

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE SITUATION BRIEFING IN ISABELA

[Delivered at The Hotel Andrea, Cauayan City, Isabela | 01 November 2018]

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Somebody would like to comment? Well, from the looks of it, sa taas kami, the damage was really very extensive. Lalo na sa road network. And there's a lot to do there plus the missing persons which are worrying us now. How many are still inside that DPWH and those houses that were swept away that never caught our attention. So that's one.

I am satisfied with the response of government, everybody is here, and I think that everyone is doing his duty. I'd like to thank you for that. Verily, the rule in crisis management or whatever calamity or whatever, the number one rule is you have to return to normalcy as soon as possible.

So I'm sure that Secretary Villar has the ready response for that. You are beginning to do your work there, especially those who are trapped. I saw a lot of motor vehicles there prove that they cannot move in or move out. They are isolated there. That's a major problem also about the people.

I hope that they can just traverse it towards the area where there was this proper --- the municipal town, where they can seek refuge in the meantime.

The mitigating measures that were taken by all is impressive. And I'd like to thank you. So I did not waste my time coming here. Except for Major Caran - -- ah yes.

General Carandang, you better go to the cemetery, you seem to be hounded by a ghost there. Your mic does not work well, somebody's egging you to go home early. So, yes sir?

DOLE SEC. SILVESTRE BELLO III: Mr. President, dagdag lang Mr. President. We would like to report here that there are 873 fisherfolks affected in Dinapigue, Isabela and there are 35 fish cages damaged, Mr. President.

Malaking bagay po ito. In Gamu, Mr. President, there is one casualty. No less than the son of my driver drowned yesterday, Mr. President, as a result of typhoon Rosita.

The extent of the damage in Santiago is still being assessed by the Mayor, Mr. President, because there are a lot of business establishments that were destroyed because of the strong winds and water rain from Typhoon Rosita and we are still assessing the effect on the employment of our workers in Santiago City, including Echague and also the city of Governor Bojie Dy in Cauayan City. Marami pa ring mga mawawalan ng trabaho kaya dinadahan-dahan din naming kung paano ma-address 'yung mga displaced workers.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, first of all, to repair immediately the fish cottage --- ah traps there or something --- it should be the worry of Secretary Piñol, sa Agriculture 'yan eh.

But you might want to, in the meantime, find something productive for them so that they can be extended the usual --- not a dole out but the money to keep them going until such time that they can stand on their own.

SEC. BELLO: We will do that, Mr. President. In fact I was just talking to Governor na bibigyan namin siya ng emergency employment doon sa mga na-displaced sa kanyang lugar.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: By the Labor department?

SEC. BELLO: Opo from the Labor department.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You have projects here?

SEC. BELLO: Meron po tayo, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Aba okay. So the last thing would really be... Yes, sir?

DOST SEC. FORTUNATO DELA PEÑA: *[off mic]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Is that map distribute... Naibigay na ba ngayon 'yan o noon pa?

SEC. DELA PEÑA: *[off mic]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay. I hope everybody would be supplied with that map. It becomes a critical instrument during itong climate.

You know it's not about the actual event only. It's the social cost after --- the rehabilitation would need money and the displaced families would have to be resettled something like that.

It does not end after we --- the mitigating circumstances would be solved but also the --- 'yung the concomitant consequences of...

Ang eskwelahan --- Secretary Briones is not here. So I will just take note of that and remind them. I think we have a Cabinet meeting tomorrow or the day after? *[Sec. Lorenzana: Monday, sir, Monday]* Monday. *[Sec. Lorenzana: Tuesday, Tuesday pala, 6]* Sa 6.

So... Okay man siguro? I think that we have reached the standard of response needed for this particular incident. I said the most important thing really is to return normalcy.

And that would mean really the clearing of the roads and 'yung kay Rolly, mga tao doon --- that they are fed and they are given shelters outside of the line of fire, iyong nandoon ngayon.

Do you have your men there working? May mga tao ka doon?

Official: Opo sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah may mga pagkain na dala?

Official: Yes sir.

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE GOV. BONIFACIO LACWASAN JR.: May I add po, Mr. President? Una po sa lahat, thank you po sa --- thank you very much at nagkaroon ako ng oportunidad na nakasama kita sa aerial view kanina, sir.

