

## **Presidential Communications Operations Office**

### **Presidential News Desk**

#### **SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE ARRIVAL OF ASTRAZENECA COVID-19 VACCINES FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

[Delivered at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City | 08 July 2021]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III; National Task Force Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr.; the Embassy of Japan represented by Economic Minister Masahiro Nakata; Senator Bong Go, chairperson Senate Committee on Health; National Task Force Deputy Chief Implementer Secretary Vivencio Dizon; Presidential Assistant on Foreign Affairs Robert Borje; other distinguished guests; fellow workers in government; ladies and gentlemen.

Let me thank the Government of Japan and the Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga for working with the Philippine government in ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. These more than one million doses of AstraZeneca vaccine will surely go a long way in our quest for herd immunity.

Japan continues to be our strong partner in various development programs. Our cooperation in fighting the pandemic is truly an indication of the deep friendship between our two countries.

I commend the National Task Force Against COVID-19, and the Department of Health for ensuring the successful delivery, distribution, and rollout of vaccines across the country.

Let me assure everyone that, throughout our vaccination roll out, we will prioritize the safety and quality of all the vaccines that we are distributing across the country.

Our health authorities are also actively collaborating with their international counterparts in continuing studies on vaccine safety and efficacy.

Again, I express my heartfelt gratitude to Japan for all the assistance you have extended to our country during this challenging time.

By providing cold chain transport and ancillaries, you have enabled us to ensure the safe and efficient transport of these vaccines and preserve its quality and integrity.

To my fellow Filipinos, please know that we remain committed to acquiring a sufficient supply of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines for all of our countrymen.

I therefore urge everyone to get vaccinated and help prevent the further spread of the virus. We should all continue to follow safety and health protocols, even when fully vaccinated.

Together, let us beat the pandemic and ensure our way towards a better and brighter tomorrow.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

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