

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**OPENING REMARKS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE AND RUSSIAN
PRIME MINISTER DMITRY MEDVEDEV DURING THEIR BILATERAL MEETING**

[Prime Minister's Office, Moscow, Russia | 02 October 2019]

PRIME MINISTER MEDVEDEV: Mr. President, distinguished [guests?], colleagues, I would like to welcome you here, Mr. President. I welcome you in Moscow. We've seen each other on the sidelines of the East Asia summits both in 2016 in Vientiane and at your home in 2017. And quite soon we'll get another chance to see each other during East Asia Summit in Thailand.

Tomorrow, you have program --- a Russian program, you are heading to Sochi. It is not so cold in Moscow but it is warmer in Sochi and the temperature should justify our best relations and our --- relations between the two delegations of [unclear] and Republic of Philippines.

Speaking about the activities over the last years, our developments have been developing. The development is positive over the last one --- one and a half year, the trade turnover grows twice and it's good because you always are advocating the development of trade and economic relations with our country. And our task is to strengthen this trend.

We are interested to continue realization of --- of various projects, as well as in transport, in energy, and agriculture and in various humanitarian aspects. During your visit, we're going to sign important --- for our bilateral relations --- documents.

And I'm very glad again to welcome you here in Moscow in this building. We call this building sometimes "White House" but this is not the same White House as in that other country. It is Russian house of government. It's a little bit bigger than the White House that we all know and better.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, I am pleased to meet you again. Thank you for the warm welcome and the hospitality extended to me and my delegation. In 2017, during my first visit to Russia, we successfully set the foundation for a [closer?] bilateral cooperation. Since then, we have been --- we have seen the remarkable progress in our engagement including such strategic areas as defense and security.

The port call of BRP Tarlac in Vladivostok in 2018, the first ever by a Philippine Navy ship was a historic milestone in our relations. This was unthinkable just a few years back yet we did it and more firsts to follow.

We now have consultative mechanisms where we explore ways to expound our cooperation in various areas including trade and investment, defense and security, energy, science and technology, among others. We are intent to sustaining this momentum. I am confident we'll succeed as I see strong commitment and will from both sides to bring our relation to an even greater level. Thank you, Your Excellency for another opportunity to discuss and open more avenues for cooperation and defense...

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