

**Presidential Communications Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
PROCLAMATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE**

[Delivered at the Museo ni Emilio Aguinaldo in Kawit, Cavite | 12 June 2018]

Patawad na po. I would have wanted to make it earlier with you. *[protesters shouting]* Hayaan mo lang. It's a freedom of speech. You can have it. Okay lang.

I will understand. 'Di bale. Hindi manood ako kasi hindi naman lahat eh. *[waves to crowd]* Hi! *[crowd cheers]*

Our Constitution guarantees freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and free expression. *[applause]* So I would just advise the law enforcement to just deal with them peacefully and the maximum tolerance.

Eh hindi man ho natin... We cannot agree at all times for all seasons. But at least we have this exercise once every six years I suppose under this new Constitution and you can elect the leaders that you want to run the country.

Ako po'y naglilingkod sa inyo at humihingi ako ng tawad. Eh sarado po ang langit at hindi ako makahanap ng butas, palanding pati pag-take off. So I had just to while away my time.

But this is my first time to be with you at marami pong salamat sa okasyon na ito. It's a great honor. *[applause and cheers]*

We may not understand each other but at least there is a common denominator and that is love of country. *[applause]* Nobody but nobody can *[cheers]* ever question sa pagmamahal ko sa bayan. Eh ang layo ko doon sa Mindanao eh naparating pa ako dito.

Why do you think? *[applause]* Ambition? It's love of country and the love of the Caviteño kaya nandito ako. Mahal ko kayong lahat. *[applause]* Pati na 'yung mga nag-protesta, mahal ko rin sila. *[cheers]* Kung ayaw ninyong maniwala, basta 'yon ang totoo.

I consider it a great honor and privilege to join you today as we commemorate the 120th Anniversary of our nation's independence.

Today, we remember our past filled with optimism for a future that we can proudly bequeath to the next generations of Filipinos.

Indeed, the story of how our forebears fought for our sovereignty and established a Filipino nation shall forever inspire us to cherish the freedoms that we enjoy all of us today.

Sadly, more than a century since our heroes liberated is from foreign subjugation, our nation still has to face enemies that attack from within.

This, time, we face the modern challenges of poverty, corruption, environmental degradation, terrorism, criminality and illegal drugs.

Narinig ninyo 'yung last ko? Illegal drugs. Kasi kung wala lang tao sa likod na...

I have made it my personal mission to rid our nation of these ills, but I cannot do it alone. At this crucial juncture in our history, we need to draw strength from the lessons of our past to ensure that these ills do not cause any more damage to our future.

I will deviate from my speech. Alam mo, if there is one thing that --- which is really sadly very lacking... Huwag ho kayong mainsulto, ako daw ay nagsasabi lang nang totoo as your brother Filipino.

I have been mayor of my city for 23 years, I was once a congressman and a vice mayor to my daughter. Lahat ho na-experience ko from a legislator to an executive. We can do more.

Ayaw kong --- ayaw kong mapagyabang. Kaya ayaw kong sabihin na I love my own city so that I talk about it highly of what it has achieved so far.

But gusto ko pong sana mapunta kayo ng Davao City, and everything is really done according to the book. Environmentally we're quite more or less --- we can pass the satisfactory level. In terms of law and order, eh you can walk about anytime of the day or night.

We have a mixed crowd there: Muslim, Christians, Lumads and all. All tribal --- tribes, maraming --- there's a big community of Caviteños in the City of Davao. And if they happen to sojourn here ask them and kung mapunta naman doon kayo, just try to observe a little... Hindi naman --- it is not extraordinary. But unlike the others talagang 'yung wala ng disiplina.

So ang taga-Davao ho learned maybe because of the 23 years that I have been there and insist really on discipline. Kaya ho 'yan ang ano ko sa inyo --- ipagbilin ko lang sa inyo.

I will be gone like the dust in the wind. Passing lang po ako. Kaming lahat na elected officials. We are just a small fleck of the history of this nation.

But unless sabihin ko sa inyo, unless kung wala tayong konting disiplina at people continue to ignore it, the laws and the rules by which we live by, medyo mahirapan tayo.