Gusto ko pong ipaalam na 'yung nakikita nating hanay ng mga sasakyan na nakabuntot sa backhoe, 'yun po ay mga sasakyan ng mga gustong tumulong sa ground zero.

May dala ng --- ang iba may dalang food items, mga logistic na gustong itulong kaya lang hindi sila makalapit. Kaya ang hiling po kung pwede 'yung mag-airlift na lang sa munisipyo ng Natonin ng mga food items o mga kailangan po kasi talagang hindi makapunta 'yung sasakyan doon.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Is there a place where the helicopters can land?

GOV. LACWASAN: Mayroon po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay. We will ask the TOG here to provide the mobility.

GOV. LACWASAN: Thank you po. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: The most important thing really is that one --- right now it's tubig. Pagka 'yang mga ganun, tubig pati pagkain.

Iyong pagkain, sometimes I have this --- well, something like observation. Huwag ninyong bigyan ng 'yang kaldero pati palanggana kasi wala 'yan silang malutuan and they have to gather the firewoods and everything.

Ang dalhin niyo --- the first dalhin talaga ninyo is the pure protein and mga pan ganun. Iyong sardinas kasi inumin lang 'yan. Ang iba kasi bigyan ng bigas tapos magbigay ng cooking pots and the palangganas and all. They are of no use to those persons at this point.

They are bewildered, disoriented and probably the first thing really is to for the health services guys to go there to treat the wounded or if they are seriously suffering from injuries that they should be right away be brought to the place where the choppers can land and 'yung mga helicopters na magdala ng tulong doon for those that are --- that would needed medical attention ---

they can be retrieved there and brought here in the municipal --- or in the city. Ganon ang...

You have the services of the...? The Air Force would only be too happy to help.

Rod, anong tingin mo? Masyadong serious ka diyan. You are serious, you seem to be in deep thought.

ISABELA 1ST DISTRICT REP. RODOLFO ALBANO III: Mr. President, thank you. Yeah. Wala kasi 'yung asawa ko dito nagbakasyon. So kaya medyo seryoso ako ngayon. At napagod kami boss ni Governor Dy kahapon dahil tiningnan namin 'yung Siffu Bridge at nagpunta kami nung gabi.

Tama 'yung sabi nila, 'yung tubig Mr. President nanggagaling na ng bundok at hindi nanggagaling doon sa dam 'yung tubig na nagwasak doon sa mga ano. Nagkaroon ng debris sa bundok. Hindi na kumapit 'yung mga topsoil Mr. President kaya malaki ang damage doon sa mga bridges na nangyari dito sa Isabela. Ganun din siguro ang nangyari doon sa Ifugao. Tama ho si General...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, itong kay Rolly naman. If we have the --- if we have the immediate food stops 'yun na lang. Ang pla...

Do we have the butane 'yung sinisindihan? Iyong ano lang, maliliit 'yan. That's the one thing that --- the source of quarrel between Osmeña and the rest of the guys there in Cebu. Some are not but I've heard incidents of accidents.

Pero if we can acquire from a source that's a guaranteed quality, then magkuha ka niyan kasi 'yan ang pinakamabilis eh sindihin lang kung magluto man sila.

But if not, then you have to bring in large amounts of carbohydrates and protein and tubig. 'Yan talaga ang --- the immediate...

In my years of government, ganun talaga tubig tapos pagkain that's it. Hindi na kailangan lutuin. Diretso na lang 'yan kainin. Sardines and canned --- mga baka or pork. Diretso na. A good substitute would really be --- ah ano 'yung pan. Iyan ang experience ko.

So I am leaving. You are leaving also, everybody. I have to attend the --- I have to go to the tomb of my mother and father. Mamaya ano pa ako...

So if there is no further discussion... I'd like to comment. This is not really to --- this is not a brief of the mil --- for the military and the police.

You know, ang utility boy natin sa ating civilization ngayon dito is the military and the police. Sila 'yung --- well, ako sa siyudad ng Davao, I have a disaster office. But then I can only employ so much. They cannot be really in thousands. Maybe 200, 300.

But the problem is ito 'yung mga alam mo na, politiko man tayong lahat dito. At least 'yung napasok diyan, political patronage, ganun kung sino ang malakas.

