

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH
OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE MACTAN CEBU INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT (MCIA) TERMINAL 2

[Delivered at the MCIA Terminal 2, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu | 07 June 2018]

Lingkod lang mong tanan sa --- ayaw kaayo ninyo’g seryosoha. Pareho lang ta Cebuano.

(TRANSLATION: Take your seat. Don’t be too formal. We are all Cebuanos.)

I have my prepared speech, which is usually limited to two. But if I do this, I’d spoil the time that you waited for me.

I came late because I had to pass by to visit the wake of a soldier na namatay sa Mindanao. So I had to talk to the family and everything. So medyo delayed ko gamay. Mangayo ko ninyo’g pasaylo. (I am asking for your apology)

Kani si Tugade, mao ni among class valedictorian (Tugade is our class valedictorian). And nag-eskwela pa mi, nagtrabaho na na siya, (while we were studying, he was already working) he was an executive of Delgado brothers.

‘Yang Miascor. Akong gipaundang kay sige’g kanang baggage. Gi-warningan man nako tanan na if I see one more incident of tampering with the baggage of the passenger, giingnan nako sila, labi na gyud nang mga gamay, “ayaw ninyo na’g hilabti kay gikan na sa mga airport na strikto kaayo.

(TRANSLATION: I ordered Miascor to stop because of the baggage issue. I warned everyone that if I see one more incident of tampering with the baggage of the passenger, especially the poor, I said, “don’t include them because they came from airports that are very strict.”)

United States, the Arab countries, the medyo maganda ang --- heightened alert plus a very elaborate security system. And besides, kanang bagahe, muagi na na og X-ray sa ubos (the baggage goes through the X-ray.) So naka-scan na ‘yan.

If there's anything there, kaagad, diretso-diretso eh i-confront na. Ba't na kanang abri-abrihan, pasangil kay ma... (being opened under the guise of...)

So I'd like to impose that rule here also. Unless there is really enough proof or proof that there is something wrong, you can always ask the passenger to open but you have to apologize after, "sorry for the inconvenience."

But I would not relish the sight of kanang mga gagmay, labi na kanang (especially the) returning OFWs. Unsa man la'y mapalit pud ana. (they can afford few things only) Huwag mong gawin. That's my order to the Customs people. Stop it. Huwag ninyong abrihan tapos kunin niyo ang mga bagay-bagay nila. I... Muinit ulo nako diha and it can cost you --- you can lose your funds or your job.

Daghan ko'g gustong isulti, dili man ko mubasa ani. Basahon nako unya kay naa man siguro 'tong gahimo ani. Basi'g masuko.

(TRANSLATION: I have many things to say but I will not read this. I'll read this later because the person who wrote it might be here and get offended.)

I am not trying to picture myself or portray myself as one hell of a saint pero kaning mga project na ingun-ani (project like this), it's the most beautiful airport in the country today.

And I am extra proud to be a citizen of this country and most proud to be a worker of government, which has produced something very beautiful and good for the people. Lalo na na akong kaliwat taga-Danao (especially my relatives in Danao) and I have sensed always the industry of the Cebuanos. 'Yung mga butingting, furniture, kaning inyo ha...

The Cebuanos are --- hasta panty, tanan na. Anak ng --- tanan mabuhat nila. (even panties, everything. They can create everything) And they have these innovative minds, I would say. So halos kamong tanan taga-Cebu and you'd be using this airport for a long, long time.

The Secretary of Transportation whispered to me that he is still weighing the options of building a new runway.

Sabi ko, "take your time, finish the job of the structures in other places para we can more or less have a good share of the tourism market."

Wala kayo problema. Just... Alam mo 'pag you do not mess up with government unya ang kwarta muabot gyud ngadto sa proyekto, every cent of it, mugawas gyud nang kuan. Pero aning daghan mukawkaw, unya daghang from one contractor to another, sub-contract, ganun, 'yan ang nagka-l*****-l***** na.

