

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**Speech of  
President Rodrigo Roa Duterte  
during the peace assembly for the ratification of  
Republic Act No. 11054  
or the Bangsamoro Organic Law**

[Delivered at Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex, Office of the Regional Governor Compound, Cotabato City | 18 January 2019]

Kindly sit down my brothers and sisters. Salam.

God must be good to us. The fact that we have reached this point after so many years of negotiation and interruptions. We are here. Insha'Allah. God is great. Allahu Akbar. *[crowd: Allahu Akbar]*

Talaga kung wala si Allah, mahirapan tayo dito. The fact that we were able to go to Congress smoothly, with a minimum of objections and especially those who are not from Mindanao.

National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Secretary to the Cabinet Karlo Alexei Nograles; Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.; Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Panelo; Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Carlito Galvez Jr.

Iyong taong talagang nagbuhos ng pawis niya and we were in constant touch all those months of fighting and wheeling, dealing in Congress. And there were times when we thought even that it would not maybe approved on time. Not that it will not be approved, but on time as I have committed to MILF Murad.

Sabi ko, will try to make it in January or February but... God was there all along.

The honorable members of the House of Representatives; Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao Governor Mujiv Hataman; Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim. That's the second time. It means to say that you're already very important. Dalawa dito eh.

Moro National Liberation Front Chairman Yusoph Jikiri; mga kasama ko sa gobyerno, mga kapatid kong Moro.

First of all, though he's not here but still he is a critical factor in the overall process of --- not only Mindanao but the Philippines. And I refer to my good friend whom I respect very much also, Nur Misuari.

I hope to talk to him in the coming days as we agreed. Sabi ko, hintuin --- tapusin muna natin 'to. Hintuin natin 'yung atin then again we can resume after the Bangsamoro.

I would call out to him, extend my hand and friendship and peace and I hope that we can strike an agreement that will also promote the interest of the MNLF and the rest of the Moro of Mindanao.

Three days from now, the people of the present Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Cotabato City, Isabela [City], and parts of Lanao del Norte and North Cotabato will exercise their right to vote in a plebiscite that will not just address the injustices of the past, but also plot the course towards a brighter and more promising future for Mindanao.

You know, all of these things came about because of subjugation and the colonialization of the rest of the world by the Western powers.

Kung tayo lang at hindi tayo pumasok dito ng mga banyaga, wala tayong problema sa totoo lang. Because we are all Malay and even when there is new religion sprouting up, we would have just easily agree by the [needs?] of our bloodline, the way that we solve the problem.

I know, you know that we were not fighting Filipinos then and now. This is a repercussion actually of that problem when we were divided as a nation, simply because foreign powers took over. Spain, for almost 400 years and the Americans for 50 years.

I just don't know how to say it but we did not really die for the sins of people who are not Filipinos by the Malay blood. Hindi naman talaga kailangan sana eh. But then again, we are left with this problem. And as much as possible, we should limit the bloody fight.

Pero alam natin na hindi talaga natin ito kasalanan. But you know, dumating tayo sa ating generation ganito na. 'Cause we're trying really hard to figure

out, craft and law or whatever, amend the Constitution that can provide a fair and just governance for all.

Nobody would like to takeover lands that is not theirs, his. And we understand that. And we would like you to have the control of your territories before the Spaniards came and before the Americans came.

Alam namin 'yan. Alam ko 'yan, estudyante rin ako. At alam ko kasi ang ninuno ko. Iyon man ang sinasabi sa akin noon. Kung hindi lang sila pumunta dito, wala naman talaga tayo problema. And yet we are force to kill now needlessly because you want something.

And I hope --- addressed to my beloved friend Nur Misuari that we can also talk and come up with something that could come to the barest minimum para lang makuha natin 'yung --- a peaceful Mindanao.

Me, I guarantee you that there will be the least disturbance or interference kung meron na diyang workable governance ninyo. Lands are distributed fairly, justly. Resources divided by the Moro who are there in possession of the land.

Walang iistorbo sa'yo at wala naman talaga. The legendary Liguasan Marsh, they say it will provide so many things in life. O 'di inyo. Wala naman --- no one ever attempted really to *[applause]* intrude into that territory.

Maybe we can finalize it. Alam mo naman dito pagka Presidente... The highest incidence of hunger. Kaya inuna ko na sa --- kay... Ano pa noon, Taguiwalo. Taguiwalo, si Judy Taguiwalo was only taking care of the needs of the NPAs. Pati 'yung pera Pantawid, most of the envelopes that --- where the money was being placed nandoon sa mga kampo ng...