But in actual sit --- crisis situations, and aplenty sa Mindanao whether it's a putok ng --- several times in Davao City --- flood, fire, everything.

Itong mga disaster natin, hindi kaagad maka-respond diyan because they do --- they report on the same... At least if you have an organized na pati palit, pero 'yung mag-report lang sa opisina for an eight hours work, pag-uwi niyan mahirap i-contact 'yan.

You have to create something like a bumbero na may shifting so that... But then again if there is, they will be hard put to assemble. That's why ang sinasabi ko you have to say a word or two, good words for the military and the police whoever is there.

Sila 'yung utility. Sila 'yung matawagan mo sabihin mo, "Sige pumunta na kayo doon, right now." Police and military and they have the numbers. Eh kung call lang doon sa Davao, I call the --- 'yung mga nagti-training sa Police Academy.

So they are the utility. They fight and sometimes they die. Then 'yung mga diggings sa Cebu, they are the ones who can be ordered to do the massive task of digging on a 24-hour basis.

Kaya na... Ang ano ko lang kasi 'yung nakikita ko sinong nandoon 'yung mga sundalo. So they are the only ones who can say no. And they are the ones who can say we cannot climb that mountain. What do you mean you cannot climb that mountain? You climb that mountain.

'Yung mga ganun, sila 'yun. So if you can take care of your police and military guys there, kindly do some... Kasi 'yun talaga ang utility boy ng gobyerno. They deal in all kinds of sorts of...

REP. ALBANO: Mr. President, can we activate 'yung mga engineering brigades? Because we have one in Echague I think. Kung pwede nating mapalakas kasi parang kulang 'yung equipment nila. At saka lagi kong ipinaglalaban sa Congress 'yung budget nung --- kung makagawa tayo ng

engineering command para at least sa disasters 'yon ang makatulong talaga sa amin, 'yung mga engineering brigades ng Army.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: They have the equipments there?

REP. ALBANO: Ah mukhang kulang yata 'yung equipment nila at saka wala pa yatang engineering commands. I think we have only three engineering brigades sa buong Pilipinas, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I'll tell you what, Rod, ah the --- the workability, if there's such a word, the lifespan of an equipment --- heavy equipment depends so much on the maintenance. 'Yan lang ang...

I'm not offending anyone. But sa gobyerno and even sa --- 'pag nawalaan ng karburador 'yan, iwanan 'yan. So they... Nakaupo na lang 'yan doong makina. Hindi na...

And even in the police, walang ano 'yan --- walang maintenance appropriation. 'Pag nasira 'yan, ibigay nga sa iyo bago. Pero 'pag may nasira niyan, especially those donated in ana --- wala na 'yan.

If they are out, if there are --- something is wrong with the engine or the carburetor, it's knocked out. So ang... Kaya ang --- kung mag-invest man tayo ng heavy equipment, it's going to be DPWH and the military, 'yung engineering battalions nila.

And you can be sure that the maintenance is present and it would last longer. 'Yung sa iba, itong mga agencies-agencies, what I have really noticed, I'm sorry to say this to you bluntly, 'pag nasira 'yang isang gulong diyan tapos mag-appropriate pa, waiting ana, ana, wala na.

Ang ambulansiya, wala na rin. Simply because there is no effort for maintenance and the money that would be needed to do it.

Kaya't karamihan ng mga motor vehicles, mga --- naiwan lang diyan eh. Except for DPWH, meron man silang mga --- I think in Davao, you have a good garage there.

Pero 'yung iba, ibigay na ng mga --- donated by United Nations, ibigay. Ah sabi ko hanggang diyan lang 'yan. Donated for --- to the agriculture ganun. 'Pag nasira 'yan, tapos na ang laro diyan. So it's really a wastage.

A lot of money has been wasted on ganun because of no maintenance. There might be some efforts there to look closely there. 'Yung ako gusto ko 'yung

engineering because name-maintain nila 'yung --- the mechanized. Eh pareho 'yung mga mekaniko nila eh.

But if you want a group that can respond immediately 'yan sinabi mo, I said it is the engineering battalions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Dito sa civilian is falling short of the --- *[how would I put it?]* --- the vigilance to really take care of the property.

