

Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE MASS OATH-TAKING OF NEWLY APPOINTED
OFFICIALS**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila | 08 January 2020]

I need to make a few words in addition to my prepared speech, which is actually made by the guys in the office. But more or less, it reflects what is in my heart. But then again, there are things which I have to just tell you. I am not delivering a speech ha. I am just talking to you.

The Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go; our newly appointed officials to the different government agencies and government –owned and –controlled corporations; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Let me congratulate our newly appointed government officials who have answered the call to public service. Your presence here today attests to your commitment to work with this administration in effecting genuine change and promoting progress and stability in the country.

As you take your oath of office today, keep in mind that there would be greater challenges ahead. I therefore hope that your mandate will inspire you to boost the morale, promote efficiency and integrity, and raise the standards of public service in your respective offices.

I assure you that you have my utmost trust and confidence --- otherwise I would not have appointed you --- and I hope that you will exemplify honor and excellence in the fulfillment of your duties as servant leaders in the government service.

I trust that you will help me sustain our people's faith in the bureaucracy. Remember that you have a vital role in upholding good governance, transparency and accountability in all of your transactions with the public.

Let me reiterate that for this administration, the welfare of our people and the improvement of their lives are of utmost importance.

Allow me to take this opportunity to ask each of you to remain committed in pursuing the administration's development agenda.

I look forward to having all of you as partners of the national government in its efforts to intensify our fight against illegal drugs, criminality, terrorism, corruption, and other social ills.

With your commitment it is our shared task of nation-building, I am confident that we can march forward with renewed zeal as we steer our country to greater heights.

I will just say something about... You know, we are facing problems in and out of our country. Grave problems.

Locally, it's the water issue. And I have given the go-signal to our lawyers to present it to the concessionaires. Iyong distributor ng tubig lang. But at the end of the day, akala mo sila 'yung may-ari. Parang sila na ang lahat.

And so I gave them the choice, not an ultimatum. We do not do that because we do not own government. At sinabi ko sa kanila, "sign the new contract because if you don't, I will nationalize, take over the operations, and I will send you to jail." I have two years to do that and I can do it.

Second, if you sign the contract sans the onerous provisions --- but I do not give you a guarantee that no charges will be filed. For all that I can really say about this, I am not the only Filipino who is interested in the prosecution of crimes.

But having been a prosecutor for so many years, my instinct really was... You know, to me and to the lawyers here, if you read the contract, you just use your two eyes, you will notice that right at the beginning it is already null and void. Iyon ang mahirap. And if I go against one, I will go against all at sino sa lahat sa gobyerno pati sa kanila.

It was really at that time a conspiracy to defraud government. At makita mo, if you place the two documents: Republic Act 3019, that's the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices and you place them face-to-face with the contract of the consumers, distributors, you would notice that all of the prohibited transactions in the Anti-Graft Law are really in the document itself.

And that contract was never shown to the public. It was kept out, and suddenly we have a liability. Because if we fail to ratify the rise of the rates at their bidding, they incur losses day-by-day and we have to pay. Ang mga p***** i** nila. You must be... Lahat kayong mga p***** i** ninyo. Harap-harapan kayo magnakaw. You rob as blind in front.

So tanggapin ninyo `yan. Pray that nobody will be interested because I will really --- if somebody will --- if I decide to go after you, I will see to it that a billionaire goes to prison.

To the listening public in the entire country today and those with bleeding hearts and the hypocrites and all, naghahanap kayo ng "where's the big fish?" "Eh Duterte is going only after for..." Eh mahirap magkuha ng ebidensiya eh. And it is the batting average even in a court trial alam ninyo `yan, it's 70 percent in favor of the accused. We only have 30 percent average to secure a conviction because of the stringent rule of proof beyond reasonable doubt. If you create a doubt even a dot in a sentence, patay ka na. So it is not that really easy to go after...