So one palpak to another, it's really very hard. Now, you know, you have dealt with the military. Ito trabahante lang 'to. No personal agenda. They go out there and work tapos sundin 'yung order ng mga political officer ng gobyerno kasi diyan man talaga mag-umpisa.

Much as we would like to change anything there. Pati 'yung atin dito. We have been used to it. We are the people governed by elections and we elect leaders.

The leaders must be the choice of the people. I am sure that with that --- the fundamentals provided by the law and hopefully if we can amend the Constitution, not all, but a few of the economic provisions and some...

Well, I do not want to discuss it with you now because 'yun na ang sunod natin and hindi na ninyo problema 'yun. Yours would just really be to ask for the law that will further enhance the governance of the Bangsamoro law.

So sayang talaga. Maski na sabihin mo. And even the ordinary Moro, nasa labas na walang kakilalang politiko, walang kilalang pulis, walang kakilalang military, walang kilalang leader.

Sila ang dapat na mauna eh because they are the helpless sector of society. And I hope that the BOL would focus also on that. That a man, whatever his religion may be, he is entitled to his place under the sun. *[applause]*

Maraming mahirap. *[unclear]* and for generations. Sa kalaki ng Pilipinas, hindi man maubos 'to. And with an improve governance where you're allowed also to enter into agreements as long as it does not cause a disturbance sa ating financial --- we will allow the local governments to invite investments and get loans, to help your people.

Ako gusto ko talaga 'yung mga maliit mauna. Sila 'yung gutom eh. The survey shows, when I was --- Presidente ako. When was that? Three years ago? The highest ang...

Alam mo, nag-motor ako minsan. Hindi nila ako kilala eh. Nag-motor ako galing siyudad papuntang Cotabato City. Tapos... Eh medyo nasira 'yung isang tambutso. Eh lumuwang, mahulog, 'di nag...

And from out of the blue, naglabasan itong mga kapatid ko na Moro. So everybody was afraid. There's no reason to be afraid. They are just here to look at something and maybe if you can spare food.

Huwag kayong matakot na suddenly they will just materialize there. Walang trabaho. Walang pagkain. No, *[relief?]* inside.

Kinausap ko. Sabi ko, "Anong ano ninyo?" "Wala." Puro wala, puro wala. Pagkain. Kamoteng kahoy. Anak ka... At this age, umabot na nga sa buwan itong mga Westerners tapos may mga Moro pa na hanggang ngayon kamoteng kahoy lang. They cannot even till a land.

Kasi kung may land man... But ang land reform ko, pati dito. I don't mind if it's your territory. I will let the land reform to take place. Kayo man ang maghati-hati but I will be there to help you.

Iyong abono, 'yung seedlings and all. Until such time that the Bangsamoro territory will prosper. Then by that time I can really say that we have come to age.

That was not part of my written speech, I was trying to express to you my sentiment.

This is why today, I proudly join my Moro brothers and sisters as we convene this Peace Assembly in support of the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

Your approval of this law will not only serve as an expression of your desire to end more than half a century of armed struggle in the region. It will also serve as a testament to your determination to bring genuine peace and development in Muslim Mindanao through an autonomous government that truly represents and understands the needs of the people.

Alam mo nung nagkampanya ako, I visited Cebu. So nandoon ako sa mga statues ng mga... Tapos nakita ko 'yung istatwa ni Magellan masiyadong malaki.

Tapos pagtingin ko doon kay Lapu-Lapu, 'yung sa ano... O bakit ang buang na ito? Ito... Ito 'yun dito nagpunta dito, nagwala, nagkagulo tayo, ang monumento niya mas malaki pa doon sa pumatay sa kanya.

Iyon ang matapang, 'yung Moro na si Lapu-Lapu. Makita mo 'yang headband ni ano. Depicted in the picture, of course wala namang ano. That's a Tausug ano 'yan...Iyon 'yung headdress ni Misuari.

Kaya nung --- alam mo nung... When I was a congressman, mayor, I was --- with a grieving heart. Kasi nandito naman itong mga taga-Luzon, itong mga taga-Bicol. Aba p\*\*\*. Walang hero na labas sa Luzon.

Puro... No, walang problema. Gregorio Del Pilar, Juan... Galit rin sila sa mga banyaga. But ang mga napili nila na hero puro Tagalog, Ilocano. Eh Ilocano matatapang rin 'yan eh.

Ang ating warriors dito sa Pilipinas --- well the Moro warrior, Tausug. Ah, hindi ako bilib diyan sa mga... Pero 'yang mga Abu Sayyaf you know, hindi talaga natin ugali 'yan.

You do not kill an eight-year-old boy because of no ransom paid. Diyan ako hindi tsaka... It would take maybe one year for me to talk to them para ma...

