

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE CANDON CITY BY-PASS ROAD**
[Delivered in Barangay Oaig Daya, Candon City, Ilocos Sur | 25 July 2019]

Kindly take your seats. Thank you.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar and the other members of the Cabinet; the 2nd District Ilocos Sur Representative Kristine Meehan and the other members of the House of Representatives; Ilocos Sur Governor Ryan Singson; officials and employees of the Candon City led by Mayor Eric Singson; Narvacan Municipal Mayor Luis Chavit Singson, sir. *[laughter and applause]*

Sir, ah you know I my --- you have my deepest respect. Pero itong si Bong sige siya pinapapanood niya 'yung gimmick mo doon sa... *[laughter]* Sabi niya, "Tignan mo talaga si Chavit o." The ever... Sabi ko, "Huwag mong gawin 'yan baka hindi totoo 'yan.'" *[laughter]* Totoong patulog-tulog siya pero... *[laughter]* Well, wala akong... We do not have that kind of opportunity to be... Ikaw 'yon, sir, ang palagi eh. So we can only say good luck *[laughter]* and may the next mission be accomplished. *[laughter]* The other distinguished guests; mga kababayan.

I am pleased to join you today as we inaugurate the Candon City Bypass Road. An important component of our comprehensive infrastructure development program, this project is expected to promote economic activity and enhance mobility in the urban and rural areas of Ilocos Sur and neighboring provinces as well.

Let me acknowledge the efforts of the Department of Public Works and Highways for the successful completion of this 7-kilometer bypass road. I also thank the local government of Candon and the surrounding towns for their steadfast support for this project.

This development is expected to ease traffic congestion along the Manila North Road. It will reduce travel time between the towns

of Santa Lucia and Santiago in Ilocos Sur from 40 minutes to only 20 minutes, benefiting thousands of motorists per day.

This project emphasizes the importance of infrastructure interconnectivity in the overall development of our nation. That is why the government continues to heavily invest in our "Build, Build, Build" Program to enhance connectivity and improve our people's movement.

Alam mo, let me cut. If you've been to Mindanao, I think Mindanao is the heaviest right now. Parang compensation lang sa... Ah wala man ito. *[laughter]* Galing doon 'yung bala ano man ito. *[laughter]*

Well, really sometimes inilalagay nila dito. Dito pa tuloy na teritoryo ng mga Singson, si Esperon pati kay... Siguro Mindanao and the... You know Mindanao continues to be a problem. I am not advocating for any continuance of the martial law.

But if the local government units, the governors, mayors and even congressmen, would find it that it would be to the best interest of the Filipino in Mindanao, I would not hesitate to say yes.

Alam mo we have been facing a lot of problems. I have to face the revolutionary front of the MI and the MN. Iyong MI na-areglo na natin. Sa awa ng Diyos baka tuloy-tuloy na 'to but I'm not promising that it would be a very permanent one.

In MN, I have yet to talk to Misuari. But ang napakaganda naman sa loob sa puso ni Misuari, he is ready to talk anytime. He has remained firm about declaration of a revolutionary war. But overtime he has mellowed down and every time we talk he said that, "Well, Mayor..." I call myself "mayor" everywhere "if you find in your heart to agree with me this year, ipatawag mo lang ako."

As a matter of fact, he is a resident of Davao City. And everything is quite peaceful in the mainland itself, lalo na ang central Mindanao. But you know I have to face itong territorial led ito eh, ang motive dito sa MI, MN. Because of the historical injustice with the coming of the Spaniards and the Americans, ang homeland nila na Mindanao talagang nawatak-watak. And with the coming of droves at pati mga Ilocano lahat na, Bisaya, Tagalog, everybody up Mindanao nandoon.

The Ilocanos ang lahat nung 1952, '53, puro Ilocano ang aming supervisor, teachers lahat, the educators. And the first to get the opportunity for...

Ilocano lupa eh. So that's why they went north and away ng Ilocano ang away.

