

DFA MAIN LOBBY, 2330 ROXAS BOULEVARD

07 February 2013

Ladies and gentlemen good morning.



Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario delivers his statement during his joint press briefing with German Federal Foreign Minister Dr. Guido Westerwelle on 07 February 2013.

I am pleased to welcome His Excellency Dr. Guido Westerwelle and his delegation. This is the first visit of a German Federal Foreign Minister since His Excellency Joschka Fischer came to

Manila in July 2000. I am glad that Dr. Westerwelle could reciprocate my trip to Germany last December 2011.

This visit underscores the importance that we place to our long-standing relations and attest our mutual desire to further enhance our ties. It is significant as both countries prepare for the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2014.

Relations between the Philippines and Germany are very comprehensive and cut across multiple spheres. Ours has a history that is firmly founded on mutual respect and close ties in every level and all fields of cooperation that serve our mutual interests.

It is in this spirit that we convened our bilateral meeting in which we took up the following issues:

□ 1. Political consultation process

We agreed to hold the inaugural political consultation between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Germany Federal Foreign Office at the sub-ministerial level in Manila this year. The political consultation process, which are intended to be held regularly on an annual basis, will serve as a platform to discuss bilateral issues on a number of issues, including defense and security cooperation, education and cultural relations, labor and migration, trade, tourism and investment and many others. This way, we are able to harness our different agencies to speed up and focus bilateral cooperation towards concrete accomplishments.

□ 2. GPH-MILF Framework Agreement

I thanked Dr. Westerwelle for Germany's expression of support to the signing of the Framework Agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. I also expressed appreciation for Germany's assistance for socio-economic development projects in the areas covered by the Framework Agreement implemented under the 1971 Philippines-Germany Technical Cooperation Agreement and through the EU assistance program.

■ 3.Economic relations/Fraport issue

I am aware that most of you are eager to find out if we have solved the Fraport issue. The truth of the matter is that this problem is complicated and entails different layers of challenges. While we have not come up with a magical formula that would quickly make the issue disappear I have come to an understanding with Minister Westerwelle that we are looking forward to the positive resolution of the Fraport issue. Indeed, during our talks, we underscored the importance of finding a resolution to the NAIA Terminal III question. We are very optimistic about this considering the openness that both sides have expressed regarding possible options that we could explore.



Foreign Minister Dr. Westerwelle signs the guestbook upon arrival at the DFA Main Building.



The bilateral meeting between the Philippine delegation (left) and the German delegation (right) at the German Consulate in Pasay City.

The bilateral meeting between the Philippine delegation (left) and the German delegation (right) at the German Consulate in Pasay City.



Secretary del Rosario and German Foreign Minister Dr. Westerwelle during the joint press briefing.

~~On February 7, 2013, Secretary del Rosario and German Foreign Minister Dr. Westerwelle held a joint press briefing in the Grand Ballroom of the Philippine Presidential Palace in Manila. The two officials discussed the bilateral relationship between the Philippines and Germany, particularly in the areas of trade, investment, and education. Secretary del Rosario highlighted the Philippines' commitment to maintaining a peaceful and stable environment, while Dr. Westerwelle emphasized Germany's support for the Philippines' economic development and social progress. The briefing was attended by members of the media and government officials from both countries.~~