

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

TOAST REMARKS
OF
MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER MAHATHIR MOHAMAD
DURING THE STATE BANQUET

[Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 07 March 2019]

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of the Philippines; members of the governments of the Philippines and of Malaysia; Excellencies; ladies and gentlemen

First thing I would like to say thank you very much to the President and to the government of the Philippines for this invitation to make an Official Visit to the Philippines during my second term as Prime Minister of Malaysia.

I have brought with me ministers and other officials who are very familiar with the relationship between Malaysia and the Philippines. We know that there can be misunderstandings and conflicts between nations. But as far as the Philippines and Malaysia are concerned, we are able, we have always been able to overcome such conflicts and retain the relationship and a very high level of friendship.

We expect to do this. Malaysia expects to be friendly with the Philippines all the time and also we expect that we can extend any help that we may be able to extend to resolve some of the problems faced in the south of the Philippines island --- in Mindanao.

We know that such insurgencies only weaken nations. Only peace brings about wealth and prosperity. As long as there is result to conflicts and wars, there will be no development. And because there will be no development in a certain area, there will be disparities between different areas. And this, of

course, stand in the way of good governance as well as development of the country.

So to the extent that we can be useful, we are always ready to work with our neighbors in order to resolve problems which in a way of course affect us as well.

Whatever happens in a neighboring country will affect the neighbors just as well.

So it is important that we become very concerned and we will be ready to be of help in solving this problem, if it is within our means.

And I am glad to say that this prolonged struggle has now ended with peace and now the people of Mindanao have cause to celebrate as much as the people in the rest of the Philippines. The achievement of something that was nearly impossible before.

Now there is peace in Mindanao and there is a form of relationship between the different parts of the Philippines which augur well --- augur well for the development and growth of the Philippines.

We are a trading partner of the Philippines and we belong to the ASEAN Group of Countries. All this should help us to be good relations --- to have good relations with each other. And this is something that Malaysia has always subscribed to.

We want to be friends with all countries. Certainly, we want to be close friends with our near neighbors. And the Philippines is one of the countries which can play a very big role in the development of this region now formed into the ASEAN grouping.

The ASEAN grouping holds a load of promise for this region --- for this region --- area is --- has great potential for development. If we work closely together, I'm quite sure we can grow very faster than we are during --- at the present.

I am glad to note that the Philippines now is growing at a faster rate than before. And we would like to be of some use to the Philippines in terms of exchanges of experiences, exchanges of ideas, exchanges of information so that we both --- both countries can benefit from the close relationship between Malaysia and the Philippines.

Once again, I would like to --- I would like to say how much we appreciate the discussions that we have had together both in the private discussion on a four-eyed basis as well as the discussion between the delegations.

We have covered many different areas. And we think that on the basis of this discussion, we can enhance the relationship between our two countries and we can benefit the growth of both countries.

So I would like to call upon everyone of us to be upsending --- to drink a toast:

To the well-being of the nation, Republic of the Philippines, and to the good relations between Malaysia and the Philippines.

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Source: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)