

Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the Signing and Exchange of Notes for the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project (III)

4 February 2026, 10:00AM, DFA Double Dragon Tower

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

I am truly delighted and honored to be here with you all today to sign this important agreement that will ensure the continued rehabilitation of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3).

For many years, Japan's Official Development Assistance, or ODA, has been a steady partner in the Philippines' journey toward sustainable development. One area where this partnership truly made and will continue to make a difference is public transportation. Reliable transport is not only essential to economic growth, but also for improving the daily lives of ordinary citizens. Through various forms of support, Japan is proud to contribute to the advancement of the Philippine railway system. Japan's railway experts are, in fact, involved in almost all of the Philippines' railway projects.

Since its opening in 1999, the MRT-3 has been an essential part of everyday life in Metro Manila, carrying hundreds of thousands of passengers everyday. Over time, however, aging facilities and operational challenges affected the quality of service. Thus, Japanese companies worked closely with Philippine partners,

bringing technical expertise, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility to the rehabilitation of the line. The concessional loan that we formally agreed today will allow for the continued rehabilitation and maintenance of this key railway infrastructure. I sincerely hope that, through our joint efforts, MRT-3 will continue to provide safer, more reliable, and more convenient service for commuters.

Today's Exchange of Notes reflects the trust and cooperation between our two countries and strengthens our confidence as we move forward together.

This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines. I hope this milestone will further strengthen our friendship and open the door to even broader cooperation in the years ahead. Japan remains firmly committed to standing alongside the Philippines as a trusted partner in its development and security.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved for their hard work and dedication. As always, it is an honor to be an important partner of the Philippine government in providing a more comfortable life for the Filipinos through the development of high-quality infrastructure.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay ang ating pagkakaibigan!