

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE MASS OATHTAKING OF NEWLY
APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

[Delivered at the Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace | 12 September 2018]

I have two pages for you. And I am not giving in to this practice of reading speeches but for the reason that I have so many things to attend to --- lined up until evening time, I just may abbreviate the whole thing by just reading it. Usually last page lang ang binabasa ko. *[laughter]*

Well anyway, welcome to the government service. Again you have been there, you have been here many times and hindi naman tayo kailangan mag-istorya pa nang mahaba.

We know the limits and boundaries of our duties. Ako noon I was mayor --- just say a few sentences. Inaalam ko muna 'yung extent ng powers ko and there I begin to observe the limits of my authority.

That was my 23 years as mayor and then... *[Hoy Mocha, mukha kang late na.]* As a congressman and again a vice mayor, tapos Presidente.

So public service... Dahan-dahanin ko na lang kasi nakakahiya. Talagang matatapos kaagad eh. *[laughter]* And I'd be redundant. Public service is a call to make a difference in people's lives. I therefore thank you, our new public servants, for answering the call to provide honest and genuine service for the benefit of the Filipino people.

It is my sincere hope that as you take your respective oaths of office, you will not just become dedicated civil servants, but also effective agents of change in your respective departments and agencies. I ask each of you to fully use your skills, knowledge and expertise in realizing this government's vision of creating a better and [brighter] future for all. With you as part of this administration, I am confident that we can overcome the challenges we are now facing as a nation.

Putulin ko muna dito. You know I said I've been --- if God wills it, I'd be completing my 40 years in the government service.

Alam mo I hold it as an article of faith. But for as long as there is really corruption in the government as --- malalim, as deeply as we are now. Lahat kasi ng departamento every purchase, everything, meron talagang kalokohan 'yan.

And that prompted me to say at one time that, "hindi ko na kaya 'to habulin". Not because I am wanting in the resolve to end it, but sa karami wala akong panahon and I would not be able to comply with my promise to the people.

Remember that I limited myself to a few like --- a few, as in a few, you'll count it by... I limited the issues because I knew that I would not have the time and the resources to say it all. Pero I limited it to corruption which I'm really trying hard to do.

And then the second issue, which is really very controversial is sabi ko I will try to stop drugs in this country. And then the third is that I will just have to fix the law and order especially on the streets.

And then I said that I will not tinker with money while in office. As a matter of fact, you can ask any congressman, you can ask any Cabinet member, wala akong tinatanggap na papel na transaksyon sa gobyerno. Be it a reclamation or MRT, LRT. It begins and ends with a Cabinet member.

Hindi talaga ako pumapayag na madating 'yan sa opisina ko. Just so to really avoid everything. So that if I open my mouth, I can open it freely na wala akong tinitingnan sa likod kung may butas ba ako. So ganun ho ang policy dito. I do not allow talking to --- talking to businessmen.

Kung meron kayong investments, you go to the proper department. So magumpisa 'yan, magtapos doon lang 'yan sa Cabinet member. I see to it na wala ni piso na transaksyon na magpipirma pa ako.

It's not because I am inordinately proud of it but I realized kasi noon si judge --- Comelec ngayon. He was there, he was young then, I... Wala pa naman kasing Ombudsman noon, Tanodbayan lang.

And I was one of the two from Mindanao tasked as special prosecutors. So nakikita ko kasi 'yung mga mukha ng mga tao na --- those that I insisted should be freed because the... Alam mo na.

Pagka-mayor ang mag-utos, 'yung mga underlings wala silang magawa, municipal mayors and... So 'yung mga ganun na sitwasyon, pinapaintindi ko talaga sa korte na it's not good and it is not really a travesty of justice to --- stick to the theory of the case.

I also encourage you to remain steadfast in fulfilling your oath to be ethical and honorable government workers. Refuse any temptation that would taint your dignity and affect your integrity as public servants.

Merong akong marami --- faults, plenty. But of the matter, marami. Pero sa awa ng Diyos, money was never the issue.

