

**Presidential Communications Operations Office**

**Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE ARAW NG KAGITINGAN COMMEMORATION**

[Delivered in Barangay Bus-Bus, Jolo Sulu | 09 April 2019]

Sit down.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Bautista; National Defense Undersecretary Ricardo David Jr.; General Benjamin Madrigal, Chief of Staff Armed Forces of the Philippines; Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan [*Are you around? Ah yes, sir.*]; Jolo Municipal Mayor Kerkhar Tan [*Nice to see you*] and other elected officials; major service commanders; enlisted men, personnel and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

I am pleased to join the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as we celebrate this year's Araw ng Kagitingan here in Jolo.

This is truly a momentous and meaningful occasion as we gather to honor the valor of those who, more than seven decades ago, willingly sacrificed their lives to defend liberty and preserve our democratic way of life.

As the entire country commemorates the gallant stand of the thousands of Filipino who defended Bataan in 1942, we also honor and acknowledge our troops today for their relentless efforts against lawless elements that continue to threaten the security of our nation.

I am especially pleased with our military's recent accomplishments against the Abu Sayyaf Group. Your efforts have brought us even closer to our ultimate objective of totally crushing the violent extremism at its roots. With this, I can confidently declare that ISIS will never gain foothold anywhere in the Philippines.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I salute you and give you honor to the valiant soldiers who were injured or who gave their lives during the recent military operations here in Sulu. Let me assure you that you have --- the government continue to prioritize your welfare and that of your families.

You know I will just interject something, that during my time you will be rewarded with a good pay and service, and everything that you would need after.

In Marawi, I released 500 right away for those who would need further medical attention. And we --- I will continue to release 500 more and 500 more millions to my soldiers *[applause]* who do something for their country. Do not worry I have three years. I will see to it that you will have funds when you retire and that your school --- ah your children and their schooling will be assured even if we are no longer there either by natural or by any other means of saying goodbye to this world. Huwag kayong ma-ano, sagot --- I have your back covered. *[applause]*

And I purposely --- dito ako pumunta sa Araw ng Kagitingan. Lahat ng Pilipino deserves the title "kagitingan". But here in Jolo, 'yung pinaka --- ang pinaka nandito. Kaya to the gallant men of Jolo, you have my everlasting gratitude for what you are doing to our country.

We are doing everything to ensure that our military personnel will be able to perform their mandate efficiently and to the best of their ability. We will therefore continue to implement the AFP Modernization Program even as we remain committed in looking after the welfare of our men and women in uniform.

To our troops, please know that the Filipino people are eternally indebted to you --- utang na loob 'yan, and you know gratitude is a trait, it's a virtue of every Filipino... Of a grateful nation, I thank you for your enduring patriotism in the face of adversity.

May we all be inspired by our forebears' shining example as we do our best to triumph against the ills of terrorism, corruption, illegal drugs and criminality that have hampered our country's growth for so long.

And while we may no longer face the same enemy that the heroes of Bataan faced 77 years ago, we must nonetheless be as strong

as they were able in facing overwhelming odds.

Ngayon before I end, I'm sure you'd be surprised that most of the Cabinet members now are military guys. It's not because I am up to something, as a matter of fact, during the command conference last night in Malacañan I told them something of an eye-opener.

Hindi ako sabihin na pinapalakas ko ang sarili ko sa military because I do not need that. The people elected me. But ako I have a special fondness for the military for being fundamentally honest at industrious. Ano lang ako sa bureaucracy because I have met several failures pati hindi mo mautusan nang matino. Puro corruption. Kaya as you would see, 'yung unang --- the next few officials coming in would be military guys.

The very best and the very brightest of you na tumulong sa akin magpadala ng bayan natin. Hindi ko man kaya kung ako lang mag-isa. There are so many things to do and I function through Cabinet members.

But most of the Cabinet members now, sila dito halos --- the latest addition is si General Bautista. Siya 'yung DSWD. Kasi nung --- no you know, huwag kayong magalit sa akin na I tried makipag-areglo sa mga komunista.

