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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Director
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau
Climate Change Service

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT: **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 42ND ASEAN SUMMIT HELD ON 10-11
MAY 2023 IN LABUAN BAJO, INDONESIA**

DATE : 01 JUN 2023

This refers to the letter from Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Espiritu of the Office of ASEAN Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) dated 12 May 2023, furnishing the Department with a copy of the Highlights of the 42nd ASEAN Summit held on 10-11 May 2023 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.

Please note that in his intervention during the Plenary of the ASEAN Summit, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.:

1. Emphasized that ASEAN should demonstrate its commitment to the principles of free trade and to the multilateral trading system;
2. Announced that the Philippines deposited its Instrument of Ratification for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement, noting that RCEP will help build more resilient supply chains and support the integration of MSMEs into the global economy;
3. Stressed the need to ensure food and energy systems to be resilient amidst supply and price fluctuations;
4. Announced the Philippines' efforts to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies;
5. Called on ASEAN to enhance regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain;
6. Emphasized that ASEAN must urge developed countries to their commitments to the Paris Agreement and support the adaptation and mitigation efforts of countries vulnerable to climate change through technology transfer, capacity building, and climate financing; and

7. Highlighted the work of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity in the conversation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

We hope that the above interventions be considered in our PAPs, and crafting of key messages, inputs, and positions in interagency, regional, and international engagements.

For your information and consideration, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

OFFICE OF ASEAN AFFAIRS

EXTREMELY URGENT CONFIDENTIAL

Our Ref. No. : DIV1-007-ASEAN-2023-S
Subject : **Highlights of the 42nd ASEAN Summit, 10-11 May 2023,
Labuan Bajo, Indonesia**
Date : 12 May 2023

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

The Department respectfully transmits the following documents of the recently concluded 42nd ASEAN Summit held on 10-11 May 2023 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia:

1. Highlights of the six (6) ASEAN Leaders'-level engagements; and
2. List and online links to the Outcome Documents adopted/noted/welcome/issued by the Leaders.

The highlights of the 15th Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit on 11 May 2023 in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia, are also attached for reference.

Very truly yours,
For the Secretary for Foreign Affairs:

DANIEL R. ESPIRITU
Assistant Secretary

Attachments: as stated.

ALL AMTB AGENCIES.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 42ND ASEAN SUMMIT
10-11 May 2023
Labuan Bajo, Indonesia

The 42nd ASEAN Summit was hosted by Indonesia as Chair of ASEAN this year. This is the first Summit that Timor-Leste attended as an Observer, following the decision of the Leaders at the 40th and 41st ASEAN Summits in November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The ASEAN Leaders adopted, issued, and noted 18 outcome documents, among them the *ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Combating Trafficking in Persons Caused by the Abuse of Technology*, the *ASEAN Declaration on the Placement and Protection of Migrant Fishers*, and the *ASEAN Declaration on the Protection of Migrant Workers and Family Members in Crisis Situations*. The Leaders also adopted the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN.

Further, in view of recent developments in Myanmar, the 42nd ASEAN Summit adopted the *ASEAN Leaders' Statement on the Recent Attack on a Convoy of the AHA Centre and ASEAN Monitoring Team in Myanmar*.

Key highlights of the Leaders'-level Meetings during the 42nd ASEAN Summit held on 10-11 May 2023, are as follows:

I. 42nd ASEAN Summit (Plenary), 10 May 2023

The 42nd ASEAN Summit discussed ASEAN's community-building efforts under the theme of Indonesia's Chairship, "ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth."

The Chair underscored the importance of remaining relevant in the face of regional and global challenges. In the short-term, ASEAN must resolve the situation in Myanmar and maintain the stability of the Indo-Pacific region; and in the long-term, ASEAN must strengthen respect for human rights and realize a nuclear free zone in the region.

The ASEAN Secretary-General delivered a progress report on ASEAN's Community-building efforts across the Community pillars, highlighting that ASEAN is the 5th largest economy in the world and is on track to be the 4th largest by 2030. The Secretary-General noted that ASEAN Unity and Centrality is critical given that the capacity of ASEAN in upholding food and energy security continues to be challenged and that transitioning to a low-carbon economy is increasingly pressing.

On the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision, the Secretary General informed the Leaders on the progress of the work of the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV), including the development of the Post-2025 Vision, which will be submitted to the ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) in September for in-principle endorsement.

On the situation in Myanmar, the Secretary-General reported on the progress made in the provision of humanitarian assistance by the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre). The Secretary-

General further reported that the AHA Centre has completed the ASEAN Joint Needs Assessment (JNA). To address the needs identified in the JNA report, an estimated total budget of USD 1.01 billion is required to implement priority actions covering the humanitarian needs of Myanmar.

