

# José de Venecia

.....  
A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY  
.....

## Continuity & Innovation

▀ **The task of the next President is to complete the Ramos reforms – and lead this country to full modernization** ▸

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# **Why I have written this Program of Government**

THIS LITTLE BOOK IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT OF MY political beliefs, and a summary of the economic and social policies I would carry out as President of the Philippines. I wrote it because I believe the Filipino electorate has the right to demand from those who seek its mandate unequivocal declarations of what they stand for, and what the nation might expect from their leadership.

Over these years, I have come to know – at firsthand and up close – the multitude of problems that government must face at every turn. I know from experience what programs will work and what will not. Above all, I am proud to have been part of President Ramos's team, which has brought the Philippines into the mainstream of East Asian development.

I see the task of the next government as combining continuity and innovation. It must complete the job of getting government off people's backs. But the work does not stop there. Economic reform is only part of the larger, wider process of modernization, which also involves a reform of the State, to broaden its political capability and the creation of much more active mechanisms for the wider participation of ordinary people in making the political decisions that affect their lives.

Our task in the largest sense is to transform not just the face but the spirit of our country. And in the end, the key to effective governance is civic responsibility. Government cannot do the job alone. Every citizen must do his part. We Filipinos must always remember that society is not just an aggregation of individuals or families. Society is a community, of which you and I and all of us are part.

*From the Introduction*

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To His Excellency  
Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad,  
One of the great prime ministers  
and Asians of the 20th Century,  
And friend of the Filipino  
people! There are still a number of things  
to be done and you must lead our  
region at least in the first years of  
the 21st Century . . . .

With highest regards -  
Jose de Venecia



Continuity  
&  
Innovation



PERDANA  
LEADERSHIP  
FOUNDATION  
YAYASAN  
KEPIMPINAN  
PERDANA



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■ Promoting global competitiveness and economic efficiency;	
■ Empowering the people;	
■ Ensuring effective governance;	
■ Ensuring sustainable development; and	
■ Attuning foreign policy to the needs of the time.	
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