

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**REMARKS OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF AMBASSADORS-
DESIGNATE**

[Delivered at Reception Hall, Malacañan Palace | 04 December 2019]

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, Ambassador Grete Sillasen, I welcome you to the Philippines and we are ready to accept you as the Ambassador of Denmark. And luckily, we have our embassy now at Copenhagen.

Kingdom of Denmark Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Grete Sillasen: Thank you, Mr. President. It's an honor to present my credentials as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to the Republic of the Philippines as well as the letter of recall of my predecessor Ambassador Jan Top Christensen.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: Mr. President, I have the honor to present to you my letters of credence and the recall letters of my predecessor. I also bring with me the warmest wishes and sincere greetings to you, to the government of the Philippines and to the people of the Philippines from the newly appointed, the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa. And during my tenure in Philippines, I'm quite confident that I would be able to further strengthen and consolidate the [bond?], traditional friendly relations that we have between our two countries.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, the Republic of the Philippines is ready to accept the Ambassador of Sri Lanka. Welcome and may you have a productive stay in the Philippines.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I'm ready to accept your lettre de créance.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. Can we have a photo?

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: Yes.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Maybe with your staff and my Foreign Secretary.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: Yes. He's my... Should I introduce? Yes. He's my spouse, Mr. President and he's also the Minister Commercial of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Beijing. Yes. And that's my daughter. She's also with me in Manila.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Welcome.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: She's the Minister of the Embassy, Thanuja Dissanayake. And she's the attaché, Sandeepani Godage.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Welcome.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Shobini Gunasekera: She's the consular officer, Sanjeevanie Sooriyaarachchi. Yes.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, welcome and we are ready to receive your letter of credence.

Hellenic Republic Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Antonis Alexandridis: Mr. President, I have the honor of presenting my letters of credence, as well as the letters of recall of my predecessor. Please allow me sir to assure you that during my mandate, I'll do the utmost to promote the already existing friendly and strong bonds between our two countries and peoples. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. Can we have a photo?

Hellenic Republic Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Antonis Alexandridis: Absolutely. It will be my pleasure.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: And you can...

Hellenic Republic Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Antonis Alexandridis: May I present...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, welcome to the Philippines and we are ready to accept your credentials as Ambassador.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ambassador-Designate H.E. U Lwin Oo: Mr. President, I have the honor to present the letter of credence as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Union of Myanmar to Republic of Philippines and letter of recall of my predecessor.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. Can we have a photo? Can you join us?

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ambassador-Designate H.E. U Lwin Oo: My spouse... *[unclear]* Tin Zaw, Minister Counselor. He's my *[unclear]* Brigadier General, our Air Force. *[unclear]* Attaché of the...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, welcome to the Philippines and we are ready to accept your credentials.

Republic of South Africa Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Bartinah Ntombizodwa Radebe-Netshitenzhe: Mr. President, I'm sent here as an envoy on behalf of the South African community and the President and his Cabinet to represent South Africa and work together with you for a common interest of our people. I hereby wish to present my credentials to you as an Ambassador to the Republic of Philippines. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. President. You are my President now.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Can we have a picture?

Republic of South Africa Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Bartinah Ntombizodwa Radebe-Netshitenzhe: Thank you. I also represent my political counsel. Yes. He's my political counsel, Mr. Boiki Motlounq. He has been the Chargé d'affaires since I've got...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Hi, nice to meet you.

**Republic of South Africa Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines
H.E. Bartinah Ntombizodwa Radebe-Netshitenzhe:** Yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Can I invite you to...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Your Excellency, we are proud that China and the Philippines are two great friends. And I welcome you to your new assignment. May it be productive. And I'm ready to accept your letter of credence.

People's Republic of China Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Huang Xilian: Okay. Your Excellency, Mr. President, its a great honor for me to be appointed as Ambassador of China to the Republic of the Philippines. And it's a great honor also for me to present the letter of credence to your Excellency. And I will do every effort to promote China-Philippine relations which have --- we have enjoyed very long history of friendship. And I wish Philippines enjoy prosperity and its people well-being. I wish your Excellency enjoy every success and good health.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you.

People's Republic of China Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Huang Xilian: Thank you, Excellency.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Can we have a photo?

People's Republic of China Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Huang Xilian: Okay, yeah. Let me introduce --- this is my DCM, Deputy Chief of Mission. Yeah, that's the Cultural Counselor. That's the Economic Counselor. That's the Military Attaché. This is Consular Counselor and that is Political Counselor. Yes.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Can you?

People's Republic of China Ambassador-Designate to the Philippines H.E. Huang Xilian: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Can we have?

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