

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

OPENING STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE EXPANDED BILATERAL MEETING WITH SINGAPORE PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB

[Delivered at the Aguinaldo State Dining Room, Malacañan Palace, Manila |
09 September 2019]

Your Excellency, I warmly welcome you and your delegation to the Philippines. Thank you for honoring my Government's invitation.

In 2016, I had the pleasure of undertaking a State Visit to Singapore. I was warmly received by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and your esteemed predecessor, then President Tony Tan Keng Yam.

I again visited in 2018 during the Singapore's Chairmanship of ASEAN.

I am therefore pleased with this opportunity to reciprocate Singapore's hospitality.

At the outset, let me congratulate the Singaporean people on the occasion of Singapore's Bicentennial Year.

The 'Singapore story', dating back to its beginnings as a trading post in 1819, is truly remarkable. It is by itself an inspiration for many nations around the world.

Your Excellency, this year we mark the golden jubilee of our diplomatic relations. Guided by our comprehensive roadmap, our cooperation has flourished across all areas of engagement over the past five decades.

Our ties are indeed at the highest level ever. And we must therefore do all that we can do to ensure that the only way to go is even higher.

I look forward to productive discussions with Your Excellency today. I stand ready to work with you to further elevate and expand our bilateral cooperation in the coming years.

I give the table to you.

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