Now if you ask me to what level of standard shall we enjoy in the next 30 years, tingin ko po hirap, hirap tayo, because of population, we can hardly cope up with the --- a... It's a delicate matter. It is not... It's always a dynamics between your religion and my religion and everybody else's too.

But there has to be a change somewhere. I don't know kung kailan 'yan. But we have this sobrang tao and the resources. And Mindanao which is really the breadbasket, I suppose if done in a manner or in an environment that is --- kaya tayong pakainin.

But because of the insurgency, you have the Moro insurgency. Territorial po 'yan. It's not a religious. It never has been an issue. It is not now.

Pero ang problema is the advent of the ISIS. It's a very virulent and toxic ideology. It does nothing but kill and destroy. And they are a mixed crowd there in Mindanao.

I suppose that dumating 'yan dito and nagpapasalamat lang tayo the unsung heroes of our law enforcement. We were able to enter all these activities in time.

Pero ako, sabi ko, I have a few more years. And I will do my best especially in the matter of graft and corruption.

I have fired so many and will continue to fire everybody. Sabi ko sa inyo at napaka --- except... This is not a political --- it's a lesson of history. I've been trying to say it.

Ako, I... In the meetings that I have had or dialogue with you during the campaign, apat lang. I said I will stop graft and corruption and I'm doing it. Talagang ginagawa ko. Inuupakan ko lahat. Sinabi ko, hintuin ninyo ang droga because drugs will destroy this nation. *[applause]*

And prangka-prangka in front of the --- everybody, the world is looking at us today. You know, drugs it has become a very serious problem even for other countries. Drugs --- drugs will destroy my country. Do not do it because I will destroy you. Literally. *[applause]*

And if you have to be... You know, kung gusto ninyo talagang marinig, huwag mong sirain ang bayan ko kasi papatayin talaga kita. *[applause]*

Do not destroy the youth of this land. 'Yun lang ang kapital namin. Kaming... Hindi naman tayo may supermart o may...

You know when you get to be old, you depend on your children. Eh kung ginunggong mo lahat 'yang mga tao, ang mga anak namin. Saan kami pupunta? Sinong magsubo sa amin? Pension? Magkano lang pension ng isang worker of government?

Doon ka na sa pinakababa, basurero. He will retire, how much? 35,000? And he gets to live for another 15 years? Saan niya kukunin 'yung medisina? Saan niya kukunin 'yung pagkain? Who will pay for his hospitalization? Sinong magbigay ng oxygen? Sinong magsusubo ng lugaw sa bunganga mo? At sino ang magbayad sa burol mo pati ang iyong cemetery? That's the problem.

'Yan ang hindi ang alam... Basta kanila, in pursuit of greed and maybe some politicians or terorista --- 'yan ang nangyayari.

But ang --- the effect of all of these things that an individual Filipino would inflict on his country, matagalan 'yan. 'Pag gunggong na, wala na 'yan.

And so I have --- umuulan. Pero kung gusto ninyong makinig, okay lang. Gusto ninyong makinig? *[crowd answers: Yes!]* It's 9:05. Mga 10 o'clock. Makinig lang kayo. *[laughter]*

Well anyway, 'yan ang sinabi ko. Ako... It is with passion. Ako ho'y prosecutor before I became mayor kaya mainit talaga ako diyan because I have tried cases. I have seen so many destroyed lives in the name of the altar of greed. At sabihin mo lang, human rights. Mahirap 'yan.

Impeach mo na ako, impeach o patayin mo na ako, okay lang. Basta hindi ako papayag nang ganun. I will not respect that kind of... Magturo ka lang, ito ang pinatay ko. 'Yan ang numbers? And that is the nation's --- what ails this nation? Numbers. Ang pinatay ko? Ang likod niyan? Ito. Ilang pamilya ang nawasak? Meron kang isang adik sa....

I'm talking about this because it is also independence. We cannot move. 'Pag may pamilya kang may isa may tama, your family becomes dysfunctional. Sigurado 'yan. Then contaminate another and then you have a society of gunggong. So to whom do we pass...

Mamatay rin ako. Eh 'yung sinundan ko dito --- the great Aguinaldo is gone. But still we are struggling. Ang masama dito, ang kalaban mo Pilipino. Hindi naman sana kung mag-away tayo ng prinsipyo, okay lang.

