

*Sustainability & Habitat Program*

*↳ we commit to support (non code)  
↳ opportunities*

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY BEFORE QUOTING**  
**(DRAFT AS OF 061306/2100H)**

*technology partner*

**SPEECH OF  
VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO  
OPENING REMARKS, WORLD URBAN FORUM-3  
OPENING ADDRESS BY DIGNITARIES  
19 JUNE 2006**

**YOUR EXCELLENCIES PRIME  
MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER (CANADA),  
VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMED ALI SHEIN  
(UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA)  
UNITED NATIONS UNDERSECRETARY  
AND UN-HABITAT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ANNA TIBAIJUKA;**

**THE HONORABLE PREMIER GORDON  
CAMPBELL (BRITISH COLUMBIA), MAYOR**

SAM SULLIVAN (VANCOUVER), MR.

CHARLES KELLY (COMMISSIONER

GENERAL, WORLD URBAN FORUM III);

MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC  
CORPS;

HONORABLE MINISTERS AND  
SECRETARIES;

HONORABLE MAYORS;

REPRESENTATIVES FROM CIVIL  
SOCIETY, ACADEME, PRIVATE SECTOR,  
MEDIA, YOUTH GROUPS;

CITIZENS OF CITIES AND  
MUNICIPALITIES WHO ARE  
PARTICIPATING IN THE THIRD WORLD  
URBAN FORUM;

GOOD MORNING AND *MABUHAY!*

I CONGRATULATE THE UNITED  
NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME AND THE GOVERNMENT OF  
CANADA FOR HOSTING THE THIRD  
WORLD URBAN FORUM IN THIS  
BEAUTIFUL CITY OF VANCOUVER WHERE  
UN-HABITAT WAS BORN 30 YEARS AGO.

## **REVERSING THE TREND**

THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR, "SUSTAINABLE CITIES: TURNING IDEAS INTO ACTIONS" REFLECTS ON THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF CITIES AND URBAN AREAS AS STAGING GROUNDS FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT. INDEED, THIS FORUM WILL FIND REAL MEANING IN BRINGING THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY DOWN TO THE LOCAL LEVEL --- THE GROUND ZERO OF DEVELOPMENT WHERE POVERTY IS FELT AND SEEN.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT MOST OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION GROWTH WILL OCCUR IN THE CITIES OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WILL WITNESS MASSIVE AND RAPID URBANIZATION, WITH TWO BILLION NEW RESIDENTS IN CITIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS. THIS PROCESS, THOUGH BROUGHT ABOUT BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HAS ALSO LED TO SHARP

DIVISIONS IN GROWTH BETWEEN CITIES  
AND SOCIAL GROUPS.

THE NEXT DECADE WILL ALSO  
WITNESS AN INCREASED URBANIZATION  
OF POVERTY. NEARLY ONE BILLION  
URBAN RESIDENTS IN THE CITIES OF  
THE DEVELOPING WORLD MAY END UP  
BEING POOR IF CURRENT TRENDS  
CONTINUE.

THESE ARE TRENDS. BUT I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT A WORLD UNITED CAN  
PREVENT THE FURTHER DECLINE IN THE

LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POOR IN  
URBAN AREAS.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN  
FIND COMMON SOLUTIONS TO THE  
GLOBAL PROBLEM OF POVERTY.

**THE TWIN CAMPAIGNS ON SECURE**

**TENURE AND GOOD URBAN**

**GOVERNANCE AND MILLENIUM**

**DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

YOU MAY RECALL, MADAME  
TIBAIJUKA, THAT THE PHILIPPINES  
LAUNCHED THE JOINT CAMPAIGNS ON

SECURE TENURE AND GOOD URBAN GOVERNANCE IN 2002. YOU VISITED AREAS IN MANILA AND DAVAO WHERE YOU WITNESSED THE OVERWHELMING OWNERSHIP OF FILIPINOS OF THE JOINT CAMPAIGNS, PARTICULARLY THE URBAN POOR. WE HAVE SINCE THEN IMPLEMENTED OUR NATIONAL ACTION AGENDA TOWARDS THE ATTAINMENT OF THE GOALS OF THE TWIN CAMPAIGNS. MOREOVER, WE HAVE ADOPTED AND MAINSTREAMED THE MILLENIUM



DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN OUR  
DEVELOPMENT PLANS. AS VICE  
PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF THE  
GOVERNMENT HOUSING SECTOR, I AM  
PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO  
CHAMPIONING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE  
MDGS, PARTICULARLY GOAL 7 TARGET  
11.

TO THIS DAY, WE REMAIN  
COMMITTED TO WAGE A RELENTLESS  
BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY IN OUR  
CITIES AND URBAN AREAS.

FOR US, FILIPINOS, THIS FIGHT FLOWS DIRECTLY FROM THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY NEARLY TWO DECADES AGO, THE SEEDS OF WHICH WERE PLANTED MANY YEARS BEFORE. IN 1986, WE FINALLY BECAME UNITED AS A PEOPLE AND OUSTED A MILITARY RULER THROUGH PEACEFUL PEOPLE POWER. TODAY, WE WANT TO HARNESS THE STRENGTH THAT EMANATES FROM CONCERTED ACTION AND DIRECT IT TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES AND COMMAND ACTIONS IN MORE AUTHORITATIVE SYSTEMS, WE CHOSE THE PATH THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR IDEALS AS A DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. AND INDEED WE HAVE MOVED FORWARD.

YET WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE WE REACH OUR GOALS. WE HAVE DONE THE "MINIMUMS" AND SET

OUR FUNDAMENTALS IN PLACE. WE CAN NOT STOP NOW.

HENCE, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR UN-HABITAT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA FOR INVITING US HERE. I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO SEE THAT A NUMBER OF US FROM THE PHILIPPINES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN DIALOGUES, NETWORKING, AND TRAINING EVENTS. THROUGH THESE ACTIVITIES, WE HOPE TO SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES IN SLUM UPGRADING, HOUSING FINANCE,

GENDER, AND LOCALIZATION OF THE  
MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL COME OUT  
OF THIS FORUM RENEWED AND  
INSPIRED. I BELIEVE THAT AFTER THIS,  
WE WILL HIT THE GROUND RUNNING  
AGAIN AND CONTINUE PREPARING FOR  
OUR FUTURE . . . RIGHT NOW.

*MABUHAY* AND A PLEASANT DAY TO  
ALL. THANK YOU.

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SG/WUF/OPENING-DIGNITARIES ADDRESS/061306