



NEWS RELEASE

August 6, 2010

Statement by U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. Regarding Millennium Challenge Corporation Compact for the Philippines

Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. applauded the announcement by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in Washington, DC that it is prepared to enter into a compact with the Philippines amounting to almost 20 billion pesos (\$434 million).

The compact provides funding for three major projects: \$54.3 million for a redesign and computerization of key business processes within the Department of Finance's Bureau of Internal Revenue to increase the efficiency, sustainability, and integrity of revenue collection; \$120 million for the expansion of KALAHI-CIDSS, a community-based rural development program focusing on small-scale infrastructure and related services that stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty; and \$214.4 million for construction and rehabilitation of the 220 km Samar Road that passes through 15 municipalities.

The Ambassador said, "The decision by the MCC Board of Directors, chaired by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, marks a vote of confidence in the Aquino administration and its commitment to confront corruption. The MCC grant will support President Aquino's efforts to reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth, combat corruption, and ensure a better future for all Filipinos. I am delighted that we now have this new opportunity to build on our partnership with the Philippines. We look forward to signing the final agreements in the coming weeks, and getting to work as soon as possible."

For more details on the MCC compact, please visit www.mcc.gov

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