**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

**DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 32ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE FEDERATION OF FILIPINO-CHINESE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC. (FFCCCII)**

**Function Hall 5, SMX Convention Center, Pasay City**

**21 March 2019**

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

Former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez and other members of the Cabinet; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Dr. Lucio Tan, FFCCCII Chairman Emeritus; Honorary presidents and members of the Federation of the Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. led by its President Mr. Domingo Yap; Other distinguished guests; Ladies and gentlemen.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable contributions of the Chinese-Filipino community to the greater economic, social and cultural development of our country by devoting your resources to the improvement of our society. The Federation has consistently played a vital role in ushering a period of greater cooperation, understanding not only in the promotion of business and trade, but also in facing various challenges that we face as a nation.

For more than six decades, your organization has spearheaded various initiatives that sought to improve the well-being of our people, especially the youth and the less privileged. Your disaster relief efforts, medical missions and other interventions during calamities, and the construction of thousands of school buildings, classrooms and rehabilitation facilities are a testament to your selflessness and commitment to give back to the community. 16

As you gather for this convention, I hope that you will be inspired to pursue greater collaboration among your members as you remain committed to help other people through your charitable works.

May the strides of your organization have made in recent years encourage you to come up with more initiatives that will enhance the growth of your industries and cultivate a greater business environment in the country.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support of this administration’s fight against the scourge of corruption, criminality and illegal drugs. Through your deeds, you have become our important partner in building the foundations of a more inclusive and sustainable society.

Indeed, the meaningful ties of friendship forged between Chinese and Filipinos have enabled us to empower our people, especially those who are vulnerable and marginalized. It is my hope that your remarkable traits and values will continue to fuel your pursuit of a dynamic and vibrant Chinese-Filipino business community that contributes to our nation’s overall advancement.

Together, let us work building a stronger and a more progressive Philippines.

Thank you.

\*W\*M\*