



**[DELIVERED]
MESSAGE**



**Monday, 19 January 2026 | 10.00 - 10.45 GMT+8
Daniel Z. Romualdez Hall | House of Representatives
Manila, The Philippines**

*His Excellency **Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III**, President of AIPA
and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines*

*Honourable **Maria Rachel J. Arenas**, Senior Vice-Chairperson,
and Chair of Special Committee on ASEAN Affairs*

*Excellency, Heads of Mission of ASEAN Member States and
Observer Countries*

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Magandang umaga,

1. It is my distinct privilege and profound personal honour that I join you today for the official launching of the Philippines' Presidency of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly 2026. This occasion is both symbolic and strategic, marking not only the commencement of a new Presidency, but also the opening of an important chapter for our parliamentary community at a pivotal moment in ASEAN's journey.
2. Allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to the House of Representatives and to the people of the Republic of the Philippines on assuming this significant responsibility. The AIPA Presidency is not merely a rotational mandate; it is a stewardship of vision, values, and collective trust, entrusted to guide parliamentary cooperation in support of a stronger, more united ASEAN.
3. Today's launching is especially meaningful. It presents not only a theme, but a shared narrative, expressed through clearly defined priorities, a unifying logo, and a song that speaks to our collective aspirations.
4. The theme of the Philippines' AIPA Presidency 2026, **"Parliaments Securing a Peaceful, Prosperous, and People-Centred ASEAN,"** is both tone-setting and

visionary. As ASEAN enters the post-2025 era and begins the implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, this theme underscores the indispensable role of parliaments in ensuring that regional progress remains inclusive, responsive, and firmly anchored in the lived realities of our peoples.

5. The Philippines' AIPA Presidency 2026 articulates a clear and balanced vision across the three pillars of the ASEAN Community.
6. Under the **Political–Security pillar**, the emphasis on peace and stability carries special resonance as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC). For five decades, the TAC has served as ASEAN's compass for peace and security, anchoring our region in dialogue, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and meaningful cooperation as the foundations of our shared regional order. These same principles underpin ASEAN Centrality and the unity of our Member States, which remain essential anchors for regional peace and stability in an increasingly complex, unpredictable, unprecedented, and rapidly evolving global landscape. It is against this backdrop—marked by evolving maritime dynamics, cyber threats, digital disinformation, emerging technologies, and climate-induced disasters—that parliamentary diplomacy has a vital role to play in strengthening regional resilience.
7. Under the **Economic pillar**, the focus on Prosperity Corridors reflects a forward-looking approach to integration. As digital transformation and artificial intelligence reshape our economies, parliaments are called upon to provide enabling legislative frameworks that protects the safety of the business environment, promote innovation, strengthen connectivity, support MSMEs, and

ensure that growth remains sustainable and inclusive across our region.

8. Equally important is the **Socio-Cultural pillar**, framed around People Empowerment. This pillar reminds us that ASEAN's progress must ultimately be measured by its impact on everyday lives. Education, health, social protection, culture, and youth engagement are central to building a shared ASEAN identity. While technology offers unprecedented opportunities, it must be governed responsibly, so that innovation serves humanity, advances equity, and leaves no one behind. Access to information and the rapid spread of content on social media must be protected against fake content and other cyber-attacks.
9. Taken together, these priorities reflect a holistic and forward-looking vision of parliamentary leadership, fully aligned with ASEAN's theme, "***Navigating Our Future, Together.***" The Philippines' AIPA Presidency 2026 translates this collective aspiration into concrete parliamentary action—anchored in peace, prosperity, and people-centred governance.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The logo and song launched today are more than ceremonial symbolic expressions. They amply reflect unity, shared direction, and our collective responsibility as we move forward together against the background of our diversity, guided by a common identity and shared destiny.
11. As Secretary-General of AIPA, I wish to assure the Philippines of the full support and close cooperation of the AIPA Secretariat.
12. Having had the privilege, earlier in my career, to be closely engaged in ASEAN's formative processes, including

serving as the first SOM Leader of the Kingdom of Cambodia from 1995 to 2003, I have witnessed first-hand the value of consensus-building, trust, mutual respect, and esteem for principled cooperation in shaping our regional community. Guided by these enduring principles and ASEAN's rich institutional experience, the AIPA Secretariat stands ready to work hand in hand with the Philippines and all AIPA Member Parliaments to ensure a Presidency that is impactful, inclusive, and future-oriented.

13. I am confident that under the Philippines' able leadership, AIPA will further strengthen its role as a vital bridge between ASEAN's collective vision and the fulfilment of the aspirations of its peoples.
14. May this lofty Presidency deepen our shared ASEAN identity, elevate parliamentary diplomacy, and reaffirm our collective commitment to a peaceful, prosperous, and people-centred ASEAN Community.
15. I wish the Philippines every brilliant success in its 2026 AIPA Presidency.
16. Thank you, *maraming-maraming salamat!*

AIPA