

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE LAUNCHING OF THE 911 TESDA

[Delivered at TESDA Covered Court, TESDA Complex, Taguig City | 30 July 2019]

Kindly sit down. Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. Magandang gabi pala.

I have a prepared speech. This is how TESDA is important to Malacañan, only two pages. *[laughter]* And it ends with "Mabuhay tayong lahat." *[laughter]*

Now, let me just veer away for a moment, about a few minutes, to introduce to you the person at the helm of TESDA. It used to be si Mamondiong. But he ran for governor in Lanao del Sur, but he lost. Sayang, he was also a worker of government.

Kami hong lahat, kami dito, we occupy the well the honored place in this program, but we are all workers of government and we serve the people, no one else.

Si Sid Lapeña was a young soldier then and I was a prosecutor when he was assigned in Mindanao particularly in Davao. He was the 431st company commander attached to the Metrodiscom noon. They used to call the outfit Metrodiscom. He earned this in different assignments all over Mindanao.

Si Sid kilala ko that is why I took him in. And as a matter of fact, if you'd notice and do not be uncomfortable with it because they are all retired military men. Ito si Sid went on to become the deputy chief of police noon and then eventually I got him as my chief of police for the longest time. At naging RD ka Sid 'no? Yes. Eventually I had him assigned also as RD ng pulis, regional director ng PNP.

Alam mo I can vouch for all of them, Sid and the others. Hindi ko sila kilala since birth. I had the privilege of knowing them when I was already a mayor. And since I was the --- in that office for the longest time, silang lahat dumaan sa Mindanao in various capacities and positions. Silang lahat from Lorenzana. They were just also battalion commanders then. Lahat 'yang sila. They either were assigned in the area of my city or they were mga pulis karamihan. Itong lahat sila including Sid I can --- marami kasing takot. You know ang iba sabi na nagpapalakas ako sa military para hindi ako ma-coup d'état.

You know it was not the military or the police who elected me president. Taongbayan. And to this day, I am still wondering how I made it to this position. In others, I was not even given the Chinaman's chance to make it.

But somehow God has a way of --- alam mo ang Diyos marunong eh. He balances everything however unequal minsan ang buhay. Life is never fair. You can be sure of that.

Pero nung na-presidente ako isa lang man tanong. Sila Sid, Lorenzana, Del Rosario, Cimat, they were assigned in my area. I know them and they know me.

Kaya nung panahon na gusto kong... Well, during the almost second half, third alam ko na mahihirapan ako. I don't have anything against the bureaucracy. But there are things which I can avert, delay, or more of a... Alam mo kasi ang bureaucracy mahirap kausapin at 'yung mga direktor makipag-debate pa sa iyo. Ah lalo na 'yung mga tsk...

And you know I am in a hurry. Not because --- well one of the things that I really want is matapos na para in a not so ano parang pagod na ako. I am still capable of doing the job maybe but pagod na ako.

And especially sadly 'yung sinasabi ko na hindi ko mahabol ang corruption. Maski saan puputok 'yan. And I think that every table in a national or local office that has something to do with discretion, diyan papasok ang corruption. Basta 'yang may discretion, he can sit on it on the papers, he can delay it for any reason, and it gives rise to so many things corollary to the delays, pera minsan.

Alam mo wala naman talaga akong pera. Kilala ako nitong mga 'to. Sila 'yung mga pamilya nila, they know me. Hindi naman sa mahirap ako. But ordinaryo lang rin kasi akong empleyado. A little bit higher in the salary grade, maybe by a few thousands. But I did not have the millions to finance a presidential campaign.

But that is another story. It has something to do with the Supreme Court decision itong kay Grace. I have nothing against Grace. She's a wonderful woman. She's very courteous. Lahat na but I simply disagreed with the Supreme Court ruling sa kaso niya.

It's not because I did not want her to be president. She could have been and she could have been also a very terrific government worker. Pero on a matter of principle, talagang sabi ko ang Supreme Court mali sa paningin ko. But of course as a lawyer and a government worker and a citizen of this Republic, I have to acknowledge the supremacy of whatever judgment or decision the court may hand us down.

Noong nanalo ako, nagtanong ako na --- sa Panginoong Diyos --- do not ever believe the... Wala bang pari dito? May Diyos po ako. I just don't want to be saddled with religion. In a matter of a universal being there beyond the clouds elsewhere you look saan, it cannot be na walang Diyos.

