

DOST-ITDI ignites hope in *Bagong Pilipinas* movement



DOST-ITDI joined hundreds of thousands of Filipinos of all ages and affiliations in a historic support on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila as President Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos, Jr. launched kicker ceremonies for *BAGONG PILIPINAS*, as its symbol for a "social mobilization event that would allow individual voices to resonate with the collective aspiration for a more stable, comfortable, and secure future."

The gathering aimed "to ignite hope and inspire participation" among our kababayans "... in building a better Philippines through collective action."

Led by Atty. Cheloy E. Velicaria-Garafil, Secretary of the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), with the participation of thousands from all 45 national government agencies, the *Bagong Pilipinas* kick-off rally started at five o'clock in the afternoon, while live performances from various artists were staged three hours earlier.

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Performers included Jose Manalo and Wally Bayola, Rita Daniela, Aegis, Ronnie Liang, Agsunta, Skusta Clee, Ken Chan, Geneva Cruz, Florante, Plethora, 4th Impact, Poppert Bernadas, Julia Serad, and Princess Vire. In the evening performances, rapper Andrew E. was one of featured performers.

President Marcos formally opened the ceremonies with his message to the nation, a call to action that "*... real change starts with self, with family, with the community, and then eventually --the country.*" The message was a challenge and invitation to everyone "*... to become builders of personal, communal, and national progress through individual commitment and action.*"

Meanwhile, the ITDI contingent of nearly a hundred joined the kick-off rally. These included Divisional officers and staff led by STD Chief Ma. Rachel V. Parcon; ADMATEL Laboratory Manager Dr. Araceli M. Monsada; CED representatives Dr. Emelda A. Ongo and Dr. Joshua H. Santos; EBD Sectional Heads Dr. Myra L. Tansengco and Dr. Ursela P. Guce-Bigol; FPD Sectional OIC Dr. Rommel M. Belandres; NML Sectional Head Monalisa R. Enot; TSD Sectional OICs Cristina B. Candelaria and Adelia M. Guevarra; and ADM Sectional Heads Lolita S. Hernandez and Rocheel Lee C. Deluta.

DOST, led by Science Chief Renato U. Solidum, Jr., was also represented by other line agencies including DOST-CO; DOST-MIMAROPA and DOST-NCR for the Regional Offices; PCHRD and PCIEERD for the councils, ASTI, FNRI, MIRDC, PNRI, and PTRI for the research and development institutes; PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, PSHSS, STII, SEI, and TAPI for the service institutes; and NAST and NRCP for the collegial bodies.

Other NGA participants, at the first row at the right of the President, included in order of appearance DBM, NEDA, DOF, DOE, DHSUD, and DEPED. At his left were DTI, DOH, DSWD, DOLE, DAR, and DA.

Second row agencies were DICT, DPWH, DOTr, DOT, DENR, CCC, DOST, DFA, DILG, DOT, and DND. At the third row, agencies included CSC, PMS, PLLO, OVP, OP, DMW, NSC, PCG, PNP, ARTA, and PDEA. The fourth row grouped MTRCB, NHCP, COA, PSC, PIA, PCO, CHED, and TESDA while at the last row were MMDA, NAPC, and CHR. (AMGuevarra\ TSD-ITDI)



The DOST Contingent to the BAGONG PILIPINAS KICK-OFF RALLY plays off the images of DOST-ITDI participants as dusk slowly rises.

Photo credit: AMGuevarra



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