

**Presidential Communications Operations Office**

**Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF**

**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

**DURING 121<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF  
PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE**

[Delivered at the 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Headquarters in Malabang,  
Lanao del Sur | 12 June 2019]

Kindly sit down. Shukran.

The National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año Jr. and the other members of the Cabinet; the National Historical Commission Acting Director Ludovico Badoy, who used to be the mayor of Cotabato; Lanao del Sur elect Mamintal Adiong Jr.; officers and staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines led by its Staff General Benjamin Madrigal Jr.; Philippine National Police Chief Director General Oscar Albayalde; Senator-elect Bong Go; the other distinguished guests; mga mahal kong Moro

I am deeply honored by this distinct privilege to lead the celebration of the 121st Anniversary of our nation's independence right here at the heart of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Today, we remember our storied past while looking forward to a future worthy of the sweat and blood that were shed by our forebears more than a century ago.

It was here in Malabang, Lanao del Sur that then Acting President, Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos, was executed by the Japanese for

refusing to cooperate with them during the invasion of the Philippines.

A true patriot even to the last moment, he told his son to be brave and not to cry for it is an honor to die for one's country as not everybody has that chance. What beautiful words.

It is also fitting that we hold this commemoration here at the Headquarters of the Philippine Army's 6th Infantry Battalion.

Known as the "Redskin Battalion," this unit has been engaged in our government's fight against the Dawiah Islamiyah, the Maute Group, and other lawless elements that continue to threaten the region.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank the brave men and women of the Redskin Battalion for your bravery, selflessness service, and unconditional love of country. Your valor has indeed earned you a place among the valiant heroes who built this nation 121 years ago.

Today, let us pay tribute to our patriots – both from the past and the present – by safeguarding the democratic institutions that were built from the rubble of the wars that gave rise to our heroes.

Let us honor them by keeping in mind that the freedom that they won back then – the same freedom that we continue to enjoy today – is only as strong as our determination to [remain] free from any form of subjugation or oppression.

And while the noble heroes of our past faced the might of colonial powers, this time, we face the modern problems of poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, terrorism, criminality and illegal drugs.

These threats, just like the threats our nation faced centuries ago, have infringed on our inalienable right to live peaceful, safe, comfortable, and meaningful lives.

We are at a crucial juncture in our nation's history, and we need to learn from the lessons of our past if we are to [ensure] that these

threats do not cause any more harm to the present and future generations of Filipinos.

Let us all work together so we may preserve this gift of liberty that all our children deserve to inherit.

Alam mo the first at least Moro or Malay --- Malay tayong lahat eh. We come from the same stock that is why we look the same. The first Moro to kill a foreigner was Lapu-Lapu. And he killed Magellan.

But tingnan naman ninyo, the Christians continue the fight in other places. Sila Andres Bonifacio, sila si General Luna, lahat, nagtulong-tulongan tayo niyan. We may not be --- agree on religion but we know that you started and it was continued by the other Malays in the Luzon and Visayas. Wala naman pagkaiba sa atin.

And 'yung mga sabi nila na na-Kristiyanos fought the last war against the Americans. We all fought foreign domination. Lahat tayo. And Lapu-Lapu continued to be unrecognized until I became a President. So I created the Order of Lapu-Lapu. Lapu-Lapu was a Tausug. Kita mo 'yung ano niya --- 'yung cap niya sa ano.

And if you are a Visayan and if you listen very carefully to a Tausug, you can understand his language. Iyan ang totoo diyan. Well anyway for that so much. Iisa lang tayo.

Now that you have the BOL I guarantee you exploit your resources. Madaliin na ninyo. *[applause]* Ang sabi ninyong Liguasan Marsh walang makialam niyan, inyo 'yan. That was my commitment to you. *[applause]*

You don't have the money, look for partners, exploit your territory of the riches. Para 'yan sa mga anak ninyo, hindi na 'yan para sa inyo. That was really reserved for our children. Exploit it. Exploit the natural resources and make the Moro rich.

Nasa inyo na eh. Ang sinasabi ko, walang distorto, unbridled, walang molestiya. You have the place already. It was surrendered

to you, it was given to you as a brotherly act of all Filipinos. Take advantage of it and hurry up the progress of the place.*[applause]*

Walang makikialam sa inyo diyan. 'Yang Liguasan Marsh, if there's oil, you can have it. We will not allow other Christians to benefit from it. Kayo muna. 'Pag may sobra kayo, maawa naman kayo sa kapwa ninyong... *[laughter and applause]* Pero after all --- it's the religion. Kasalanan ba ng tatay ko na pumunta 'yung mga deputang mga Espanyol doon? Hindi naman natin natalo lahat.

So Evan --- the Islam Evangelist came here about 100 years before. Is it our fault that you were not able to defend us there in the Visayas and Luzon? 'Coz the early settlers of the Visayas were all Moro. Iyan ang intindihin ninyo.

Religion, yes, of course. We adore the same God. But think about it. It was also your sworn duty at that times, sana iniligtas ninyo kami doon sa mga Kastila pati Amerikano. But hanggang dito lang kayo sa Mindanao kaya nagkaganon. But anyway, it's too late in the day to have the blame game.

Basta tayo, magkapatid. At 'yung inyong BOL kung palakihan pa ninyo 'yan, 'di palakihan pa ninyo. And if Misuari is willing, same. I'll give it to him para lang makaabot natin 'yung kapayapaan.

Para sa inyong lahat, para sa dugo ng lahat. *[applause]* Mabuhay ang Moro ng Mindanao!

Magkapatid tayo lahat at hindi ako papayag na maisahan kayo o 'yung mga Kristiyanos maisahan ninyo. Let us be fair. 'Yung ano lang ang tama sa utos ni Allah. Period.

Salamat po. Ewan ko kung makauwi pa kayo. *[laughter]* Ilan ba kilometro ang Marawi dito? Susmaryosep doon na sana ako matulog. Hindi may... Ang pinsan ko may bahay doon. Wala nakita ko doon medyo sira-sira na 'yung sa Iligan wala na. Bakery ng lolo ko sa Iligan, wala na. May bakery, may bahay kami sa --- dito. Ewan ko kung nasaan.

But anyway I have to fly out because it's getting dark. Maligayang-maligaya ako nakasama ko ang kapwa kong mga Moro ng Mindanao. *[applause]*

For the BARMM guys, 'yung wala pang sweldo, I will work on it when I come back. *[applause]* Kaya nga eh sabi ko ayusin 'yan kay 'pag hindi gubot.

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