

**Speech of Secretary Martin Andanar**  
**Acceptance of the Sulong Pilipinas Recommendations**  
**On behalf of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte**  
Proposed Draft as of 2 July 2019

*Pleasantries.*

The Duterte administration thanks all of you for your participation in today's Sulong Pilipinas, the first of 2019. This government places strong emphasis on the wider public's input in the crafting of public policy, as Sulong workshops over the past three years have shown. Indeed: the contributions you have made cannot be understated.

During the inaugural 2016 Sulong, for example, participants gave feedback on the administration's Socioeconomic Agenda and recommended game-changing reforms, a number of which the government has since delivered. These include a few packages of the comprehensive tax reform program; Build, Build, Build; the National ID System; and the Ease of Doing Business Law.

Following a 2017 Sulong recommendation, we now have the Universal Health Care Law and a new tobacco tax measure to help finance it. Meanwhile, recommendations from last year's Sulong are helping to guide the administration's push for reforms in agriculture.

Over the past three years, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte has shown the political will to get reform done. The President continues to enjoy broad public support, even after difficult but necessary reforms, in large part because these reforms were requests from and promises made to the public. The recent midterm election results demonstrate overwhelming public approval of the President's vision. With this renewed mandate and the continuing support of the Filipino people, the administration will press ahead with game-changing reforms and decisive government action.

Today marks the beginning of the second half of President Duterte's term. While much has already been achieved, this milestone also reminds us to continue the difficult work of *tunay na pagbabago*. This is why we believe that this year's Sulong Pilipinas carries with it a greater sense of urgency. Your

recommendations will help shape government direction in this crucial second half, as the administration redoubles its efforts to complete its human capital development and inclusive growth agenda. Your recommendations, too, will allow us to sustain our position of economic and fiscal strength, and guide us in our transition from national stability to prosperity and a comfortable life for all.

On behalf of President Duterte, I accept the top recommendations from today's Sulong Pilipinas workshop. These recommendations, together with those from forthcoming Sulong Pilipinas conferences later this year, will be given serious consideration. We will, of course, report back to you on progress made.

Again: we deeply appreciate your active engagement. Your support will be decisive in ensuring that we are able to make continued progress toward our country's ambitions of eradicating extreme poverty and building a prosperous society by 2040. The President takes your participation today as a sign of your commitment to working with government, so that we can continue our ambitious agenda of *tunay na pagbabago*.

Thank you very much, and good day to all.