It could either be the historical complaint of extrajudicial killing and until now I'm really trying to work hard to find out saan 'yung libro na extrajudicial killing.

Eh walang crime na extrajudicial killing eh. So and of course, this is not to say that I'm proud of it, babae. Maraming akong ano sa --- issue sa babae. Pero --- inaaway kasi ako ng babae, eh 'di inaaway ko rin sila parang ganun. *[laughter]*

As we forge a more inclusive, responsive and participatory government that looks after the welfare of our people, I enjoin each of you to take part in implementing and enforcing mechanisms that will preserve, protect and uphold the rights and freedoms of our citizenry.

You are the embodiment of this administration's dedication to accountability in governance. Be assured as well that I am with you as you lead with integrity, serve with compassion and advocate noble initiatives that will promote sustainable development and lasting progress in the years to come. Mabuhay!

Pero maya na ito. One last ano... Balikan ko. Ang talagang mahirap na ano tingin ko is corruption pati 'yung law and order.

In Mindanao, we are facing the historical Muslim insurgency and that is territorial and that is part of the historical injustice, which all Filipinos must address.

The second is 'yung mga --- the lawless elements, itong mga Abu Sayyaf who are with the ISIS. Ito 'yung pinaka bankrupt na --- it's a bankrupt and a corrupt --- I don't know what ideology. And it knows nothing except to kill and destroy. This is the long-term problem for everybody, all over the world.

Then we have the NPAs. While on the downhill, ang problema kasi 'yung armas na nandiyan sa kamay nila could no longer be controlled even in retrieving them from the hands of the lawless elements. It would take years. Maraming baril nasa kamay ng mga tao eh. And I'm sure that nobody would just give it up like that.

So isa 'yan. It will remain --- it's a recurring problem that we have to meet.

Ngayon, itong isa, sa droga. I'm telling you quite frankly, ang droga hindi nasa Pilipinas. Wala na masyadong laboratory. Alam nila papatayin ko talaga sila eh. Alam nila na yayariin ko sila. Totoo 'yan with --- in front of TV and all.

Sabi ko, do not destroy my country. You know, you spread drugs, you destroy my country, and you destroy our sons and daughters. Kaya hindi kita mapalusot diyan. And whatever the costs, hindi ako aatras diyan. Talagang tuloy-tuloy 'yan. That's the only legacy that I can leave na --- para ma --- hindi na maalaala ng... I do not even to be remembered.

Ang sabi ko sa panahon ko gagawain ko. So itong mga durugista na ito and the [Sinaloa], 'yung cocaine it's being --- the vogue nowadays. It's the fad among the rich people kasi available na eh. And they are using the container --- kung saan-saan napunta 'yan.

They can target one, it will go to Istanbul then maybe travel to Africa then --- pero designated places doon nila --- 'pag magdaan sa kanila, kargahan nila. And several times sa Davao nangyari 'yan. But I cannot guarantee that it is not happening all over the country. Ma-ano 'to, matindi 'to. It's a toxic thing.

I hope that --- 'yung sino 'yung susunod sa akin. Kaya 'pag --- if I renege, 'pag nag-atras ako dito, patay ang Pilipino. Sigurado 'yan.

So the long and short of my duties is really I can give you two sentences: To protect the people and to preserve the Republic of the Philippines. Iyan ang trabaho ko. So gagawin ko 'yan and along the way, marami man tayo. You know, it's politics, it's democracy.

Basta ako, if I have set my sights on one thing, I will do it. Wala akong pakialam if I... Sinabi ko na nga sa inyo noon eh, in this quest for the presidency, I am ready to lose my honor, my life and the presidency itself. That's the long and short of it.

Kaya kong ikasa 'yan for my country. Simply. I do not want to be remembered as one, basta ako masabi lang ng mga anak na dumaan ang tatay ko dito sa mundong ito with one sole purpose: to serve my countrymen.

Salamat po. *[applause]*

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