Because I do not simply like the idea of cutting heads of people, innocent people. Pati 'yung bata na kinidnap (kidnap)... What's the f\*\*\*\*\* sense of doing it? It is not... Huwag nila akong bolahin. There is a part of me which is Islam actually.

Kaya kung magaway-away kami ng mga buang na pari na 'yan, hindi man ako Katoliko. Islam man. Totoo. Magsimba lang ako diyan.

Sa Ateneo, sa San Beda... Kami, karaming Moro namin diyan sa... Pinakamaraming Moro sa Maynila nung araw San Beda. Pinakamarami Ilocano pati Moro, ang San Beda.

Pero sana makausap natin si... And I'd like to thank also, well in a way, si Satur, pati si ano... There's a whale of a difference in our views but the fact they would listen and Bobby Dimaporo.

Gusto ko ngang pumunta magpasalamat lang. Just for being there to listen. Okay na 'yun. Tapos we can talk, maybe get another system where it can really work. Iyon lang ang gusto ko. Baka...

Itong komunista [*unclear*] na ito but I will never, never, never talk with the Abu Sayyaf. Hindi talaga. Hindi talaga pwede. Kailanman. Terorista...

Itong mga komunista, papuntahin ko na lang sila doon. Sabihin ko, doon na lang kayo sa Bangsamoro. Doon na kayo mag-istambay kay bigyan kayo lupa ni Murad doon. [*laughter*] Dito galit na ako sa inyo mga g\*\*\* kayo.

As the centerpiece legislation of my administration, the BOL has been the product of a long and rigorous process that involved meaningful and exhaustive consultations by one another and for all of us here.

We listened to the indispensable sentiments and concerns of Muslims, Christians, lumads, and other indigenous peoples and various stakeholders who also call Mindanao their home and rightly so.

Saan man tayo papunta? Saan mo ako pauwiin? Hindi naman ako Cebuano talaga. Tatay ko nagpunta dito sa Mindanao.

This landmark law was not built entirely from scratch. It echoes the aspirations and principles embodied in the past peace agreements with different Moro fronts. Indeed, it is a product of the blood, sweat, and tears of many great men who came before us.

I'd like to remind you of the 1972 campaign. It was bloody. And what was really lacking there was just a plain and simple constructive conversation.

Sayang 'yung panahon na 'yun. I was a prosecutor then. Makikita ko 'yung both sides. Kasi 'yung bakbakan diyan sa PC Hill. Talagang walang kwenta-kwentang away. This just can be resolved by just talking.

You know, just to raise the spirit, the soul of a Moro. Pagka Presidente ko, 'di nagyawayaw ako. Sabi ko lahat ng hero inyo. Ngayong Presidente na ako, amin na naman. *[applause]*

So unang ginawa ko the Order of Lapu-Lapu. Lahat na sundalo ke ma-Jolohano, ke Tausug, ke Maranao, ke 'yung taga-Davao, pati 'yung --- lahat. Mga sundalo ko na may tama, medal 'yan.

At ako ang nagbibigay ng sarili kong medal. Aside from the govern --- 'yung sa military. Meron 'yan sila mga valor, 'yung talagang extreme courage. Marami rin 'yan sa MI pati MN.

Wala lang panahong mag-seremonya kasi sige man takbo. Wala man silang kampong mauwian. Mag-agawan ka pa doon --- celebrate ka. Kasi kung hindi, isali ko sila. Maski na matamaan lang 'yan dito, matusok ng bala.

Kayo, kayong matagal na sa away. Matamaan ka lang ng thumbtacks, anak ng jueteng, mag-aray-aray ka na diyan. Iyan pang bala? Lahat sa akin.

I'm telling you, hindi lahat ng sabihin mo Kristiyano... Marami ring mga Moro nandiyan sa Armed Forces and I simply love them. And I really care for them.

Nagpunta ako doon sa --- doon sa Jolo, sa ospital sa Bautista. Meron doon sugatan. Tapos ang una kong tinatanong kasi pamilya eh.

Kasi kung ma-biyudo o ma-biyuda, ilan ang problema nating maiwan. Because it does not end in the death of a soldier or policeman or a warrior of the MI or MN. Hindi natatapos 'yan diyan.

The next ground diyan is paano mo na buhayin ang mga bata, pakainin, education and all.

Alam mo sinasabi ko ngayon dito sa inyo, the first thing that I would maybe invest na malaki is eskwelahan. Unless, unless *[applause]* hindi ninyo itutulak 'yang technical, we have to go to Egypt or Malaysia.

