

In the meantime, we will continue to provide support for Negros through our Mission Administered Fund (MAF), and through the Philippine Development Assistance Program, which will support linkages between Canadian and Philippine non-governmental organizations. Under our MAF Program, we have recently decided to assist four new projects in Negros. The first two are related projects and represent the continuing cooperation between the Chito and Assisi Development Foundations which worked so well with the PLOW and PAGKAON programs. Chito Foundation will establish a new farm-based training facility, while Assisi Development Foundation will sponsor an agricultural Training Program for sugar workers, making use of the Chito facility. We will contribute approximately 1.1 million Pesos for these two projects. At the same time, we will provide 104,000 Pesos for a project involving education, training and seed capital for low income women living in the Bacolod area. This project will be implemented by the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation. And, finally, we will make a contribution of 26,000 Pesos to the Bacolod Cultural Society, for additional equipment needed by the regional hospital. At this time, I would be honoured to present cheques for these four projects to the Presidents of the four foundations concerned: Mr. Ed Locsin of Chito Foundation, Mr. Howard Dee of Assisi Development Foundation, Ms. Cecille del Castillo of the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation, and Ms. Angie Eschaus of the Bacolod Cultural Society.

Governor Lacson, Bishop Fortich, Friends, our visit to Negros will long remain in our memories. Thank you for everything you have done for us. Thank you for everything you are doing for your people.