

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE  
GOLDEN TOPPER CORPORATE LAUNCH EVENT**

[Delivered at the Aseana Business Park in Parañaque City, Metro Manila |  
25 September 2019]

Xiè xie. *[laughter and applause]* Kindly sit down.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez and other members of the Cabinet; the officers and members of the Golden Topper Group led by Chairman Lam Kiu San, Chief Executive Officer Joseph Ramil Lombos, and Chief Investment Officer Allan Crisologo; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to lay the predicate of my speech so that I do not have to repeat it all over again sometime later because we may or we may not be together again.

You know that in Southeast Asia most of the countries, at least before, were known to be corrupt. And the only reason why businessmen and investors shied away from these countries was because of corruption and too much asking for money. It does not only discourage but it kills the investment priorities or opportunities in the country.

I would like to stress to you again this evening for the nth time that the Philippines, at least during my term, is trying to minimize or altogether remove corruption. And I would appreciate it very much if you investors whether aliens, foreigners or Filipinos would come here to invest and be clear about the policy of this government.

I do not tolerate corruption. I hate corruption. And I will go out of my way to punish people who are into graft and corruption. So when you enter the Philippines from the airport or even from getting a visa somewhere, and you would want to go to the Philippines just to see as a tourist, just to maybe make some studies, right at the moment at the airport and getting a visa, if you think that there is something wrong or if there is somebody asking for money, you slap him. *[slaps]* Like that.

Because tell him that, "that is the order of your President." And if you create a scene, there will be a commotion and everything, I will know. And if I

would come to know about it, then I would call the government official in my office and with you and allow you to slap him. *[slaps three times] [applause]*

That is the only way where you can help me and you can help yourself from harassments, from oppressors, extortionists. Be assertive because whether you are a Filipino or an alien, you must stand for your rights. And in my country, I would be very happy for as long as you are doing it right and I said be assertive and do not succumb or surrender to the corrupt people.

Let me know. Malacañan that's my residence. They call it Malacañan but that is really an office. They call it a palace. It's neither a palace, it's made of wood. And Malacañan is a sort of a Spanish word. I don't know what it means. But we were under the Spaniards for 300 years of subjugation just like China.

And that is why I said we are trying to do away with this culture of corruption and abuses of government. I would be willing to face you even during the night. You can call your ambassador or your friends here. I know of Ding Borja and your friends on stage. They can call me at night and...

May I call on to the stage Senator Bong Go. *[applause]* The first Chinese-Filipino who became a senator. *[applause]* He used to be my aide for 21 years until the Filipino people took notice of him as a handsome Chinese guy from China. *[applause]*

So you can go to him, he's in Congress, and you report to him or to anybody else anyone, anyone at all, any military, police, from the Office of the President, from the Office of Immigration, and what else if you are being extorted or being asked of money. And this Bureau of Immigration which has control over aliens in the country, they are under strict orders that they will be fired and maybe killed afterwards.

I do not want people destroying the government now because we are improving and that is why you guys are coming here. I want to make a personal guarantee that these things will never happen again just like maybe in the olden times. I just want everybody to behave. And I also expect that behavior from you. We just obey... There are rules to be followed. Just obey the rules and nobody is going to disturb you. Nobody is going to molest you. Nobody is going to well ask for this and ask for that.

Whenever you transact in government, I am sure you have agents to do it for you, tell them that only directorship level I only give them 15 days. Beyond that, you report to me because I will call him and ask him why it took him more than 15 days. If it's a Cabinet position, I give him one month

the Cabinet member. And if he exceeds beyond 30 days, tell me and I will call him and I will ask him to explain to you why the f\*\*\*\*\* s\*\*\* are you doing that? *[applause]*

This is my sincere offer. I am willing to wake up late in the night. I am willing to be disturbed in my sleep but please do it because it will help my country. And what is a lack of sleep or an interrupted rest so long as it will help the country, I am willing to go to the rigors of the exercise of talking to you. Huwag kayong mahiya.

The only reason why there is a lot of corruption in the Philippines is because we are not assertive. And Filipinos if they are asked money by those in government, they easily give because, one, they are afraid of being denied or delayed. You know the first thing that you should --- in government, I am now directing myself to the government, and I will say it for the last time. I said it before during the first days of my presidency.

You give the applicant the list of papers and documents he has to submit. Make sure that that shopping list you give to the applicant or whoever would like to do some business here, give him a complete requirement. And after that, you give it to him, let him sign, and place there in that paper how long would it take you to process the papers and at what time should he be back, at what hour in the afternoon or morning.

If you fail to do that, then it means that you are delaying it so that he'd be coming to you back and forth, back and forth, because you want to ask for money. That's the only conclusion. 'Pag pinapabalik-balik mo, he keeps on coming back then you add more, add more requirements, "you failed to submit that, submit that." Then my God, you are asking for money.

