

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE
TO THE ASEAN LEADERS' GATHERING IN BALI, INDONESIA**

[Delivered at Francisco Bangoy International Airport | 12 October 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

Representative Mylene Albano-Garcia; Eastern Mindanao Commander Lieutenant General Benjamin Madrigal and the other officers and staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; Police Chief Superintendent Marcelo Morales; fellow workers in government; my countrymen.

I am pleased to be back home from an engaging interaction with my fellow ASEAN Leaders and heads of international institutions at the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering in Bali.

At the meeting, I reiterated the Philippines' national priorities of inclusive growth, stable and secure environment, [and] economic integration in the region.

I stressed the importance of a stronger ASEAN in order to sustain the efforts towards greater peace, progress and prosperity [for] Southeast Asia and its peoples.

I stressed the importance of ASEAN-centered efforts.

As a regional bloc, ASEAN should capitalize on its strength as a highly-competitive region in order to maintain its steady growth path.

I emphasized that we should invest in ourselves and within ASEAN.

Only when we are willing to invest in ourselves can we ensure resiliency amid the challenges of trade tensions, threats to security and stability, and increasing natural calamities.

I personally conveyed to Indonesian President Joko Widodo the Philippines' condolences to Indonesian people who suffered successive earthquakes and tsunami.

In times of need, Indonesia was ready to help. Now, we are giving back. That's the ASEAN way. That's our duty as brother and a neighbor.

Indonesia welcomed the humble assistance we coursed through the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management.

I also met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and this has something to do with delineation of our boundaries. And I told him that in due time, but we will take a longer period for we have to establish even our continental shelf limits.

We both committed to work more closely to achieve shared goals for stability in the region.

At the end of the meeting, the Philippines remains committed to work closely with ASEAN and key global institutions to ensure a peaceful, secure and stable environment that promotes the greater common good.

Thank you. I'll take a few questions from the media.

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