

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE MINDANAO-WIDE TURN-OVER AND DISTRIBUTION
OF CERTIFICATES OF LAND OWNERSHIP AWARD (CLOA)
TO AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES (ARBS)

[Delivered at Davao City Recreation Center (Almendras Gymnasium), Davao City | 02 August 2019]

Daghang salamat. Thank you. Kindly sit down.

I have three pages of prepared speech. Is it not... Well, you know, land reform has more to it than meets the eye. Maybe I will read the prepared speech, in fairness of the one who labored for it until morning time. My staff came in this morning. So... But I will also try to express what's in my heart.

Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go --- tsk, tigas. *[applause]* Maski wa na siya ingna'g tindog, mutindog gyud (He would stand up even if you didn't tell him to) *[laughter]*; Agriculture Undersecretary Waldo Carpio *[applause]*; Land Bank of the Philippines President Cecilia Borromeo *[applause]*; the 2019 recipients of the government's land distribution program; my fellowmen.

May mga bisita tayo. They share the same passion in life --- improving the lives of people, feeding. They are into the rice --- well improvement and they have a plant in Leyte. Kung nakita ninyo doon, maganda talaga.

I don't know but I think they are just motivated by an exceedingly passion for --- to assist their fellowmen. Nandito... The one who brought them to us is Solicitor General Joe Calida. *[applause]* Joe Calida is from Davao.

We started our law practice almost the same year or two lang and it was a very long time ago. Mrs. Milagros Calida, the wife of... Ma'am... [applause]; Atty. Mark Jorel Calida [applause]. Joe, anak mo? May anak --- may abogado ka na rin ha.

Mr. Patrick François Renucci [applause]; Ms. Rachel Renucci-Tan, ma'am [applause]. Mr. François Serres [applause].

Mao ni nag-dala'g technology. Nianha na sila sa ako ganina. (They are the ones who brought the technology. They visited me earlier.) They went to me earlier, just before I came to meet you. And they explained to me how they can improve the variety of rice and that they have started a pilot project somewhere in Leyte and it's going great.

And so ang kanila lang is magtulong. Tulong lang. In the matter of production, no genetic engineering, no nothing. Except that I think you plant it properly. There has to be something there that has to be or needs to be improved. Pero sabi nila it can produce rice for the many Filipinos not to go hungry.

Pero ang problema natin is ganito. All over Mindanao, particularly, 'yung mga prime lands natin noon and the historical land geared for rice planting and corn are getting to be smaller and smaller and smaller everyday.

The big corporations are taking over. And what they are into is agriculture but it is for cash crop. Meaning to say, they're planting. Naa sila'y gitanom. What they are planting is, they sell. That's why it's called for cash.

We have not been able to catch up with the area where we can plant. The produce would be food crop. So there's a dilemma there somewhere and one day government has to reconfigure to have enough land to sustain the needs of the Filipino people.

Historically, we have been importing and that is because of so many factors. One is land. And during my time, I have insisted that we implement land reform.

We are not buying lands anymore, tapos na 'yun eh. But what I have been insisting all over the country, especially lands that were more or less structurally built for feudalism.

So 'yan ang problema. And that is why, you know, andito man si attorney [unclear] --- 'yung sa Sagay. Ang ayaw kong --- what I do not like

with the Communist Party of the Philippines is first, they are waging a war against government.

Maybe I can understand that, that sometimes revolution is the best alternative. But today, it's passé. Bahaw na. And you know, however long the fight, they cannot win. I have been an activist. I've been branded as communist during my first term as mayor. Lahat 'yan. And it is understandable.

Christians who came here seeking greener pastures, of course are not natives of Mindanao. If you do not know how to talk in Maguindanao, Maranao, Kagan of Davao, Yakan, Tausug, and the subcultures.

If you are a Christian then you are not a descendant of the Moro. You are a son or daughter of a Christian who migrated here many, many years ago just like what my father and mother did.

Now, at that time, were a lot of lands and the Spaniards, except for a few, military outpost in the Fort Pilar in Zamboanga and others, those were the only areas controlled by the Spaniards. But when the Americans came, they wanted to exploit, cultivate Mindanao. There's no typhoon and what you plant here really grows.

Come to think of it as a *[unclear]*. But if you'd notice, if you have... We have been here since 1949. You'd notice that, except for the long droughts, Davao always has rains everyday --- slight lang tapos matapos. It's a passing thunderstorm actually, parang ganun. And it recourse and helps in the cycle of water, planting, and everything.

