

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE PHILIPPINE ARMY CHANGE OF COMMAND**

[Delivered at the Philippine Army Grandstand, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig | 15  
October 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy. Maraming salamat po.

You know I stood up because I took my cue from the Chief of Staff. *[laughter]* When he moved his body, torso, to stand up, eh siya 'yung sanay sa mga program na ito, stand up rin ako. *[laughter]* Eh alam mo CAFGU lang tayo sir eh. *[laughter]*

You know, I'll just briefly acknowledge the presence of Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez Jr. and the major service command, sorry sir for the miscue; *[laughter]* PNP Chief Police General Director Oscar Albayalde, sir; the new commanding general of the Philippine Army Major General Macairog Alberto, sir; the officers, enlisted personnel and civilians of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; mga kasama ko sa gobyerno; mga kababayan

Today is another milestone in the history of the Philippine Army as we celebrate Lieutenant General Bautista's successful tour of duty as Commanding General of the Philippine Army. *[applause]*

Early [on] in his career, General Bautista has actively pursued and exhausted all means to defeat the ills that plague our society. As he bids this institution goodbye, his accomplishments speak well of how well he fulfilled his mission.

During his stint as Commander of the 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade and head of the Joint Task Force Basilan, he ably and courageously led the operations against the Abu Sayyaf and other IS-inspired terrorists, resulting in the seizure of several enemy camps and the neutralization of two most dreaded foreign jihadists and bomb makers.

Soon after, I had the pleasure of working closely with him, first time when he was the Task Force Davao Commander, and later when he became the Commander of the Presidential Security Group, and then as the Commander of the 1st Infantry Division that took part in the Marawi operations.

Time and again, he has proven his commitment to duty as highlighted by his valuable contributions to the liberation of Marawi. These assignments, among others, have honed, prepared and equipped him with the necessary skills and experience to lead the men and women of our Army.

Upon assuming command of the Philippine Army, General Bautista orchestrated more than 100,000 combat operations, most of which were against the terrorist CPP-NPA. This resulted in the neutralization and apprehension of hundreds of rebels and the recovery of hundreds of firearms from various lawless elements.

Under his watch, the Philippine Army also provided crucial support [to] the PNP in law enforcement operations, leading to the apprehension of Abu Sayyaf leaders, members, and other fugitives as well as the surrender and neutralization of hundreds more.

During his tenure, General Bautista also oversaw the development [of] training interventions and the activation of additional Infantry Battalions, [a] Light Armored Cavalry Troop and an Intelligence Security Unit to further supplement the [competencies] of our soldiers.

General Bautista, you have fully dedicated your life in the service of [our] country and our people. And as you hang up your uniform, you can stand proud knowing that you leave military service with a positive example to those who will follow.

You can be assured that the Army you will hand over to your successor, Major General Macairog Alberto, is a professional workforce that is stronger, more empowered and even more dependable.

To General Alberto, know that we will constantly face threats and challenges as we trudge the noble path of realizing lasting peace and sustainable development. I trust that you will take up this action as our Army's new Commanding General.

I also ask our troops to support the leadership of General Alberto as we sustain the gains of our reforms. The Filipino people counts on the Philippine Army to remain steadfast in its mission of preserving the peace and

defending the freedoms we enjoy today. With your help, I am confident that we can realize our aspirations for a stronger armed forces and a safer and more secure nation.

Congratulations to General Bautista and Alberto at mabuhay ang Philippine Army. *[applause]*

No, no, no, no, no, no. You sit down. *[laughter]* He took an extra time so I would just announce that whether you believe it or not both in the military and the civilian sector, my only requirement if I'm there facing your appointment, alam ninyo 'yan kilala ninyo ako all throughout the years, I've been mayor for almost 23 years and all of you kaya ko kilala --- that's why I know almost all of you because at one time or another you sojourned or had been assigned in Mindanao.

And since I was the constant RPOC chairman I have dealt with you in so many events. Kilala ninyo ako. Kilala ko kayo.