So they had a mixture of mix marriages there. And North Cotabato in about 20 years would be one of the most progressive local government units because of the produce of the land. Ilocano kasi ang humawak. Even in the mountains, sad to say I got lost sometime in a helicopter. Kaya dito ngayon ulan nang ulan, so we had to land. At dito sa side, nakita ko na it was all a leftover of the loggings and the cutting of trees and everywhere. Nakakaawa ang bayan natin.

But when I was viewing... When the clouds lifted, nakita ko 'yung lupa na pati 'yung tutok, sa taas ng bukid, merong mga palm oil, may mga rubber at coconut. At may 'yung kanilang --- if you go around by helicopter, low enough to view the entire --- 'yung demography ng movement ng tao pati the topography. Lahat ng tao doon halos may swimming pool gano kaliit ang bahay. Parang chalets, bungalows. But they are better off maybe from where they left. I'm not trying to... Maganda ang buhay nila doon at mayaman. So that is the mixture.

Pero ang mga Ilocano kasi --- ah eh ang mga Ilonggo pagdating doon medyo na-ano, eh ayaw magpalugi. Kaya if it is an Ilonggo from Mindanao, ma-ano talaga 'yan, matapang 'yan na talagang makipagpatayan. That's why we had this war in 1972 gave rise 'yung mga black shirts.

Hanggang sa PC Hill ng Cotabato which is part of the city, a reservation for the military housing, umabot doon 'yung giyera. But overall, okay na ngayon because 'yung mga Ilonggo they have Gen San. North Cotabato belongs really to the Ilocano. And there are places in North Cotabato na ang salita mo kailangan Ilocano and you cannot --- hindi na, hindi ka na maintindihan ng Moro kasi natuto na maging Ilocano. Ilocano-speaking ang North Cotabato.

May mga sprinkling na Ilonggo. Damo na sang Ilonggo nga... One of them is Piñol. Ilonggo. When during our first Cabinet meeting, General Esperon was there. And he said, "I assure the President that at the end of the year, we might be a net exporter of rice." Sabi ko --- sinenyasan ko 'yan sila... Si... 'Yung mga karamihan ng --- almost half of my Cabinet members are Ilocanos. The newest is Salamat.

And the reason really is very obvious. Not because I do not like the Ilonggo generals. They are good fighting. Dalawa lang kasi ang ano natin. The fighting warriors of the Philippines are the Ilocanos at mga Ilonggo. Lahat na

'yung sa mga Bisaya where my father comes from, of course my mother is a Maranao.

But I consider myself --- if you'll ask me, I'm Visayan from Cebu. Wala akong nakitang sundalo na Cebuano. Magtanong ako --- every time --- totoo 'yan, every time I go to a hospital. 'Yan, alam ng mga generals. I always ask, "Sinong Bisaya dito?" Wala. "Ilocano?" halos one half. "Bisaya, Ilonggo?" Meron rin. Ilonggo... Ilonggo ka sa Iloilo o Ilonggo sa Cotabato? "Hindi Ilonggo Cotabato sir ah." Hindi... Matapang. Palaban talaga.

Pero 'yung ibang --- afraid of... Huwag mo ng sabihin sa kanila tutal lamang man kayo. T*** i** mga talawan. *[laughter]* Alam mo talawan sa Bisaya? Duwag. Magtanong ako, "May Cebuano dito?" Wala talaga ni isa. G***** no contribution to our *[laughter]* nation-building. Totoo 'yan. I don't why but that's how it is. You can ask the military.

Iyon si Lapu-Lapu... When I became President --- well even when I was in high school, wala kaming hero. Pucha puro Ilocano, sila Aguinaldo. Ako naman, bilib ako. Actually, ang bisitahin ko sana Gregorio del Pilar noong Independence Day. I was not in Luneta. I went to Lanao where Justice Abad Santos --- I don't know his genealogy but he was there. He was brought by the Japanese in that camp in Lanao and he was forced to kneel down to pledge allegiance to the Japanese flag or else he will --- his head will be cut off.