But it is not a religion that is tied to an organization or something which --- sometimes their ex cathedra or dogmas is simply not acceptable to my God-given common sense.

Kaya maski noon pa talagang may away na ako sa pari. Kagaya nitong langaw na ito. Utos man nila ito. *[laughter]* Kanina pa 'yan sunod nang sunod sa akin. Naligo naman ako, mga buang. *[laughter]*

Well anyway, I will not dwell on it. That is something which is --- it's either water under the bridge or in honor of my mother, I will just accept the things... Pero sabihin ko sa inyo, life is never fair. So ganun.

So kinuha ko 'yan sila Sid, Lorenzana. Lorenzana was almost a retired --- semi-retired ex-military man who was working in Washington D.C. and I had to call him about four times because sabi niya hindi na siya. Pati si Sid. Sabi niya, "Siguro Mayor, mag..." Mayor kasi ang tawag sa akin. Hindi naman Presidente eh. "Mayor, pahinga na lang kami. Let the other guys have a crack at it."

But for the reason that I wanted things to be done fast and correct, alam nila, dumaan sila sa akin eh. At one time or another, I had a chance to just also say my piece because for the longest time, I was the... *[T*** i** mo.] [laughter]* I was the Regional Peace and Order Council in almost of the 23 years.

So lahat ng dumaan ng Mindanao and Eastern Mindanao, dumaan talaga sa akin 'yan. And ako naman... *[laughter]* *[Maya maghintay ka. Itong speech ko ang ihampas ko sa'yo.]*

Well, we had an excellent rapport. Ako naman basta military maski sergeant nagsi-sir ako. You would notice that. "Sir." When I address, lalo hindi ko kilala. But if I address you as "Sid" ganun. Si --- by their first name, ibig sabihin kilala ko 'yan more than just maybe acquaintance, even a friend.

So sila 'yung kinuha ko ngayon because alam nila hindi ako uutos na hindi legal, being a lawyer, a prosecutor before that, mayorship at hindi ko sila ipapasubo. And mind you, sabi ko naman sa kanila, there was one time I got mad because of an anomaly diyan sa medicines na ghost delivery. I resigned in front of all of them. It was a command conference tapos kaka-b*** s*** ko lang 'yung mga tao doon sa Nayong Pilipino for allowing the building of a structure na gambling casino.

So nagalit ako because it is --- it would be located in the Nayong Pilipino area. And I told them, "What's the... Ano ang kahulugan nitong gambling casino sa ating Nayong Pilipino?"

So pagdating ko doon sa command conference, ipinasa sa akin ni Dominguez 'yung... You know Dominguez is a very --- he was our valedictorian since kindergarten kami hanggang...

Ako ang 75 lang. Hanggang diyan lang ako. But you know, he was the one who --- eh istrikto 'yang buang na 'yan eh sa pera. Nakalagay doon. So nagalit ako, I said, "You guys, if you cannot cover my back, I'm ready to go. I will step down tonight, now. Uwi na ako sa amin."

The second time, 'yung nag-Cabinet meeting kami, may --- nagalit rin ako kasi --- well corruption. Maraming Cabinet members during my time na napaalis. Halos nga siguro isang buwan, isa, dalawa. Mga kaibigan ko 'yon na tumulong sa akin. They gave money, time, energy, all. And in return, I am a man that has a strong sense of gratitude. And so Cabinet member ganun.

Pero sinabi ko sa kanila, kilala ninyo ako. Eh kung kilala talaga ninyo ako, alam na ninyo. Alam na ninyo. Hindi ko --- hindi na ako magle-lecture pa na... Napaka-corny kasi mag-lecture ng matatanda. But 'yung along the way maraming... So sabi ko, dito na muna ako sa mili... Because I'm running out

of time. It's just around the corner and before I know it baka ako rin ang --- ako na rin ipakulong ng mga g***.

Pero sigurado 'yan. It could not be graft and corruption. All the Cabinet members would tell you, I do not, I do not allow papers, transactions involving money, especially public funds na maghintay pa sila ng approval. Nothing of the sort. It begins and ends with the Cabinet member.

Purchases, all, wala akong pa --- huwag mong dalin sa table ko. Kaya masiguro ninyo ang tinatanggap ko lang pera ng gobyerno sa totoo lang, 200,000. Napakaliit ho ng sweldo if I may say so. Isa 'yun sa parang nagreklamo ako.