So itong --- well when appoint you, I have only one --- it's not friendship, it has nothing to do with that. Alam ng Board of Generals 'yan, I promised that I will not tinker with your... I have yet even to call one Cabinet member or one military or police officials. Alam ninyo 'yan. I do not make calls.

And there is no transaction sa aking opisina, table, na transaction ng LRT, MRT --- they do not reach my office.

It begins and ends with Esperon, with Lorenzana, with Medialdea. I do not allow 'yung papel na pera, 'yung mga pera. Transactions in government ever to reach me.

Ang ano ko lang 'yung appointments ninyo pagka itinaas kasi 'yung isa, itaas naman 'yung lahat. So another batch of papers. Sabi ko kay Bong, "Bong, wala na ba itong katapusan?" Pag-i-promote 'yung isa eh karami niyang... Y\*\*\*, pagdating ganun kakapal. Sabi ko "sabihin mo Bong kay Delfin Lorenzana, wala ng promotion ngayon." *[laughter]* T\*\*\* i\*\*.

You look for somebody who will toil to sign your appointments whatever or you stay stagnant there. Kaya nga araw-araw ganun kakapal ano ba --- wala ng katapusan ito. At pulis 'yan ha pati armed forces.

Let alone the other papers of state but minus 'yung mga contracts sa gobyerno, they do not reach my table. You can rest assured --- you can rest assured malinis dito at sa mga kasama ko.

Ang hinihingi ko lang naman I said is that you are competent and you are honest. So ang DSWD ay bakante. So we are now talking I am looking for an honest and competent guy and I choose Rolly Bautista to be the next secretary of... *[applause]*

Secretary, huwag ka naman masyadong pormal diyan. *[laughter]* Civilian ka na diyan. But you will be called Secretary Bautista. Eh 'di maganda 'no. *[applause]*

Now let me just make it clear to everybody. Many are questioning me even some of the ambassadors who are close to me: Why do you choose now most of them military or police --- retired?

Well, I choose them because they are honest and competent. What else? Sabi nila na you want to be ingratiate. Ako? I was not elected by the military. I was not elected by the police. I was elected by the Filipino people. You have your mandate, I have mine.

If we can agree on so many things, good. If not, then I'm sorry. I have to make decisions that are really very hard. Iyon lang.

And you know that at one time, two conferences ago, command conferences, you were all there and I offered to step down. Kasi sabi ko kung ganito ang sitwasyon hindi ko talaga makontrol ang corruption and I cannot deliver what I promised, drugs, corruption, crime, at saka I will make peace with the enemies.

We have tried. We failed with the NPAs. I do not think that I'd ever be ready again to talk to them.

But we have made progress dito sa MILF. And ako naman, if Nur is listening now, Nur, thank you for your patience. Sinabi niya, "Rod, ikaw na ang bahala. But huwag naman matagal. We have to talk also about my advocacy."

Sabi ko, "Nur, steady ka lang medyo marami pa akong problema. Let them pass and maybe we can talk." He's in Davao. He has his soldiers there. Ako naman...

But there was this incident and I have to tell you, most of the Army men were a bit unsettled. Iyong pagkamatay ni Parago --- the commander, the NPA commander who killed so many of our commanding officers of

the... *[Ano ba 'yung sa Paquibato? Alpha ba 'yung naka-station doon? O Alpha company.]*

Almost about four. Tapos ang sabi ng asawa, gusto niya ilibing lang sa Davao City. I even invited, I think it was you and Bato, sabi ko, "Punta tayo doon sa punerarya, let us show our..." To just be a warrior. Patay na eh. Wala na 'yan. Para sa akin 'pag --- no more.

And the request was that I would allow all the NPA soldiers to go down. And sinabi ko sa --- kindly have faith in me. Pinababa ko lahat. And they had this funeral and they were shouting. Sabi ko, "Hayaan mo."

So they went back quietly to the bukid. But you know, alam ninyo, kayong lahat na all these years 'pag may ma-hostage na army, police, talagang ako 'yung pumupunta doon sa bukid. Ako 'yung pumapasok and I demand the release.