Davao is a --- an exception and I think that we are lucky. And we have to thank God for that. Just be sure you did not include the land of the Church there, you will in --- you will fight with the priest. Baka nasali ninyo 'yung simbahan, 'yung lupa ng archbishop diyan.

So I'm going now for the --- what's my lamentation. Itong mga NPA, alam mo ginawa ko na ang lahat. I have made a few promises because for one I never thought I'd make it to the presidency. Maski kayo dito. I'm not trying to bug you. Dito, it's about --- only about maybe 20 percent believed that I'd win.

But of course it was a popular notion already that in Mindanao, we needed somebody by this time. But in other places, Visayas, they never gave me a Chinaman's chance to win. And yet I find myself now, I made a few promises.

I said that I will go ahead and implement the land reform. This is not the first time. Every week I go out of Manila to the other provinces. This is the same thing that happened.

In Sagay, where there were a lot of killing, 'yan ang problema diyan. Itong mga komunista, they are blaming government for the killings, when actually you started the spate of murders there.

Ang pinakamarami na may tama, the hardest hit, group of government men are soldiers, policemen, and people who are openly for the government, and mga barangay captain.

Bilangin mo na since the elections, we have been --- it was just recent --- na makita ninyo na maraming barangay chairman na namatay.

And they are killing teachers, killing principals. Pero kung magsalita itong mga --- P*****, wala kay may bisita lang eh. *[laughter]* Mga... Huwag ninyo akong lokohin kay galing ako diyan. Let us not, you know, I've been there. You know I've been there.

That Karapatan used to be known as the Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy. I was the chapter president there. And Karapatan is a front, just like our barangay captains are our legal fronts.

Kayong mga Karapatan, mga samahan ng mga demonyo ng Pilipinas, mga... You know what you did in Negros, it-did --- is not just fighting. The danger there is you are now implementing the commune system of the discredited communist party strategy.

I've sent people to China, those who surrendered, diretso punta kayo ng China. So look what the communists did with their communism system. So if you find it still viable for this country, then I will join you. But look at China now. It's... The party is only there to control the government. Otherwise it will... But it has gone too big.

Dito, you are still fighting, you are still killing people, murder.

And I said it's not only... The --- that's not only the reason of the number of people killed. That's one.

It's lawless violence. But they are now implementing their style. That if you are the beneficiary of a land, our land reform government gives those

tenants of yours the first option, the right to first --- to be the beneficiaries because they were the descendants for many years, toiling the same land from his grandfather to father ibibigay.

In Negros, it is not the case. Alam mo, sa Negros, you are forced to join a federation. And that federation will choose the people who will occupy the land that has been already covered by the land reform law.

So sila na ang mamili kung sinong ilagay nila. Kaya patay, 'yung una doon, kanila 'yun. You are liars. I... Kanila man 'yun. Sila 'yung farmers dito. Nag-meeting sila nung farmers ng federation pati 'yung grupo.

Hindi sila nagkaintindihan, nagbarilan. Tapos china-charge ka --- ang gobyerno. Ako raw. Why would I kill? What for? Use you as your... If I can use your carcass as a fertilizer, I might do that to increase the yield.

Bakit... Why would I kill people? For what? If you just can wait --- I can, I said. I'm the only President to date who has distributed...

[How many hectares Secretary?]

One hundred fifty thousand hectares. Meron pa akong three years. Pero hintayin lang ninyo.

You know, I read somewhere. A learned man, [of course?]. He said 'yang revolution, hindi pwede 'yan, if you want change. Nowadays, you cannot. It has to evolve by itself. Gaganda rin 'yan. Evolution.

America, took them so many years. Europe. But the problem in the Philippines is we are beset with, I said, so many --- a runaway population. We are now 110, 108, they say.

And if we rely only on the available lands being tilled now without improving on the technology, on the yield, we will be forever importing rice from the East ASEAN countries.

Ang problema diyan sa ASEAN, the greatest asset also of the countries that are being... You're utilizing the Mekong Delta. Pero ang Mekong Delta, they say is also slowly being silted by salt water. Someday, it could not really produce as fast as it is now. With the increase of population, patay na.

So the Philippines has to --- they used to call it invention, but it's innovation actually now, on anything. Not necessarily contrivances or gadgets but you have to innovate to survive.

So we are glad that we have visitors, I said, men of good will. And I'd like to say to the communists, you have crossed the red line.

You know, I have been mayor of this city for 23 years. There never was a time that the military or myself allowed torture or to hurt people who surrendered from the NPAs or captured. Wala talaga. I will never allow it.