Usually 'yan, 'pag nasira na pati gulong... Pero ang gulong naman na bago, bago 'yan. Hindi pa kailangan ng bago, mag-requisition na tapos ipagbili. That's the style of 'yan dito. Nanghihinayang kasi ako. United Nations donated and ganun ganun.

And then a few months later, makikita ko --- from my experience working for government ganun. So pagdating ng panahon, wala tayong ma... Sa ano, it's a limited resource also for the DILG, 'yung sa fire.

There has to be a maintenance there. There has to be enough money to maintain the --- na 'yung... Sabagay taga-Davao man kayo. Nakita ninyo ang 911. It's well-maintained. It's really funded every year. Kaya spick and span tapos bago. Bago talaga, parang bago.

And there's a 911. At any given time, I have about 25 there na parang bumbero doing nothing except waiting for something that would put into action the very thing that they are trained for.

So ganun ang ano. Kung wala nang iba ah... Sino pa ba 'yung...? Well I think somebody has called the attention of Manny.

Sino ang taga-ano dito, taga Agriculture? You might want to make a report. I'll ask Manny to come in kasi pati 'yung fish cages doon sa dagat kanya 'yun eh. It's part of the agricultural thrust, kanya 'yon pati isda.

So sige man siya yabang na marami siyang pera, now is the time for him to spend all of them.

OFFICIAL: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You can make a report or ask him that I'm asking you to tell him that there's a problem which they have to attend to dito sa dinaanan ng bagyo. Di-i man si Manny?

Well I... Hindi ko naman ano eh --- I was thinking that I'd be the only one coming here. I was not expecting all --- all of you guys to be here. Pero nandito na tayo just might as well good as any other time to remind him of 'yung problema dito.

We have the funds for that. We are --- every department is provided the money. So it's the only thing that's... The only thing do now is just really to work on it tomorrow siguro para matulong --- but ang road maraming putol...

Mark, karaming putol. You have flown there in the area?

DPWH SEC. MARK VILLAR: Nakapunta na po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: How many days do you think they can repair the road networks there?

SEC. VILLAR: We can clear... Parating na kami sa ground zero tomorrow. So 'yung ibang roads na lang. Majority ho by November 2 hanggang November -- three days.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah good enough. Okay.

SEC. VILLAR: Karamihan lang pero may mga roads na...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Totally. Sige. General Jalad.

NDRRMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR USEC. RICARDO JALAD: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir. After this meeting sir to really organize our response to Natonin which we saw as isolated from both sides, I would propose a meeting among different agencies here preferably below secretary level because we might have to involve Region 2 agencies because they are nearer to Natonin.

And actually in the NDRRMC, our lead for --- when it comes to response is DSWD. So we'd like to request the Secretary of DSWD to join us in this meeting --- after this meeting, sir.

And that is to really facilitate the response towards our response to --- in Natonin, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You just talk to Rolly, mag-usap na lang kayo. Okay lang.

Mag-usap na lang kayo niyang... Puro man kayo general eh 'di game of the generals sa inyo na lang 'yan.

USEC. JALAD: So we'd like to have representations from the other agencies like DPWH, DOH, of course OCD, DSWD, and, of course, from the AFP, TOG -- TOG 2 and NolCom.

[Speaks to DILG Officer-in-Charge Eduardo Año]

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Now, there was this development itong ano. It has something to do with the police.

So all of the police that are listening now might want also to be conscious of the fact that the police there is to maintain --- well, protect...

Army --- the commonality of our duty, Armed Forces, the uniformed policemen, is to protect and preserve the nation, and to protect the people. That's about it.

Ito ngayon, I was reading a report kasi sa aking office about that incident of the police na --- and I'm warning you, I will never tolerate that kind na 'yung hazing.

At ipinakain nila 'yung ari nila doon sa... Ah they will be dismissed. I will dismiss them.

I have no place for people... You know, you give me a soldier from the PMA or from the PNPA, nandoon tapos you rob them of his dignity. You dehumanize him and he goes out feeling tapos maging official 'yan maging general tapos gawain mo ng ganoon na pakainin mo ng...

