

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

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 03 March 2020]

Kindly sit down.

Usually hindi ako nagbabasa ng speech. My penchant is really to just talk and talk and talk. Ganun 'yung mga politiko eh. But really it's not without any purpose. Sometimes we'd like to convey to you, to the public, what is really in our hearts that we want to unburden or share with you some sentiments so that you'd know at least an inkling of where government is proceeding or going into. Kaya lang kasi ngayon marami akong trabaho, dito na lang tayo sa basa. Madali ito.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go, tindig ka Bong, sabi nila maraming hindi pa nakakakilala sa'yo. *[applause]* Kasi sabi nila na si Bong Go matiyaga. Lahat ng sunog sa Pilipinas nandoon siya tumutulong. Sabi ko mga g\*\*\* kayo, siya 'yung nagasunog; *[laughter]* our newly-appointed officials from the different government agencies and government -owned and -controlled corporations; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen. *[coughs]* Corona, *[laughter]* bwisit.

I congratulate and thank our newly appointed officials for taking on the important challenge of public service.

As you take your oath of office, may we all be reminded that our primary obligation is to serve our country with integrity, impartiality and duty bound to defend the Constitution, obey all laws and discharge our duties with utmost efficiency, honesty and competence.

Let me cut, sandali lang. You know, I'll tell you something. Before I became a mayor, I was a prosecutor. And maybe many of you were already around. And then at the time during Marcos' term, I was a prosecutor for Davao City. But at the same time, I was taken in as a special prosecutor for the TanodBayan. The TanodBayan is the predecessor of the Ombudsman now. It was a special

office created under the department of --- although an independent. Parang special counsel.

Kaya ako whether I really allowed myself to be carried on sa trabaho ko or just by sheer everyday routine, I have developed this aversion against crime lalo na sa itong mga crimes against person, murder, ganun. And then again sa Ombudsman, ang karamihang kaso kasi government-related transactions --- it could be a private or a public officer.

So doon ko nakuha 'yung paradigm ko even when I was mayor for 21 years sa Davao. Talagang ika nga medyo wala akong patawad pagka corruption.

Hindi ko sinasabi kayo. Kakapasok lang ninyo. But almost everyday may pinapaalis ako na tao. Sinisikreto ko lang na 'umalis ka na lang'. Today I think I have to complete the list of officials that I'm going to fire, to dismiss from the BID, sa Bureau of Immigration.

Ayaw ko kasi 'yung iba kilala ko. Kaya lang 'yung iba ko mga brod ko. Iyong iba were with me in '88 when I first ran for the mayorship, that was '88, '98. And I never lost an election all the way during the 10 elections of my life lumusot ako.

I have this deep utang na loob sa tao. Kasi kung natalo lang ako, panalo, natalo, maybe you can attribute it to the vagaries of politics. But ito kasi the people of Davao City kept faith in me. And so when I became mayor of the Philippines, nandoon na 'yon sa aking ano... Early on, I fired --- lumabas na naman ngayon sa newspaper --- I fired my fraternity brothers. Iyon naman talaga sanang --- 'yung atasan mong magtulong and some of my closest friends who were with me day one sa mayorship days ko. It grieves me to do it. It makes me sad but kayo na lang sana ang mag-intindi kay hindi ko talaga alam.

Marami akong issues, plenty. If you want to hear, I can give it to you in one day. Pero 'yang p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* pera. That is why in my term I do not sign transaction papers. Iyong mga reclamation, railway. It belongs to Tugade, it belongs to Medialdea. It begins there in their offices and it ends there sa opisina nila. They have the full authority to enter, complete, and sign. Hindi talaga ako nakikialam sa... Never, ni isang papel na negosyo sa gobyerno o transaksyon sa gobyerno. Sinadya ko 'yan. Sinadya ko para wala akong cobwebs na --- no --- nothing to bother you. Kaya ganun ang --- magmumura... I put them to shame, minumura ko. Ganun talaga, it's because I said hindi ako magpa-corny.

Men have feet of clay. Ganun talaga ang tao. But I am --- hindi hindi --- putik, putik lang ako nang kaunti. I am not the kind na 'yung mahilig sa 'yung pera. That is why all the transactions, all papers that have to do with money does not reach my table, either at home or in the office.

As you take your oath of office, may we all be reminded that our primary obligation is to serve our country with integrity, impartiality and independence. As government workers, we are duty bound to defend the Constitution, obey all laws and discharge our duties with utmost efficiency, honesty and competence.

I am optimistic that you will lead by example and inspire your fellow public servants to lead modest lives and uphold public interest over personal ones. Be vigilant and lead the fight against corruption, undue patronage and other unethical motives that diminish public trust.

Alam mo hindi ko mapigilan. And even my closest relatives. The temptation is always there: money. Ako naman sana, basta malinis lang, everything in all fours are correct, wala akong problema.

But then again itong mga relatives, maski anong gawin mo talagang ang tao magsususpetsa. Kaya kayo kung may maglapit na magsabi sa iyo kapatid 'yan, pamangkin, whatever, anak, consider it denied. Huwag kayong magdalawang-isip kasi pati kayo madale.

Kasi kung pumayag kayo, even if there is no error, even if there is no mistake, even if there is no infirmity in the contract and its integrity protected, 'pag nalaman ko ang humawak niyan o ang nag-follow up niyan kapatid ko, pinsan ko, kalaban ko, 'yung pinatay ko, 'yon sila lahat. 'Pag 'yun ang humawak, bitawan na ninyo kasi pati kayo madadale. Isasali ko talaga kayo. That is all that I ask of you.

Eh kung magsabi kayo, 'Mayor how can I thank you?' 'Yan lang ang hingiin ko sa inyo. Consider it denied even how correct it may be.