(TRANSLATION: Wala kayo problema. Just... Alam mo 'pag you do not mess up with government and every cent of the money goes to the project, there will be results. But if many will try to extort, from one contractor to another, sub-contract, ganun, 'yan ang nagka-l*****-l***** na.)

Kaya sinasabi ko, what I'm trying to say is really... I may be the only one who does it.

I do not allow Cabinet members to --- either for comment or for anything, walang transaction sa gobyerno, airports, MRT, highways, hindi dadating 'yan sa table ko. I do not. For the life of me.

So when I appointed Art, alam ko ang capacity niya. He's been a... Tsaka bilyonaryo 'to, maaga pa. I know that he has the money when I got him but he's a good planner. Matalino 'to. I said he was the valedictorian of our class. So alam ko 'yung --- his capacity to do things. Si ES, nauna lang kami pero he had come from the same law school.

Ganito 'yan. Kung ikaw ang Transportation or DENR or whatever, kung ano 'yung mga kontrata mo, naa ra na diha sa imo, hindi ako nakikialam. (I leave it up to you, I don't interfere.)

'Pag I task you to say "gawin mo 'to," I leave it up to you and you will have the power to decide on anything regarding the project. I do not talk to you, I do not even mention it in the Cabinet. I have yet to make a single call to anybody and even to... Well, of course, except for the soldiers because it's an everyday evolving thing for the country.

Davao is targeted to have one also but Mindanao seems to be the problem until now. We have yet to decide Congress on what to do with the BBL.

It's very important that we take things seriously. I am a Cebuano from Danao and my father migrated to that island many many years ago.

So although I have always has had an opinion about my ancestral province and even it's... Ako, consider me a Mindanaoan and there are so many fronts that we are facing.

Terrorism is one. It is all over the world and the targets are always where people congregate --- in airports, in busy streets and everything. So if anything, security, I do not care who manages this airport. You can have the whole of the setup minus the security. It will always be under the control of government.

And we have the drug problem. I must say that dito sa Cebu, a lot of... One of the severe problems ng Cebu is drugs and it has contaminated a lot of policemen here.

As I've said, one day I am going to take an action against all of you. Mahirap ang Cebu because of drugs.

It used to be controlled by a mayor on the western side, and that would be... Wala na dito, sumibat na ang g***. It's Mabilog and I warned him repeatedly that, you know...

Pagkamatay ni Parojinog, sabi niya na galit pa ba ako sa kanya. Sabi ko, "hindi lang galit. P***** i** mo, papatayin kita l**** ka."

And other mayors dito are also in the list. Do not ever, ever think that you can fool government. As I have said repeatedly said that I will not hesitate to take you out if you destroy my country. There is nothing wrong in that statement.

My job, my oath of office mandates me to protect the people and that includes the military. ‘Yan ang trabaho namin, and to preserve the nation.

So itong Mindanao issue, I expect some ruckus if there’s a failure in the talks. But well, wala man tayong magawa diyan either they conti --- we continue to talk, they continue to accommodate us. If everything fails, we can always talk. And I’m ready to talk.

Pero itong mga teroristang ISIS, I will not dialogue with them. Criminals. Itong mga durugista, I will not talk to them.

Sabi ko kay ano... I called everybody --- every mayor in town, as a matter of fact. In my office, doon sa opisina ko sa Pasig, sinabi ko sa kanila frankly the same statement that I uttered now: Do not go into it. There are many ways of getting rich. But those that are available to you, might be easy but it would cost you something. It is not for free. And that is corruption and droga. Prangka-prangkahan na lang tayo, ganun talaga.

So I’m happy to see na ganito. Hindi ko man akalain na ganito kaganda ‘to. I was awed when I started to walk towards this place. Napakaganda ng airport ninyo. I’m... Inggit rin ako kasi matagal akong mayor sa Davao, 23 years. I supposed that I’d also like the Davaoeños to enjoy an airport as beautiful as what you have here.

