

**Presidential Communications Operations Office**

**Presidential News Desk**

**TOAST REMARKS OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE STATE BANQUET HOSTED FOR  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

[Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 20 November 2018]

It is with great pleasure and honor that I receive my good friend President Xi Jinping and his delegation here in Malacañan Palace.

This evening, we gather to celebrate the long history of friendship and kinship between our nations.

In the past two years, we were able to hurdle these challenges by resuming bilateral dialogue and deepening our relations through positive engagement.

President Xi and I are committed to forge a new legacy of friendship and cooperation as we work together in further consolidating ties with our both nations.

President Xi's visit to Manila, the first by a Chinese President in more than a decade, is a testament to our strong desire to write a new chapter in the history of Philippines-China relations.

I stand here optimistic that we will sustain the momentum in moving our relationship even further, and that the friendship between our countries will continue to flourish in the years to come.

I am hopeful that through our cooperation, opportunities for greater collaboration will further promote the prosperity and success of our nations, and contribute to lasting peace and stability in the region.

An old Chinese proverb states that if "one generation plants the tree, another gets the shade."

This may perhaps best describe what we are doing, and what we intend to achieve, as we plant the seeds of friendship and cooperation today for the benefit of future generations.

Please allow me to draw inspiration from the wisdom of this proverb as I propose a toast.

My friends, may I invite you to raise your glasses:

- To the good health and continued success of President Xi Jinping;
- To the seeds of friendship and cooperation we plant here today;
- To the legacy of peace and prosperity that the succeeding generations will reap as a result of the improved relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China.

Gan bei!

## **REMARKS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PRESIDENT XI JINPING**

Your Excellency President Duterte; Madam Honeylet and other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen; friends.

It is such a great pleasure to visit this amazing country at the invitation of President Duterte. This is a country known for its picturesque scenery, bountiful resources, and hospitable people.

Mr. President, I want to thank you and your government for the warm reception accorded to me and my entire delegation.

This afternoon, I laid a floral wreath at the Rizal Monument. Dr. Jose Rizal, the founding father of modern Philippines, led the struggle against colonial aggressors and made the ultimate sacrifice for which he will always be remembered by the people of this country.

Some of you may not know that his ancestry could be traced back to Jinjiang City in China's Fujian Province where there is also a monument dedicated to

him and where his heroism is widely known. Jose Rizal is not only the father of this nation but also a symbol of fraternal relations between the Philippines and China.

Indeed, our fraternity goes back over a thousand years. I'm talking about the splendid Maritime Silk Road that linked our two nations. Chinese merchants sailing to your shores and trading Chinese silk, porcelain and tea for your pearls and sea products. History has shown that ours has always been a relationship between equals, a relationship between two good neighbors.

After President Duterte took office, our two sides have worked together to remove many obstacles. Our relationship has been turned around and put on the right trajectory. I commend the President for taking on Jose Rizal's mantle and for his commitment to an independent Philippines.

Earlier today, the President and I agreed to elevate our relationship to one of comprehensive strategic cooperation. This decision, which will mark a new milestone in our relations, speaks to our shared determination to be good friends and good neighbors. We are truly pleased with this decision.

In China, we have a saying: "A single chopstick can be easily broken. With ten of them tightly bundled, they can withstand much more damage." I know you have a similar proverb: "A broom is sturdy because its strands are tightly bound." In that spirit, let us unite as one and create a better tomorrow for both of our countries.

On last note, I'd like to ask everyone to raise their glasses to the prosperity and well-being of the Republic of the Philippines, to the lasting friendship between us, and to the health of President Duterte, Madam Honeylet, and everyone present.

Cheers!

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