Lalo na 'yung the last time was the --- I didn't know that it was --- one of them was a policewoman. Eh na-capture sa Surigao. Eh sabi ko, "Sige na, Bong, paalis na ako." Nanalo na ako noon, Presidente. "So ipasa mo 'yan sa iba."

But nung nalaman ko 'yung babae, sabi ko --- tinawagan ko si [Win?] [Winnie?] iyong --- sabi ko, "Adre, i-release mo 'yan. Babae 'yan. I want it immediately." That was the last --- umakyat ako doon. Kaming dalawa ni Bong. Pati may isang babae. Ewan ko, nakalimutan ko 'yung pangalan niya. But there was a woman with us. Tapos nakita ko doon lahat naka --- parang pista. They hired several buses. It was almost like a...

Baba ako, istorya kami tapos kinuha ko 'yung dalawang biyahe. Pinauna ko 'yung mga sundalo pati pulis. Iyong ganun because mayor ako eh. Pagka mayor ka, politika lang 'yan. I know marami sa inyo nagdududa noon. Pati ito si Año iba ang tingin sa akin. *[laughter]*

Hindi siya tumatawa eh. Nagtatanong siya. Sabi ng mga intelligence, "Ito pa ba... Bakit palabas pasok ito dito?" Sabi, "Sir, noon pa man 'yan."

Eh may ano kami doon parang modus vivendi. Let and let live basta sa Davao. Ngayon, kasi nagalit na si Inday pag-raid nila doon sa Hijo 'yung --- ah Lapanday. Nagalit na 'yung ale doon. Ah sila kalaban. Eh si Inday naman talaga...

I'd like to just --- I'm not campaigning for anybody. This is not a [unclear] for Bong. Iyong adopted brother ng papa ko who went also to settle down in Davao. Diyan sa Marilog. Kumain pa 'yung mga NPA. Pagkatapos kain, binaril sa bunganga. Diyan sa ano...

And si Inday was with me at that time but she was 16 years old. Wala talagang... We talked... Sinamahan ko siya, kasi sa bukid hina-harass 'yung mga...

I was mayor. Sabi niya, "Pa samahan mo ako ng mga NPA na 'yan. Iyong project ko hindi matapos-tapos." It was the time sabi nila nagbigay ako ng .45. 'Wag maniwala diyan.

Sabi ko sa NPA pagkain, medisina, magbigay ako. Pero bala pati baril, alam mo kung sinong papatay sa akin? Kayong mga army. Pagbaba ko dito, aambushin (ambush) ako niyan. Kung gusto niyo akong mabuhay, do not --- you know, screw with --- screwed up with so many ano.

Iyan ang totoo. So balik tayo dito sa ano. I do not think there will be talks again. Talks with Misuari will be forthcoming, just give me time. Tatala namang barilan doon. So there's a lull there, let it be. Bong is not my aide anymore. The moment he signed his certificate of candidacy, he ceased to be a government employee. Kumandidato siya eh.

I'm not [garbled] anything. Pero alam ba ninyo ang lolo ni Bong? Naglalaro ng golf. Dinaan ng NPA, binaril din sa bunganga. That give you an idea kung ano ang sentimiyento niya. Wala akong sinasabi na botohan niyo 'yan.

And let us make a deal here, promise, we make a commitment to the Filipino people. This election, strictly neutral tayong lahat. The Armed Forces, the Police, and the uniformed personnel of government, I am asking you not to indulge in partisan politics. Wala tayong susuportahan.

Iyong mga kandidato ko, ako lang because this is a political position. But I expect everybody to respect that constitutional prohibition.

It's good. It's good for the country and I'll announce to the country now that we make a pledge: There will be an election and it will be an honest one. Walang... [applause] Nobody but nobody can use government resources, not even Bong. I will not allow it.

As a friend I can invite him but he should not... Of course I will campaign for my candidates, eh wala pa naman akong slate.

So hanggang diyan lang tayo and I hate to talk about politics in a crowd like this. Ours is a commitment to our democratic ideals. One is that the military and the uniformed police personnel should not, should not indulge in politics.