Maybe we wanted as a revenge. But since we are government and we have stan --- you have to have morals to prop us up. Otherwise, we are no different from the barbarians like them.

Ang problema nito in Negros, they captured four policemen. And they were battered to death with so many hematomas all over the body.

In the 23 years, we never did that. The communists here who take hostage of our soldiers. I go to the mountains every now and then with Bong, bring a helicopter. And if there are many, I bring two, three and retrieve them from the custody. And they have always been honoring that no --- no torture or no inhuman.

Doon sa Sagay, ang pulis pinutulan pa nila ng... Gillette daw ang ginamit. Sabi ko, look, the reason why we cannot develop fully is the countryside are --- the countryside is infested with parasites like you. You do not work, you exact taxation.

And if you think that the barangay captain is not cooperating with you, with the communist theories and your ideologies which is rotten already --- it is a corrupt just like the ISIS, you fight, you kill.

I am --- I served notice the other day that I will not take it sitting down. I will just maybe... But I told my military and the police, "Gawin mo sa kanila. Do it do them also."

I've been telling you, I will implement a more severe measure. What --- what is it? Maghintay lang kayo. Kasi sabi ko sumosobra na kayo. And in some areas, malaki masyado and I am short of policemen and soldiers. But you cannot do it unrestrained, unbridled, uncontrolled as if you are the killing machine of the Filipino. You try to crucify me about drugs.

In my election, I made five simple promises. I said I will go after corruption. And I'm doing it. I've been firing people. I've been changing --- I have fired about five lawyers.

So sabi nga ni Gordon --- he says militarization of the Cabinet because most of the members of the Cabinet are former military officers. He --- he's a lawyer but I just don't know why he choose to interpret it...

When a military man retires, he is for all intents and purposes nothing but a civilian. And second, because I can rely on them. And third is because most of them are fundamentally honest.

Those that I got in in my wagon, in my journey to the pre --- presidency.

Second, sabi ko sa drugs. When I was mayor here, I told you frankly do not destroy the Philippines. Do not destroy our young men and women. We are poor. We need them when we go and even to buy for our medicines, for even the vitamin C or Biogesic just to ease the pain. We are not rich. Most of us are migrants and we have not reached that apex of wealth that some have.

You know, life is never fair. Meron binigyan ng Diyos na mga mayaman. Meron talagang tamang-tama lang. Nandito tayo, we are here where we need our children because when we grow old...

Like the military, how many of you? One, two, three, four. They retire at the age of 56. And that's about the time where their children are in college or still, if they are prolific, some of them are in the high school.

Kaya sabi ko nga sa military, one or two is enough. You practice --- get your instructions from the priest how to do it. Be a celibate. But you cannot have so many children while you --- because in all probability you will die. In an average of one to 10, your average of dying is about seven.

So 'yan ang ano ko. I will not allow the communists to do that. Then I promised you drugs and I said I will kill you if you destroy my country. Who will buy my cough syrup? Who will buy me my Norgesic? Who will buy me my morphine? If my children can afford it. Or else I will just while away, [grooming?], but in pain.

Most of die will --- most of us will die of cancer, if not by the bullet of those communists. So who will pay for our funeral charges? Who will buy our --- where you want to be buried?

That's why we need our children. We cannot afford our children to be destroyed because if there is no one to take care of us, then the quality of life, and then the economy will suffer and we'd go kaput. And at the end of the day, who's to blame? It's the President. It's the President who holds the...

So when I say do not --- do not mess up with drugs because I will kill you. If you are foreigners, [Sinaloa], better --- better be very fast because if we meet in one corner, you will die. So with the ISIS. Wala akong ano diyan. They are totally bankrupt, an ideology for nothing. They just kill and kill and kill and destroy. That's all they do. And what should I do with them? O 'di I will also kill you.

Courts. I was a prosecutor when I was --- before I became mayor. I was doing trial work, prosecution in court everyday. I know how it is. Batting average, we are a democracy. Proof beyond, [listen?], proof beyond

reasonable doubt. If I create a doubt, even how little, that criminal goes free. That is the rule in democracy.

So what's the batting average of a prosecutor winning a case, getting a conviction? In this country, with all the corruption, with all the judges and prosecutors, and policemen.

I think that's why we have a better police now because... I ought to --- I also told them do not go into drugs. You will die. Do not ever think that you are a police or you are exempted.

You will be the first to go. That would be the rule until the end of my term. My advice? Just do what is right. Period. Just do what is legal. Period. And you will not have any problem with me or with government.

