

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE

Opportunities to Create 10 Million Jobs

The creation of 6 to 10 million jobs for our people is one of the major goals of my administration. I hope to achieve this goal before the end of my term.

How will we achieve this goal?

First, by aggressive promotion of tourism activities in the country.

There has been a significant increase in the number of tourist arrivals due to intensified tourism promotion. In 2003, a total of 1.9 million tourists visited the country. In 2004, the number increased to 2.25 million which represents 18.4 percent growth from the previous year's record. From January to May this year, some 1.07 million tourist arrivals have been recorded.

These figures for the first five months of the year alone translate into 139,128 new jobs.

AFMA, provided with P17.0 billion allocation, will enhance agribusiness development activities which, in turn, will generate jobs for thousands of our people.



PCMA Hologram # 31985



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The *Ginintuang Masaganang Ani* (GMA) Program is allocated P2.7 billion. The amount will partly support rice and corn production which, between them, will generate 154,256 jobs. The production of high value commercial crops, on the other hand, will provide 5,498 jobs.

The livestock industry is estimated to generate 16,249 jobs. Estimates for the contribution of fisheries to job generation number 76,220.

Coconut and abaca will each provide 300,000 and 22,000 jobs, respectively.

The first six months of 2005, a total of 135,314 agriculture-related jobs were generated due to the development of 73,925 hectares of new agricultural lands. Job opportunities are further enhanced by linking these new agricultural lands to markets in all regions of the country.

The P72.4 billion set aside in the 2006 Budget for infrastructure projects will also generate more than half a million jobs, some 65,281 of these from DPWH employment-generation projects alone.

We aim to create employment through the construction industry. During the first half of 2005, government construction projects hired 369,748 laborers for its *Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin* (KNAN) program.

Congress has passed a law, RA 6658, requiring all private constructors and sub-contractors of national and local public works projects to hire at least 50 percent of their unskilled and 30 percent skilled labor requirements from the residents of the locality where the project is located.



Our goal of intensifying the operation of enterprises in economic zones paid off. We have generated a total of 83,896 new jobs from January to May 2005 in the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority areas.

Some P264.0 million is being allocated to the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for its Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). In 2004, SETUP assisted 640 SMEs and provided 836 technology invention that created 13,237 new jobs. In 2006, we hope we would further strengthen the national technology innovation system, including the assistance to entrepreneurs and farmers to increase their productivity.

Due to the vigorous promotion of ICT in the country, we were able to generate 41,000 jobs for the first half of 2005. We encourage ICT-enabled businesses to provide opportunities for more jobs in the future.

The mining sector, too, has contributed 2,195 jobs during the first six months of the year. Our shift in policy on mining, from tolerance to promotion, paid off.

We targeted two birds with one stone in the housing sector. The construction of 33,935 housing units from January to May 2005 generated 263,935 jobs. These housing units are being offered at a low price to low-salaried public and private sector workers.