So 'yung anak niya, sabi niya, "Pa, ano lang naman ito, you know, it's just a ceremony. This war will be over someday whether the Japanese will win or... Laro na lang tayo."

And you know, I'm a lawyer, so para sa amin when he said, "Do not cry my son because not everybody is given a chance to die for his country." So dumikit 'yon sa aking mind. Pati 'yung sina Gregorio del Pilar. Si Gregorio del Pilar ata ang una kong choice eh. Pero they were not prepared. Eh doon sa Lanao, there was this memorial. I had it cleaned and sabi ko I will pay homage to Justice Abad Santos because of what he did for my --- for our country. 'Yun ang ano...

So we are all Filipinos. I remember supervisor --- Superintendent [Dagdag?], he was a very strict guy. He was an Ilocano. And lahat ng mga teachers namin --- the educators of Mindanao are to the credit of the Ilocanos. Sila 'yung mga teachers namin, 'yung unang ipinadala ng gobyerno during the pacification years na natapos 'yung --- well the small revolts and then we had this big one. Okay na tayo. Then but we have the ISIS.

Now, 'yung Abu Sayyaf, Maute, they are all ISIS. They have pledged allegiance to a very corrupt and empty and stupid religious ideology. They do nothing but kill and destroy. 'Yan ang mahirap sa itong mga g**** 'to. And they cut off the heads of my soldiers, decapitate the --- mga pulis mahuli nila. And ayon 'yung mga civilians pati 'yung na-kidnap nila na mga foreigners.

You know, it's not easy to say it in public pero parang sampal sa atin 'yan kaliwa't kanan, every day that there is a hostage there.

So I had an agreement with the military na maglagay ako ng isang division, so it might improve things.

Well, if they want killing, I told the military, "Give it to them. Ibigay mo. Gusto nila ng patayan." Because I --- agrabyado ako sa mga pinutulan nila ng ulo mga sundalo pati pulis. And recently, I --- this is a nationwide coverage. 'Yung mga NPA nasa Negros Oriental. Matagal akong mayor and every general dito sa Armed Forces knows --- know about it na ako 'yung pumupunta in the forest hinterlands of Mindanao to retrieve mga CAFGU, pulis, mga army na na-hostage nila.

Wala naman kaming sinaktan kung ang mag-surrender ang mga NPA, ni isang kurot. The military does not allow it. I do not allow it because you will just exacerbate the situation. You will just generate hatred. So lahat nang nag-surrender doon, nag-leader sa ano, they were treated humanely, decently.

'Yung pulis na nahuli doon sa --- na-hostage nila about seven days ago diyan sa Negros Oriental, binugbog nila, pinaghahampas nila tapos pinatay nila. Sinunog nila parang ISIS. Kaya ako nagalit. Kaya nagtanong --- may nagtanong sa akin. Because we were friends, I can go in and out of the mountains. And during --- General Esperon knows that.

Kinukuha ko 'yung ano kasi magkaibigan kami. And I've yet to hear a single story about a prisoner of war, as they want to call --- to describe the whole thing na sinaktan ng military. Pero 'yung pagkamatay ng pulis na pinaghahampas nila, agrabyado ako. So galit ako.

Ngayon, may pakana sila na 'yon daw nag-lead ng grupo na 'yon, he became despondent, he committed suicide. Bolahin ako ng mga --- p*. Huwag mong --- do not f*** with me. Binobola ako eh. Sabi ko, bring --- bring him the head. Bring the head rather of that fellow.

So the other night, I raised the first one million. Then, the other night I was before the governors and mayors, I said, "I'm raising it two million." Now nandito ako, I'm raising it to three million. Dalhin mo lang 'yang ulo ng p***** i** okay na sa akin, sabi ko.

It will keep on increasing and the pressure that goes with it. Kasi pagkatapos niyan 'pag mag-abot ng 20 milyones 'yan sabihin ko, dalhin mo na masking anong ulo basta leader dalhin mo na dito may 20,000 kayo.

