

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY
Equipment Turn Over of MINSSAD
1:30 p.m. May 8, 2009 DAR-SPDA Compound, Davao City

PARO Paysal Tumog, OIC-Deputy National Project Manager, RD Percival Dalugdug, MINSSAD National Project Manager, RD Yusoph Mama, Regional Director, DARRO-XI, Mr. Norio Matsuda, Chief Country Representative, JICA Philippines, Other DAR Officials, Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant afternoon to all of you.

I am pleased to be with you today on the occasion of equipment turnover of the Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development (MINSSAD). Before we turn over the keys of the 38 trucks to the various Local Government Units of Bukidnon, Davao Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte, allow me to express my gratitude and appreciation to JICA through its Chief Country representative Mr. Norio Matsuda for the support and assistance they have so generously extended to MINSSAD.

This turn over of equipment would not have been possible had it not been for the assistance bestowed upon us by our funding partner JICA. Their trust and commitment to the Department of Agrarian Reform has been our inspiration to continue our efforts to improve the lives of our Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and contribute to the overall poverty reduction program of this Administration.

As we hand over the keys to the various Local Government Units, we are hopeful that this equipment will serve you in the same manner that it has served us during the implementation of our MINSSAD project. We are providing you this equipment to strengthen your operational capability in the operation and maintenance of completed rural infrastructure subprojects. Please use this road maintenance equipment wisely so that the roads and bridges that we have helped construct and rehabilitate in your communities will be of good use for a much longer time.

We urge you to take care of this equipment as if it were your own material possessions. This is your share and responsibility in the project.

Your Municipality is one of the few who have had the rare opportunity to receive this equipment. So make the most of this wonderful opportunity. Together, let us continue to do our humble share in making our country a better and safer place to live in particularly in these trying times of economic recession.

Thank You.