Ito, I stumbled on, and you know what? Sabi ko --- nasabi ko naman na ito but I'll say it again, what really tickled my mind was `yung walang tubig pinatiis nila ang Pilipino.

I was in Davao then because I enjoyed the rural, rustic place. It's a madding crowd here in Manila. I could not have been... Hindi ako makalabas na... Well, I am not allowed by these guys to go out. I don't know why. Wala naman akong sentensiyado na preso. But you cannot go out and they control your life. You can go there but you cannot go here.

Pati tuloy `yung mga ka-date ko na mga babae na I promised them a dinner, napurnada. *[laughter]* Totoo `yan. Hindi naman sabihin mo na girlfriend. You know the social life. Alam mo magkain ka ng steak kaharap mo maganda, hindi mo talaga maubos. *[laughter]* Nagsasayang ka ng pera.

Well, anyway ganun ang buhay. So walang tubig. Eh may nagbulong sa akin sabi, "Sir, may tubig `yan." And then I called the intelligence community. "Tingnan mo nga doon kung may tubig o wala." Pagbalik ng mga sundalo, "Sir, may tubig." Kaya sabi ko, "P***** i** kayo. Lilipad ako bukas sa Maynila, tomorrow. `Pag walang tubig, p***** i** ninyo bantay kayo.

Kumuton ko na inyong nawong." Alam niyo ang kumuton? Iyong ganunin. Kumot is... Pagdating ko may tubig na ang p***** i** niya. Sabi ko...

And then I was trying to figure out the timelines of their increases, to time it during the increase. Alam mo ganito 'yan eh, and it's a Gestapo style. Ang tao 'pag binugbog mo, 'yung third degree, pagkatapos ng ilang oras niyan kahahampas mo, "I know, ginawa ko. Ako 'yung tini-third degree ng asawa ko."

Na pagdating ng panahon, he could no longer bear the pain. Nagsabi na lang 'yang criminal, "Sir, ako 'yun, sir." Maski na --- that's the problem with a third degree. Itong mga human rights akala nila... I know by experience kasi naging prosecutor ako.

'Pag binugbog mo ang tao, nasobrahan na, maski anong sabihin mo mag-oo 'yan. "Sinong pumatay kay Rizal?" "Kami sir, kaming squad." "Sinong pumatay kay Hesukristo?" "Kami 'yun, sir. Inutusan lang kami ng mga..." 'Yan ganon. "Sinong pumatay kay Aquino?" "Sir, kami 'yun. Hindi ho sila." They will admit everything.

Ngayon, 'yung tubig 'pag pinatiis mo isa, dalawa, tatlong araw at naging mabaho na, pati asawa mo sabihan mo, "Maghugas ka lang diyan maski bottled water. Hindi ka na naliligo eh." At the end of the day, they will just say, "Sige na lang. Okay lang, bahala na. Increase na lang basta may tubig." That's the... Kaya --- kaya ako galit.

Ito namang mga media na bulala 'yung bunganga. Ang bababaho ng mga bunganga ng mga p***** i***** 'yan. Bakit daw ako mag-sisigaw? Bakit ako mag... Bakit hindi ako magalit? Water treatment facilities, 1997 may billing na. Hanggang ngayon may billing kayo, walang water treatment. Doon pa rin sa Manila Bay ninyo binubuga 'yung... Kung hindi g*** itong mga p***** i***** mayaman na ito. Sira ulo ninyo.

Well, sige you are sorry and you were in a sorry state because you never thought that I'd win. But sinabi ko sa kampanya, corruption hindi 'yang mga Customs-Customs diyan, mga NAIA-NAIA sa airport. Sabi ko ang corruption sa itaas.

I've been a mayor for 21 years. I have been a congressman, I've been a vice mayor, I've been a mayor again then President. I never lost an election. So why would I just set aside and treat it like a garbage, the trust and confidence of the people sa akin? It's sacred.