You know I have about --- I built about 15 to 20,000 condominiums for them. Nung unang ginawa ko sa Bulacan, ninakaw pa nitong mga Kadamay.

So galit 'yung mga sundalo but since they are Filipinos I told them, "Do not -- if that is the only thing that we will fight them because they were stealing your condominiums, that is not a --- a good reason to go to war. Ibigay na lang ninyo, gawaan ko kayo ng bago."

Eh itong kanila ngayon bago, kung makita ninyo, talagang maganda. Doon sa --- inumpisahan ko sa Scout Rangers. Then I'm gonna build them sa Sangley kasi I have to move them out of the area. But I'm going to give them a new house, 'yung mga Marines, gawaan ko rin sila.

So that I can use the airport. 'Yung airport natin ngayon lahat ng aircraft nang papuntang direksyon ng Maynila, Manila lang. Kung sana pupunta ng Clark, okay lang, but Manila. Light planes, commercial, general aviation --- general aviation is 'yung mga privately-owned, lahat-lahat na 'yan.

Kulang na talaga. So sabi ko we have to invent a new one. So Sangley will be put to good use. But I will also build the houses for the military.

Not because gusto kong magpalakas. The mistaken notions sabi ng iba na, "Ah nagpapalakas 'yan si Duterte sa military. Takot 'yan siya na paalisin. Coup d'état."

You know, ladies and gentlemen, in one of an instance where I really got mad because the medicines for the soldiers naging ghost delivery. Talagang nagalit ako sa command conference at nag-resign ako. Sabi ko, "If the commanders of the Army, Air Force pati Navy and Albayalde will stand up, I will resign and go."

I'll go home to Davao, o dito. Maganda dito kasi malalayo ang bahay walang istorbo. *[laughter]* Davao is --- Mindanao is too crowded. Everybody is going

there. So hand in hand with your development, we have to develop Mindanao fast. Gabi-araw ang traffic, walang hinto `yan because they are --- everybody is there trying to develop the land.

Wala kasing bagyo. Walang torrential rain. So what you plant, you just wait for the period of the maturity ng... So nandoon lahat. But we have the problem of the ISIS. Ayan ang wala talaga, there --- there is no compromise diyan. `Di talaga ako makipag-usap diyan sa mga animal na `yan.

Itong sila Misuari sabi ko it's connected with territoriality. And then the communist, marami pa naman sila dito siguro o wala na? I do not know. But... Alam mo ako, nakikinig kayo, ayaw kong makipag-away. It grieves me to see a dead Filipino.

Do not ever think that the military and the soldiers would enjoy killing a human being. Magalit lang siyempre makita nila `yang the esprit de corps or the camaraderie siyempre. Pero sabihin mo the --- may hatred sila? Wala. Alam nila giyera eh.

So even the armed forces and the police. Pero nakakainis lang itong... Why do they have to start something like this na paghahampasin mo `yung pulis, all hematoma all over the body? Kaya ako nagalit.

So from one million that night when I visited the wake, last night I was meeting the local officials and today, it's now three million. And it will increase `pag magda --- marami na masyado `yan. Mag-abot `yan ng 15, 20 million, sabihin ko sa kanila, "Sige na maglaro... Maski sinong leader diyan patayin ninyo. Dalhin niyo `yung ulo dito."

Do not bring the body because that is ma-seremonya na. Marami nang magtingin, mga simpatiya, `yung mga manggagawang loko-loko, `yung mga front nila. Itong Karapat --- nandito ba ang Karapatan? Karapat-dapat lang talaga kayo upukan mga g*** kayo. *[laughter]*

Well I used to be friends with them, really. Because kaming nagpunta ng Mindanao anak lang kami ng mahirap. Otherwise, we would not have ventured to Mindanao, a strange land.