Let me reiterate that for this administration, the welfare of our people and the improvement of their lives are of utmost importance. Remember that it's our duty as public officials and employees to extend prompt, courteous, and efficient public service.

Tingnan mo --- hindi naman ako nagyayabang. Well, it's not because of there was no corruption. Hindi mo man --- sa baba. Sa baba ako. Ang problema ko sa baba talaga. Not with the --- itong mga Cabinet members. No, they are all clean except 'yung --- 'yung nawala na 'yun na 'yon.

Ang issue noon corruption. Pero 'yung naiwan, almost half of them are all military men. Not because I want to ingratiate myself, magpapalakas ako sa military o sa police. No, it's --- it was the people of the Philippines elected me, not the Armed Forces or the PNP. Pero ang ano ko lang is kung ano lang talaga ang tama. Kung ano ang tama. We owe it to the people. Ako, sa tao. 'Yan ang... Magtanong sila na ano, wala ako. Eh wala akong ano...

The... The... Tawag kasi sa ano, posisyon ko mayor eh. The mayorship is --- has the... Wala akong ilusyon diyan. Sinabi ko sa inyo noon noong naging ano ako, sabi ko I can always go down anytime. I can be ousted anytime, walang problema sa akin or I can resign. I do not have illusion sa...

I've been with politics for so long a time that it's really sometimes it bugs me to no end. Hindi ko lang masabi 'yung ano ng... Pero kung kayo mag... Sino dito mga progressive na tao?

Kung mag-Presidente ka lang naman, sabihin ko sa iyo, huwag. Wala ka talagang makuha sa p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* puwesto unless mag-corrupt ka. Eh kung mag-corrupt ka, marami. You'll be raking money more than you can count every evening siguro.

Pero kung magtrabaho ka lang talaga, as in trabaho... Kagaya ko, ang sweldo ko is 200. After tax, it's about 194. Pareho lang kami ng sweldo ng general halos. Mas malaki pa sa kanila siguro. Iyon lang ang akin.

Pero libre ang kain. Kain naman medyo maganda ang ulam. *[laughter]* Pa-iba-iba ang isda. Ma isda ako na tao eh. Pagkain, then pamasahé. But that's about it. Then you work until morning time, until daylight.

Natapos kami ng... Ngayon command conference ako ngayon, sa military ako, pulis. Yesterday was a Cabinet. You know kung anong oras kami umuwi? Almost three o'clock. So I had to read the papers that I have to sign and the papers that I have to take up today.

So my wife flew in alas-sais. Alas-sais na rin ako natulog, nag-usap kami sandali. And she's back home. Ganun ang... Kaya sabi ninyo na inaantok 'yung mayor. Ang mayor na hindi nagtatrabaho, talagang walang antok. Matulog ka na lang nang matulog diyan.

Pero you know, as a lawyer, I... I... I need to read. Hindi ako 'yang... Wala ako 'yung mga initial sa baba. Talagang nagbabasa ako. Pati 'yung military, 'yung background ano nila, isa-isahin --- pero mabilis lang.

Allow me to take this opportunity to enjoin each one of you to remain committed in pursuing the country'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, climate change, health emergencies and other societal ills.

Kaya sinabi ko kay Ambassador, itong ruckus na dumating talaga. It came to a fore 'yung alitan ko sa kanila. Tinanggal ko 'yung VFA. Sila na naman ngayon ang lapit nang lapit. Kaya sabi ko, ulitin ko. How could it be wrong? When can it be wrong kung magsabi ako, "do not destroy my country because I will kill you?"

Who can debate with that? That is the preservation of my people. If you destroy society, anong maiwan sa amin? Ang hirap pa namin. Sinabi ko sa kanya. Sabi ko, "I don't care about 'yung extrajudicial killing. Wala akong pakialam diyan. You can bring all the charges you want but I will stick to my guns. I will kill anybody that will tend to destroy my country."

Hindi basta-basta. Eh ang hirap pa natin. Meaning to say, ang... Eh ang tatanda na sana natin. Tayo, we are just a heartbeat away. 'Pag huminto itong pitik dito sa... We're getting old and you know, the young are there. Wala pa akong nakita na new crop of politicians dito sa ating bayan ngayon. Frankly, wala akong nakita. Wala akong nakita na --- na pwede talagang maging presidente.

Alam mo sa totoo lang, Presidente ka, hindi ka marunong pumatay at takot kang mamatay, eh huwag ka na mag-presidente. Walang mangyari sa iyo. Walang mangyari sa bayan. Kung puro utos ka lang, in the end, ikaw pa 'yung kontrabida. Ikaw na 'yung gumawa para ikaw talaga ang bida. 'Wag mong...

That's why I am scared. I'm scared for the next generation. Iyong mga apo natin, 'yon ang pinoprotektahan ko. Hindi lang alam ng ano...

I'm trying to protect the generations of Filipinos especially 'yung next batch, itong mga anak natin. Kami noon wala mang ano --- ano sa amin --- puro

tungga na lang. Iyan itong Legarda --- 'yang dulo ng Legarda diyan kung makita mo 'yang --- noon pa 'yang p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* "chilled" --- "ice chilled beer."

Kaya napuputol 'yung pag-aaral 'pag magtinginan kami --- doon na. Doon kami gumrad... Pero buti kami nakalusot. Ang problema ang next generation. I --- I cannot gamble on. Mahirap. Marami akong apo. I have 11 grandchildren. Kabado rin ako kung anong mangyari sa kanila bukas. Kaya magtulungan tayo.

With your help, I am confident that we can leave behind a lasting legacy of "Malasakit at Tunay na Pagbabago" for the benefit of our people.

Salamat. *[applause]*

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