Art, he has my respect and I congratulate him and of course his partners for making this possible. Wala akong ano sa --- wala akong pili. Even in the budget. Wala akong, “favor this.” Wala because I won on my own. Even here. Dito sa --- dito sa lugar ko. I never had one single barangay captain.

Kung nanalo ako dito, salamat sa inyo. Hindi naman talaga kayo nagkamali. Actually, what I promised, I deliver. I only had about four or five and that is why every time there’s a debate, the presidential debate here, I finish always early on, some extra time to spare. But sabi ko I’m through. Why? Well, because we’re only given a minute and a half. So what can you say?

So nag-bullet ako. I said I’ll stop corruption and I’m doing it. And I’ve fired so many of my friends who were with me even during my mayorship days. Talagang --- ilan na...I... Mga brod ko, mga taga-San Bida. The latest was the government corporate counsel. Sinabi ko sa inyo.

You know when you are granted diyan, [garbled] we are granted a franchise. APECO. Maski punta ka naman doon, there was really no splendid infrastructures. You see warehouses and bodegas there. But there is a franchise for gambling and they are allowed to gamble because it’s the law, you know, it’s political but andiyan na rin ‘yan wala na tayong magawa.

Then you start to farm out but you have this franchise to or a license to conduct gambling activities and you start to farm it out way beyond your jurisdiction. Tapos sabihin mo it's legal. Of course, it's not legal.

There's only one legal entity that is allowed to oversee everything and that's PAGCOR. Such a stupid opinion. Sabagay pareha lang tayo ng abogado. Eh dalawa na ang PAGCOR nito.

So gambling, I supposed I never liked it. But we will leave it to a few people na talagang may pera na. Me, I don't like it. I don't like gambling. And the less whatever franchise there, mas maganda sa akin.

Pareho kami ng --- mura'g pareho mi'g stand sa pari, pero kutob ra pud diha. Sa ubang butang, di na mi magkasinabot. (I have a similar stand with the priest but only for that. We don't get along in other things) Eh you know. You should learn to separate your God from my God. My God is different. He's the one that was imbued upon me by my father and mother. It could not even really be an entity just the values that I learned while growing up.

Itong si Art kanina, nung tinawag 'yung pangalan niya, eh kasi daldal nang daldal hindi niya alam. Tumindig siya, sabi niya, "anong gawain ko?" Sabi ko, "hindi mo ba alam trabaho mo? I-introduce mo ako doon sa magandang..."

You know, alam mo sa totoo lang, sa Davao, politics is always showbiz. I was elected in 1988. I never lost an election actually. I only had one opponent far and in between the years I was mayor until 'yung presidente may kalaban na ako.

But all others wala. I just regale people. But you know, pumunta 'yung parents ko doon kasi mahirap lang kami dito. I would not say that there was no future in Mindanao at that time but they decided to seek the greener pasture.

Kaya 'yung natutunan ko my father was governor for 12 years. Diyan ko natutunan 'yang politika. And I really embrace and kiss people. Huwag lang 'yang pedophile ka. But 'yung magaganda, hinahalikan ko talaga. Uso 'yung baller. Tapos mag-distribute ako, sabi ko "who wants to be kissed? You can have this but you have to kiss me on the lips." And I kissed them.

In the many campaigns, nauso 'yung baller. Maybe I have kissed a thousand ladies on the lips. 'Yun ang style ko sa politika, but you know it's --- it leaves a bad taste in the mouth but there's always that "P" syndrome.

You complete the word. Ayaw kong... What about the kiss? Halik... Sabi ko kung may volunteer ngayon eh... [laughter] Eh ano? 'Di ba tinanong ako ni [Luchi] Who was that 'yung nag-anchor ng debate? O tinanong niya, "Mayor, may balita na babae ganun..." So sabi ko, "tama ka." It's biology. You don't need it? I do. Talagang ganun lang. That's the long and short of it. Biology. Daghang pag-istorya.

