



PHILIPPINE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY

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The Honorable Luis Ayala
The Secretary General
Socialist International
PO Box 67973, London, SW4 4DU, United Kingdom

Dear Comrade,

It is my honor to seek a seat in the Presidium of the Socialist International (SI). To be a Vice President of the SI will immeasurably boost our effort to re-introduce the social democratic experience as a relevant framework for regional cooperation in South East Asia.

My years of exile in Europe allowed me to experience and observe the workings of the SI to bring about inter and intra state cooperation and the resolution of conflicts among and within nations in most regions of the world. As a guest, consultative member and finally as full member, the presence and participation of the Philippine Democratic Socialist Party (PDSP) within the SI family of political parties, has become invaluable in understanding the serious danger now lurking in our part of the globe.

My participation as Presidential candidate in the last major election in the Philippines gave the PDSP the very sad but a full lesson of having to confront populism and dynastic politics. It gave the PDSP that rare opportunity to present in Philippine society an alternative version of politics, how it should be and how important authentic political parties are in shaping a much better tomorrow.

As a former Defense Secretary, National Security Adviser, peace advocate, organizer of the poor, and as major leader of social democrats in the Philippines, I hope to be given the privilege of adding a Philippine experience to what the Socialist international is contributing to humanity's quest to better the world.

Most Sincerely,

Norberto B. Gonzales
Chairperson, PDSP