

Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the Japan-Philippines Business Dialogue on Infrastructure and PPP Opportunities

23 April 2026

Athletics Stadium, New Clark City

Isang karangalan na makasama ko kayo ngayong umaga.

I am honored and delighted to join all of you here today for Japan-Philippines Business Dialogue on Infrastructure and PPP Opportunities.

Collaboration between the public and private sectors is critical in all industries. In the energy sector, the critical importance of this partnership has become even more crystal clear in view of recent developments in global oil markets. How the private sector and public sector should work together to enhance resilience, to establish more effective and efficient energy supply will remain one of the most significant agenda for energy policy, in oil and gas supply chain or in promoting renewables or nuclear power. The CBK hydropower project, the only pumped storage power generation, has been privatized, with Japanese companies participating in its operation. The hydro power plant is expected to be operated even more efficiently with the larger function by the private sector. In addition, through Official Development Assistance, Japanese companies have made significant contributions to infrastructure development in the Philippines—participating in major railway projects such as the maintenance of MRT-3, operation of LRT-1 and the construction Metro Manila Subway and the North–South Commuter Railway. Road projects like the Davao City Bypass are also ongoing. These examples clearly demonstrate the effectiveness and potential of public–private collaboration, and we look forward to further deepening this partnership in the years ahead.

As we are all aware, PPP has quite a wide range of variances. Type of new assets can vary from schools, roads, airports, railways, energy to defense facilities. The functions for which the private party is responsible can also vary from design, build or rehabilitation, finance, maintain to operate. Payment mechanism can be collecting fees from users, paid by the government or various combinations of those. Each country has its own legislative system to promote PPP, including Japan's Private Finance Initiative Act and the Public Private Partnership Code of the Philippines, one of the great achievements under the current administration.

This year holds special significance as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines, under the theme "Weaving the Future Together: Peace, Prosperity, Possibilities." This theme beautifully encapsulates the spirit of partnership and shared vision that has grown over decades. Indeed, public-private partnership stands at the core of our bilateral cooperation and serves as a vital framework for accelerating infrastructure development and economic growth.

From the perspective of the Japanese government, infrastructure development is the foundation in fostering economic growth, disaster resilience, and social equity. We firmly believe that modern, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure is essential for the Philippines to realize its full potential and improve quality of life for its people.

Today's dialogue provides a valuable opportunity to share knowledge and experience toward achieving sustainable and high-quality infrastructure through PPP. I am confident that the dialogue will further deepen our cooperative

relationship in the years ahead. Now, in the field of defense cooperation, joint exercise “Balikatan 2026” is currently ongoing. “*Balikatan*” literally mean ‘shoulder to shoulder’ in Tagalog. I hope that Japanese companies will continue to actively participate in PPP projects in the Philippines, work shoulder to shoulder with Filipino counterparts and contribute to the sustainable development of both countries.

Maraming salamat po.

Mabuhay ang Bagong Pilipinas!

Mabuhay ang Build Better More!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!