning.

Sir, kunin lang po namin 'yung reactions ninyo regarding...

PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.: Iyong?

Q: ...Reactions niyo, sir, regarding sa allegation po ni former President Duterte regarding sa blank items.

PRESIDENT MARCOS: He's lying. He's a president, he knows that you cannot pass a GAA without any – with a blank... He's lying.

And he's lying because he knows perfectly well that that doesn't ever happen. Sa buong kasaysayan ng buong Pilipinas, hindi pinapayagan na magkaroon ng item ang GAA ng hindi nakalagay kung ano 'yung project at saka ano 'yung gastos, ano 'yung pondo. So, it's a lie.

We... I was watching the news earlier today and people were saying, "it's 4,000 pages, papaano namin bubusisiin 'yan?" Parang titingnan namin isa-isa. Hindi 'yan lang. Mayroon namang kopya that's available on the website of DBM, tingnan ninyo, huwag na ninyong busisiin isa-isa. Hanapin niyo 'yung sinasabi nila na blank check. Tingnan ninyo kung mayroong kahit isa para mapatunayan na tama ang sinasabi ko kasinungalingan 'yan. That's my reaction.

Q: Sir, regarding po sa possible extension ni PNP Chief Marbil. Mayroon po bang ganitong plano, sir?

PRESIDENT MARCOS: Well, there has – there is a very strong argument that it would be – it would not be good for stability especially to change the chief PNP in the middle of a campaign period and then approaching an election period.

So, pinag-aaralan namin. But I think that is probably a very strong argument to keep him on, at the very least, until after the elections.

Q: Sir, may recommendation po ang MMDA to shorten 'yung pasok sa government agencies sa Metro Manila to ease the traffic from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PRESIDENT MARCOS: Yes, I saw that. Well, we're studying it. If it works, we'll do it. But we have to... It's not enough to talk to the traffic enforcers and the administrators of traffic that have made the suggestion. We also have to ask the commuting public kung praktikal para sa kanila.

So, if it turns out that everyone agrees to it, then I cannot see why it will be a problem. Okay?

Oh wait, before I leave, I was asked last Thursday on what my opinion was on sex education in schools. And I stand by my answer that sex education is extremely important.

When I was talking about sex education, I remembered our sex education when I was in school. At ang itinuro sa amin ay anatomy. What are the – what is the anatomy of male and female reproductive systems. Naalala ko pa nanood kami ng video ng mga cell na nagdi-divide para maging baby. Iyon ang tinuro sa amin. Kailangan talagang malaman ng mga kabataan ‘yan.

However, over the weekend, I finally read in detail Senate Bill 1979. And I was shocked, and I was appalled by some of the – some of the elements of that. Because this is – all this “woke” that they are trying to bring into our system.

You will teach four-year-olds how to masturbate. That every child has the right to try different sexualities. This is ridiculous. It is abhorrent. It is a travesty of what sexual and sex education should be to the children.

What about the parents? Wala na silang karapatan na sila ang mag-decide kung ano at kailan tuturuan ‘yung bata?

We all... I’m a parent and I’m a grandparent. So, I feel very strongly about this.

So, let me be very, very clear, I still believe that sex education in terms of teaching kids the anatomy of the reproductive systems of male and female is extremely important.

The consequences of early pregnancy, the prevalence of HIV, kailangan ituro lahat ‘yan para alam nung mga kabataan. Pero ‘yung mga sinama nila na mga “woke” na absurdities are abhorrent to me. And I’m already guaranteeing, hindi pa napasa ito pero in that – if this bill is passed in that form, I guarantee all parents, teachers, and children: I will immediately veto it.

Thank you.

Q: Thank you, Mr. President.

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