

MESSAGE OF AMBASSADOR KAZUHIDE ISHIKAWA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

ARRIVAL AND COMMISSIONING CEREMONY OF THE “MARITIME AND SAFETY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD”

07 March 2017 11:00 AM

Speaker PANTALEON ALVAREZ;

Secretary ARTHUR TUGADE;

Officer in Charge, Philippine Coast Guard JOEL GARCIA;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Good morning / Magandang umaga po.

It is my great pleasure and honor to attend this ceremony this morning and would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the turnover and commissioning of BRP MALAPASCUA. “MALAPASCUA” is the third of ten (10) multi-role response vessels following “TUBBATAHA” and “MALABRIGO”, financed and built by Japan to help improve the Philippine Coast Guard’s (PCG) capabilities to quickly address maritime operations such as patrol, search and rescue, and law enforcement.

As mentioned by President Rodrigo Duterte in his speech during the commissioning of the first vessel TUBBATAHA last October, “we have a long history of friendship and cooperation” between two countries and recent events have shown significant milestones.

It is still a fresh memory for us that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was most enthusiastically welcomed by the Filipinos both in Manila and Davao last January.

At the summit meeting, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe clearly stated that Japan would continue to assist the Philippines in its endeavor to develop the society, in a wide range of fields such as infrastructure improvement, human resource development, poverty reduction and others, using Japanese technology and knowledge.

In regard to security and terrorism countermeasures, our two leaders witnessed not only the conclusion of an exchange of notes for the provision of compact speed boats and other equipment for further improvement of the PCG capacity, but also the signing of “Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard”.

We are confident that this MOC will further strengthen the relationship between our two Coast Guards in the future.

Just like the “TUBBATAHA” and “MALABRIGO”, the “MALAPASCUA” will further attest to the friendship between Japan and the Philippines. I would like to conclude my remarks by reconfirming that we will continue to work together with the Government of the Philippines to further deepen our ties.

Thank you for your attention and Mabuhay!