There will never be a time that I will talk to you. Kayo, si Rolly pati lahat kayo --- si Macairog. During election time when I was mayor, I never entered their camps. Mga one year before ayaw --- ayaw ko ng magbisita sa regional command just to...

I may have a very lousy mouth but you know my values are quite good, especially when it calls for the exercise of delicadeza. Ganyan ako.

But I value friendship. I value loyalty and nakalimutan ko ng central... Sandali lang, ganito 'yan eh.

Bakit... Bakit si Rolly? Sabagay gwapo. *[laughter]* Kaya siguro... Gwapo man 'yung nasa Cabinet lahat.

With the addition of Rolly, ilan --- ilan na kayo sa... Pila na mong military? *[laughter]* *[DND Secretary Lorenzana counts]* Nagbibilang na 'yan ng junta oh. *[laughter]*

I will make this democracy work. Sabi ko... But... Bakit ako nagpili? This is not to --- *[how would I term it?]* --- this is not to belittle or undervalue the services of the bureaucracy.

Pero ako kasi I have a very limited time with so many promises to honor. Alam mo 'yang bureaucracy ha at bago lang nangyari 'yan sa akin kaya sabi ko --- tinanggal ko.

'Yang makipag-debate sa iyo. Alam ko 'yan kasi mayor ako eh. 'Pag sinabi mong ganun, "Ah, sir, hindi 'yan, ganito, ganito." "Dili, gawain mo lang." Sir, alam mo recently ganun ang nangyari.

Involving public funds that it should not be identified 'yung disbursement to any particular person, only government. Huwag mong ibigay diyan sa for distribution. You know how politics is...

To make it fair, level the playing field. Eh kayo mismong taga-national, huwag mong ibigay diyan sa mga local.

Unang-unang ang bigyan nila, 'yung tao nila, 'yung supporters. 'Yung kalaban nila wala. And if you want to preposition the relief goods in their bodega, t\*\*\* i\*\* wala nang maiwan niyan pagdating ng bagyo. Pati 'yung biskwit.

Sabi ko, "No. You, you, you... The supply stays there. Somehow we will be able to deliver when the time comes." Ganun ako. I have learned my lesson not when I was President but when I was a mayor.

Now, tanungin ko kayo. 'Wag nalang kayong makinig ng mga military pati pulis. Tanungin ko Pilipino. Kung hindi ko inilagay si Del Rosario diyan, matapos kaya ang Marawi on time? Kung hindi ko inutusan si Roy pati si --- si spy, si Año *[laughter]* matapos kaya ninyo 'yan?

Hindi pa naman alam ni Año. Hindi niya alam nung sinabi ko siya na ano... Hindi --- hindi 'yan tumatawa eh. Eh general naka-division of command nung last.

Hindi 'yan tumatawa 'pag pakilala... Si Carolina pati si... Ito si Mapagu naga-smile. Año, mahal masyado ang smile niyan. *[laughter]*

Pero hindi niya alam, sabi ko mabuti ito istrikto. Nabigla rin. Sabi ko, tawagan mo nga si Bong. Sabihin mo sa kanya siya ang DILG.

'Yan. Kung hindi, si Cimatú 'yan, kung hindi si Año, malinis mo kaya ang Boracay? Iwan mo diyan sa local officials? Ay naku. Magprangkahan tayo. Posible kaya iyan? Sabi ko kay Año na kasi --- pati Roy, "I'll give you six months to clean Boracay."



I don't have to have the opening. Sabi ko, I will go to Boracay to distribute the land titles of that big tract of land sa likod ng Boracay kasi sigurado papasok iyang mga --- ayan o.

Wala naman, I have nothing to do with... Pero kung ibigay ko lang naman diyan 'yan sa magawa sila ng mga condo, hotel, endless. Boracay can handle only so much.

You overpopulate the swimmers there, you'll get s\*\*\* in return. Ganun karami. So...

Kaya sabi ko ang mabuti nito... Eh they were speculating ibigay ko raw sa mga Hong Kong... P\*\*\* sabi ko, "Ibigay ko sa tao 'yan." There will be... I will go there just to distribute the titles. I will not go there for a swim. Hindi kagaya kay Cimatú.

