

- Hon. Ma. Josefina G. Belmonte

## At QC housing launch, government to help beneficiaries pay for units

The Freeman · 1 Feb 2023 · 14 · — Jonathan de Santos/Philstar.com

MANILA --- President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Tuesday tasked Congress with including funding in the 2024 budget to help beneficiaries pay the interest on government housing units.



Marcos made the announcement at the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the Batasan Development and Urban Renewal Plan in Quezon City, a project under the Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program. The national housing program aims to build around six million housing units between 2023 and 2028.

"The government is committed to secure the needed housing interest support for 2023," he said to cheers from the crowd as he turned to his cousin House Speaker Martin Romualdez, who was also at the event.

"I now call... on Congress for your support, including housing interest support as part of the regular appropriations for the succeeding year," he told Romualdez.

Marcos said that while the government works to meet housing demand, "many of our beneficiaries will still not be able to afford the monthly amortization of these units." He said that the government will work to find money — an initial P1 billion or so — for a subsidy fund to help housing beneficiaries pay for their units.

### BATASAN DEVELOPMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PLAN

In the same speech, Marcos said the groundbreaking for the two mixed-use and residential towers on the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Batasan Road is "only the beginning of one of the largest projects under the government flagship housing program."

The project will include 2,100 housing units for members of the Batasan Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association as well for informal settler families in Quezon City. Because of the livelihoods of the beneficiaries, the ground floor of the housing development will be a tricycle terminal, the president said.

He said that this will also mean that "those living here and in the surrounding areas will have complete access to markets, schools, hospitals, and various means of making income so that they will prosper and get to see their dreams come to life."