

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**REMARKS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE ASEAN LEADERS'
INTERFACE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASEAN BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

[Delivered at Athenee Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand | 22 June 2019]

Your Majesty, Excellencies, ASEAN-BAC representatives,

I commend the ASEAN Business Advisory Council for ensuring the dynamic private sector participation in regional economic cooperation and development initiatives. Your efforts to enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN MSMEs to --- to become more inclusive human capital development and public-private partnerships are most welcome.

With the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we need your support in upskilling the ASEAN workforce. The ASEAN-BAC's legacy project called the ASEAN Human [Empowerment and Development] is an important platform for this.

I am pleased to see progress in the ASEAN Mentorship for [Entrepreneurs] Network or AMEN, a project launched during the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017. AMEN can build the capacities of MSMEs as [engines] of growth of our economies. Sustained mentorship can help MSMEs transform into more globally competitive entities, generating more quality jobs for their communities.

May the ASEAN-BAC, together with the Joint Business Councils, continue to strengthen private sector partnerships in the region as we move towards an ASEAN Economic Community by 2025.

Thank you.

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