And you know what? If I call you in my office, I would not hesitate to slap you in front of the guy. If he does not want to slap you, I will slap you. You want to go to court to sue me, go ahead and sue me. Want to report me to the human rights, go ahead and file to the human rights and bring the human rights to me and I will slap both of you. *[applause]*

You know, we're trying to make this world a better one. It's not easy. People are sometimes swayed by just an appeal. They can be made to obey by just giving the advice.

But there are some people, like policemen, you have to beg then they are at it again, and they sell drugs and they go scot-free and they think that they are the lords of this country. Well, I'm sorry to tell you, everybody dies in this world but you will go ahead first. Remember that.

And to the human rights, remember this rule: for those who are evil, do not ever think that you are the only one who is evil. For all of us in this world are evil. So I would not hesitate to be evil if you start making my country progress and develop so that my people, our children can enjoy the benefits of a good life, with government taking care of them.

And I now read --- *[applause]* the prepared speech so that the ladies who worked on this tirelessly will have the satisfaction or else they would look at me after this with sharp eyes. *[laughter]*

I am glad to join you today as we gather for the launching of the Golden Topper's flagship projects, the City Clou and La Vida condominiums. *[Clou or Clou?]*

Over the last few years, this administration has endeavored to create an environment that is conducive for business and enticing to foreign [and] local investors.

I acknowledge and thank the people behind Golden Topper Enterprises for recognizing our gains in this aspect, and for showing your trust in this administration by investing in the Philippines real estate industry.

May these groundbreaking projects not only set the standard [for] excellence, creativity and innovation in your industry, but also cultivate an environment that will encourage healthy competition among the best real estate developers in this region.

Indeed, the success of this endeavor will surely cement your status as the government's reliable partner in propelling the Philippine economy forward.

It will also highlight your role as an important partner in spurring infrastructure development, generating more jobs, and sustaining the steady growth of our economy.

I am also confident that with the success of this business venture, we will not just further expand foreign investments in the Philippines, but will also enable us to strengthen our relations with other countries, especially our Asian neighbors.

However, while I recognize the potential of these projects to help the Philippines withstand future challenges in the global [economic] setting, I nonetheless stress that your buildings should never serve as

a haven for undocumented foreign workers or for the manufacture of and trafficking of illegal drugs.

This is in line with this administration's unrelenting commitment towards the eradication of corruption and illegal drugs in this country. I am sure that [you are] with me in this drive, especially considering [that] criminality and illegal drugs are detrimental to the good business.

May I just say and I have repeated it several times that if you go into drugs, if you are a drug lord, or if I catch you importing or manufacturing drugs in this country and you destroy my country in the process, I will kill you. Make no doubt about it. *[applause]*

Even with the United Nations listening, I will kill you, period. I don't mind. I can throw your... Pasig River is big enough to accommodate 10 people every time you throw them or the sharks of Manila Bay are getting hungry. They are not well-fed and a human flesh would fatten them, I suppose.

For those who are there, those foreigners, I will not particularize, but there are foreigners who come here to play their trade, lending money and if the debtor cannot pay, they kidnap and sometimes they ask for ransom. And even with the delivery of the money for ransom, they just go ahead and kill the victim.

You know, we're good friends with everybody. But I will not hesitate even to tell your ambassador I killed your --- your idiot citizen because he was f\*\*\*\*\* in my country. I told you not. Especially kidnap for ransom and those who kidnap and kill even if the money has already been delivered. You... To me you are just also another carcass.

There is no other order to the police. It's to capture you dead or alive. Preferably dead so that you cannot go back to your country to do crime again and be back again in my country to do another.

Let us be very clear. You can come, you can play your trade, you can commit your crimes. But if I catch up with you, it is dead or alive. Preferably dead. Alive, I have to feed you. There's a rice crisis in this country. I --- I... One mouth less would be good for my country. *[applause]*

I trust that as you launch these projects today, your company will become instrumental in this administration's thrust to pursue lasting progress and inclusive prosperity by investing heavily on infrastructure development.

Let us work together so we may realize the bright and promising future that awaits us.

I know. I know that you have come so that you will make money. I understand that. So you come because you want profits. If there is no profit, then why are you coming here? For what reason? You're just wasting your time.

You come and do business and make your profit, as many as you can and as plenty as you can. In that way, you can help the Filipino worker find jobs. That is my only gain there. Not so much about taxes. It's employment generation for my brother Filipinos. *[applause]*

So go ahead. Make money. Make your profit. Pay the right taxes, pay the laborers the right salaries, and then I will assure you that your return of investment, your ROI, you can get it anytime you want. That is the long and short of my guarantee to you.

Just do it right, follow the rules and we will follow as... If there's a breakage in the rule, let me know and I will correct it immediately at once.

Thank you. *[applause]*

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