

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**PRESS CONFERENCE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
FOLLOWING THE COMMAND CONFERENCE ON TYPHOON OMPONG**

[Delivered at NDRRMC Operations Center, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City | 13 September 2018]

Q: Sir, magandang hapon po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes.

Q: You mentioned that you designated si Secretary Tolentino as parang your point person 'no?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Conduit.

Q: Yes, sir. Will you be monitoring during the next couple of days?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yeah, I think he is going to go there also. But more of just observe the operations because okay naman ang lahat. Everything that needs to be done is nandoon na.

So all he has to do is to report to me the progress of the --- whatever is being presented by the typhoon there in those places.

Q: Sir, kayo po saan po kayo magmo-monitor in the next few days?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Dito lang ako --- around. I cannot go there. I have so many things to do.

Q: Manila sir or Davao?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Maybe but I'll see. I have some commitments there pressing because... I'm glad to report that may isang front leader na naman ng Surigao --- parang ang Surigao fronts bumagsak na.

They are getting weaker and weaker. Dalawang fronts inabandon (abandon) na nila. So I'm also following up the progress of this surrender.

Q: NPA, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: NPA 'yan, oo.

Q: Sir, one last. How much is our total fund for Ompong?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: The --- ?

Q: Disaster fund sir that we allotted?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Bilyon 'yan. Eh kanya-kanya bilyon eh. Closer to two billion.

Q: Sir, are you satisfied with the preparations so far?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, I have been briefed and I said I just... I did away with my speech because it was all motherhood.

The nitty-gritty was already discussed so I could understand already the apparatus being placed there in the meantime waiting for the crisis to happen because every typhoon is always a crisis.

Q: Sir, if necessary, are you willing to seek assistance from international community?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Wala pa. It would depend on the severity of the crisis. If it flattens everything, maybe we need to have some help.

And if there are countries who are well-meaning... Pero wala pa naman. It's too early to speculate.

Q: Last night, sir, in your meeting with Ambassador Sung Kim...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, I cannot discuss that until I get his permission. It's a diplomatic tête-à-tête.

But nothing earthshaking but more of confidentiality. I hate to break the rules.

Q: Sir, Vivien Gulla from ABS-CBN. Just a point of clarification, how many Cabinet officials are you sending to the provinces --- to typhoon-hit provinces? When will they leave and which provinces will they go to?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Every department has field officers. They are already there including the food, medicine, prepositioned na po pati 'yung mga Coast Guard.

But they were advised to maybe move a little bit further. I cannot lo --- I cannot lose more ships than --- kakaunti lang nga eh.

From their present position sabi ng... Well, the military guys told me to... They have to move a little bit further from the path of the typhoon.

Q: Sir, earlier you did mention that you are sending Secretaries Bello, Tolentino...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Bello, kasi taga-roon sila eh. Bello is from Isabela, Tugade is from Cagayan. So it's indeed proper that sabi --- tama nga sila, sabi nila I would need a face there. But I cannot be everywhere and anywhere.

So total taga-roon man sila I told them to go there.

Q: And they're leaving tomorrow, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: They should be. Piñol he said baka after, but he is going out to Mindanao to look for the supplies of the sources of vegetables.

Sigurado matamaan 'yan eh 'yung mga tanim natin so... I forgot the estimate but... I really do not know 'yung precipitation how much water would be pouring down in the Philippines at that time.

Pero for sure every typhoon you can see the data there, medyo malaki pati quite dark. So it's precipitation, it's water.

Any...?

SEC. ROQUE: Last na lang po 'yung mensahe daw po natin sa bayan bago pumasok ang Ompong?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, I said I have dispatched everybody there including the Cabinet members who come from the provinces where it is expected to hit.

Bello, Tugade, and the rest there who are all Ilocanos. Sila 'yung lahat ng mga Ilocano sa Cabinet ko, tatal puro halos Ilocano naman sila lahat. So dalawa na lang kaming Bisaya naiwan diyan.

Sabi ko, umuwi kayo kasi kailangan ng tao ma... Tama 'yun. Tama si Piñol. Dapat may makitang mukha sila doon.

Anything? Any questions that you've wanted to ask but cannot ask or will not ask?

Go ahead, go ahead.

Q: Sir, okay you mentioned --- you've been mentioning maybe twice or thrice already, sir, iyon pong mga efforts to destabilize the government and you said that's going to come to a head in October. What does that...?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, I said maybe September 21st something --- only plan.

But what I'm sure of is that there's a collaborative efforts of the left, the Magdalo, and the Yellow. Some, but not all.

Q: Sir, what is our action on it?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Wala... I --- sabi ko wala naman akong problema diyan. I'm --- I was elected by the people. I'm not squatter there.

So eventually the military and the police will have to face the crisis, the dilemma.

Now, what happens next is anybody's --- your guess is as good as mine.

Q: Sir, is this scenario similar to --- well, I'll go back to Proclamation 1017 sometime in maybe 2009, nung Oplan Hackle and then the Presi --- then President Arroyo proclaimed 'yung 1017. You're not going to do...?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: It has been denied. But my stand there, among all --- para sa akin, the strongest to me just like what I --- 'yung sa ICC is 'yung to... An act of pardon pati amnesty is an act of state. You cannot delegate it to anybody else.

Kung walang presidente, hintayin natin mamatay tapos if there's a new president, he or she is the only one who can do it.

Hindi 'yan circular na sundin ng every department or a departmental whatever.

It's a --- you read the Constitution. The President, the President.

Q: Sir, just maybe one final point. Ang sinasabi po kasi nung iba sir is that amnesty is different from pardon in such that amnesty deals with the class of people --- meaning the President does not have to sign specific papers of persons as opposed to pardon na doon kailangan. Sir, may ganun kasing argument na...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Correct. There has to be some antecedent facts. But saan? Where is it? And it must be specific. You must admit to a particular crime, at what level was your participation.

It is not a carta blanca na bitawan mo lang ng ganun. That would be reckless.

But be that as it may, whether amnesty or pardon, it is only the President. Maski anong sabihin mo. Whether it was in the right form. Wala...

It loses its own... The argument would fight it by itself. Why? Because there's another requirement which is higher and which is to discuss that, it is only the President who can.

Q: Alright, sir. Thank you.

Q: Sir, short lang, Genalyn...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Hindi ka pwedeng maglagay ng investigation then i-endorse mo. Then... That's weird actually. It's an act of state. So it's only the President who can.

Q: Good evening, Mr. President. I'm Genalyn Kabiling from Manila Bulletin. Sir, Senator Trillanes has opted to stay in the Senate for fear of being arrested without warrant. Is there urgency to arrest him or will you wait for the court to issue an arrest warrant?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Nobody's interested to arrest them. The military does not have the interest. I do not have the interest.

He can stay there as a boarder. The police --- sabi ko, do not arrest until there is a warrant of arrest by the court. Eh wala man ang military. It has not constituted the martial law court.

So it's only the civilian court. Wala namang order. So kung walang order, huwag ninyong pakialaman.

--- END ---