



## **Opening Remarks of the Secretary of National Defense**

### **11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)**

Fellow ASEAN Defence Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant good morning to all of you.

I am pleased to welcome you all to the Philippines. It is an honor to facilitate today's meeting of the ADMM, which is the highest platform for ASEAN defence establishments. I am honored to chair this year's meeting, specially in this year of ASEAN's 50th anniversary. Allow me to reiterate my appreciation to all of you for your support for the Philippines' ASEAN chairmanship, particularly for the 11th ADMM.

Early this morning, we had productive discussions during our special breakfast meeting regarding the challenge of terrorism and violent extremism, especially in Southeast Asia. Our breakfast meeting is an indicator of the robust state of defence cooperation among ASEAN Member States as we have already had substantive talks even before the ADMM could even begin. This morning's meeting will be an opportunity for us to focus on the progress of defence cooperation to include new initiatives and the way forward for ADMM.

With me today are Undersecretary for Defence Policy Ricardo A. David, Jr., ADSOM Leader of the Philippines; General Eduardo Año, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP); Assistant Secretary Raymund Jose G. Quilop, ADSOM Working Group (WG) Leader; Director Marita Yoro, and other officials and officers of the Department of National Defence.

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