

Speech of President Rodrigo Duterte during the Globe Telecom's Southeast Asia-United States (SEA-US) Cable System Commercial Launch (Delivered by Presidential Communications Office Secretary Martin Andanar)

[Delivered at Seda Abreeza Hotel, Davao City | 22 September 2017]

Ernest Cu, President and CEO of Globe Telecom; Albert de Larrazabal, Chief Commercial Officer of Globe Telecom; Atty. Vicente Castelo, General Counsel of Globe Telecom; Peter Maquera, Senior Vice President of Globe Telecom; Yoly Crisanto, Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications; Bernie Llamzon, EVP for Channel Management.

On behalf of the President, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to thank Globe Telecom for your invaluable contributions to the telecommunications industry as well as for improving the internet connectivity through the Southeast Asia-United States Submarine Cable System.

Thank you as well for choosing Davao City to be the host of the first cable submarine system connected through the South of the Philippines.

As it is routed through this part of the country, it bypasses earthquake zones in the north, making it more resilient and less susceptible to signal interruptions caused by natural calamities.

The Southeast Asia - US Cable System will definitely reinforce the capacity and resiliency of our information infrastructure, leading to improved communication capacities, better access to basic services, increased competitiveness, and smarter cities.

It is expected to generate more investments, jobs and opportunities in Davao region and Mindanao.

The project also complements the National Broadband Plan of the government, which aims to improve internet connectivity in the entire country.

Over the years, the internet has become an important medium that we use to provide access to services and opportunities, improve the country's competitiveness and drive economic growth.

For this reason, the public and private sectors must work together and collaborate more in developing our country's information infrastructure.

I assure you that the government will do its part by pursuing more initiatives for the ICT industry.

I encourage the private sector to do the same and join this administration in ensuring that our people can harness the power of the internet to realize their full potential.

Again, good afternoon and Mabuhay!

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