

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**TOAST REMARKS OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE STATE BANQUET IN HONOR OF
SINGAPORE PRESIDENT HALIMAH YACOB**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila | 09 September 2019]

Her Excellency Madam Halimah Yacob; Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Alhabshee; Senate President Vicente Sotto; the House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

Singapore and the Philippines are old friends. Over the past five decades, we have successfully pursued our shared goals based on trust and mutual respect, leading to an enduring partnership that has served and continue to serve the interest of peace, progress, [and] prosperity for our countries, our region, and beyond.

Tonight, as we celebrate fifty years of fruitful friendship and cooperation between our peoples, we welcome and honor Her Excellency, Madam Halimah Yacob, whose visit pays tribute to [this] important milestone in our bilateral relations.

Singapore's own story affirms the transformative power of these ideals – how they build a nation by fostering peace, stability, and social harmony.

As you celebrate your country's Bicentennial Anniversary this year, let me congratulate the people of Singapore for their achievements in nation-building. Let your storied journey continue to inspire peoples around the world.

Excellency, our productive discussions earlier give us the great optimism for the future of our relations. With the signing of the agreements in several areas of cooperation, we have forged new shared goals. We will pursue them together in brotherhood and solidarity – as we have always done in the past.

As we look to the next half-century and beyond, I have no doubt that our two nations will continue to create and seize opportunities to bring [our] ties

to even greater heights. May our relations continue to rest on our resolute devotion to goodwill, amity, [and] mutual respect for the benefit and well-being of our peoples.

On this note, may I propose a toast:

o To the steadfast and wise leadership of Her Excellency, President Halimah.

o To the continued peace, prosperity, [and] success of the Singaporean people.

o And to the enduring friendship and abiding cooperation between our two countries.

You have your... Mabuhay at maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang Singapore!

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