On Timor-Leste's membership in ASEAN, the Leaders expressed its support for Timor-Leste's membership in ASEAN and adopted the Roadmap for Timor-Leste's Full Membership in ASEAN and its Annexes.

On ASEAN's decision-making process, Indonesia, as Chair, called for ASEAN to be effective and timely in its decision-making especially in times of emergency without amending the Charter. The Chair further emphasized that the work and outcomes for enhancing ASEAN's decision-making processes should be concluded by the 43rd ASEAN Summit.

Other concerns that ASEAN Leaders raised include the urgent need to address climate change, and ensure energy and food security in the region, as well as promote regional financial stability. ASEAN Leaders also agreed to strengthen efforts in the protection of migrant workers, as well as to address human trafficking exacerbated by the abuse of technology.

In addition, ASEAN Leaders agreed to bolster regional efforts to promote trade and investment, provide support for MSMEs, accelerate ASEAN's digital transformation, and work towards the upgrade of ASEAN Free Trade Agreements, including the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA), the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand FTA, and the ASEAN-China FTA.

Some ASEAN Leaders emphasized the importance of the conclusion of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement, the implementation of the ASEAN Power Grid, and the need to review and consider the expansion of ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangements in certain sectors.

The President, during his intervention:

- Called on ASEAN to uphold international law and the international rules-based system, which underpins the peace, security, stability, and prosperity of the region.
- Welcomed Indonesia's ASEAN Chairship priority of strengthening regional cooperation to address cross-border crimes, particularly Trafficking in Persons caused by the misuse of technology, and to mainstream the protection of migrant workers and their families in crisis situations.
- Emphasized that ASEAN should demonstrate its commitment to the principles of free trade and to the multilateral trading system.
- Announced that the Philippines deposited its Instrument of Ratification for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement noting that RCEP will help build more resilient supply chains and support the integration of MSMEs into the global economy.
- Called for ASEAN to strengthen cross-border connectivity and the interoperability of digital frameworks.

- Stressed the need to ensure food and energy systems to be resilient amidst supply and price fluctuations.
 - Called on ASEAN to address the concerns of an ageing population in the region.
- Announced the Philippines' efforts to transition to renewable and alternative energy technologies.
- Called on ASEAN to enhance regional cooperation towards boosting the region's strategic industrial metals and minerals value chain.
- Emphasized that ASEAN must urge developed countries to their commitments to the Paris Agreement and support the adaptation and mitigation efforts of countries vulnerable to climate change through technology transfer, capacity building, and climate financing.
- Highlighted the work of the ASEAN Centre of Biodiversity in the conversation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - Called on ASEAN to provide whole-of-community support to Timor-Leste towards its eventual full membership.
 - On the ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision, noted the need for the Vision to be bolder, more decisive, and cohesive.

II. 42nd ASEAN Summit (Retreat Session), 11 May 2023

The Retreat Session discussed political-security concerns affecting the region and the world which includes, among others, the Implementation of the Five-Point Consensus on Myanmar and ASEAN Leaders' Decision on the situation in Myanmar; and the Implementation of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP).

On the situation in Myanmar, the Leaders of ASEAN generally agreed that there is a need to engage all stakeholders in Myanmar to facilitate a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Leaders of ASEAN reiterated their support for the Five-Point Consensus and expressed support to Indonesia for its efforts as the Special Envoy of ASEAN on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus.

Some ASEAN Member States stressed that isolating and condemning Myanmar will not facilitate a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Myanmar and that ASEAN's approach to Myanmar needs to take into account its historical and political context. Some ASEAN Member States proposed to decouple the political dimension of the conflict from the armed struggle, and suggested that ASEAN encourage efforts to promote peace talks between parties to the conflict in Myanmar through formal and informal engagements. Some ASEAN Member States suggested that ASEAN acknowledge the SAC's announcement on 9 May 2023 of partial political amnesty for armed opponents with the use of the term "federalism," as the SAC's attempt at flexibility. These Member States conveyed that ASEAN may be able to use the SAC's initiative in order to hold the SAC into account, as well as promote an enabling environment for parties to the conflict to search for a Myanmar-owned and Myanmar-led solution.

Some ASEAN Member States noted that ASEAN should be realistic about its ability to influence events in Myanmar and that it will take time before there is progress in Myanmar. Meanwhile, ASEAN should continue to promote efforts towards the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus, particularly the provision of humanitarian assistance to Myanmar, and maintain the non-political representation of Myanmar at the ASEAN Summit and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings. Some ASEAN Member

States emphasized that ASEAN's Centrality and its credibility is dependent on its ability to facilitate a peaceful solution in Myanmar and that the continuing crisis in Myanmar will affect ASEAN Community-building and its relations with its partners.

