

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH
OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE 420-MW PAGBILAO UNIT 3 POWER PROJECT

[Delivered at the Pagbilao Power Station, Brgy. Ibabang Polo, Pagbilao, Quezon | 31 May 2018]

Salamat po. Kindly sit down.

Two pages for a mul --- billion investment. I'd like to... But before that let me acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Koji Haneda, the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines [applause]; Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi and the other members of the Cabinet...

Alam mo Al you do not need this job really. Nakita ko 'yung SALN mo [laughter]... If I were you it's a... You can retire if you want.

Quite an... But you know, he used to be the NAIA but before that he was really a prosperous businessman.

The honorable members of the House of Representatives, si ma'am and the others. Vit Aguirre, anong distrito ba gusto mo? [laughter] Ah ganun.

Quezon Governor David Suarez, Aboitiz Power Corporation Chairman Erramon Aboitiz, JERA Senior Executive Vice President Mr. Toshiro Kudama, Marubeni Corporation Senior Executive Officer Mr. Yasuo Hirotha, distinguished guests, mga kasama ko sa gobyerno, mga trabahante, mga taga --- beautiful people of Quezon.

Bago ko basahin --- before I read my written speech, actually nakakahiya naman. I just... A multi-billion facility and you read about two pages it will take me about a minute and a half and I'm through.

So you know, suki ako ng Aboitiz Power since 1950. That was the time when... Well, I was very young then to realize but I used to remember every time there's a change of an equipment o pinapatay 'yung isa tapos pinapaandar naman 'yung --- they had to, they had a power plant sa Davao, the very first.

And suki nila sa Pilipinas ang Davao City. Hanggang ngayon nagbabayad kami sa kanila. At part of that now is a --- shared by you. Siyempre 'yung kita nila di diyan ibinuhos. [laughter]

Suki kami ng Aboitiz. One of the Aboitiz guys is now --- is one of my best friends. Aboitiz really was responsible for the 911 of Davao. And it's a very beautiful one. [applause]

If you happen to pass by Davao let me know and I'll give you a tour doon sa facility na 'yan. It's one of the best in the country and it has helped us a lot in the maintenance of law and order.

And so many crimes were solved by the use of those TV cameras, monitors around even the bombings in Davao City.

Kaya importante ang you know power. Without power we will all die. But let me disabuse the minds of some of the Filipinos.

Actually before the republic's inauguration, we were under the Americans, and before that we were a colony or colony of the American. Mga kolon tayo eh. Ayan na.

There was a colonial power ruling the country. War broke out and everybody --- every country was in the process of rebuilding the ruins of their cities and their country.

Alam mo noon sabi nila kasi minsan nakakainsulto sa Pilipino. 'Yung kita mong Pilipinas, tingnan mo how indolent they are. They used to be the num --- second to Japan, then consecutively pababa sila nang pababa nang pababa. Until now we are --- well, they would always --- point to Bangladesh as mataas sa atin.

You know do not forget that while they were rebuilding their countries, for example, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, they were also in the process of explorations and development of a commodity that is very precious until now.

At binigay ng Diyos sa lahat except the Philippines. Alam mo kung ano 'yan? Oil. Maski saan ka dito makita it's a product of oil. This one, the cement, the chairs that you are using. This guy with the camera, dadaan ng factory 'yan. And I don't know if there's such a thing as a lathe machine.

They run, they move with power. And the only source of power is really what's inside the bowels of the Earth.

It's gas and oil. Eh wala tayo niyan eh. So as they developed because they have oil --- that single commodity that was missing in the cycle of our economy, 'yung oil.

Kaya mahina ang progress natin because you look --- you look around and it's oil. It's a product of oil. Lahat, maski anong tingin mo, except the organic things there around.

So talagang pababa tayo nang pababa simply because we did not have that or we do not have that single commo --- we have it now so it's not correct to use the past tense.

We have struck oil in Alegria and Secretary Cusi told me that it has produced something like... In the hope that we can struck more oil and if really have those in plenty, then maybe, just maybe in the fullness of God's time, we would have to... we would... aakyat na tayo sa... at ang economy. Remember that because we didn't have the oil, we had to buy it.

I remember in 1972 there was this crisis and OPEC was burned or burned, or burned, it burned the world by increasing it exponentially, beyond the reach of our country. That's... We had that rotation of brownouts and everything and you have to have a coupon to get your gasoline. That is how it would impact on a country if you do not have the power.

Now this new facility will provide [400? Ilang ano 'to?] 420. It will brighten the... all of Quezon and even the, 'yung NPA magkaroon ng ilaw ang mga buang. [laughter]

Sino 'yung NPA dito? Sus, andito kayong lahat. So you should thank the Aboitiz for setting up this equipment because you can run all other 'yung machines o whatever you have pati na 'yung... well lahat.

