

# **Ceremonial Breakthrough of the Southbound Tunnel**

## **Davao City Bypass Construction Project**

August 29, 2025 / Davao City

Good morning, everyone. *Magandang umaga sa inyong lahat.*

It is a great honor for me to take part in today's Ceremonial Breakthrough of the second bypass tunnel of the Davao City Bypass Construction Project. On behalf of Ambassador Endo and the Government of Japan, I extend our warmest congratulations to the Department of Public Works and Highways, the contractors, consultants, and all those who have contributed to this major milestone.

The connection of the north and south ends of this second tunnel is a powerful symbol of the enduring partnership between Japan and the Philippines. Just a little bit more and the people of Davao will soon reap the benefits of this 45.5kilometer bypass project. It reflects our shared commitment to transforming ambitious visions into lasting progress.

Beyond improved connectivity, the Davao Bypass Project also highlights our commitment to capacity building and the exchange of technical expertise in tunnel operations and maintenance. This long-standing collaboration reflects our shared commitment to infrastructure that upholds the highest standards of

quality, safety, and sustainability. As we celebrate 69 years of friendship between our countries, and we are deeply committed to further strengthening the already excellent ties between our two nations.

The Japanese Government remains to be the strongest supporter of the Philippines' infrastructure development under President Marcos's Build Better More program. In addition to this Davao City Bypass, Japan is also supporting several other critical initiatives, including flood control systems and urban railway construction. We take great pride in being part of these transformative initiatives dedicated to improving the daily lives of the Filipino people.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to everyone involved in this project—for your hard work, perseverance, and unwavering commitment. Congratulations once again to all, and may our partnership continue to flourish for many years to come.

*Daghang salamat at mabuhay ang ating pagkakaibigan!*