Now, I'm overshooting. Let me read --- let us see what the bureaucracy in the seat of power wants to convey to you.

I am pleased to be with you today as we hand over Certificates of Land Ownership and Emancipation Patents to our agrarian reform beneficiaries from the five regions of Mindanao.

We have gone a long way in our decades-long quest to emancipate our farmers from their bondage. As of June this year, almost five million hectares of land have been distributed to almost three million agrarian reform beneficiaries nationwide. Almost two million hectares of these lands are located in Regions 9 to 13, benefitting more than [960,000] farmers.

With today's distribution of titles, we look positively into the future as government endeavors to complete the acquisition and distribution of almost [550,000] hectares of agricultural lands nationwide, [81,000] hectares [of] which are here in Mindanao.

These titles represent not just an ownership over the lands that our farmers till, but also my administration's steadfast commitment to implement genuine agrarian reform and that is anchored on social justice, peace, development, equity, productivity and all for our local governments.

The time has come for us to fully acknowledge the invaluable contribution of farmers in nation-building and in promoting food security despite the many difficulties and challenges that we face.

Let me cut. You know, agriculture is the weakest link sa atin. So we have to do more. That's why I said, nandiyan man si Mrs. Borromeo. Land Bank as the word says, it's a land bank. It is a bank that would cater to the needs of the landowners or farmers.

But without really being offensive, ang pinaka-number one ngayon na banking --- the number one banking institution now is the Land Bank. But it is into so many things. I said go back to your old --- well, the purpose for which you were created.

So that the farmers now, kayo, and I'm asking Bong Go. Sino pa ba? Who are the --- sinong nandito pang ibang --- may ibang congressman? I'm asking you na 'yung titulo nila ma-mortgage nila sa bangko mo ma'am. Hindi kasi magamit nila eh.

Ngayon ito, we are crafting a law that would allow you to use to mortgage your title, your land, to borrow money to improve the land. *[applause]*

And for the many of you who are really not so keen about farming but want the easy life, you go to the bank, mortgage it and if you have about 50,000, you go and buy shabu. *[laughter]*

And then shabu would give --- would make you a millionaire in three months' time. But do not forget to buy a pre-need and make your reservations in the funeral parlors. *[laughter]* You will go there, I can assure you.

By giving them actual possession of these titles, we are empowering our farmers and improving their capability for self-reliance and greater productivity.

Ang mata ko medyo ang may diperensya. By giving them actual possession -- in the implementation of the Comprehensive [Agrarian] Reform Program by releasing to our beneficiaries the original owner's duplicate title of the agricultural lands awarded to them.

I cut here. My orders are, to the DAR: Give the land to the beneficiaries, according to our laws. And those are the tenants who have been there since time immemorial.

Now if you give me time, if you listen... Have you had your dinner? [*Look, sabihin mo muna kay --- go ahead...*]

When you try to --- when you try to make an assessment or a profiling of a tenant whether giving the land or allowing the land to be mortgaged to get money, try to figure out from what region he comes from.

Ito ang sikreto ah. Well, in my days --- my native understanding, since they are --- when I was studying law, I've been trying to figure out why. There are places like in Mindanao, you can convince them by ideology.

As for example, land reform. 'Yan man talaga ang number one nila. That this was the number one hullabaloo which they used to entice the poor people of the vast lands.

Alam mo, kung mga ito lang, you only have to make them irrelevant. What? The greatest promise that the communist can give is land reform. I have been at it since I became President three years ago. Marami na nga.

Just make them irrelevant. Nandiyan na eh. Eh sila wala pang typewriter. How can they distribute land? They have dirty nails, they do not brush their teeth, they do not even have shoes, then you pretend that you are what? You want to distribute land? By the way, do you know how to spell land?

I am insulting you. P***, kasi pinag... You know, because you are killing everybody there. Anyone that is anti-communist or does not like the communist, you kill.

Now ito dito, remember imperialism. Imperialism started the troubles of our country. My mother is a mestiza Maranao. My lola was a Maranao. My lolo was a Chinese. Alam ninyo 'yan.

So when you deal with --- you do not deal with them na lupa-lupa lang. Because 'pag nabigyan mo ng lupa at natulungan mo, if you are there to help, madali na 'yan. But itong from Negros, bantay ninyo ha. Negros, 'yang two Negros na 'yan --- 'yung pinakamagulo 'yan at Central Luzon.

Bakit 'yan dalawa? 'Yang dalawa na 'yan --- the NPAs there are the descendants of the tenants when the Spaniards came. When the Spaniards came to the Philippines, they subjugated us, confiscated our lands and gave them to the Insulares. 'Yung Insulares are the Spaniards who were born here and never went back to Spain or never --- nandito nakatira. Never...