Kasi dalawa ang pamilya ko. May number 1 ako, may number 2 ako. May number 1 ako, pamilya ni Inday, mga Zimmerman; at itong taga-Bulacan. So 'yang 200 na 'yan, hati 'yan. Pamilya ang bilangan eh, hindi naman ang bunganga.

So it leaves me with nothing. And you can search wherever you want, wala akong pinirmahan diyan sa --- an extra emoluments or allowance. Wala talaga. Kaya nandiyan lang ako sa...

Ngayon, kung yayain mo ako... Pero I do not accept 'yung mga yaya ng lalaki, 'yung dinner, 'yung having coffee. Hindi ako sanay ng ganun. Hindi naman ginagawa namin, probinsya 'yan eh.

But if you want to invite me, first you must be a lady na walang sabit. Pangatlo, may pera ka pambayad sa kinain natin. *[laughter]* Now ngayon kung hindi pa ako kumain at you set it an early hour, ang pakainin mo ito lahat sa likod ko, lahat 'yan.

Akala mo ganun lang 'yan. But when they begin to spread out, hindi mo makita. Pero 'pag mag-congregate na sila, pakainin mo, maski na palit-palit, mapuno 'yung restaurant. So easily, more --- siguro mga 100, 200,000 ang gastos mo. Kung gusto mo akong imbitahin. Kung medyo masama ang tingin ko sa iyo, ako na ang mag-yaya sa iyo pero in your --- in my office.

Whatever your position, it's one cup of rice because I'm saving sa rice natin kasi maraming Pilipino na walang kain so one cup of rice, soup, pati ulam. It could be pork chop, kung gusto mo it could be bangus. 'Yan --- 'yan lang. Tapos maraming istorya, puro yabang na 'yan. Alam mo na 'yung --- lalo na kung may babae. Tigas ka, tigas dito.

But anyway that is how I --- the glimpse of... Totohanan 'yan ha. I'm sure marami kayong kakilala sa... *[Paki ano. Dinapuan ito ng unggoy. 'Yang bago. Sa kakapasyal pati 'yung... 'Yung bote na lang be. Diretso ko na lang. With your permission.]*

Hindi --- hindi madaling magsalita lalo na matanda ka na. *[laughter]* Nagda-dry ang... Have you noticed that, you guys? Nagda-dry ang mouth mo.

So let's now go to the --- the main topic or why we are here. The --- the age of innovation, or they used to call it invention, is already here. So much so that you have to keep on learning. Ang maghabol talaga pati 'yung mga anak natin.

Tayo, ako frankly, ang cellphone ko 'yang ganun. Hindi talaga ako matuto. Eh itong mga babae turuan nila ako, "Yan Mayor pag-access." 'Pag nandiyan I could remember the methodology. Pero pagka bukas makalimutan ko, "Paano kaya itong p**...?" Sabi ko, "Halika nga, turuan mo ako." "Sir, ganito 'yan."

Tapos magtingin sa akin, alam ko ang iniisip niyan, either this guy is talagang bobo na o ayaw na --- one who refuses to learn. Kami 'yan. Kaya hindi ako marunong mag...

Tama 'yung --- the request of Secretary Lapeña. Tiga-pindot lang ako. *[laughter]* Pero kung sabihin mong magpunta ako ng mga application, honestly, wala akong alam diyan. Dapat pagamitin mo ako...

Minsan ito totoo talaga. That --- there's that danger... Ni --- itong si --- ito, ito, ito si Bong. T*** i**** Senate --- Senator Bong Go. Pasalamat ka kay... *[applause]*

Tinuruan niya ako ng Viber pero magpunta pa ako doon sa i-on ko. Minsan hindi --- nakalimutan ko pero may --- ah may mga listahan talaga 'yan. Mga kaibigan lang. So hindi ako marunong, napindot ko kasi may babae na nagpadala ng birthday celebration niya. 'Yung gumaganun. Anong tawag nila? Boomerang.

Napindot ko. Hesusmaryosep. Pag-pindot ko sumabog lahat. Pati sa asawa ko. Sabi ko, "Wala 'yan," sabi ko, "eh ano ba naman 'yan magpadala ng... Ikaw naman. Mag-selos ka pa sa akin katanda ko na?"