On geopolitical rivalries and great power competition, ASEAN Member States stressed that ASEAN's Centrality in the region, ASEAN-led mechanisms, and constructive cooperation and engagement with ASEAN's partners in line with the AOIP, should be strengthened.

Some ASEAN Member States noted that the Russian invasion of Ukraine undermined the rules-based multilateral order and not only tore apart relations between Russia and the US, and Russia and the EU, but also complicated ties between China and the EU, and between China and the US. Some ASEAN Member States stressed that ASEAN seeks to promote an open and inclusive region and does not want to choose sides in the midst of major power rivalries in the region.

Some ASEAN Member States conveyed that ASEAN's institutions and ASEAN's flexibility is a strength that will allow it to mediate among major powers by creating diplomatic space that allows for constructive dialogues between and among concerned parties. ASEAN should continue to bring different nations together to adopt common outcomes in addressing shared challenges, which will serve to enhance its role in promoting regional peace and maintain its strategic relevance in the regional architecture.

The President during his intervention:

- Called on ASEAN to play a leading role in shaping an open, inclusive and rules-based international order.
- Highlighted that the rules-based regional architecture should be underpinned by the Centrality of ASEAN towards inclusive engagement in the Indo-Pacific, as exemplified in the AOIP.
- Emphasized that ASEAN should come-up with a decision-making system that is innovative, flexible, effective, and timely.
- As the Lead Shepherd for the cooperation against Trafficking in Persons, the Philippines will strengthen engagement with partners in addressing trafficking-in-persons.
- On the South China Sea:
 - Emphasized that the Philippines will remain firm in upholding and protecting our entitlements under UNCLOS.
 - Urged all countries to abide by the 1982 UNCLOS and to ensure that the South China Sea does not become a nexus for armed conflict.
 - Reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to the full and effective implementation of the DOC, and the early conclusion of a COC.

- On the situation in Myanmar:
 - The Philippines called for constructive engagement with concerned parties in Myanmar at all levels.
 - The President stressed that ASEAN must continue to strongly urge the utmost restraint and immediate cessation of violence in Myanmar.
 - Called on Myanmar to abide by and implement the Five-Point Consensus, and for external partners to complement ASEAN's efforts in the context of the Five-Point Consensus.
 - Supported Indonesia's initiatives on the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus.

On other regional and international issues, the President:

- Underscored the need for the DPRK to abide by prevailing UN Security Council Resolutions and to engage in dialogue with concerned parties towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.
- Expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis and the continuing economic impact caused by the Russia and Ukraine conflict, especially the possible escalation of the conflict through the use of nuclear weapons and urged countries concerned to search for a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

III. ASEAN Leaders' Interfaces

Interfaces with the Leaders by ASEAN bodies and stakeholders were also conducted on the sidelines of the 42nd ASEAN Summit on 10 May 2023, as follows:

A. ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

The President of the 44th AIPA highlighted AIPA's theme, "Responsive Parliaments for a Stable and Prosperous ASEAN". The Interface discussed efforts to enhance regional integration, including the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

AIPA called on the Leaders to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the region; as well as to promote sustainable economic growth in the region and enhance ASEAN's resilience, with a focus on energy and food security, among others.

AIPA further encouraged promoting green investment; equitable, and sustainable finance; improving the operational efficiency of ASEAN mechanisms; and promoting innovation, transfer, application and development of science and technology for growth and sustainable development.

The Philippines highlighted the importance of open communication and effective collaboration between the executive and legislative bodies in addressing challenges, such as the trafficking of persons through the abuse of technology.

The President emphasized that AIPA can serve as a bridge to connect ASEAN with the people and encouraged AIPA to amplify the voice of ASEAN citizens in its collaboration with AIPA's foreign partners towards synergizing regional efforts to address climate change, transnational threats, and upholding a rules-based international order anchored in international law.

B. ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Youth

Representatives from the ASEAN Youth presented to the Leaders their recommendations from the 2023 ASEAN Youth Dialogue on Digital Development for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The ASEAN Youth encouraged ASEAN to include the youth in decision-making processes and called for strengthened commitment to achieve equitable and inclusive digital development for the SDGs in the region.

The Philippines called on ASEAN to take immediate action to prepare the ASEAN youth to maximize opportunities in the digital and creative economies, and to ensure that the youth are skilled to compete on a global scale as well as to develop expertise and forge linkages in their respective fields.

Furthermore, the Philippines stressed the challenges facing the youth today, including peace and security, education, traditional and social media, and the impact of climate change, among others. The Philippines highlighted that the Philippine youth are at the forefront of advocacies to mitigate climate change and encouraged ASEAN to involve the youth in addressing the region's pressing concerns.