So itong mga komunista, I'm ready to talk to them. Why? Because they are more or less fighting for something that is a matter of principle to them. Eh ako naman, dumaan ako sa lahat ng estudyante ako. Dito ako nag-aral. Kaya ako natuto ng Tagalog konti. But I falter once in a while kasi makalimutan ko kung ano ang Tagalog nitong...

Pero ako po'y taga-Mindanao. I was just trying my luck. I cannot give you any other reason for running. Magbobola ako eh. Sabihin ko 'yung --- ang ano ko is graft, I'm doing it. Drugs, nakita mo naman.

Sabihin nila marami ang patay. Palagay na natin. Put --- you put... Paano ba ito ilusot? You put things in the proper perspective. Papunta na sa mura 'yun eh. *[laughter]* Meron pa naman tayong mga bisita.

Then I said I will talk to the enemies and that is why I'm talking to Sison. So everything has failed. But sabi ko, we can talk bumalik ka dito. Ako ang sasagot nang lahat ng gastusin. We will talk and we will give each other 60 days to agree or else if it fails --- it's just a small window actually.

So I'm inviting the Reds to... Ito, itong mga nagsigaw. Kaya mahal ko ito sila. Kasi sabi ko hinto muna tayo. Then choose a camp where you can stay there and I will contribute to your subsistence for the 60 days.

Sana naman maawa ang Diyos sa atin. If it succeeds then my only problem would be the rebellion in Mindanao.

So we are talking with the MI. 'Yung Bangsamoro is in Congress. I hope it will pass. If it does not, then there's gonna be another round of ruckus there. I hope it would not again result to a near revolution environment.

Then I'm talking with Nur Misuari, MN. Sabi niya, hintay lang ako kung ano ang mabuting pag-usapan natin. So I'm talking. Sasabihin ko, I will talk peace with the enemies of the state. Verily, they are. Vis-à-vis with the legitimate elected government, they are enemies of the state.

Then I said, I will allow the managers to run this country unbridled, unfettered by any...

Kaya ho ako, ni isang transaction sa gobyerno, ni isang MRT, ni isang release lang, it does not reach my table. My table is clean. 'Yung transaction, it begins and ends with the Cabinet member. That's why I choose the best. They are not known but they have the reputation for honesty and everything.

The one who's building this is Tugade. Kayong mga taga-San Beda, classmate man namin 'yan. He's good. He's a billionaire. At the time we were students, bilyonaryo na 'yan. He's a hardworking man. He was our valedictorian.

As you can see, I'm ready --- I've gathered the best of everybody. And he's doing well. So huwag kayong maniwala niyang mga intriga, intriga. Puro mayayaman lang... Ilan lang kami...

Well, I'm sorry but I --- may last paragraph nandito. Ang problema, ang acknowledgements hindi ko nasabi. Natakpan kasi eh. Binuksan ko.

So I apologize to the members of the diplomatic corps, Her Excellency *[unclear]* and esteemed members of the diplomatic corps; Education Secretary Leonor Briones and the members of the Cabinet present. 'Yung iba natakot sa ulan.

Representative Francis Gerald Abaya and the honorable members of the House of Representatives; Kawit Mayor Angelo Emilio Aguinaldo and other local government officials present. Mabuti ka pa sir, Mayor, meron kang pangalan na nakakabit. Kaya ako, mga next year palitan ko pangalan ko. Lapu-Lapu. *[laughter]*

Alam mo bakit nung na-mayor ako, kasi nung tiningnan ko nung Presidente ako, walang hero ang Visayas pati Mindanao.

Kaya sabi ko sa --- ito si Badoy sa Culture, sa Commission, sabi ko, "Bakit wala kaming hero? Ibig mong sabihin kayo lang dito sa Luzon ang matapang?" *[laughter]*

Bakit kami? May kaisa-isa kaming Pilipino, tumindig laban sa ating mga kolonista. Sino 'yun? Pinatay pa niya. Lapu-Lapu.

He was the first hero. But wala nga tayong gathering. So when I was campaigning, mataas pa ang estatwa ni Magellan kay Lapu-Lapu.