Imagine Mindanao in 1952. We had to practically hack out in the forest. Noong lahat nagpunta `yung mga Ilocano na mayaman nandoon. That --- that's the reward. Maraming Ilocano na mayaman doon, sa totoo lang.

Meron diyan sa mina, 'yung mga medyo bugoy went to the mountains, Diwalwal, mga sundalo.

But we're all Filipinos and we would like --- if we are not so close now, if we --- you think that there is not enough bond between the Ilocanos and Bisaya, the next generation, your children, teach them na we are all Filipinos. And as a matter of fact, the Ilocanos should be the first to reach out because they are dying for us.

Iyong mga Ilonggo ganun rin. Te, ni si Emmanuel Piñol, 'yung Agriculture ko, gabalhin ko sa Mindanao na siya. Gabalhin is ---transferred him. Sige man na sulti na everything is all right. 'Di nagutom na sang mga Pilipino. Way na rice. Nag-aaway sila diha.

(TRANSLATION: I transferred Emmanuel Piñol, my Agriculture secretary. He's already in Mindanao. Gabalhin --- is transferred him. He kept on saying that everything is all right. So the Filipinos became hungry. There's no more rice. They were already fighting there.)

Di ko na lang... Ayaw ko na lang sabihin kung sino. But that is [unclear] much in front of me. Actually, it was really rice. So that my --- my --- my... I would like to... This I can assure you, I will create a happy compromise between the farmers at 'yung importation.

You can be sure [*applause*] that during your harvest no importation will be allowed. [*applause*] Ayaw ko. That's what I said. Ubusin mo muna bilhin, kung mahal magpalugi na lang tayo kaysa magbili tayo. Then we --- ang tradeoff niyan, ang drawback is mag --- magsama ang loob ng mga farmers.

Hindi lang dito, both Visayas and Mindanao. So there has to be a compromise there that during the harvest season or the coming of the harvest season, your reserve will be used then you start to buy. Pagka mahal, bilhin mo na.

Kay kung mag-NPA 'yan mas malaki ang gastos natin. Anak ng pa... Buhay na pati bala. Common sense, bilhin mo. Bahala na malugi tayo.

Eh 'yung mga finance people diyan sa --- were always the populace and the --- sila Diokno. Kasi kung may project kami ni General Esperon, 'yung mga ganun-ganun, magsabi kaagad itong mga --- "Tsk, tsk, tsk, no, no, no, no, tsk. That is too expensive."

P***** j** that's too expensive eh maghintay kang puputok itong Pilipinas? You better --- so where's the money? You've been collecting money ever since. But you --- you are --- there would be changes in the --- there will be a unified intelligence for all.

Unified 'yan so I'm asking money. Sabi naman ni Dominguez that he will give it to us. Wala tayong magawa, they are the finance people. But then I said nobody will be left behind.

Sabi dito... Ang una, si Bong, he wants a death penalty for plunder. Ako, I am for it. Kung wala kang --- wala kang plunder, threshold is 50 million. He wants me to announce here. Wala man ang plunderer dito. *[laughter]* Nandoon --- nandoon sa...

Ang pinaka --- mind you, ang pinaka-plunderer, as I have said in my --- during my campaign, 'yung mga mayaman. 'Yung mga mayaman na may connection sa gobyerno. Billion 'yung kanila. Ay 'yung mga Customs wala 'yan. But I have to kick them out. Sixty-four of them will be terminated next week. I... And 100 is coming.

Then I will have cleaned the... Kasi sabi nila hindi daw talaga malinis-linis ang Customs. So I placed there Jagger. 'Yung dumaang chief of staff. He was a --- he was assigned in Davao as the Task Force commander ng Davao. So I know him. I know almost all of them, sila Roy Cimat. Puro ko kaibigan, puro ko nakilala. Hindi dito. When I was mayor.

I was mayor for 23 years sa Davao. So lahat ng mga military dumaan sa Mindanao, naging kaibigan ko. And these guys na nandiyan ngayon sa Cabinet... Ilan kayo lahat, sir? *[official answers]* Marami na.