Ayon, asawa? Dalawa ang asawa ko. Pero --- pero handa akong magpakasal basta ito. [Dalaga ba 'yan siya, Art?]

Sinabi ko ipakilala mo ako. Sabi ko, your job... Sabi niya, “bakit ako tinawag anong gawain ko?” Unsa pud ning Ilocanoha? Taga-Cagayan ‘yan eh, Cagayan Valley.

Sabi ko “tinatawag ka for you to introduce me to that lady.” “Ha?” “Iyon ang trabaho mo.” Parang Gabinete --- parang ibugaw mo ako nang konti. [laughter] Pick lang... Tingnan mo 'yung babae bukas. It's I said a “pha” syndrome.

Nakikita lahat. It relates to the... Well I don't know. Basta ako, trabaho lang. And I'd like to thank you again for the overwhelming victory. Hindi talaga kayo nagkamali. And this will kind of --- not the rigmarole that you used to. Wala ito.

Magtanong ka maski sinong negosyante. Walang pumupunta sa akin. Wala akong ipinatawag. It's all theirs. If it succeeds, I would celebrate with you. If it fails, then I have to whack you.

But sa Gabinete ko, sabi ko, eh puro --- puro naman mayayaman 'yan eh. Dominguez, Finance. He owns Marco Polo of Davao. Kababata ko 'yan. Maliit pa kami. Magka --- magkababata kami hanggang kindergarten hanggang... Valedictorian.

He was the second Davaoño, Voice of Democracy, 'yung Ford Foundation. Kayong mga matatanda na, you might remember that. He was our contestant and he won the national. He's bright and he has the money. Kaya ko dinikitan kasi nung eleksyon pala. They spent? Yeah. Tugade spent kasi classmate ko. Millions? Maybe. I do not know. I never made an accounting of how...

But let me back... Let me go back again to my warning. Kayong mga mayor, pati mga --- lahat na governor. Ayaw gyud mo og kumpiyansa, anak ng p** ---mawaswasan mo. Hindi ako papayag na ganunin mo ang bayan ko, that you leave my country in shambles and you destroy the youth.

'Yun lang ang pag-asa natin eh. 'Yung mga milyonaryo, mayayaman, okay na 'yan. But the 99 percent, mga pulis, empleyado, they retire at the age of 60. Ang pulis, 56. Ang army, 56. How much will you think that they would receive?

Government employee. Lahat dito nagtatrabaho dito. How much will they receive after so many years working with government? Do you think that 800 and even a million... O si Bato, bata pa siya pumasok diyan sa pagka-sundalo, he got 14 million, he's very young.

Do you think that at the age of 56 and he gets to live for another 15 years, magkasya 'yang 14 million sa pagkain araw-araw? And when you reach a certain age, you begin to have 'yan.

If you hit 50, 55, 60, papasok na 'yang diabetes, hypertension, liver, and all, heart, maintenance. Think of the ordinary wage earner, saan siya magkuha ng pera?

Eh kung healthy siya o sa Binisaya, “mulaygay”. He suffers, there's no medicine because... Tapos ang mga anak niya puro durugista. Kagaya ng mga kababayan ko, atong mga igsoon, they go out of the country.

Once a family loses a father because he's going abroad to work, that family becomes dysfunctional. The mother and father works abroad, tapos iiwan mga anak doon sa lola, mga kapatid, their lives totally, totally dysfunctional. There's no more family to...

Tapos magpadala ng... Magpadala'g kwarta kay alam nitong mga unggoy na 'to na may pera, sasadsarin nila 'yan araw-araw. They would rub it like and the [garbled] sores out like a sore thumb. It sticks out everyday.

They work there. They endure abuse. They endure hunger, they endure... Pagdating nila dito, pagkita nila sa anak nila, walang nangyari dahil sa droga. Do you think I will enjoy that kind of...