One of the things is confidence building na pwede tayong magtrabaho, pwede tayong mag-usap. I tried my best to --- in-accommodate ko 'yung dalawa, tatlong mga komunista. Eh akala ko naman that they would perform 'yung aming pinag-usapan na para sa bayan lang ito. Walang iba, walang partido, walang rebelde, walang Lumad, walang Christian, walang Moro. Basta trabaho lang tayo for the good of the people.

Eh itong mga 'to, may mga tulong tayo at dinadala naman doon sa komunista. At pumalag 'yung kayo, military, na sometimes nakikita ninyong 'yung pang-luwang, pang --- ano 'yung nasa gobyerno, tulong --- at napupunta sa NPA.

So para sa lahat, to the people of the Philippines, alam ninyo ang damdamin ko, tayo dito, tayo sa Executive department.

Pero 'yung lahat doon na hindi naman konektado sa gobyerno, nasa pribado, we tried our best to show to the world that we wanted to have peace.

Eh ngayon, ipinakita nila na ayaw nila at kung ganun lang, bastusan lang rin, eh 'di --- tapos na tayo mag-usap. Ngayon, gusto ninyo patayan na lang. I am not ready to talk to any communist guy. Tapos na 'yan. Sabi ko,

karami kong sundalo, karami kong eroplano, karami kong matatapang na sundalo. Bakit ako matakot sa inyo?

Why should I ah... You cannot even hang on to a barangay 24 hours. Hit-and-run lang kayo. Why should I be scared of you? Well of course, there is the ISIS that we have to worry here in --- well in this part of Sulu, up and down Basilan. We'll just have to fight and fight. Kaya ako naman sinasabi ko, when you fight, I will protect you, the utmost. And lahat ng hiningi ninyo ibinigay ko halos.

Last night, we were talking of fastcrafts. Sabi ko sa kanila na --- mga generals na, "Give me enough time and I will get the money for you." Pero lahat ng hiningi ninyo, ibinigay ko and we have some acquisitions na atin lang at hindi naman tayo na sabihin mo dependent ang ibang bayan. Kung ibigay okay, 'pag hindi, 'di hindi tayo aasa diyan.

But anyway, ang foremost --- ang trabaho ko is to protect also my soldiers and you will have it. Maniwala kayo. Even diyan noon sa ano, sa injured --- noon ay plastic cast na ano. Ngayon, 'yung mga sundalo na maski wala ng paa, tumatakbo na because gusto ko talaga titanium. It's titanium, isang paa niyan is 70,000. At hanapin ko lahat ang 70,000 at ang kamay mo --- ang kamay mo gagalaw pero hindi na masyado --- wala ng feeling. Mata na lang ang gamitin mo.

'Pag may ginalaw kang masarap, medyo kulang na. Bunganga na lang. Diretso na kasi... Eh titanium na. Pero nagaganun mo, makakapag-baril ka. Well, it's good enough but you have the best medical care.

Sabihin ko sa inyo, sa inyong ospital sa AFP 50 mil... *[50 million, Bong?]* Fifty million a month. Sa V. Luna, 50 million a month. Ang PAGCOR noon --- ay ang PGH, 64 million a year. Ngayon, 100 million a month.

So saan man kayo gustong pumunta magpagamot, ready. I'm ready to... Kapag nawala sa inyo 'yung kabit mo, ah hindi ko na maibigay sa iyo 'yan. Sarili mo na 'yan kung bakit. Baka humina ka siguro sa kakakain ng sardinas dito. You eat protein.

So I'm very happy. I'd like to embrace you. I really love you as a human being. Talagang mahal ko kayo. *[applause]* At every time na may nabasa ako, minsan alam ng mga aide ko, 'yung mga pulis na babae, itinatapon ko 'yung --- 'yung mga umabot sa akin na briefer.

When I see na merong casualties ganun. P\*\*\*\*\* j\*\* nasisira ang araw ko.  
Pero even then, that's part of my job to worry about you. All you have to do  
is just to worry about your personal safety.

With that, I say again that ako bilib sa sundalong Pilipino at kaya ko  
ginagawa lahat para at least you can protect yourself and you will see  
through in this conflict of ours.

Maraming salamat sa inyo and in behalf of the Filipino people, the entire  
population, maraming salamat sa kagitingan ninyo.

Good evening. *[applause]*

**--- END ---**