

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING HIS ATTENDANCE TO THE PUREGOLD SARI-SARI STORE NEGOSYO
CONVENTION 2022**

[Delivered at the World Trade Center Lobby in Pasay City | 18 May 2022]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

Nakalagay dito, “Mr. President, we are live on television.” Kaya takot sila magmura ako. [laughter] I assure you I’m quite behaved nowadays.

Senator Bong Go; officials and employees of Puregold Price Club Inc. led by Chairman Lucio Co; Chairwoman Susan Co; President Ferdinand Vincent Co; Puregold trade partners and suppliers in attendance; ladies and gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to join everyone today as the Puregold Price Club, Inc. holds its 14th Puregold – Tindahan ni Aling Puring Negosyo Convention.

This administration has always recognized Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises as one of the backbones of our economy. With the countless jobs that SMEs produce for the country’s growing labor force, they aid in our aim to utilize our people’s talents and in our fight to reduce hunger and poverty.

And if the COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized anything, it is that SMEs are vulnerable to external shocks such as financial crises, disasters, and forced changes in the business movement and environment.

I thus wish to stress that this activity that Puregold has created is significant and truly worth commending.

As our SMEs are exposed to meaningful exchanges with suppliers, manufacturers and fellow entrepreneurs, they are pushed to adopt innovations and strategies that would help them achieve stability and success.

Let me thus express my immense gratitude to Puregold not only for conducting this event, but also for making it the company’s fundamental purpose to assist small businesses like the sari-sari stores.

In the years to come, it is my genuine hope that Puregold will continue to devise enabling business practices for its customers and stakeholders.

It is also my desire that, as it has always been in the past, Puregold will remain a dedicated partner of the government in working for a progressive economy that every Filipino may enjoy.

Before my pasasalamat, ako rin ay — mayroon akong papasalamat rin. For those who believe in me and for — I am on my tail end sa presidency ko. Pero ‘yung tumulong sa akin, nagsuporta all these years at ‘yung umintindi ng mga hangarin ko sa ating bayan and who have brought me, kayo, sa pagka-Presidente ko for six years, I would like to express my gratitude sa inyo at maraming salamat po.

Thank you. [applause]

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