

**Presidential Communications Operations Office**

**Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF**  
**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**  
**DURING THE 117<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINE COAST**  
**GUARD**

[Delivered at the Philippine Coast Guard Headquarters in Port Area, Manila |  
25 October 2018]

Kindly sit down. Salamat po sa --- your courtesy.

I will read my prepared speech. Kaawa naman 'yung gumawa nito. But you know it's just a two page almost like a greeting. But if you will allow me I will just add my --- well the sentiments of the day para we are kept posted on what we intend to do in government.

Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and the other members of the Cabinet; AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez; Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Elson Hermogino; officials, enlisted personnel and the 2018 awardees of the Philippine Coast Guard; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

It is my pleasure to join you today as we celebrate the many accomplishments of the Philippine Coast Guard in the past 117 years. The agency's more than a century of service to the Filipino people has indeed been fruitful and is worthy of recognition.

I congratulate the PCG for its achievements which have led to the institution's greater participation in our collective task of nation-building.

The fulfillment of your mandate to enforce maritime law, protect our [marine] environment and secure our maritime territories has contributed greatly in keeping our people safe from the dangers that may come at sea.

I am glad that the reforms that we have instituted since 2016 are now bearing fruit.

The PCG's acquisition of new weapons, equipment and several multi-purpose response vessels and fast patrol boats that are complete with modern computerized systems has indeed helped enhance our law enforcement capabilities.

Evidently, the success of the PCG would not have been possible without the contributions of its officers, its enlisted men. Their personal achievements which have pushed for the developments that are crucial in making the agency more efficient and responsive to the challenges of the times and to the demands of our citizens.

To the awardees, this administration acknowledges your exemplary work in PCG. May you remain committed in performing [your] responsibilities as defenders of the land and protectors of our citizens. Please know that all your sacrifices are truly and greatly appreciated.

I urge the entire Philippine Coast Guard to build on its accomplishments and to continue its efforts in upholding our country's maritime security.

More than ever, we need brave men and women like you in safeguarding our seas and shores, especially at this period when our resources are becoming crucial to the progress of our economy.

Rest assured that while you heed the call of duty, the government remains steadfast in strengthening the capabilities of the PCG by raising its standards [through] streamlined infrastructure and modernized equipment.

May the accomplishments that you celebrate today inspire everyone to work harder for the common good. Take this day as an opportunity to seek encouragement from your fellow troops as you advance the causes of PCG.

Let us move and act further to empower the men and women of the Coast Guard and enhance the agency's services to benefit the Filipino people.

Again, happy anniversary and receive and I convey to you the gratitude of a grateful nation. Mabuhay kayong lahat. *[applause]*

Now for the... General Lapeña will move to TESDA. I will promote you to a Cabinet member position. That's a... *[applause]*

General Jagger Guerrero you are to move to the Bureau of Customs. *[applause]* Saan po kayo? Alam ko ayaw ninyong umalis sa MARINA. Walang MARINA diyan na babae puro barko 'yan at bakal. Is Jagger here? I know that you are reluctant to... I know that you are happy there

and you are contented, so I've heard, but the demands of public service and the need for honest men requires your presence there. *[applause]* Good luck.

I will look for your replacement. Sino bang mag-retire dito na Navy na...? Iyong hindi binangga 'yung barko niya noon. *[laughter]*

But if there is one --- then I'm sorry if you mishandled even a little bit our ships. I will look for the MARINA also coming from the Navy or Coast Guard whatever. Kung sino lang ang pinakamahusay. *[applause]*

Maybe you will report next week for the... I'm handing out your appointments and your oath of office.

Madali lang 'yan, patayin mo 'yang mga p\*\*\*\*\* j\*\*\*\*\* 'yan, i\*\*\*\*. *[laughter]* Kung hindi mo madala sa istorya then ihulog mo diyan sa...

And there will be some minor revamps downstairs. Naghihintay lang ako. Rolly is I think happy with theDSWD. Iyon lang ang ma-ano ko. But you know I said it might be a redundant thing almost to... Baka ayaw maniwala -- nobody would believe us because we uttered it everyday.

But if there is anything that I would like to leave something, just a little bit, it would be to... We cannot stop it actually. But we can reduce it to the barest minimum.