Ako dumaan ako ng hazing. I endured pain. I was hospitalized but kaming mga ano 'yung mga elders, we really wrote them a formal letter signed by Justice Acosta. So mga brod ko 'yan eh. Classmate ko. Justice Acosta, si Bojie 'yan. We specifically placed it bluntly there that 'yung ginawa sa amin okay lang 'yon, tapos na 'yon eh, 'yung hampas, bugbog.

But itong klaseng hazing na pakainin mo 'yung tao sa ano mo, puro kayo lalaki.

He will go out of that academy almost robbed of his humanity and he would always remember that. Ako kasi hindi naman ako nagyayabang. I'm just trying to tell you that I really do not like this kind of s***.

Sa hazing noong panahon namin sa frat may taga Davao dalawa kami so gusto nila na maghalikan kami. Ang pinaka ano noon si Rosanna Roces pati si Marquez 'yung mga bomba star. Sabi niya na, "Sige maghalikan kayo". Sabi ko, "Master, masusuka ako". Sabi ko, "I, I cannot do it. Masusuka ako." Sabi niya, "mag-quit ka." Sabi ko, "Hindi ako mag-quit. Basta ayaw ko 'yan. Maghanap kayo ng iba. Gusto niyo patayin na lang niyo ako okay lang." So sabi nila plus 300 na palo. Sabi ko, "Sige, go ahead". So I was hospitalized after that.

'Yung mga ganun. Tapos sa lalaki ihian mo 'yung bunganga. I don't need that kind of policemen. Not for me, during my time, in my generation, for the next generation of Filipinos. You do not train a soldier or a policeman who goes out of the academy with a trauma. It's a deep psychological insult 'yan and it stays in the head.

And kayo, ba't maligayahan ka na p*** makita mo 'yung tao na anong ginawa mo? And that kind of thing is really taboo. Hindi 'yan gawain ng lalaki.

So whatever decision pagkadating 'yan sa akin it is actually dismissal na. I don't need that kind of s***. Ayaw ko 'yung mga sundalo ko pati pulis ko na dehumanized. You can just imagine when they go out, what would be the --- what would be the paradigm of the guy sa utak niya?

He will take it against the others because it's a trauma that stays... Nawala 'yung dignity ang tao eh.

So please 'yung gustong pumasok o nandiyan na, do not ever do that kasi mag-aaway lang tayo. Talagang for me 'pag dumating diyan sa lamesa ko 'yan, it is dismissal, period.

So 'yan lang ang maiwan ko rin because we are trying to move.

General Carandang, you better go to... Where are you from, sir?

GEN. CARANDANG: From Lipa City, Batangas po, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You have to go home? Ngayon?

GEN. CARANDANG: Sir, I have to finish --- we are tasking first the problem sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Have you visited already the cemetery?

GEN. CARANDANG: Not yet, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Eh kaya nga hinahabol ka ng wakwak diyan kung sinong namatay. Umuwi ka muna. Punta ka roon sa cemetery then just go back.

We all have our obligations to the dead. It's a --- it's practically part of the culture but more than that it's something that is very important for us to commune with our ancestors. So ganun.

I'd like to thank you for being here. I did not expect a kind of briefing na ganito karami. But kayo na lang. I have made the guidelines.

Anyway, the Cabinet members are here except for one important guy si Piñol. Marami kasing patay doon sa Cotabato. Ilang patay na pasyalan niya doon. War footing 'yan palagi ang Cotabato eh.

But it might interest you to know guys that most of our soldiers are really Ilonggos pati Ilocanos. It's the warrior tribes of our country. Karamihan diyan mga Ilocano, Ilonggo. Not the Ilonggo of Panay. Wala 'yun. It's the Ilonggo ng Cotabato pati Ilocano ng...

The guy beside me is an Ilocano from Pikit. Sanay ito sa bakbakan. So happy All Saints'...

Bakit naman... Sabagay itong t***** talaga itong mga Katolikong p***. Bakit naman may All Souls' Day tapos may All Saints' Day?

Hindi nga natin alam kung sino 'yang mga santo na 'yon. Sino 'yung mga g*** na 'yon? Mga lasenggo.

Dito na lang kayo. I'll give you one pat --- ah isang patron na ano para hindi na kayo mag-pasyal.

Get hold of a picture of mine. 'Yan ang ilagay niyo sa altar — Santo Rodrigo. *[laughter]*

Thank you. *[applause]*

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