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Asia Pulse News

FILIPINOS MUST UNITE TO MEET MILLENNIUM D'MENT GOALS: MALACANANG

Thursday September 8, 2005, 7:03 pm

MANILA, Sept 8 Asia Pulse - Philippine Presidential Palace Malacanang on Thursday said Filipinos must unite to reverse the findings of an international company that the country cannot meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the UN released a report on Wednesday titled "A Future Within Reach" that none among developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the Philippines included, will achieve the goals of eradicating poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, environmental destruction and discrimination against women.

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We can achieve the goals if we unite as a people, Press Secretary and Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said during a media briefing in Malacanang.

Bunye said that aside from achieving the MDGs, Filipinos should also come together to address the looming energy crisis and the renewed perils of terrorism.

He said the government needs the peoples help in returning to the business of economy, which would mean investments and more jobs.

We need to execute pro-poor programs and get the legislative mill on track to regain the momentum for take-off, Bunye said.

To do all those, he said we need to quickly consolidate the energies and resources of our nation." According to the ADB report, the Philippines is "off track" on environmental sustainability, particularly on conserving its forests and providing potable water for rural and urban areas; eliminating child malnutrition; and maternal mortality.

It further states that while the Asia-Pacific region has made rapid progress toward many of the MDGs, not all the developing countries in (the region) are making sufficient progress.

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None are currently on track to meet all the goals by 2015," the report said.

(PNA)

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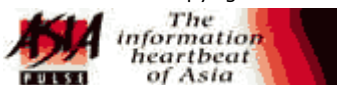
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