The presidency? It's a gift from God. It could be given by the --- a pious and upright person. It could be given also to a son of a b****. But it's ano, you have to ask God about that. It's a universal equation which you can never solve or straighten out. 'Yan ang problema. Hindi kasi ninyo... Never in your wildest dreams na mag-converge ang destiny ng tao dito. Hindi talaga nila... Otherwise, they would have... Nagkamali kayo doon sa tubig. That started everything.

And as a lawyer, when I looked at the contract, it was full of s*** because there in that document is the exact copy of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices. Your crime it could be plunder or it could be a syndicated or estafa on a large scale. In which case, it is non-bailable. If you want to go out? Go ahead. But you will be a fugitive for all time. And I guarantee you, you will never come back as a whole person.

Iyon ang mensahe ko. No --- they say, I have also fired so many. And as a matter of fact, persons who were with me in 1988 when I won the mayorship, who helped me, who assisted me and all, nandoon sa akin. So noong naging ano ako Presidente, out of gratitude... Eh tutal naman puro... And you would notice kung sino 'yung luma --- pumasok, lumabas. They were all bright men, lawyers and everything.

Pero ang sinabi ko sa kanila noong mayor pa ako hanggang ngayon, "Adre alam namin 'yung usapan dito." Eh tutal kung nagnakaw tayo, inumpisahan na sana natin noon. It's about too late in a day really to start on anything. And corruption, well if you are into it, do not --- do not try to lead a community. Ako hinihingi ko sa inyo huwag na huwag talaga kayong magkamali.

I am not threatening. I am just saying avoid corruption or even a whisper of it because I will start to smell around. And you know, I have the entire

machinery of the military and the intelligence community especially to find out.

Well there are things that we do which I cannot tell you in public because I will go to prison if I do it. Tell you now. Pero I will know. I will know pati 'yung lahat ng ano mo, I will know.

So just avoid wrongdoing. Wala man akong problema diyan. If it's really not enough, my God, you do it legally. And if it's too big, try to look for Medialdea or kung sino 'yung departments sa GOCC. Try to find out if it's okay. And you can write me a letter. At kung sabihin mo malaki, approve ko if you need it. Alang-alang naman na...

Alam mo there's never enough to go around. That's one thing, very sure. So wala akong problema. Legally? Some say it's a moral --- a morally high. It's okay for as long as there is really a legal basis. And if I approved it, and if I think that you need it because I need it too... Ang suweldo ko 200 lang. Wala na akong iba. You can scrutinize all offices. Wala akong pinirmahan ni isa. Two hundred, minus tax, about 94. Dalawa pa ang pamilya ko. At saka papaano ako mag-survive?

Buti't na lang may --- itong may... Well, nandiyan sila mayor. Tutulong sila doon sa isa. Ito namang isa may negosyo. So more or less. Pero 'yung sabihin...

So just avoid. Legally? Sige. Pero huwag 'yung mga transaction na ganon. The latest one was --- I'm sorry to... Anyway, I forgot his name. 'Yung sa PNOC. When I was reading the contract, my God, this guy. And the first question that I asked him, "Adre, abugado ka?" Sabi niya, "Oo." Sabi ko, "p**** j**, sira ulo mo."

So iyan lang ang akin. Wala akong ano. I... I'm... I... I mean well, I trust you. I am thanking you for joining government, lending your expertise, helping the people. Anyway, let...

Sa dormitoryo namin ni --- sino bang kasama ko sa dormitoryo dito? Dulay, si Bebot. Sino pa bang inilagay ko? Si Aguirre before. Puro kami --- 'yang

lahat ng bureaucracy puro probinsyano 'yan. Mga dormitoryo boys 'yan eh. Kagaya nung sa amin doon sa ano...

I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it or I shall not pass this way again.

Pagkamatay natin eh, pati buto mo hindi mo madala. So tamang-tama lang. If you are comfortable now, make it a little bit comfortable, but please do not go overboard. And if you stay true, I will love you with all my heart.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

--- END ---

Source: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)