

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE OATH TAKING OF NEWLY-APPOINTED OFFICIALS**
[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 05 August 2019]

Kindly sit down.

It will be a short one because we are having a Cabinet meeting. And a Cabinet meeting can go until midnight and 4 o'clock in the morning.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and other members of the Cabinet; our newly appointed officials from the different government agencies and the government owned and controlled corporations; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

Hindi masyado ako nagabasa ng speech but I said we have a time constraint here. A Cabinet meeting needs a lot of time para makapagsalita ang lahat.

Let me take this moment to express my sincerest gratitude to your newly appointed officials for answering the call to render honest, effective and genuine service for the benefit of our people.

As you take your oath today, may you be inspired to become dedicated and effective agents of change in your respective departments, agencies and offices.

Keep in mind that you are committing to something that is larger than yourselves, and part of your responsibilities is to uphold integrity, accountability and transparency in the institutions that you will serve.

Our people have long suffered from the scourge of corruption and red tape in the bureaucracy. As you assume your respective offices, I expect you to help me in the task of regaining our people's trust in government by pursuing necessary bureaucratic reforms that will enable us to address the needs of those we serve.

Know that you will always have my complete support as long as you resist any temptation that will taint your character and reputation as public servants.

Alam mo for those who are ousted from government... Sinasabi nila na maraming military sa gobyerno ko. Eh marami nga namang abugado eh lahat naman nasabit sa corruption, eh dito na lang ako sa military mapagsabihan mo pa nang prangka.

Keep your dignity intact because I personally guarantee that any form of corruption will be dealt with promptly and severely.

Let us all work together so that we may finally end the ills that have degraded the level of governance in this country. Help me institute the necessary reforms so that our government may effectively stamp out criminality, illegal drugs, terrorism and other ills that have prevented us from improving the lives of our people.

I welcome you to government service with a challenge for you to help me steer the course of our nation towards lasting peace and greater development.

Let us carry out our shared duty of building a stronger and more progressive Philippines that we can all leave behind for future generations of Filipinos.

Iyong maraming salamat po maya na lang, may idagdag lang ako. You know the Philippines today is really not that will ah masabi mo that will --- can carry out within a limited period of time for the remaining years of my term. Hindi ko talaga kaya.

And as it is 'yung Bangsamoro Law, there are already a sort of medyo sparks there that would tend to maybe derail the smooth transition for the Bangsamoro people. That is territorial, 'yung kay Murad, MILF.

Meron tayong MNLF that is the Sulu up to Tawi-Tawi area, Basilan, I am praying to God that Nur Misuari will be enlightened and he'll be able to accept maybe the same terms that we have extended to Murad. That is the only way really without a breakage in our society.

Meron po akong ISIS and ito 'yung nagbibigay sa akin ng kaba talaga. I am not a person easily swayed by itong mga dito but 'yung putok you are not --- you are spectators of the international scene. Nakikita naman niyo, nababasa ninyo CNN, you go to YouTube wherever you are, makita ninyo ngayon.

Ang tinatakutan ko 'yung just like Iraq, Syria na maraming inosenteng taong nadadale. Talagang ako'y nagdarasal, I'm praying, I really pray, talagang lumuluhod ako sa Diyos na to spare us the kind of brutality and cruelty in our country because it will really be bloody, bloody as it can ever be.

Ayaw kong mag-umpisa. But ayaw ko naman sa panahon ko na gagawin mo sa akin 'yan. Do it some other time pero huwag sa akin, hindi talaga ako papayag at hindi ako magpalugi.

And you have the drugs until now. Itong international scene, America and the rest, just parang unggoy, no see, no hear, no talk. But sila na mismo.

And even during the time of Alunan so that would be Ramos who was the President, he was called to DEA sa America and we were told that at the rate that the drug problem is swallowing the country, it will not be long before we will become a narco state.

And it came to pass. Mga mayor, mga governor, mga barangay captains, 13,000 of them went into drugs, some are still there. And a lot of people died. Alam mo in the 8888, pinapa-post ko diyan 'yung development ng drug war. And you'd notice that 'yung mga "AAA" sa pangalan that is arrested. Iyong "N" is not --- neutralized. Makita naman ninyo sa 8888 araw-araw because that's the only available data that I have coming from the law enforcement. On any page, on any day, I see about one or two.

Ano ba itong p**? Ano bang sinasabi nila? Where do they get their information? Me, I get it from the police and I share it with the public. Maraming nahuli tingnan ninyo araw-araw, nakaposte 'yan diyan eh.

And in about 20, 30 arrests it ends up nahuli. May mga dalawa, tatlo namamatay. Naturally.

You know the war in Marawi did not start with just a rebellion. The police went there to serve a warrant for the arrest of a Maute member family. And 'yung ano doon was really a service of --- in connection with a drug problem.

There was no outright rebellion but since tinolada 'yung Marawi, they had to go in first. Pinagbabaril 'yung mga pulis ko then the Marines went in and they were killed, nine of them, when they crossed the [Mapandi] bridge.

So doon nag-umpisa ang fight. That start with the rebellion of ideology, there was no probably - -- 'yung ISIS but too far away, doon nag-umpisa ang...

And I have lost several policemen, military men and maimed mga sundalo ko walang paa, walang... And ako naman ngayon I buy them the titaniums, I do not go for the plastic ones and some of them are able to go back to fight. So we have this problem.

Tapos itong lotto. Okay, sinabi ko --- tinignan ko, "Okay you can resume with that." STL, Peryahan ng Bayan. P***** --- puro nakaw. Ang i-remit nila minus 'yung kinukunan na nila.

So I had to stop it. Ang corruption talaga --- sabi ko nga eh, have you ever heard me say that gusto ko nang mag-resign kasi hindi ko mahabol ang corruption. I thought I could, but you know corruption has permitted government itself. Sinabi ko it's corrupt to the core and it is right now.

