



Joint Statement of Support for our Defense and Law Enforcement Agencies

June 25, 2026

We express serious concern regarding issues publicly reported surrounding the Philippine Sanjia Steel Corporation facility within the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental.

What initially surfaced as an enforcement action against regulatory and labor violations has raised broader questions about possible regulatory, governance, and oversight lapses that warrant careful investigation by the proper authorities to protect the safety of our citizens, the health of our communities, and the interests of our country.

Public reports regarding the operation conducted by government authorities have raised serious concerns relating to compliance with Philippine laws, and the protection of workers and communities:

- **Public Health and Environmental Concerns:** Published findings and statements by certain agencies have reported the presence of materials and conditions that may pose environmental, occupational, and public health risks, subject to scientific validation, proper regulatory process, and full factual context.
- **Substandard Infrastructure Risks:** Concerns have also been raised regarding the quality and safety of certain steel products, which should be assessed and determined by the appropriate technical and regulatory bodies based on verified evidence.
- **National Security Vulnerabilities:** We commend and stand firmly with National Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr.'s stout defense of our national interests; in this case, flagging the severe, unacceptable risks of foreign networks operating illicitly adjacent to a strategic naval installation and under-construction Navy dry dock, that blatantly violates our territorial security.

This is a serious matter involving allegations of possible violations that should be fully investigated and resolved in accordance with law. Any oversight failures should likewise be reviewed and addressed.

As such, we declare our full support for the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), the Department of National Defense (DND), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

We urge them to pursue the facts thoroughly, lawfully, and objectively, and to take appropriate action wherever violations are established by competent authorities and courts. There must be no undue interference, and all actions should remain guided by evidence, due process, and the public interest.

To safeguard our nation's economic stability, we call for appropriate actions:

1. Timely, coordinated, and lawful investigation and, where supported by sufficient evidence, the appropriate prosecution of responsible parties under existing laws.
2. A review by the proper agencies of regulatory compliance, safety standards, and oversight mechanisms for industrial operations in sensitive or strategic areas, and an assessment – based on verified findings – of whether any broader product or infrastructure risks require further action.
3. Consideration by Congress of reforms on national security, public safety, hazardous materials management, labor protection, regulatory oversight, and related matters, where legislative gaps are shown by evidence and experience.

We remind all stakeholders that economic progress cannot exist without public safety, rule of law, and institutional integrity. We stand firmly by our defense and law enforcement agencies in protecting the Filipino people, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring that accountability is pursued through fair, transparent, and evidence-based processes.

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GLOBAL AI COUNCIL PH
INSTITUTE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORS (ICD)
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MAP)
PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (PCCI)
PHILIPPINE IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE (PISI)