Ako nag-i-sponsor ako ng engineers doon sana sa Egypt. They have great schools there ng mga engineer. Problem is, it is visited with violence from time to time. So I decided on Malaysia.

Pero dapat sa inyo ang una talaga... Huwag na 'yan masyado 'yang batas kasi magkaiba ang Sharia law. Maybe in the next few years you will call for a talagang --- Sharia Law ang gusto ninyo.

Okay man na sa atin 'yan. It's freedom of religion. As long as there is that tolerance for each other's religion, walang problema. If you are not under the jurisdiction of the Sharia, then you go to the civil courts. That's really no problem. So...

I am proud to say that the BOL has undergone comprehensive analysis and thorough review to ensure that once implemented, it will lead to better governance, inclusive political empowerment, and enhanced systems [for] transparency and accountability.

To my dear Bangsamoro brothers and sisters, as you exercise your sacred right to vote [in] this plebiscite, I remind you that the power to chart the course of your future is now solely in your hands. Exercise this right with utmost care because the future of succeeding generations depend on it.

By the way, before I forget. Ano kasi nasingit dito. Okay lang. Sir, Senator Migz Zubiri was not mentioned awhile ago during your greeting. Wala. Sinabi ko 'yung hero dito eh, blood, sweat, and tears ka naman, tayo nga nagtatawagan eh. *[applause]*

While the... Kanina, while the --- it was being pass. Hindi lang kasi kami mayabang. Sa totoo lang. Ako ang isang tao na I do not want adulation. Ayaw ko.

Ayaw ko 'yang mga --- 'yung Boracay. It was supposed to open on that day sa... Nakita ko doon, "Salamat, Presidente Duterte."

Sabi ko sa pulis, military, tanggalin niyo 'yan. Hindi ako pumunta. Kasi para sa akin bayad na ako eh. So I do not need the clapping of the hands.

I've been mayor for 23 years, congressman for one term, vice mayor kay Inday one term. Nagmo-motor ba si Inday dito? Walang ginawa 'yan eh, mag-motor.

You know... Alam mo, Senator Zubiri, ako na mismo. Paliitan ko 'yung --- t\*\*\* i\*\* 'yung si Magellan na 'yun. *[laughter and applause]* Medyo gawaan



kita ng taas-taas. Pero kulayan kita ng medyo maitim pati 'yung ilong mo babaan ko. *[laughter]* Kasali ka sa ano eh --- invading forces. *[laughter]* Mga Katsila. Biro...

I am very hopeful that with the ratification of the BOL, Mindanao can finally enjoy lasting peace and inclusive growth that will benefit the entire Philippines, not only you.

It will mark a new chapter in our history of the nation – one every person --- one [where] every person is treated with respect regardless of one's ethnicity, gender, religion, or ideological leanings.

I am therefore issuing this call to my fellow Moros: Let us use the plebiscite as a peaceful means to finally correct the historical injustices committed against the Moro --- Bangsamoro people o the Moro people of Mindanao. Let us forget the bitterness of the past and look forward to the future.

Which means, ladies and gentlemen, mga mahal kong mga Moro brother or sister, mag-boto kayo ng 'yes.' *[applause]*

Kay 'pag hindi, 'di na ako magpunta dito kailanman. *[laughter and applause]* Doon lang ako sa Lanao. Sige man ako sa Lanao.

Together, let us take this opportunity to begin the process of healing, reconciliation so that one day, we can embrace each other as really brother and sister Filipino, with a view of --- in tolerance in all, understanding and take the new world on its totality.

Anong --- karaming patayan everyday. Sus... We must insist violence --- we must insist against violence. Iyong araw-araw na ito, it could be maski saan. Ang masakit, it's all in the areas of Arabs, [war on?] Muslims.

Now, alam naman natin na sinong nag-umpisa ng gulo diyan. Started noon pa 'yan, kung hindi si --- kinikito'y nila si Gaddafi pati si Saddam. And they killed Saddam. They killed Saddam. That's a problem of...

So we must stand together. May mga diperensya-diperensya sa --- ayusin natin but we must stand together against violence, against ISIS because they do not know anything except to kill.

O how are we suppose to survive as a nation kung if you treat your other fellow human beings as infidel? That's a very stupid proposition. I know that. Iyan hindi 'yan sinasabi ng mga tiyuhin ko pati lola. It was never a proposition anyway. It's so silly.

So I hope that we can understand each other. Me? I will use my --- a little bit of this and a little bit of this, just as to tell you that we are all for peace, that nobody but nobody should steal your resources and allow you to remain poor forever.

That cannot happen. It will not happen at least under me.

Thank you.

**--- END ---**