



**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**

STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE PHILIPPINES – SPAIN FRIENDSHIP DAY

The Philippines joins Spain and her people in celebrating the 14th Philippines – Spain Friendship Day. In 2003, in recognition of the long historical and cultural links between the two countries, Senator Edgardo J. Angara and Congresswoman Bellaflor Angara-Castillo co-authored Republic Act 9187, declaring June 30, Philippines – Spain Friendship Day.

Our celebration this year is made more significant as 2017 also marks the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of our Diplomatic Relations. On 27 September 1947 in Manila, the Philippines and Spain signed the *Treaty of Friendship* to strengthen the bonds between us. Since then, we have concluded over 60 agreements in the fields of economy, agriculture, tourism, defense, renewable energy, education, health, sports and local government linkages – all revitalizing and increasing people to people exchanges.

In moving our relationship forward, the Philippines remains committed to maximizing the potential of existing mechanisms to further Philippine – Spain relations, through more high-level exchanges, robust implementation of agreements and regular consultations.

We appreciate the Spanish government's development cooperation, particularly in supporting socio-economic growth in areas affected by armed conflict. We likewise welcome the news that Spain is keen to participate in the implementation of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's 10-point socio-economic plan. With the Philippines' commitment to spend 5.3 percent of GDP in 2017 for infrastructure under our battle cry *Build Build Build*, we look forward to increased presence of Spanish businesses in the Philippines.

Spain is a valued friend of the Philippines. We value our special relationship and hope to build more bridges of understanding and cooperation on matters of mutual interest for the benefit of our peoples and for the sustained development of our countries.

Mabuhay!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Peter S. Cayetano'.

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City, 30 June 2017



MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND COOPERATION

OFFICE OF DIPLOMATIC
INFORMATION

Celebration of Spanish-Philippine Friendship Day

Madrid, June 30, 2017

Press Release

The Government of Spain would like to take the opportunity presented by the celebration today, June 30, in the Philippines, of the Friendship Day between that country and Spain, to offer congratulations on the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries.

United through a long history, the Philippines and Spain have been able to transform shared and forged values throughout their common past into the solid foundation of a broad relationship framed within various agreements, such as the 2000 General Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation.

We look forward to the implementation of the Philippine Government's strategy to modernize the country's infrastructure, which is so indispensable for ensuring the creation of jobs and wealth. Our companies, which are among the world's best in public works, are interested in participating in the execution of this great project, in the same way that the Philippine companies have recently carried out important investments in our country.

The Spanish Government is also following with interest the development of the peace processes in the Philippines. The support of these processes has been one of the constants of Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines, with various projects implemented by civil society, particularly in Mindanao.

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Our common cultural legacy must be preserved and enriched, for which the Philippines can count on the disposition of the Spanish government to collaborate in all areas related to history, heritage, arts and language, and hopes that the program for the reintroduction of the Spanish language in the secondary education of the Philippines will continue in the following years.

The Spanish Government hopes that, on the basis of its long friendship and special historical ties, both countries will be able to build an ever closer relationship based on the growth of our economic, cultural and human relations and on a deeper mutual understanding.

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