Sabi ko, mukhang --- but then, water under the bridge. But I said, "I will build a monument of Lapu-Lapu higher than this..." 'Yung Español, si Magellan. *[applause]*

Mabuti pa si Magellan Strait, Magellan ano. Alam mong ginawa kayong mga Tagalog? Kayo 'yung nandito sa gobyerno eh. Wala naman kaming pakialam. Lahat ng empleyado gobyerno. Kayong mga taga-gobyernong nasa Mindanao galing dito, puro Tagalog. That was the first nung nakinig kami ng Tagalog.

So 'yung mga trabahante ng Pilipino ang ipinadala ng central government. Central government is Manila. Anong ginawa ninyo sa aming hero? Aber? Anong title ibinigay ninyo that befits a truly --- a guy who killed the first colonial for invading our country? Sino at anong ginawa ninyo? Ginawa ninyong isda. *[laughter]* Lapu-Lapu.

Piniritong Lapu-Lapu, sinigang na Lapu-Lapu, imbis na i-bow tayo ganun, you honor by eating...

Kaya nung na-Presidente ako, kasi walang medal na Lapu-Lapu 'yung mga sundalo. I added one and that's the Order of Lapu-Lapu. At 'yun ang ibinigay ko sa lahat ng mga sundalo natin na doon sa Marawi. So there's a new one and it is an award intended for the civilians and military.

Kaya pagka may Caviteño dito na sikat at marunong at may ginawa sa bayan, hindi nag-droga, Order of Lapu-Lapu. Pero 'pag nagkamali ako sa iyo tapos 'yun pala drug pusher ka, pipirituhin kita. *[laughter]*

Tsaka alam mo kung saan ka itapon? Diyan. Manila Bay. Ang payat na ng isda diyan, karaming nangingisda, wala ng isda. Mas marami 'yung tao kaysa isda eh papaano... Kaya kung wala na tayong fertilizer --- hindi man nila nakita. *[laughter]*

NHCP chairman Rene Escalante; Most Rev. Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista; AFP Chief of Staff General Arturo --- Carlito, rather, Galvez, Jr. and the major service commanders; Police Director General Oscar Albayalde; Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Elson Hermogino; officers, enlisted men, personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the National Police; fellow workers in government; other distinguished guests; mga kababayan. Sinong gumawa nitong...? Kinalimutan mo. Governor, suntukin mo, ituro ko mamaya sa iyo. *[laughter]* Cavite Governor Jesus Crispin Remulla. Wala ang pangalan niya dito oh. *[laughter]* Kaya kung feel mo lang, sigurado 'yang staff diyan sa likod *[laughter]* you...

So I'd proceed with my prepared speech.

Our generation, and those who will come after us, will never be able to pay in full the debt that we owe to the heroes that founded this nation. The least that we can do is to see to it that the sacrifices they made, so that we may enjoy these freedoms, were indeed worth it.

Today, we honor and remember the patriots who have given their lives in the name of liberty and freedom. As heirs of this great sacrifice, let us all be worthy of their legacy by leaving behind a nation.

'Yun nga 'yung isa. Kung hindi tayo --- if we do not prepare our country financially, politically, environmentally, tandaan niyo ang sinabi ko. And I'm thankful that I've said it in a very important place, Kawit, Cavite, where our nation was founded.

Remember kung sana makaiwan tayo, 'yan ang ano ko. Try to visit Davao. At kung bakit kung magawa ko --- 'yan ang sabi ko, hindi naman ako nagyayabang. Not extraordinarily or exceedingly peaceful or *[unclear]*. But ang growth rate namin hit 9.6, the highest so far.

When I became mayor, the growth rate of Davao was 2. Ang gulo pati puro patayan.

Ngayon maraming namamatay. Pero 'yung sinabi ko na sa iyo, "huwag kang pumasok diyan. Huwag kang pumasok diyan baka ang kapalit niyan, ang buhay mo." Hindi ako nagbibiro, hindi ako nagpapatawa. Sinabi ko lang, "it is my sworn duty."

Alam mo ang pinaka-iksi nito. Mataas 'yan eh. "I, Rodrigo Duterte blah-blah-blah..." I will shorten it for you and if you'd listen to me very carefully, you would understand kung ano talaga ang sasabihin ko.