Pati 'yung ilaw ninyo diyan sa bukid. Why don't you just come down and let us talk? You're wasting your time there. Mag-usap na lang tayo.

So I now read the... nandito 'yung babae na naggawa nito baka magalit. Binalewala 'yung pagod nila. Two pages lang rin.

I thank the Department of Energy and Aboitiz Power Corporation for making [this] momentous occasion possible.

This event reaffirms not only the government's commitment to empower our citizens into proactive agents of social transformation, but also the private sector's crucial role in augmenting our local industries.

Without doubt, this joint venture between Aboitiz and [TeaM] Energy has ensured energy sustainability that will allow us to support the electric demands of the country. Your multiple investments across the archipelago surely bolsters our efforts in advancing the country's development.

The opening of this 420-megawatt plant will provide employment and business opportunities to residents of Quezon, including the NPAs should they decide to just drop their arms and stop fighting.

You know, ang isang bala niyan would cost the government about P70. Mag-sige kayo away diyan bbbrrrrtttt. Ilang 70 'yun. Ilang bigas na ang mabili ko na para sa mga tao.

You might not need it but the other Filipinos, 90 percent of our countrymen are really poor.

The opening of this [420]-megawatt plant will provide employment and business opportunities to the residents of Quezon.

Through its distribution of reliable and affordable electricity, it will also complement our programs and policies that will lay the foundations of a comfortable and productive life for all.

I encourage our private partners to find viable and sustainable solutions that will deliver reliable and inexpensive electricity to our homes and industries. It is my hope that you will continue to introduce technological breakthroughs and advancements that will ensure cleaner power generation facilities.

This administration has been clear about safeguarding our environment [for] future generations. We intend to have more compliant companies and power plants that prevent damage and reduce emission from harmful effects in the years to come.

Let me cut my written speech and just to reiterate my announcement that I am declaring the whole of the island of Boracay as a land reform area.

Though I reserve the right for Congress --- to you ma'am --- maybe to cut a certain strip there sa coastline, from the highest to the low --- highest to the lowest point where the low tide and high tide. And maybe you can carve out a strip there inland, about half of one kilometer. But the entire island will be subjected to a land reform area. I will give it back to the natives.

We now enter an era of real and lasting change. I am optimistic that Aboitiz Power Corporation and Team Energy Corporation will continue to bring about meaningful developments in our communities. Let us join hands as we pave the way towards a more prosperous and progressive Philippines.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. [applause]

Iyon lang, wala na. Two pages. O gusto pa ninyong makinig ng istorya?

I said I decided to... Kasi pagka too much --- if you declare it as... If you open the whole island of Boracay to --- into commercial areas, masisira talaga environment. Masisira ang Boracay because there's no other way that the dirt of the humans will go --- it cannot climb to the mountains, it always goes to the sea. Maski anong gawin mo.

And that's why you have to limit the humans there. And besides, they have waited for so long, 'yung mga minorities diyan na hindi talaga nakakuha ng lupa nila. About time to correct certain inadequacies that cannot exempt...

I... Pati 'yung administrasyon ko. So we'll try to correct it. And I hope that Congress will maybe agree with me. Lagay lang kayo diyan ng strip.

Ngayon, kung wala na 'yung white sand at gusto ninyong gagana pa 'yung ekonomiya, magbili na lang kayo ng jobos. I-jobos na lang ninyo lahat 'yung beach ninyo, 'di puputi. All you have to do is to milk them and greed and for those...

Jobos sa sapatos. O ‘di white na. Tatal ito namang mga puti magagawa ang gusto niyan. Tayo we can wallow even... Eh itong puti, eh ‘di paliguin mo sa jobos. Good for them.

And so I’m very happy to be here actually. I reserved this half day for you to be here because alam mo suki ako ng Aboitiz. Pero noon nung --- vignettes of life. Pwede akong magkwento?

Minsan gusto rin --- malapit akong putulan ng kuryente kay hindi nagbayad on time. Alisto masyado ‘yung...

Pero now siguro, they have the grace period. Noon, ‘pag hindi ka nagbayad putol kaagad. But Aboitiz has always been a partner in Davao in the late ‘50s and the whole of the Philippines ngayon.

They have expanded in so many --- hindi lang electricity. And we appreciate the Aboitiz family for their patriotism. Mga Bisaya ‘to, mga Bisaya ‘to sila na mga tisoy. Mga Español. Hindi sila ‘yung kalaban ko. ‘Yung Amerikano ang ayaw ko.

So salamat po sa imbitasyon ninyo and more power to you. [applause]

I thought you invited me for lunch? Pero mukhang wala namang ulam naiwan diyan. [laughter] Tiningnan ko kanina, nakabukas na lahat ‘yung beans. Meaning to say na kinain na ninyo lahat bago kami dumating.

Anyway, it’s okay. May mga taga-Quezon man dito. Ayan si ano o, si Ms. Enverga. Marami ito si... Chorizo na lang, okay na.

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