Sabi ko nga sa kanila --- nagalit rin ako minsan. Gusto ko nang mag-resign. Nagalit talaga ako but --- sa isang project ng DAR. Two, two, two years of... Sabi ko p*****... Bakit abutin ng...? So that's why I'm coming with a limitation. Three days for permits. All, including the local governments.

And I placed Año, also another general. Siya 'yung sa... But he's good. He's very honest, he's good, and he's very fair.

So sabi ko it's three days for all including the Cabinet members. They have one month to act on the papers. Sabi ko 'pag hindi, you go out. Do not wait for the marching orders to resign.

Eh marami nang nag-resign diyan. Mga kaibigan ko sa Davao 'yung... Ang masakit diyan 'yung lumapit sa akin na sabi, "Magtakbo ka kasi ang corruption ngayon..." Marami drama.

Noong na --- siyempre magbayad ka ng utang. Noong nandoon ako sa presidency, inilagay ko in key Cabinet. Magnanakaw ang I****. So sinabi ko na lang na, "I have accepted the resignation." Means --- meaning to say, "You're fired."

But anyway, ang mga Ilocano. Pero parehas halos sundalo lahat eh. The newest was Salamat. And I promised him, sabi ko, "You just take care of..." He was the Northern Luzon Commander. Sabi ko, "And I will reward you." And he was doing good.

So the next --- 'yung PhilHealth ninyo ano rin, it's Dick Morales, he's another military man. Alam mo kung bakit? Give me two minutes. I'll explain. Alam mo itong bureaucracy wala akong problema. Mayor ako for 23 years, so I know how to handle.

But itong bureaucracy, 'yung rank and file, may ipresenta ka na problema o plano, maki-debate pa sa iyo. "Ay, sir, hindi pwede 'yan, ganon, kasi ganito 'yan..." Tapos... "O sige." Pagdating ng six months, "O anong nangyari?" 'Yung Marawi. Nawala na 'yung pera, walang project. Ay...

Gusto ko namang barilin. Nakakaawa naman kung patayin. Nakakainis naman. Nakakainis talaga kung buhay nandiyan sa harap mo. *[laughter]* T*** i**.

Well anyway, we're doing our best. Bong wants plunder. 'Yung 50 million I think, Bong is --- if I may just... Masyadong --- 10 million is too ano. Ten million now is... Fifty million siguro. Death penalty for plunder at saka drugs.

I am for it. If you are not a plunderer, if you do not have the money in the bank, why should you be afraid? 'Yung 50 tama 'yan, plunder.

Ako naman, ang aking take diyan is ayaw kong magsayang ng bala. Mahal 'yang isang bala ng M16. Siguro mga 70 pesos 'yan. So sabi ko 'yung lubid na lang, 'yung gawa ng La Union kasi... *[laughter]* Talaga. Ano bang ginagamit niyo dito? So 'yan ho. Pabiro na... Just a few thoughts exchange between you and me.

May the successful completion of this project motivate the men and women of DPWH and other government agencies to ensure the timely implementation and completion of all ongoing government infrastructure projects. May it also encourage the private sector to actively participate in these initiatives.

With the help of our dedicated local government officials and with the hardworking people of Ilocos Region, I believe that we can maximize the opportunities presented with this recent development.

Together, let us embody the excellence and solidarity of our shared task of building a stronger and more prosperous society for all people, especially for the next generation.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

[President Duterte returns to the podium]

I want to embrace all of you, especially the beautiful women of this... *[cheers and applause]* Kaya lang may sunset limitation ang chopper. *[laughter]* I have to --- I have to see it during daylight time because ang eroplano ko talaga naka-parking doon sa San Fernando.

So I have to travel this. But may rainbow na kasi eh. *[laughter]* Sabi ng --- sabi ng military, 'yan ang kulay ng bulaklak sa burol mo 'pag hindi mo... *[laughter]* Ba-bye and salamat po.

--- END ---