Sabi ko, "Roy, pumunta ka doon, uto --- linisin mo." Sabi ko sa kay Año, "Sir..." Nag-si-sir ako sa kanila eh. Oo, ako lang 'yang --- Malacañan. Eh small-time na lang kasi tayo, taga-Mindanao. Nag-si-sir ako. "Sir, tulungan mo si Roy."

'Di pumunta 'yung dalawang berdugo doon. *[laughter]* O 'di nga tingnan mo ang Boracay. Eh may text that, "You are so mabango." Nagpadala 'yung isang ano. So you... "I am proud of you. I love you."

Ah so sabi ko, "Okay. I will not join." Alam na ninyo kung sino nagsabi, "You --- I'm so proud of you. I love you." Alam mo sino? Ah bakit ko sabihin? *[laughter]*

'Yan ang... Kaya pagka ganun, DSWD, may typhoon, dapat --- wala namang tao 'yan. Ilan lang ang personnel? How much can a provincial DSWD? Ilan lang tao niyan?

Tapos hindi marunong. 'Yung mayor salbahe, corrupt pa. Eh 'yung mga pulis pati army. Ngayon, lagyan mo ni Rolly o. "Adre, may trabaho tayo. Trabahuin natin 'to." Madali.

So... *[Ilan kayo, sir, lahat?] [laughter] [Secretary Lorenzana answers]* Meron pa akong isa doon o sa 'yung nagkamali ng tindig, tindig na. *[laughter]* Nakakahiya tuloy si Rolly. Sabi ko bakit apurado itong mga p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* 'to? *[laughter]* Gutom na siguro.

Well anyway, I am sorry for that faux pas they call it. So 'yan ang message ko sa inyo sa election, about my selection, and do not entertain that notion na nagpapalakas ako, no. I've been...

Frankly, I've been the son of the governor of Davao when it was one. I grew up with politics with soldiers and police. So I became mayor very early. Forty-three lang ako naging mayor, I'm 73 now. So you consider the years that I had to interact with everybody.

So I love my Armed Forces. You will never be found wanting. Sa tapang pati sa lahat na hiningi ninyo ibinigay --- ibinigay ko na. *[Dumating na ba ang ano 'yung pinabili ko? 'Tong rinig sa mga uyab natin sa telepono?]* *[laughter]*

Wala kayong maasahan sa akin. Ah taga-intel, sige. Tanong ko sa inyo, ISAFP, meron ba kayong narinig diyan sa telepono sa akin?

Did I call... Not even once. Ang directory ko, t\*\*\* i\*\*, puro babae. *[laughter]*

Ngayon, hindi man ako marunong niyang... Ano man 'yung g\*\*\*\*\* 'yung ano 'yung isang pindot mo, tatlong numero mag... G\*\*\* itong tele... Doon ako sa dati --- 'yung tic-tac-tic-tac lang. *[laughter]*

Pinaglaruan ko minsan, sir. Siguro si Albayalde medyo gustong marinig nito. Nilaruan ko. Nakita ko. Tuturuan ako tapos makalimutan ko kinaumagahan. So naglalaro ako ganyan-ganyan. Sabi ni Bong, ano --- in the process parang you created a Viber.

Iyong isang kaibigan ko, birthday niya. So --- nag ano siya niyan --- tawag nila na Boomerang. Iyong parang mag galaw-galaw ka ng ganun. *[laughter]* Pero it's a --- created by the... Hindi --- hindi ka na kailangan mag ganun. Mag tindig ka then Boomerang paganon. Anak ka ng... Na-send all ko. *[laughter]*

Ubos. Pati 'yung kilala niya, wala na. Umalis sa Davao. So naiwanan ko 'yung g\*\*\* na lang na isa, sabi ko, "Ikaw ang... T\*\*\* i\*\*, sagutin mo lahat ang pangangailangan ko." Wala na eh. Iyong sa States, 'yong sa ano, wala, nawala. Na-send all.

Be careful with the... Sometimes 'yang Murphy's Law, well, that's as good as anytime to say it. If things can go wrong, it will go wrong.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

**--- END ---**