

- City planning

## San Juan, QC mayors hail PBBM'S suspension of EDSA rehab

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San Juan City Mayor and Metro Manila Council (MMC) President Francis Zamora and Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte lauded on Monday, June, 2, President Marcos' decision to temporarily halt the scheduled rebuilding of EDSA to find a better way to implement the project without causing too much burden to commuters and businesses.

"I fully support the decision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to suspend the scheduled rebuilding of EDSA in order to explore faster, more efficient, and less disruptive methods of reconstruction. This move demonstrates the President's responsiveness to the daily concerns of commuters and motorists who rely heavily on Metro Manila's main thoroughfare," Zamora said.

"While we recognize that EDSA remains in urgent need of structural rehabilitation and improvement, we equally commend the President's resolve to ensure that any such project must not unnecessarily burden the Filipino people," he added.

The mayor explained the city stands ready to fully cooperate with the national government in implementing alternative traffic routes and rebuilding solutions.

"As one of the cities directly traversed by EDSA, we are very much aware of our shared responsibility to help ease traffic congestion and improve mobility across Metro Manila. In San Juan City, we continue to undertake regular road clearing operations, especially along identified Mabuhay Lanes, to ensure smoother traffic flow for public and private transport," the MMC president noted.

### Welfare, comfort

Belmonte emphasized the importance of prioritizing the welfare and comfort of the public amid ongoing economic and mobility challenges in the capital region.

"We wholeheartedly support President Bongbong Marcos' decision to temporarily postpone the rehabilitation of EDSA. In these challenging times, it is important to prioritize the welfare and comfort of the people," Belmonte said in a statement.

She noted that the President's decision reflects concern for the millions of commuters and motorists who rely on EDSA daily.

Belmonte also highlighted the need for a clear, strategic, and well-organized approach to such a significant infrastructure project.

"Likewise, it is important to have a clear and well-organized plan for the rehabilitation of one of the main thoroughfares in Metro Manila. It is important that the project, once it is completed, and while it is still being implemented, will help the daily lives of our countrymen and the continued development of our economy," she added.

### Alternative routes

The city government recently opened its Greenhills–west Crame Connector Road in December last year, providing a faster alternative route for motorists using the Mabuhay lanes.

The road connects Eisenhower Street in Barangay Greenhills to 3rd West Street in Barangay West Crame.

Zamora said the road was previously filled with privately-owned lots that separated Barangay Greenhills from Barangay West Crame.

The city government purchased the lands and converted them into a public road wherein motorists may pass through, easing the flow of traffic in the area.

“Eisenhower Street in Barangay Greenhills and 3rd West Street in Barangay West Crame are part of the Mabuhay Lanes, which are designated no parking zones. As such, the San Juan City Wheel Clamping Ordinance (C.O. No. 70, Series of 2022) and MMDA Resolution No. 10, Series of 2010 will be fully implemented in the said streets. This means that illegally parked vehicles along Mabuhay Lanes and city roads in San Juan will be clamped by the TPMO or towed by the MMDA,” the mayor said.

“Opening this section will be very beneficial not just for residents of Barangays West Crame and Greenhills, but also for motorists passing through our city. It will help in easing the traffic in EDSA and Ortigas since they can now pass through the Greenhills-west Crame Connector Road.”

“We welcome further collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Transportation (DOTR), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and all stakeholders as the national government reassesses its strategy for EDSA. San Juan City remains committed to solutions that benefit not only our residents but all Filipinos who pass through our city and EDSA every day,” Zamora stressed.

#### Innovative technologies

Belmonte encouraged the use of innovative technologies and strategies that could potentially shorten the rehabilitation timeline from the projected two years to as little as six months.

“There are innovative technologies and strategies that can be used to speed up the rehabilitation. We believe that with the help of proper planning and the use of innovative and effective methods, its impact on the public will be lighter,” she said.

The local chief executive reaffirmed Quezon City’s commitment to collaborate closely with the national government in ensuring the success of the project.

“The local government of Quezon City remains ready to coordinate and support the national government, regardless of the final decision and next steps,” she said.

President Marcos on Sunday, June 1, ordered the temporary suspension of the EDSA rehabilitation to find a better way to implement the project without causing too much burden to commuters.