

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE CEREMONIAL SIGNING  
OF THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE AND THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT,  
PRESENTATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 2018, PHILIPPINE SPORTS  
TRAINING CENTER ACT, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE  
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE INTO TWO LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, AND THE NEW  
CENTRAL BANK ACT; AND TURN-OVER OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS  
(BSP) DIVIDENDS**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 20 February 2019]

Salamat po. Kindly take your seats.

Former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the other members of the House of Representatives; Senate President Vicente Sotto and the other honorable members of the Senate; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Secretary to the Cabinet Karlo Alexei Nograles and the other members of the Cabinet; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased with you --- to be with you today...

Well, at least we have been --- one of the eventful measures is the reapportioning of Leyte. This will end the communal wars between two cousins. *[laughter]* Iyan lang pala ang solusyon eh. You do not have to shoot the helicopter of the other guy. *[laughter]* That is not proper politics.

...in coordination with concerned agencies, in facilitating the passage of the key legislative measures which would further support this administration's development agenda for inclusive growth where no one will be left behind. Hopefully.

The laws that we pass today will surely make a positive impact on the lives of our people and foster a business environment that is conducive for trade and investments. Two of these legislative measures will improve our existing healthcare and pension services which will benefit the poor and the vulnerable always the reason.

By automatically [enrolling] our citizens into the National Health Insurance Program and expanding PhilHealth coverage to include free medical consultations and laboratory tests, the Universal Healthcare Law that I sign today will guarantee equitable access to quality and affordable healthcare services for all Filipinos.

The Social Security Act of 2018 also expands the investing capacity of the Social Security Commission, enabling the SSS to generate better income for members and pensioners.

I also sign today the Revised Corporation Code which seeks to simplify corporate governance standards and establish a more business friendly environment that will enable corporations and other juridical entities to thrive.

The Amendment [to] the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Charter would also strengthen the BSP's financial stability and grant it more flexibility in the exercise of its regulatory powers. The amendment comes at a fitting time when the BSP is remitting to the national government partial dividends amounting to 4 billion pesos. *[applause]* This will come a long way [in] funding priority programs of the administration.

We are also training --- presenting today the Philippine Sports Training Center Act which would establish a center for athletic development that will help maximize the potential and competitiveness of our local athletes.

Lastly, the Act Reapportioning the Province of Southern Leyte will help ensure an even more adequate representation in Congress, enabling us to address the needs of the constituents from the two other legislative districts. And hopefully to promote peace and order in that province. I hope the last incident of shooting down a helicopter of your opponent will be the last violence in that province.

*[Nandito ba si [Udong?] si...?]* Actually related ako sa kanila eh. Sabi ko sa kanila noong ano, "Sige, magpatayan na lang kayo para 'yung ibang mga kadugo natin may panahon na umakyat."

The passage of these laws attests to how much the government can achieve when the executive and legislative branches work hand in hand in achieving a common legislative agenda.

I hope that Congress will continue to be our steadfast partner in enacting laws that will significantly improve the lives of our people, especially those who need it.

Let us all work together in enabling our countrymen to lead more meaningful, productive, peaceful and prosperous lives that we all deserve.

May I beg your kind indulgence if I may add just a few statements. This is just for your own consumption. It does not really ask for anything or even to suggest what you should do.

But the news that you hear everyday about the floating drugs all around the country is that really we have confirmed that [Sinaloa] and the Medellin cartels are in the trade now. And it's cocaine --- it has always been cocaine from Mexico.

But now since meth is cheaper and more I think toxic for the addicts, we are buffeted from all sides. One coming by boat, by the air and even from the United States shipping small amounts of... We are at war.

I remember and this has been kept outside of public knowledge, but I suppose that Senator --- Secretary Alunan of the DILG before four days or five days ago came out with a statement that as early as during Mar --- Ramos' time, he was called by the DEA, that is the department that takes care of the enforcement of drugs that at that time his attention was called by America that we are sailing into dark horizon of --- dark and it could be a state narco politics before we knew it.

And I am declaring war. I am not declaring a punitive police action. It cannot help and it would not help. So early on I decided but I think I'd be more --- well I said harsher in the days to come. Because hopefully I cannot see a country of mine...

I'm not speculating on my competence or ability, far from it actually. Nobody can solve it in due time. Pero gusto kong tapusin ko talaga 'to sa panahon ko. I have the three years left and I'm putting notice to everybody and the same sloganeering. Maybe it leaves a bad taste in the mouth every time I say it, but I have to say it. At least you are forewarned.

I will not allow my country to be destroyed by drugs. I will not allow my country to end up a failed state because of drugs. And I am declaring war and I said I will kill anybody who stands in the way.