Wala. 'Yung iba na hindi matanda ang tingin sa akin, wala, no more. Mga taga --- ganun ka --- eh wala tayong magawa... So wala na akong girlfriend ngayon. Wala na talaga. Zero. Pati matanda na rin. Wala.

There is always a time for everything. A time to be virile and a time to be just --- hardly... But if you are a friend of Pfizer you can get the discount. Mahal 'yang p** --- tapos 400. That 400 does not give you something like this. *[laughter]* Hanggang diyan lang 'yan. At 'wag kang mag-isip ng problema kasi kagaya ko kung mag-isip ako ng problema... *[laughter]* No more. No revival 'yan. Diyan na 'yan. You wait... You have to work.

Tsaka kung nandiyan ka, kayong mga lalaki, puro man tayo matanda dito, you have to --- the power of the mind must be there naka-focus. Kasi gumaganun 'yan eh. Ganun-ganun. 'Pag nawala ka sa --- pu... *[laughter]* Wala na. Mapahiya ka na.

Now, I'd like to say something about today's event. Itong --- there's the --- the gadget. It was invented by several brilliant men sa Silicon Valley. Studied there. And today it is being used to benefit mankind. Ito pagtulong sa ating mga kababayan.

Ngayon, maski sa Davao, medyo kulang tayo ng skilled kasi lahat pumunta doon sa Middle East eh. Kaya 'yung nagpapaka-ano ngayon, mga bagong building, they had to wait because some of them --- itong mga malalaki and even SM, they go to --- they go into foray sa Middle East to convince them to come home with a higher salary.

Kasi itong paggawa nito... *[Thank you.]* Paggawa nito, you need a master electrician. You cannot survive with a man only tawagin mo, gawain mo master carpenter. There's the architect but there's the capataz who sees to it that it's being followed.

So 'yung mga ganoon nawala, itong second generation. As a matter of fact, sabihin ko kay Sid na 'yung kinuha ko siya from Customs, I don't believe even for a moment the shit diyan na corrupt. Or else he would not be in the Cabinet.

Including 'yung lahat. Eh si Faeldon. You know Faeldon was the one na nagpindot sa akin na merong cigarette stamps na fake. At limang bodega na with fake stamps. It was Faeldon who was responsible for raising the revenue for 38 billion. Siya 'yon.

Eh kung corrupt 'yon eh 'di nilapitan na lang niya 'yon. Dominguez was --- Dominguez, I think, went for 40. Tapos nakiusap sa akin, sabi ko, "No, no, no. You go to the person concerned. You go to Dominguez." Tapos doon kayo magluhod.

So Dulay and Dominguez had a... Then they went to me, then sabi ko, "Well, I'll leave it to you to decide." Kaya nagkaroon tayo ng 38 billion. It was a windfall. Actually it was not --- ni wala naman sa budget 'yon, wala sa sources na traditional income natin. But --- kaya sa --- sabihin ko lang sa inyo na kung bakit Faeldon pati si Sid nandito pa sa atin --- because they are really honest and I can vouch for that. Walang --- walang hao shao itong mga tao na ito.

And all of the --- itong nandiyan ngayon. Cimatú --- Cimatú was a retired chief of staff. But he was assigned in... Ganun din, pinakiusapan ko. Halos lahat 'yan ayaw. 'Yung ayaw, 'yon ang gusto ko. Pero kung mag-apply ka na, "attached is my resume..." Tapos doon kung saan-saan nag-graduate, post study sa Harvard.

Huwag mo akong bolahin, p**** j**. Dito lang ako sa ano. All PMA graduates. You have to have a minimum of intelligence diyan bago ka makapasok. But they are all good men of good will.

So itong innovation na ito, ito 'yung magaganda na maisip ninyo na makakatulong sa bayan.

The next generation dito pa rin sila kukuha sa atin. Almost ageing lahat eh: Japan, America, especially Europe. Kaya magyabang 'yang mga puti na 'yan. One day, they would run out of human being. Ang pinakagwapo Pilipino na pati Pilipina. Wala, nonproductive na 'yang mga 'yan. Parang baby doll na lang 'yan.

So they would continue to look beyond their shores and look for sources of talents. Kaya sabi ko kay Sid during a Cabinet meeting --- during his first Cabinet meeting, sabi ko, "Sid, because I'm working very hard dito sa mga komunista, lahat na nag-surrender may bahay 'yan. Kay Del Rosario 'yan.