Mahirap tanggalin lahat. I just fired 64, but if I could get away with the 100 more I think we'll have a cleaner, a better Customs, BIR. Pero sigurado itong 64 talagang tatanggalin ko na.

And they have been there for 36, 38 years without necessarily offending anybody. Noong maliit pa kami, si Bingbong Medialdea kababata ko 'yan, Sonny Dominguez.

Sa --- maliit pa ang Davao noon 'yung --- sa subdivision namin ang magagandang bahay... Tatay ko governor, tatay niya provincial fiscal nung governor ang tatay ko. Pero ang magagandang bahay sa subdivision namin Customs, BIR.

It was taken for granted over the years. Talagang ano 'yun. Makakita ka ng magandang kotse, Customs. May bagong mga model na magdating sa Davao noon, sila ang nauuna.

But those events were taken for granted. Ganun ka --- ganun ka ingay ang p***** i***** Pilipino wala namang ginagawa. All talk, takot naman or padrino, "Eh pare, lider ko 'yan ha."

I --- I... I bow down to the wisdom of God that I ran without any political backing. Wala akong ni isa dito sa Maynila na maski barangay captain o barangay kagawad. But I won. Nag-landslide ako dito. When all... Sabagay sa mga Muslim areas nag-landslide talaga ako. Malalayo. And only because of my kinship, my mother being a mestiza-Maranao.

Mindanao gave me the largest. But in Manila, I won. So it was really the message that I carried. Wala naman akong iba. Wala akong mga railway, wala akong ano because those were promises made by the opposite camp. And you cannot ape or mimic what they say kung panahon mo. So I just said I'll stop corruption, drugs.

Itong dalawa medyo matindi. Sa drugs, karaming demanda ko. Akala man ng mga g*** --- p***** i**, ipasok nila ako sa kulungan. Dalhin ko kayo sa impiyerno bago ako papasok diyan.

So these are the things that what ails the country in a singular ano --- it what ails the country. If you guys Filipinos won't help in your own way... Ang kailangan lang naman ng Pilipino, just tell everybody, is just to be assertive. Period.

Copy the Americans if you will. Tawagin tayong copycat, so be it. What's wrong in copying good practices and good governance?

Tell our people to be assertive. 'Pag nagbayad na, tapos hingian pa, ang sabi ko there's an 8888. Those are the drug wars. Akala nila siguro mga u***... 'Yung nakalista hindi 'yan patay lahat. Pagka "A" 'yan, arrested. Pagka "N" neutralized. And day to day, day to day, thousands of them have been published wala kang nakita namang may isa, dalawa o...

I know this... P***** j*** Human Rights na ito kung saan nila iniimbento kinukuha nila. Those are official records. I go by them. You can hardly say that there's a massacre of human rights vi --- drug violators. Isa, dalawa. Samantala ako, araw-araw namamatay ako ng tatlong pulis. So these are the things. Mag-assertive sila. 'Pag nagbayad na sila, paghingi, sabihin mo sa mga tao na 'yun. Ako, sabi ko sa Pilipino --- they're listening now. I hope this is a fairly widely coverage.

'Pag hiningian ka uli, sampalin mo. Create a scene. You scandalize because that thing will come --- will reach my ear.

Pagdating dito, ipatawag ko 'yung p***** j***** 'yan tapos --- dito, dito. Ipasampal ko sa iyo ng limang beses tapos sipain ko. Ginagawa ko 'yan dito. Magtanong ka diyan sa mga guwardiya. Nambubugbog talaga ako ng tao dito.

So if I was not able to really be become the President in stature and in deportment, well you just consider me your mayor. May mayor man kayo sa probinsya ninyo. Eh ituring na lang ninyo akong mayor ninyo. Mas mabuti pa. Wala pa akong inhibition.

Pero 'yan ang ano ko sa kaliit-liit kong ito sa awa ng Diyos, I've been a mayor for 23 years, three years as a congressman, three years as a vice mayor of my daughter. Nandoon. You can...

Lahat ng kasama --- kasalanan ng mundo, babae, patay. Pero 'yung corruption, wala akong hilig sa pera. Iba ang hilig ko. 'Yung mga short time lang. [laughter] After that, no more.

So that's the thing I'd like to convey to you na kami maski mahirap lang kami sabi nila na sa probinsyano kami.

And you know why most of them are --- the Cabinet members are military men? So it's a misnomer actually. Once they retire, they are as died in a war, civilians na 'yan. But the one thing because most of them passed by Mindanao during the years when I was mayor.

I practically know everybody. So 'yang mga 'yang --- 'yang mga generals na 'yan talagang 'pag sinabi mong gawain mo 'yan sa tatlong araw, kung magpatay ka, kailangan pumatay ka, tapusin mo 'yan. Tatapusin 'yan.

'Pag sinabi mo walang corruption, huwag lang ikaw ang mag-corrupt because kung ang head of office will go into corruption, wala ka ng kontrol sa tao mo. Sasabihin man lang nila, "Eh bakit, Duterte? Ikaw lang ang gustong yumaman?"

Nasasabi ko 'yan. I do not want to spoil your day. I want you to be happy. You have new... Alam mo, it... Not all Filipinos are given the chance to exercise sovereign functions. Every time that you sign, it's for and in behalf of the Republic.

It is a sovereign act even if yours is just to review. Whatever it is, it is a process in the whole gamut of governance. So sana you will keep faith with your oath of office and let us try to improve.

We cannot stamp out corruption completely. Pero ako, with the remaining years, hihirit ako nang hihirit just to keep maybe to the barest, pinaka-bare minimum and I would be happy. And I would be very thankful if you can help me.

Salamat po. [applause]

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