And also for those guys who keep on with their business of importing, be they Mexicans or Chinese or Filipino, if you continue to feed our children with drugs, there's no way that --- talagang maaabutan ko kayo at papatayin ko kayo. That's...

I'm ready to accept the consequences. I'm ready for hell. But I will never, never preside over a nation that would deteriorate in my presence. Hindi ho ako diyan. And I'm willing to gamble on this.

Ayaw ko talaga. Not my country, not during the time that I am President. Ma'am, may hiya ako. Mamatay ako sa hiya. So why should I die in shame? Sila 'yung mamatay. And we have improved the --- I don't know. *[applause]*

Why should I suffer in agony and sorrow? It is not the job of government to be sorrowful. It is for the criminals to avoid the streets. And our children and the citizens must be free anytime to use the public streets and public lands. That the citizen can go anywhere.

I do not want to mention a name but I said they must be able to travel at night safe and sound because those public streets, alleys, and public places belong to the people of the Republic of the Philippines.

Kaya there might be some, you know... I really do not blame you. Kanya-kanya tayong advocacy eh.

Once upon a time I was a young lawyer and I took the cudgels of my clients. Pareho man siguro kami ni Sal, 72. Then I became a prosecutor. And I took the case for the people, people of the Philippines versus --- the lawyers of the people of the Philippines are the prosecutors.

Then I became a mayor and I had to protect public interest, public safety, public order, public health. And so I tried to be one and I did it.

Now that I am President, my duty reduced in two sentences will be something like: To protect the people and preserve the Republic of the Philippines.

That I will intend to do and more. Hindi sa panahon ko ha. Not the NPAs, not the Abu Sayyaf, not the drug people.

Alam mo kasi, just give me... *[May usapan ba kayo Dick mag-kape sa ano...?]*

Iyong social dysfunction ang ayaw ako. Because if the breadwinner of a family goes down, everything in that family becomes dysfunctional. Money intended for food on the table is no longer there. Money intended for the little expenses of the education of the children is no longer

there. And the relations between the wife and the husband, wala na rin 'yan. The husband becomes impotent. He becomes jealous. He mauls the wife.

And the other side is, itong mga durugista when they take shabu, it's accompanied with always with alcohol. That's why they get violent. They go inside the houses of people, rape the children, rape a four-year-old.

Look, if you do that you don't deserve any day here in... 'Pag mag-ganun ka, you to me you are a garbage. If I shoot you there, you're just a carcass sa akin. P\*\*\*\*\* i\*\* basura ka lang.

Look, itong mga human rights, I agree with you. Life is sacred. We do not want to kill people. It's an unsettling thought when you sleep at night especially if you commit a mismatch or nagkamali ka and it happened and it will bug you all throughout your life.

But you see, the number of people killed, how many? Five thousand, police say it's 5,000. Sabi ng ano, ilan? Fifty thousand? Dagdagan mo pa. Dagdagan mo pa kasi ganito 'yan, Bato when he counted was one million six hundred. Adre, t\*\*\* --- Manila lang 'yon. They were canvassing the guys appearing on TV a few months ago, lining up in public streets surrendering.

But you know the slide rate is always in a scale of --- the average failure is something like 7.

Iyan babalik talaga nang babalik 'yan until they become inutile. And the favorite line of --- they said mga... The usual hullabaloo of people who are rich exempted. People who are rich do not use meth. That is intended for the poor market because it is affordable. The rich idiots in this country use cocaine, hashish and...

Hindi stupido 'yang mga 'yan kasi alam nila maging gunggong ka. And the one that --- this sordid incident in Cebu. The parents came to me. So I...

Pwede ninyong patayin 'yan? *[whistles]* Hindi 'yung camera, 'yung ulo ninyo. Kita mo, naka-red 'yan oh. The camera directly in front of me is on red, patayin na 'yan.

Ngayon, 'yon bang sa Cebu, pumunta dito ang nanay pati tatay and of course the loss of a beloved daughter. Ang ganda pa naman ng bata, 19 years old, a medical student.

Nagreklamo sila, they want justice. Pero nakita nila, na-recover ng forensics examination pati 'yung... She was the one who was actually texting another girl na maghati sila doon kasi 'yung isa reserba niya para sa kanyang boyfriend, 'yung missing until now.

And to make a long shot guess na galing sa boyfriend, eh siya 'yung may hawak eh. Siya nga nagsabi doon sa text para ito sa boyfriend niya. So hindi ma-ano sa nanay pati tatay na --- you can almo... I wanted to cry with them, not because na sentimental ako by the profound sorrow ng...

May anak rin ako eh. Iyan ang problema.

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