Kung ika'y presidente, malipay ka? Unya unsa ma'y buhaton nimo? Sige ka la'g warning? Ay anak ka ng... Tapos na 'yung warning-warning. Huminto kayo. The best way is to just drop it and you're out of trouble.

Kayong mga pulitiko, well, I'm going to a barangay --- mag-oath taking sila. Same. Do not do it at the expense of your fellow human being.

Now I'd like to read the... Well of course, let me... Sabi dito, "Mr. President, be careful. We are live on TV." Eh kung nag-ibog sa babae, matabang. Hindi ako maka-turn sa head ko, dito na lang. [Kadiyot ha] [drinks water]

We have with us the Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and the other members of the Cabinet. We have Sonny, we have --- si Bernadette. Kinsa gani ang apeliydo nimo? Du --- aw, Puyat. Puyat.

Dili. Ang tinuod lang, mag-prangka ako ha. The popular notion is girlfriend ko siya. She is not. Honestly, she is not. She is not my --- ano lang talaga...

Because she has been working with DA for so many --- undersecretary of Agriculture 'yan, noon pa. And she has mga projects ganun.

And malapit ako kay 'yung Executive Secretary because as a local government employee, I go there to ask for projects and the approval and things like that. Ito naman si Bernadette, talagang parang buddy-buddy ko. Pero ang mga TV, 'yung binabantayan 'yung body language. She is not. [Ano ba tayo, on o hindi?] [laughter] Magsabi ka nang totoo. She's a very good friend. At you're at the moment when there was really nobody to pick, siya ang pinili ko because I know her. She's a magna cum laude graduate of the School of Economics sa UP.

And most of the --- itong mga concept including the military. I was complaining to the Armed Forces bakit 'yung mga pulis ko pati sundalo ko, namamatay. Sabi ko, binabaril parang aso. You allow them to go out mamalengke na walang armas.

Sabi ko, "ano ba 'to?" So I really complained to Lorenzana and si Año noon. Sabi ko, "Can you do something about this?" Sabi ko, "parang aso na lang araw-araw napapatay 'yung sundalo ko."

Then Piñol --- Ti si Piñol nga Ilonggo. Abaw linte, may answer ah. Ready. Sabi niya, “I will talk to...” Ito. So nag-plano ito. Sabi niya madali ‘yan. Ang TienDA, huwag mag --- ayaw’g adto ngadto. Ang sundalo maghuwat lang sa kampo kay ihatag. (They don’t have to go there. The soldiers will just wait at the camp.)

So everywhere, ‘pag may kampo, hindi na sila lalabas. ‘Yung magpabili, mao’y muadto sa kampo (The sellers will go to the camp.) Iya na. Marunong eh. Bright.

Tama ba ‘yung sinabi ko hindi tayo? Ayaw sige’g ngisi diha. So ano? ‘Di mo alam? Tua pa’y usa oh. Biyaan tika, naa pay usang gwapa nimo kanang naa diha sa kuan kilid. (There’s one over there. I will leave you for that beautiful woman there.)

Then we have the Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Paz Radaza; we have the Mactan Cebu International Airport General Manager Steve Dicdican; Mr. Manuel Louie Ferrer, Mr. Srinivas

Bommidala; distinguished guests, mga kauban nako sa gobyerno, akong mga kaigsuonan. (My brothers and sisters)

I am proud to join the people of Cebu in inaugurating this newly built Terminal 2 of Mactan [Cebu] International Airport.

It is exciting to see that we have come this far in letting our kababayans and visitors see and experience the results of our promise of real and lasting change. As one of the finest airports in Asia, this facility will showcase the best of what the Philippines has to offer.

The construction of this world-class transportation facility shows that government and our private sector partners are committed to provide our people with the necessary infrastructure that will enable them to live more comfortable, productive and meaningful lives.

