

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.'s  
TOAST REMARKS AT THE OFFICIAL LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF  
PRESIDENT SURANGEL WHIPPS JR. OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU**

Kalayaan Hall, Malacañan Palace  
February 24, 2025

[00:00:00]

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.:** His Excellency President Surangel Whipps Jr.; First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos; the honorable members of the Philippine and Palauan Delegations; ladies and gentlemen. A pleasant afternoon.

I am honored to have President Whipps Jr. with us in Manila today for his official visit to the Philippines. Sir, your welcome visit comes only a few months after your country's very peaceful elections, reflecting the importance that you place in our bilateral partnership. Allow me to extend my gratitude for this extension of friendship and congratulate you for the successful and peaceful elections that demonstrated to the world the strength of Palau's democracy.

Our bilateral relations have much potential to grow, as evident in the discussions and agreements that we forged this morning. These agreements form the building blocks of the new phase in our relations. We thank the government of Palau for ensuring the welfare of the 4,000 Filipinos who have lived and worked in your country and for recognizing their contribution to Palau's development.

Under President Whipps' able leadership, I have no doubt that, as we approach our third decade of diplomatic relations, our discussions today will reinvigorate not only our bilateral relationships and cooperation but also our partnership in regional and multilateral fora.

As we raise our glasses, let us remember the solidarity between Filipinos and Palauans throughout our history, and let it be our guide to a promising shared future between our two countries.

Therefore, allow me to ask you to join me in a toast to the good health and well-being of President Whipps, to the continued prosperity of Palau, and the well-being of its people, and to the enduring partnership between the Philippines and Palau.

Mabuhay! Cheers!

[00:02:13]

MODERATOR: May we invite His Excellency President Surangel Whipps Jr. to deliver his remarks.

[00:02:37]

**PALAU PRESIDENT SURANGEL WHIPPS JR.:** Your Excellency, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.; First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, distinguished colleagues and friends.

It is truly a great pleasure for us to be here in the beautiful Philippines, and we want to acknowledge the warm hospitality, and of course, I think the Filipino spirit that just makes us feel at home. So, thank you very much for bringing us together and allowing us to be here.

You know, the Philippines, Manila, is the closest foreign capital to Palau. So, you are our closest capital, so it's fitting that— so soon after our inauguration, we're here to visit our friends. I like to say we're part of our Pacific family. We have a long-shared history and today has been a very productive day. I think it allowed us to further expand and enhance the strong relationship that we have, and most importantly, bring our two peoples and our countries closer together.

You know, our human resources are our most valuable asset, and we are truly grateful for the 4,000 Filipino people that have called Palau home because they are part of our development. They are part of our community and they have helped us build a strong nation.

We are here to further strengthen that bond in agriculture, healthcare and to provide business opportunities. We encourage Philippine investment in Palau. We are grateful for this wonderful lunch that's being hosted today and the opportunity to spend time with Your Excellency and First Lady.

So, if I can make a toast to President Marcos, First Lady Marcos, to your good health and to the prosperity and peace of the people of the Philippines.

Cheers!

[00:05:17]



***BAGONG PILIPINAS***