

PRESS RELEASE

July 29, 2025

PCCI commends PBBM's SONA***Clear support for business growth, anti-Corruption, and investment-led development***

The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the country's largest business organization, lauded President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s State of the Nation Address (SONA) yesterday as one of the most compelling speeches in recent history, marked by strong support for enterprise growth, governance reform, and people-centered policies.

PCCI President, Consul Enunina Mangio described the SONA as "very impressive" and "one of the best we've heard," citing the President's sincerity and direct messaging, particularly his firm stance against corruption.

"This time, it's really different from previous SONAs. We feel the sincerity of the President. We fully support all the things that he said," Mangio stated.

Mangio praised the President's repeated condemnation of corruption, especially in infrastructure and flood control projects, and his strong words: "Mahiya naman kayo", directed at those who abuse public funds.

"That alone should make a big dent on those who profit from bogus projects," she added.

PCCI also welcomed the President's warning against including misaligned projects in the national budget and his vow to improve healthcare access through zero-balanced billing in public hospitals.

Strong Signals for Investment and Enterprise Growth

From a business standpoint, PCCI emphasized that the SONA sent a strong signal that local business development and attracting domestic and foreign investments are top priorities of the Marcos administration.

"The President clearly identified enterprise growth and strategic investments as central to reducing poverty and hunger," Mangio noted.

President Marcos committed to providing capital support for micro-entrepreneurs and called for targeted investments in key industries such as electronics, garments, pharmaceuticals, biotech, critical minerals, and construction. PCCI cited as a positive example the creation of a Semiconductor and Electronics Industry Advisory Council through Administrative Order No. 31.

The Chamber encouraged similar coordinated policy mechanisms to advance other high-potential sectors.

Opportunities for Legislative and Policy Follow-Through

While PCCI appreciated the business-friendly tone of the SONA, Mangio noted the absence of a formal legislative agenda and called for follow-through on urgent reforms.

“We would have wanted to hear progress updates on the removal of regulatory barriers, the streamlining of business processes, and the modernization of government services. These are major pain points for businesses,” she said.

Among the persistent issues raised were red tape despite the Ease of Doing Business law, overlapping mandates of agencies, slow pace of digitalization, and the high cost of regulatory compliance.

The Chamber also stressed the importance of expanding MSME access to credit and technology, and introducing more advanced technical and digital training, including AI, in the education system.

A Call for Action and Implementation

PCCI affirmed its support for the President’s development agenda and recognized the administration’s pivot to a more people- and productivity-focused governance framework.

“From education to infrastructure and agriculture, the SONA addressed the right issues. But we now need decisive action, sustained policy reforms, and implementation to turn these intentions into outcomes,” Mangio emphasized.

The Chamber remains hopeful that both the executive and legislative branches will act swiftly to enact long-needed policy reforms and legislations that enable investments, create jobs, and improve the overall competitiveness of the Philippine business environment.