

**Speech by H.E. Annika Thunborg, Ambassador of Sweden to the Philippines, for Pioneering the Green Transition: Advancing Sustainable Mining**

Thank you Atty Bunye, and Good afternoon everyone. *Magandang hapon*, god eftermiddag as we say in Swedish.

It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you today. I especially would like to acknowledge the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources my dear friend “Toni” Yulo-Loyzaga and the Chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Mines, Atty Mike Toledo. Thank you so much for partnering with Team Sweden in this endeavor!

I also would like to welcome the Swedish delegation that has arrived from Stockholm, led by the Ambassador for Sustainable Business, Cecilia Ekholm. It is also very gratifying to see so many of the leaders from the Philippine and Swedish industry with us today. For you who have arrived from abroad, welcome to Manila! Mabuhay!

Ladies and gentlemen,

The partnership between Sweden and the Philippines dates back 77 years when we commenced diplomatic relations.

It was strengthened ten years ago with the socio-economic development of the Philippines. More people moved into the middle class, making it attractive for retail companies such as H&M and IKEA as well as BPO companies such as TransCom to establish themselves here.

With the launch of large infrastructure projects under successive Philippine governments, Swedish industrial companies – many present here today – saw an opportunity to expand operations. And our partnership really took off two years ago, when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. took office. We are now like-minded partners both politically, in terms of security policy and the commitment to international rule of law and the rules based

international order, and economically. We are glad that free trade negotiations between the EU and the Philippines have recommenced.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We in Team Sweden – which is the Embassy and Business Sweden – have over the last couple of years seen projects develop in sectors from transport, defense and digitalization to energy, circular economy, and health. Today, it is time to take another step forward, in the area of sustainable mining.

Sweden has a long history of mining. With the second industrial revolution in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, our mining and metal refining industry took off and became - when paired with innovation – a key factor in our development from a poor country to a welfare society.

Today, Sweden is EU's leading ore and metal producer and among the leading producers of base and precious metals thus driving technological change and the green transition globally. Mining is a pivotal industry supporting different sectors. It is key to sustaining the global action in reducing greenhouse gas emissions wherein electrification has been identified as one of the solutions. The availability of metals and minerals remains crucial today as economies commit to meet internationally agreed climate goals. They remain crucial when replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric ones.

Sweden has developed metallurgical and mechanical industry including smelting and alloy refinement. This has produced cutting-edge global equipment suppliers. Academia and research and development collaborate closely with the mining industry paving the way for innovative solutions that we believe could be of interest to the Philippines.

Sweden has always attributed its success to the quadruple helix model, i.e. the close collaboration between the private sector and academia with the support of the public sector – whose responsibility it is to create incentives and regulate, put in place policies, standards and fiscal instruments as well as complement the private sector with investments to fulfill the public good. The inclusion of civil society is the fourth pillar in the

quadruple helix, the engagement of local communities to ensure a win-win situation for everyone and thus sustainable and resilient development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We welcome the recent developments in mining in the Philippines and congratulate the DENR and the mining industry in the forging of a landmark agreement to pursue policy reforms aimed at making the local mining industry more sustainable and responsible. Sweden remains committed to support the Philippines in this endeavor. The pairing of Sweden's strengths - a strong mining ecosystem and environmentally and socially sound and safe mining solutions - along with the Philippines' thrust towards responsible and sustainable mining, lead to many opportunities to be tapped for further collaboration.

We look forward to exchanging views and experiences in this forum with the aim of forging a strong partnership in sustainable and responsible mining with the Philippine government, especially the DENR, the Chamber of Mines, and of course, the local mining companies as key partners and stakeholders.

Thank you very much! Tack! Maraming Salamat po!

**Ambassador Annika Thunborg – Interventions on Pioneering the Green Transition:  
Advancing Sustainable Mining Press Briefing 18 June 2024**

- My country Sweden remains committed in partnering with the Philippines in a wide range of sectors, from transport, health and defense and security, to energy, digitalization, and mining. We look forward to joining the journey in the development of sustainable and responsible mining in the Philippines.
- Very pleased that the EU and the Philippines have recommenced free trade negotiations.
- Also delighted with the multiple visits to the Philippines from Sweden, including high-level visits in areas of industry and trade, foreign policy, defense and security. We are thrilled to see the delegation visiting Manila this week, experts on sustainable mining from public and private sectors as well as academia. Led by my dear colleague Ambassador Cecilia Ekholm.
- The Advancing Sustainable Mining forum we are organizing today - Team Sweden together with the DENR and the Chamber of Mines - aims to

1. promote sustainable mining solutions and green technologies,
  2. create a platform to share Swedish knowledge and best practices as well as safety and innovation; and
  3. To engage stakeholders in the private and the public sectors, as well as academia. This also involves engaging local communities, in what we call the quadruple helix approach.
- Sweden has a long history of mining. Today it is EU's leading ore and metal producer and among the leading producers of base and precious metals thus driving technological change and the green transition globally.
  - The availability of metals and minerals remains crucial today as economies commit to meet internationally agreed climate goals. This remains crucial when replacing fossil fuel vehicles with electric ones.
  - The pairing of Sweden's strengths - a strong mining ecosystem and environmentally and socially sound and safe mining solutions - along with the Philippines' thrust towards responsible and sustainable mining, lead to many opportunities to be tapped for further collaboration.
  - And we welcome the Philippine government and industry's thrust towards sustainable and responsible mining in its recently forged landmark agreement.
  - Very happy to be part of this journey!
-