



## Office of the President of the Philippines

### STATEMENT Telephone Conversation with H.E. XI JINPING PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA 11 June 2020

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte had a productive, open and focused telephone conversation with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China on the evening of 11 June 2020.

President Duterte and President Xi committed to work together in further strengthening bilateral, regional and global efforts to combat COVID-19 and underscored the importance of international solidarity to effectively address the pandemic's health and socio-economic impact.

President Duterte stressed the need for cooperation in research trials for COVID-19 vaccine and treatments. While noting China's vaccine development program, President Duterte emphasized the imperative of making vaccines accessible and affordable to all countries, including the Philippines.

For his part, President Xi reiterated China's commitment to the international community to make any vaccine it develops a global public good and that as a friendly neighbor, China certainly considers the Philippines as a priority.

Both leaders discussed progress in their respective Governments' fight against COVID-19 and crucial strategies to restart economies under the new normal. President Duterte received President Xi's full support on ensuring supply chain connectivity particularly in critical medical supplies and equipment, promoting the free flow of goods and resuming and completing priority infrastructure cooperation projects in the Philippines.

President Xi underscored gratitude for the Philippines' support for China's own fight against COVID-19, including the Philippines' goodwill donation to the city of Wuhan, describing this as acts of kindness that shall be returned many times more.

The two leaders likewise reviewed Philippines-China relations, noting the value of the friendship and the significantly increasing cooperation in wide areas of mutual interest.

Both leaders expressed appreciation for each other's very warm written messages on the occasion of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-China diplomatic relations. The exchange of letters demonstrated shared commitment to strengthen comprehensive strategic cooperation and articulated the resolve to uphold peace, stability, prosperity and principles of international law, including the rule of law.

President Xi likewise extended warm wishes to President Duterte and the Filipino people on the occasion of the 122<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Philippine Independence.

The phone conversation between the two leaders lasted 38 minutes. **END**