Kaming lahat dito, mga pulis, mga militar, lahat taga-gobyerno --- mayors, governors, our duty is to protect the people and preserve this nation. 'Yan lang. Kung makuha mo 'yang "to preserve the nation and to protect the people," maintindihan na ninyo why am I so passionate about my advocacy.

I just want the Filipino during my time comfortable. I'm not expecting any economic miracles. Impossible. I will be humble enough to admit that I can only do so much.

Pero itong droga tatapusin ko talaga ito. 'Yang murder-for-hire. I hate to say this lalo na nandito ang Bishop. But either ang tingin ko sa iyo, wala kang value sa akin, in my eyes. It does not... It leaves a bad taste in the mouth. May konti pero ayang.

If you go into the business of killing Filipinos, then ang tingin ko sa iyo walang balor. Mas mabuti 'yang magkaprangkahan tayo.

But kayong lahat, niyayaya kong pumunta ng Davao. Kung magpunta kayo, basta paalamin ninyo ako through the mayor or the local government --- local government representatives dito. Sabihin mo, "sabihin mo kay Duterte pupunta ako." 'Pag pumunta kayo, ako na ang bahala. Oo. *[cheers]* Ako na ang bahala. I will take care of you.

Kung wala kang sasakyan, bigyan kita ng isang eroplano, punta ka rin doon. *[cheers]* Para libre na lahat. 'Yung mga --- inuna ko...

Kayong mga bata, you seem to be the adventurous type, kagaya ko. Better see the Philippines while you are still able to do it when you have the... Konti lang naman.

Mura naman kasi ngayon 'yan in terms of the cost of money. It seems to me that the airfares are quite... But we are still talking to reduce it.

But then again I advise you, bumisita kayo ng Davao and baka mamulat --- baka maintindihan mo 'yung ginagawa ko minsan.

I do not expect, I said everything, everybody to agree with me. It's well-nigh impossible of that expectation. But I'm sure that 'pag nag... Sabi ko nga, hindi ako nagbibiro. 'Pag napunta kayo doon, paalamin mo lang ako. Maraming Caviteño doon. Ako na ang bahala.

Siguro suite na --- isang buwan siguro, okay na 'yan sa inyo? Ha? *[cheers]* O 'di sige, mamili kayo ng hotel. I really would like you to visit my city.

I am inviting you officially. Let me know. Kung wala kang sakyan, do not hijack it, bawal 'yan. Huwag mong agawin sa piloto 'yung eroplano, hindi 'yan sa iyo.

And somehow I will look for other means. I want the mayor to organize. Nagpunta na man 'yan sila. I want the mayor to organize something like 'yung mga... Pati 'yung... Saan ninyo dinala 'yung nagsisigaw diyan? They are also invited.

Ipakilala --- 'yung counterpart nila, kilala ko man. *[cheers]* Oo totoo. Alam ninyo 'yan. Alam ng military that the left and the NPA's supported me. Lalo na Mindanao. Dito sa Luzon, it was Grace.

But Mindanao, 'yung militante, ngayon na lang kami nag-away kasi ganito: Alam mo, hindi ko naman akalain --- mayor lang ako. I'm winding up. So ako, boto lang 'yan. Pag sinabi ng military "ito si Duterte, nakipagkita sa mga NPA" ganun.

So I knew that they were reporting and some were looking at me with a --- in the bad mood. Sabi ko, "political lang 'yan, adre". Kung sino 'yung makapaboto --- I would even shake hands with the devil.

But sabi ko, it's all politics. Then I became suddenly the President of the Philippines, now we have a problem with our friendship. Kaya ako, walang todo away. We kept that we invite each other's attention for a... And they are coming here.

And this I will guarantee kayong mga Left na if the talks will not succeed with the Communist Party of the Philippines, I will keep my word, word of honor, ihatid ko si Maria Sison sa airport at ako mismo, makita ko na umalis na siya.

Now as to he's coming back, that's out of the question. Kasi may kaso eh. But 'yan ang gagawin ko. I'm willing to walk the extra mile to have peace in our land.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

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