So Sid 'yung trabaho ng TESDA it's quite something of a --- it could be messy at times. But I'm sure your training as a military man just like Jagger would augur well for the country.

And that's the reason why I said time and again --- I have nothing against the bureaucracy. Pero 'pag gusto mong --- if you want something done and done fast per your order, you get a military man.

And if there are some misgivings about any orders coming from me, rest assured that I'm a lawyer, that I do not give illegal orders. You can be very sure that when I say "do it and do it fast" do it because that is what is utterly lacking in this country.

Wala akong ano sa bureaucracy. They are bright, Civil Service eligibles, some of them have finished their PhD. But unfortunately the six years term is not just really enough. You have to move fast.

And I could cite to you the Maranao siege. I needed houses immediately and we had a corresponding funding. But had I left it to the bureaucracy, it's either it's not being done until now or without being offensive to anyone sometimes the fundings are lost along the way.

It's always a Murphy's Law. Anything --- if anything can go wrong it will go wrong. But my chances of being followed without corruption gives me the odds of the law of averages in my favor if these guys are in.

I just let you know that most of them --- I do not know them as a personal friends but I know them as friends because almost all of them have been assigned to Mindanao for the many years that I was also the vice --- the mayor and vice mayor and congressman of our place.

God willing, if I finish my term then I would have served my country for 40 years. I started as a public prosecutor.

So iyan lang ho ang ano ko. We will... And let me --- just to give Jagger also a chance, I am ordering the freezing of all, all section department units of the Bureau of Customs out.

General Guerrero you can have the personnel of --- and I'm ordering the Coast Guard to provide the outer periphery and you might want to utilize some departmental... I don't know but I'll talk to you and leave it to your discretion.

Out lahat, to the last man, out. The commissioners are out, the department heads, out. The de --- the entire --- they are as of... You better go there tomorrow sa opisina ko so that we can have the ceremonies right away.

I'd like to order... [*Where is my aide?*] [*aide's name*], ipagawa mo na 'yung appointments nila so that we can have the ceremony tomorrow at least there's the continuity of...

But I think my --- my orders to you Jagger is ilagay mo 'yan sila sa opisina sa lahat. They are on floating status whoever. The outer periphery nandiyan will be taken care of by the Coast Guard and maybe you can have --- and even --- you can utilize military men. The excess diyan sa walang trabaho lalo na 'yang mga babae.

You can suspend two or three days for them to learn. Hindi naman mahirap 'yang pag --- 'yang X-ray, X-ray na 'yan. If you are corrupt, then no amount of X-rays that --- that's there filled with shabu, you can never see it.

But kung hindi ka corrupt, makikita mo talaga kung anong... What's the Tagalog of hulagway? G\*\*\*\*\* it. Ha? Anong Tagalog ng hulagway? Makita mo `yung --- hulagway is the view, the scenery. Unfortunately my Tagalog is limited. `Yun, see the large --- the bigger picture of the whole thing.

So you can have --- order the suspension of Sid. Stop lahat `yan, then maybe --- what --- kung anong unit diyan sa military o Navy o selected... Eh madali lang man `yang ano.

And if you think that there's really a something a way which they can do it, baklasin mo lahat. And do not mind if there's a delay of one year in the cargoes.

Sabi ko if anything can go wrong it will go wrong and so you have to... I'll leave it up to you. Trabaho mo `yan eh.

And so for the others, I'm just warning you that corruption is the thing that's I am passionate about. Do not ask me why. But if you ask me why, I will tell you.

I started as a prosecutor during Marcos' time. There was yet no Ombudsman. So the prosecutors were limited to a few. I was one of those coming from Mindanao who was designated as special Tanodbayan prosecutor in addition to my being a regular prosecutor of Davao City Prosecution Office.

And to me, I would consider the height of... If I were also to face a court, a graft court facing charges... And I would not like that to happen to me or to you. And... To you because you are imbued of love of country and the fact that we are here to help our people.

At saka kontento na tayo sa... We didn't have the lifestyles of the rich and famous. And even if we have the money, it doesn't fit us, it doesn't look good. As a matter of fact, it's ugly.

So let us be content with what we have and work for the benefit of the entire Filipino nation.

Thank you. *[applause]*

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