May condo 'yan. Binibigyan ko ng condo, binabayaran ko ng suweldo para mag-aral diyan sa TESDA."

So they can have the skills. And if jobs are not available here in the next few years, they can always go out and seek employment somewhere and they can be productive. So 'yan ang bakit ako nandito.

I appreciate innovations. Just call it inventions. But since it applies to many things now, it's called innovation.

There's one innovation that I really appreciate. And may I be allowed to say salamat sa inyong lahat sa tulong ninyo sa Pilipinas. *[applause]*

Problema nakalimutan ko na tuloy 'yung salutations. So balik na tayo, dito na tayo sa ano ha. So you listen para hindi sabihin pagod na kayo. Just pretend. I know that you are eager to go home. Wala namang ulan. *[Yes, ma'am.]*

House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano and his lovely wife. *[applause]* *[Saan si Lani nandito ba?]* Si Mayor and si Lino. *[applause]* Sorry, the Taguig mayor.

Kailan kaya matapos ang --- ang dynasty ninyo? *[laughter]* Well, you can ask the same question safely with me. 'Yung mayor si Inday, the vice mayor si Baste. Bilib na ako ngayon may haircut na at walang ginawa 'yon sa buhay niya kundi babae, t*** i**.

Ngayon, he worries about the public interest and that is --- I am grateful to God na... Eh si Pulong... Pero you can be very sure 'yung ma-ano ito. Si Inday pati si... Inday is --- okay 'yan.

Si Sebastian. Si Pulong, hindi ko na nakikita. Papalit-palit ng partido. *[laughter]* Inyo. Saan siya ngayon? Baka NPA na lang siya mas mabuti pa. *[laughter]*

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez and other members of the Cabinet; TESDA Director General Isidro Lapeña and his --- ma'am --- lovely wife. Kaibigan ko 'yan sila, ma'am, for the longest time.

Senator Bong Go. Ito, Batangueño 'to. He's not really from Davao. Migrant na lang 'yan sila kagaya namin. If you are not a Maranao, if you are not a Maguindanao, Kagan, Sama, Tausug o if you do not speak the dialect and you are a Christian, you are not a Mindanaoan. You are a descendant of a migrant Christian. 'Yan ang sa ano...

The officials and employees of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, mabuhay kayong lahat; other distinguished guests; mga kababayan. *[applause]*

Basahin na lang natin ito kay mag-uwi na tayo.

Today's launching of 911 TESDA affirms this administration's strong commitment to open more doors of opportunities for our countrymen who are in need and are willing to engage in gainful employment and productive skill.

Kayong mga NPA, g*** kayong mga u*** dito na kayo, mag-enroll kayo.

I am pleased with the efforts of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in making the undertaking possible. This initiative is just one of the innovative solutions that will bring Technical Vocational Education and Training or TVET graduates closer to the local labor market.

I forgot to mention si Secretary Andanar. Tumindig ka para... Ito 'yung sinasabi nila na maraming babae. *[laughter]* Kasi pogi-pogi raw eh.

I am confident that this program will significantly contribute to our efforts to provide livelihood opportunities that will enable our people to make a decent living and, in the process, empower them to contribute to our overall growth as a nation.

This web-based project is definitely responsive to the growing demand for quality services in households, communities and enterprises by harnessing the great potential of our digital online service providers.

It is my hope that by providing an efficient, dependable, and reliable means of job application, matching and hiring, we will be able to promote ease in doing business and, at the same time, augment our workers' income and increase the demand for employment in automotive, electronics, transport, logistics, and other vital services.

As we forge a strong network of services and job linkages in public and private Technical Vocational Institutions, I am hopeful that our TVET students and graduates are all over the country will successfully land jobs that will best suit their skills and qualifications.

Let me express my heartfelt gratitude to our industry partners who made 911 TESDA possible. May you continue working with government so we can attain our common goal of producing well-trained individuals who will become agents of positive transformation in their respective sectors.

It is just fitting that we launch this groundbreaking project as we also prepare to celebrate TESDA's milestone 25th anniversary next month. Panibagong speech 'to. *[laughter]*

May this inspire each of you to further enhance the quality of technical and vocational education in the country so we may open more doors of opportunities for the advancement of our fellow Filipinos.

As I have said kanina, it ends with: Mabuhay tayong lahat. *[applause]*

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