So sila 'yung mga mayaman. That's why in Bacolod 'yung mga mestizo, 'yung mga mayaman. No offense intended. I'm just telling you the truth because I should tell you why we are now here. Bakit nagkaganito tayo.

'Yung mga 'yan, you cannot convince them with anything. Land reform? Wala sa kanila 'yan. Why? The feudal system that was started by the Spaniards has become part of genetic order. Ano talaga 'yan sila, they are the ones who experienced feudalism at its worst.

From the time of the Spaniards, from the time of the Americans, and upon the time when this Republic was created until somebody --- hindi naman, hindi lang ako, not only me but men of... They try to...

Itong kay Cory Aquino ganito 'yan. Cory Aquino may be popular. She is popular today. Why? For losing the husband in the hands of Mr. Marcos. But what is the fundamental reason why... Someday, 'pag 30 years from now, we may try to balance history.

Because Aquino declared land reform for the entire Philippines but exempted Doña Luisita, her own land. To the many --- to those who really wanted to be freed from Marcos, that's another feeling, maybe of gratitude.

Pero 'yung --- when she said, "I would like to declare land reform in all of the Philippines." Hindi niya sinali 'yung kanya. She exempted her... So you [call her?] what? The one who freed, emancipated... It's incongruity, they call it.

So 'yan ang Luzon. Itong --- when you are dealing with itong mga tao sa Central Luzon pati Bacolod. Why Central Luzon? Because of sugar. 'Yung sugar quota. That was it. Because America gave the Philippines a premium price for sugar. Kaya 'yung sugar quota noon, pinagbibili 'yun, pinag-agawan kagaya nitong lotto ngayon, itong mga STL.

Kasi papel 'yan, pera 'yan. 'Pag may quota ka, makapagdala ka ng sugar doon, plus, plus ka. Which was not given to the other country. Preferential attention dito sa --- because of the Philippines being the former colony.

Kaya ang sugar malakas. Where? In Negros and in Central Luzon. Both. Ikaw, taga-doon ka man. Both Cojuangco 'yan. Meron sila doon 'di ba? [Ponte Verde?]. They have a large land doon. In Central Luzon and that's in Luzon and in the Visayas.

'Yan ang sikreto diyan bakit... Hindi mo makita. You cannot... Hindi mo makita. Pero 'yan nga --- mga Benedicto. They were the ones who were the chosen few that the fathers sold.

Kaya feudalism. That explains why pumunta dito ang mga Bisaya. These Americans wanted to develop them for themselves. Awardan (award) mo --- 100,000. Si... You want an example? Walstrom. It's just a few kilometers. That's 1,000 --- 1,000 hectares.

It's owned by Co --- Danding Cojuangco now. Binili niya kay Walstrom. It's being planted with banana.

Kinuwento ko lang din ito para malaman ninyo ang history ng... Na ang kawawa dito, ang Pilipino. And my God, 'yung --- you cannot correct a long, long justice committed during the Spaniards and the Americans, and you try to wipe out the Filipino and the government.

The local government's down... I will not allow you to do that. I will not. I will give you tit for tat. That's my order to the military. Give them what they deserve. They are not fighting a conventional war. They are not obeying the Geneva Convention.

Ganun rin ang Abu Sayyaf. Decapitate --- decapitation. You pay the ransom, decapitate. Like here? You want me to tell you the truth? Kidnappers here? They pay, then they kill. So when I catch you, you pay. What would you like? So no more kidnappers.

When I told the drug addicts here, "I will kill you," so no more... The gangster there in the streets, I said, I do not want to see you walking. I only want law-abiding citizens walking the streets at night. I do not want gangsters and muggers walking around. So there are no gangsters and muggers.

You want to transfer? Well, it is not really... There's a big water beside or behind this building. A few meters is a vast sea. You might want to swim there with your feet and hands tied around your neck. That is how the --- peaceful... But if you just follow the norm of --- talo tayo diyan.

So I'd like to congratulate the beneficiaries. Maghintay lang kayo. Just wait a little while, we're crafting the law, I said, that would allow you to use it as a mortgage. Hindi kasi natatanggap eh, kaya wala silang pang-capital.

But for those of you who are intending the money for other purposes like shabu and cocaine, be careful. Be careful, because I have told you. I have warned many. And the warning, not only...

Well, I don't know. But that's how it is.

Thank you. *[applause]*