C. ASEAN Leaders' Interface with Representatives of ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)

ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) Chairman Mohammad Arsjad Rasjid Prabu Mangkuningrat, who also chairs the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, cited that ASEAN-BAC's focus for 2023 are threefold: 1. Strengthen ASEAN centrality; 2. Capitalize on innovative solutions; and 3. Advocate inclusivity to enhance ASEAN resilience. He stated that ASEAN-BAC's focus is clear, to empower MSMEs through the ASEAN QR code project, which has secured strong support from government-to-government and business-to-business partners, to promote cross border payment and enhance financial inclusion through digital transformation. As such, Chairman Rasjid backed President Marcos' call on aiding nano businesses in order to contribute to the overall economic growth of the region and narrow the gaps in development.

The Leaders stated their support for ASEAN-BAC and agreed that business sectors play an important role in accelerating sustainable economic development in a complex and changing environment. The Leaders also noted that ASEAN-BAC remains an important partner for ASEAN in its quest to strengthen supply chain connectivity, job

creation, facilities and access to funds for MSMEs, drive digital transformation, enhance food security, promote health resilience, and foster sustainable development.

The President, during his intervention stated that the Philippines fully recognizes the importance of the private sector as the main engine of ASEAN's economic activity, particularly in the logistics supply chain of goods and services across the region.

The Philippines reiterated the need to continue efforts to keep up with the rapid digital transformation of our region and to capitalize on e-commerce and digitalization to advance the trade agenda, enhance cross-border trade, and foster economic integration.

In addition, the President called on Leaders' to aid "Nano" businesses or "solopreneurs" and their contribution to overall economic growth and to narrow gaps in development; as well as noted that the Philippines supports ABAC's proposal on strengthening food security, promoting sustainable production, enhancing information systems, and identifying nutrition-enhancing agriculture mechanisms for sustainable ASEAN food systems.

D. ASEAN Leaders' Interface with High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV)

Indonesia, as Co-Chair of the HLTF-ACV this year, presented to the Leaders the progress of work accomplished by the HLTF-ACV, including key agreements such as the 20-year timeframe of the Vision. The Co-Chair further reported that the HLTF-ACV is expected to finalize and submit the draft Vision Statement to the ASEAN Coordinating Council for its in-principle endorsement at the latest in the fourth quarter this year. The Vision will include global challenges and opportunities for ASEAN and the future direction of ASEAN, among others.

The Philippines lauded the HLTF-ACV for achieving significant milestones in their work, including its *Recommendations on Strengthening ASEAN's Capacity and Institutional Effectiveness*. The Philippines stressed the importance of addressing geopolitical and geoeconomic challenges as a cohesive ASEAN Community by strengthening ASEAN Centrality and actively reinforcing a global order anchored in international law.

The Philippines called on ASEAN to be adaptive, decisive, and timely in its decision-making and further called on HLTF-ACV to develop an ASEAN Community Post-2025 Vision that is responsive, agile, stable, and inclusive.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 15th BRUNEI DARUSSALAM-INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-
PHILIPPINES EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA (BIMP-EAGA) SUMMIT**

11 May 2023

Labuan Bajo, Indonesia

The 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit, chaired by Malaysia's Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, discussed developments in the BIMP-EAGA subregion on the progress towards achieving the BIMP-EAGA Vision (BEV) 2025 goals. The BIMP-EAGA Leaders discussed strengthening subregional cooperation and enhancing collaboration with the ASEAN Economic Community.

The BIMP-EAGA Leaders adopted the Joint Statement of the 15th BIMP-EAGA Summit. The Asian Development Bank also presented to the Leaders the results of the midterm review of the BEV 2025.

The President, during his intervention:

- Welcomed developments under the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 towards promoting economic development, seamless regional connectivity and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Called for increased collaboration in BIMP-EAGA in order to position the sub-region as a well-connected, economically thriving, multi-country trade, investment, and tourism destination;
- Stated that the Philippine Government supports the increased focus of the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 on broad strategies to align sub-regional pandemic recovery and transformation efforts with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework, particularly in the areas of food security, creative industries and e-commerce, tourism recovery, and green recovery;
- Called on Leaders' to support "Nano" businesses, which will contribute to sub-regional economic growth and narrow the gaps in BIMP-EAGA's development;
- Underscored the importance of BIMP-EAGA's synergies and partnerships with external partners, such as the Asian Development Bank, Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, and the Northern Territory of Australia and expressed appreciation for the BIMP-EAGA-Korea Cooperation Fund (BKCF) and the increase of the Republic of Korea's contribution from US\$1 million in 2021 to US\$3 million in 2022, where the Philippines benefited from projects in the Environment, Tourism, and Connectivity Sectors.