



29 August 2022

His Excellency
Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, Jr.
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila



Dear **Mr. President**,

We would like to congratulate you on an extremely well-thought-out SONA that clearly and specifically elucidated what your government expects to achieve throughout its six-year term. We fully support the actions you propose and stand ready to support you where we can.

We noted that the SONA did not touch upon plans and programs to strengthen the legal system, and preserve the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. We would thus welcome the opportunity to hear from you on these subjects and what actions you may take to correct some of the weaknesses that exist today.

Foremost among these are freedom of speech and press freedom which are a necessary requisite in a democracy to help ensure that all government services operate honestly and properly, and Filipinos can flourish in a free, open society. These fundamental freedoms, together with the just enforcement of laws, are also essential considerations that go into investment and business decisions.

We believe a policy statement from you on these subjects could further boost confidence across all sectors at home and abroad, as we pursue the goals you have laid out. A statement that would be strengthened by a meeting with business group leaders to hear from you on these subjects, or to help share your views with them. We offer our assistance to help organize such a meeting.

We are a group of business and civil society organizations dedicated to assisting both the Executive and the Judicial branches in achieving a legal system and an open society within which business can confidently operate to create jobs and opportunities for economic development; and which will attract the local and foreign investments that can help propel our country forward.

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Thank you for hearing us and we wish you great success as you move forward.

Respectfully yours,



Atty. PEDRO H. MANIEGO JR.

Chairman

Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines
(ELAP)



Mr. FRANCISCO F. DEL ROSARIO, JR.

Chairman

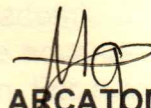
Institute for Solidarity in Asia
(ISA)



Ms. SHERISA P. NUESA

Vice Chairperson

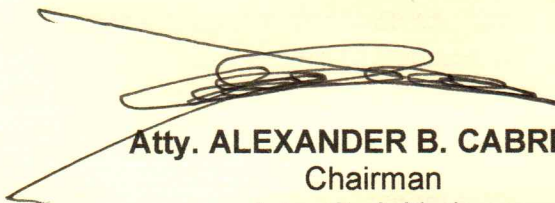
Justice Reform Initiatives
(JRI)



Mr. MICHAEL ARCATOMY H. GUARIN

President

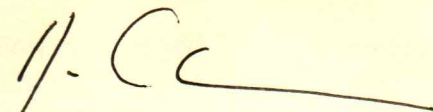
Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines
(FINEX)



Atty. ALEXANDER B. CABRERA

Chairman

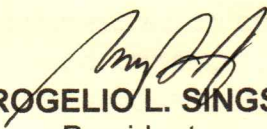
Integrity Initiative
(II)



Mr. EDGAR O. CHUA

Chairman

Makati Business Club
(MBC)



Mr. ROGELIO L. SINGSON

President

Management Association of the Philippines
(MAP)



Arch. KA KUEN CHUA

Chairman

Movement for the Restoration of Peace & Order
(MRPO)

The **Energy Lawyers Association of the Philippines (ELAP)** is a group of legal practitioners advocating for a fair, transparent, sustainable, and world-class energy sector and shall be recognized as the thought leader in energy policy innovation and equitable governance practices in the country.

The **Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)** is the country's premier organization of finance professionals. Established in 1968, its membership now numbers more than 700 C-level and senior executives, including the CEOs and CFOs of top corporations, academic institutions, SMEs, and officers of government agencies. Its primary purpose is to promote the advancement of the Finance profession to support professional, organizational, and national growth. For more information, email admin@finex.org.ph.

The **Justice Reform Initiative (formerly Judicial Reform Initiative)** was established in 2015 to serve as the principal voice of business and civil society in pushing for reforms in the administration of justice. It is composed of the leading business organizations in the Philippines, judicial advocacy groups and foreign chambers of commerce, who work for the advancement of the rule of law, economic rights, and justice in the pursuit of sustainable economic growth, global competitiveness, and the promotion of socio-economic justice. For more information, email info@jri.org.ph.

The **Integrity Initiative** was organized in 2009 by five leading business organizations to promote integrity in the private sector via education, certification and other programs covering businesses, professionals, government, and youth. For more information, email makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph.

The **Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA)** is a non-profit organization committed to transforming the public sector. It aims to build shared vision of a Dream Philippines, where every government institution delivers, and every citizen participates and prospers. ISA works closely with national government agencies, local government units, and hospitals to spur growth in the country. For more information, email gluistro@isacenter.org.

The **Makati Business Club (MBC)** is a private non-profit business association in the Philippines founded in 1981 to promote the role of the business sector in national development efforts. Its objective is to provide the business sector constructive ideas and a global outlook, and a vehicle for them to help build a competitive, job creating economy, and a democratic, inclusive, sustainable society. For more information, email makatibusinessclub@mbc.com.ph.

The **Management Association of the Philippines (MAP)** is a 72-year-old management organization which aims to promote management excellence for nation-building. Its about 1,100 members represent a cross-section of CEOs, COOs and other top management practitioners from the largest local and multinational companies operating in the Philippines. For more information, email map@map.org.ph.

The **Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order (MRPO)** is an ad hoc group organized in 2003 to aid families that were victimized and traumatized by kidnap-for-ransom groups.