

**Remarks by**  
**H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Foreign Minister**  
**On the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of CB-**  
**PH Diplomatic Relations and Inauguration of the PH**  
**Embassy's New Chancery**  
**28 August 2017**

- **Your Excellency Christopher B. Montero,**  
**Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines**  
**and Madam**
- **Your Royal Highnesses,**
- **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

A very good evening to you!

It's for me an honor to represent the RGC and to join you in the commemoration of **the Diamond Jubilee of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations** between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Philippines.

Over the past 60 years, Cambodia and the Philippines have enjoyed and deepened our friendship and relations across many fields, providing many potential benefits for the two countries and peoples. In recent years, we have also seen increased interactions between our leaders, especially of that between Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of

the Philippines, manifesting a solidified trust and partnership between the two countries.

Based on this very conducive environment of cooperation and amity, I am delighted and very much looking forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation back-to-back with my official visit to the Philippines later this year with a strong conviction that such common endeavors will definitely contribute to the further advancement of our existing good friendship and cooperation.

**Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As part of the joyful celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our diplomatic ties, I am delighted that we are also here today to officially inaugurate the new chancery of the Embassy of the Philippines to Cambodia. May I extend my sincere congratulation to Excellency Ambassador and embassy's staff for your new office that symbolizes the strong commitment and engagement from the government of the Republic of the Philippines in further elevating our current relationship and cooperation to a new height.

We also have another delightful celebration that goes beyond our bilateral level, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of ASEAN. It is a historic milestone that clearly

demonstrates the maturity, shared success of regional integration and the rise of our regional bloc.

May I take this opportunity to express my sincere congratulations to the Philippines for the successful convening of the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit last April, and the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings earlier this month in Manila. The productive outcomes of those gatherings once again reaffirmed the strength of the ASEAN Way that stands the tests of time, the unity in diversities, and the consensus in differences that we have firmly embraced for the past 50 years, against a backdrop of growing and emerging challenges facing our region and the world beyond.

I wish to reassure the Philippines of Cambodia's full support as it steers the ASEAN Chairmanship at this important moment towards our common aspiration for and realization of a greater successful community building.

With all these positive notes, I have the strong conviction that our traditional ties of friendship and productive cooperation that encompass bilateral, regional and multilateral fora will continue to grow for the sake of peace, stability and prosperity of our peoples and the region at large.

May I now propose a toast:

- To the good health and success of **H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, President of the Republic of the Philippines,
- To the good health and longevity of **His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath NORODOM SIHAMONI**, King of Cambodia, and **Her Majesty Queen Mother Norodom Monineath Sihanouk**,
- To the long lasting bonds of friendship and cooperation between Cambodia and the Philippines, and
- To the good health and happiness of all of you. **THANK YOU!**