I therefore recognize the efforts of the Department of Transportation, the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority and GMR Megawide Cebu Airport Corporation --- I think they’re doing Bohol? And well --- well, do you have a very good track record. Basta bidding lang, walang problema. You can have all the airports you want.

Alam mo itong --- let me. Itong --- bantay kayo ha. The worst theory or principle that a government can indulge in is ‘yang lowest bid. Napaka... Napaka-toxic ‘yang y*** na ‘yan.

Alam mo ‘yang lowest bid, meron ‘yang mga tao na mag-sige la’g libot-libot sa Pilipinas, mag-duwa og golf. Sige’g inom, mangita’g balita og naa’y bidding.

(TRANSLATION: You know what the lowest bid, there are people who will go around the Philippines to play golf. They always drink and just wait for news about bidding)

Unya daghan na silang mu-participate (Then many will participate) pero one would bid maybe a lesser or higher. But they would go --- ‘pag nalaman nila, they would go down. So for example, 100 million, “ah we can do it for 80 or 70. The lowest diyan... Biro mo you can build it by 70.

Pero muhatag pa na ngadto sa mayor, muhatag pa na ngadto sa contractor, muhatag pa didto sa engineer. Eventually, the money goes down to something like 60.

(TRANSLATION: But they will give to the mayor, the contractor, the engineer. Eventually, the money goes down to something like 60.)

Mupirma pa gyud ang barangay captain (The barangay captain will also sign). Anak ng --- Mupirma ‘yan (they will sign), mga dalan (highways). So another give ‘yan. And that is why you see a lot of deterioration of newly built roads.

Now I’m now --- I’d be issuing, I said, I will give the city engineer or the mayor power of supervision to keep the streets and highway safe. If there is a delay in the construction for one month, consider it abrogated. Then I’ll let another one, for the same price, the remaining, or I file charges. Pure gross neglect of duty or outright incompetence.

Daghang nangahulog diha, disgrasya og ibilin (There have been many accidents caused by projects left unfinished) or may mga construction na walang pera but they have to farm a subcontract nila. Ganun ‘yan. Nagtitipid na ang mga buang para may --- that’s the problem. Give this to a...

Mabuti’t nalang, to his credit, Art Tugade, he’s a businessman ever since. He would know saan niya ibigay and I never question.

I’ve never questioned anybody’s ano... Wala akong sabi ko. I do not participate even mga marginal notes. Not only... I re --- I have said, “Do not send it to me.” It is born cradle to grave diyan sa iyo. Do not disturb me with contracts. Policy pati ‘yung mga promotion lang.

I am happy to know that this new terminal houses priceless designs and artworks made by some of our best homegrown artists. Their masterpieces will not just add to this structure’s aesthetic value, but will also showcase to the world our distinct sense of warmth and hospitality, as well as our unique and rich cultural heritage.

It will also have state-of-the-art facilities that ensure passenger safety and comfort. Staying true to MCIA’s vision, this airport will definitely be the region’s primary gateway that will make the Province of Cebu a premier tourist destination in Asia Pacific.

By serving millions of passengers annually, this new facility will address the growing passenger demand in Metro [Cebu]. It will also promote tourism, stimulate commerce, and spur economic activities in the Visayas. Without doubt, this project will become a catalyst for inclusive countryside development in the region.

Rest assured that the government will pursue and complete more airports and other infrastructure projects across the country as part of our Build, Build, Build Program. This embodies our commitment to enhance mobility and connectivity so we can provide safe, convenient and dependable transportation for people and goods throughout the archipelago.

As we look forward to a promising future for Cebu and the rest of the Visayas, I call upon the men and women of MCIA and the rest of the Cebuano community to join us in developing the potential of our localities.

This long awaited airport is your symbol of pride and a beacon of progress. It is my hope that you will continue to be by our side as we move towards a more prosperous Philippines in the years to come.

Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan. (Thank you very much to all of you.)

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