

**Presidential Communications Office**  
**Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE 2018 EID'L FITR  
CELEBRATION**

[Delivered at the SMX Convention Center, Lanang, Davao City | 16 June 2018]

Kindly sit down. Salamat sa courtesy.

The members of the diplomatic corps, *[unclear]* Sinyo Sarundajang. He is my blood brother. *[applause]* We have known each other for almost 35 years. He was the governor of North Sulawesi and I was the mayor also for the longest time. *[applause]* Welcome.

The Malaysian Charge d' Affaires Abdullah *[unclear]*; Ambassador *[unclear]*; the Oman Ambassador Munther Mahfood Al-Mantheri; and the Pakistan Ambassador is also here with us. So thank you for your presence, joining us in this *[unclear]* in celebration of Eid'l Fitr.

To the House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and the other members of the Cabinet; Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet. Si Delfin Lorenzana po ay taga-Cotabato. He is an Ilocano but he is also a part of the territory of the Moro people. From Parang. He grew up there.

TESDA Director General Guiling Mamondiong; Mindanao Development Authority chairman Datu Abul Khayr Alonto; Special Envoy to Kuwait Abdullah Mamao, he's my fraternity brother and my classmate; Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri, sir; at si meron katabi na guapo, si Senator Ejercito. *[applause]*; ma'am, Senator Villar *[applause]*; officer --- Executive Director of Tahir Lidasan, Jr., officer-in-charge National Commission on Muslim Filipinos.

Before I forget, Gerry Sarundajang is here. The former governor of --- Gerry? Ge --- Gerry Sarundajang? Ah Salapuddin. Sorry. Where are you? Ayun. Ang guapo ng Basilan. *[applause]* Eh kasi kapag papunta --- everytime we go to Bitung and Manado, we pass by to Bitung kasi I had my mind fixed on that area; officials of the National Commission on Muslim [Filipinos]; the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the officers; my Muslim brothers and sisters.

Meron ho akong two-page for you, a message. A simple one. But before that, allow me a few minutes of my talk. I'll veer away from the prepared speech so that I can talk directly with you.

You know, the time for federalism has come to our country. We have to move away *[applause]* from the style of unitary form of government, which has been in existence or set up originally by the Spaniards. It has always been a strong central government.

And for the time, it was good because we were developing as a nation. And history then did not mind the struggles of both the Christians and here in Mindanao, the Moro people.

It is time for us to understand that they have been victims also of an injustice.

When Mindanao was divided arbitrarily just like the Middle East by the colonials of the world and I would refer --- I would refer to them. It would be the America or the Americans, the British, the Italians, the Spaniards, dumating dito sa atin and a host of other nation.

And because of control, they divided the whole of the Middle East, contrary to the will of the Arab nation.

Dito naman sa atin, particularly, we were subjugated by the Spaniards.

But because they had the muskets, they had the gunpowder, they had the gun that can kill at a distance, our forefathers simply just surrendered on bended knees.

And setting aside the bigotry, the Christian religion was enforced in the Visayas and Luzon.

But before that, you should know that the Islam missionaries that came all the way from the Middle East down to Afghanistan, Pakistan, then down to so many places. Then Thailand eventually, Indonesia, Malaysia, then they were poised to take Mindanao religiously. No violence at all. And most of by the turn of the century at that time, Mindanao was already Islam.

There is nothing wrong with that in mixing Christians and Muslims. And that is why you see a product even in my person. My mother, a Maranao, marrying my father, a Christian --- no, my lolo rather.

And okay man sana 'yan. I mean, just a matter of warm bodies. Pero nung pumasok kasi ang Amerika. When they conquered Mindanao, they introduced so many things in the island. And for Mindanao, they had the Torrens title in place.

Ang problema sa Torrens title, it is an American practice of ownership of the land but they never took into account actually the real, original people dito.

Ang original people talaga dito would be the Muslims --- the Maranao, Maguindanao, Iranun, Kagan of Davao; sa Basilan, Yakan. Gerry is a Yakan and so you are... Eh lahat na eh.

Ang problema, they introduced Mindanao because nobody would work for the Americans. And so they had to come up with the sloganeering, "Go to Mindanao because it is a land of promise and there's a lot of lands anywhere you look in any direction."

So 'yun ang nangyari. Eh because they wanted workers to come here and by proximity, it was the Visayas who had the heaviest migration.

Kaya nauna dito Cebuano, Leyte, Bohol, then later on, the Ilonggos. And marami naman dito, they went further west --- northwest. So doon hanggang dumating sila ng --- they came from here, north, mga north... North... Dito northeast nga. You look at the map.

If you look at the map, your right side is always the east. Your left side is the west. So if you want to know where you are in the Philippines, just take a look at the map and your right *[unclear]*, it will point out to you the provinces, if there's a division line there, that would be the east side.

The west side, dito 'yung nagpuntahan pababa hanggang Sarangani. Just really a mix. But whether we like or not, we have to understand history. It's really nobody's fault.

Walang may kasalanan dito because had we not been conquered by a colonial, then probably we would be all Muslims in this country. *[applause]*

Ang problema, pinasok tayo ng colonials, just like the Middle East. Look at the Middle East. There were much --- there is no peace at all. Since time memorial, when the colonials were there, until now.

'Yan ang problema because it was divided arbitrarily without consulting... The secret is the oil. 'Yung ang problema. And they used the resources of that country and the fat of the land to reach or arrive now on their present level of industrialization.

Anywhere you look in this world, even the mic in front of me and the glass of water, and the paper that I will be reading or I may not. Lahat 'yan, it's oil. It's oil there outside. You'd see many vehicles produced by the --- even the primitive lathe machines and that is a product of an equipment or machine using oil.

'Pag walang oil, wala naman tayong ilaw. Well we are using --- originally Davao was utilizing bunker oil. So 'yan ang ano diyan. It's really the resources, eventually it's geopolitics.

China with all of its whatever, posturing there, is also interested in oil. So lahat 'yan, because it fuels industrialization. Ang problema dito is the western countries, the democracies...

They have reached this height of industrialization. Now we are trying to catch up. But the Philippines and the rest could not because mataas na sila. And so --- it created a monster in the lives of the people on earth, and that is the destruction of environment and puts into jeopardy the next generation. Maghirap 'yan sila. I don't know how they would endure it but they will suffer if we do not correct it now.

Ako, I'm praying to God that somehow this generation of ours can do something about it.

We will all die. We will just disappear from this planet, as quietly as we came in. Ang problema 'yung mga anak natin. How do... My --- one branch of my family, kasi 'yung daughter-in-law ko, si Lovelie. Tatay niya is Tausug, nanay niya, si [Regine?], Maranao.

Eh 'yung mga pamilya ko may Moro ako na linya, may Moro ako na Muslim and Christian. And it seems to be a problem also. Kaya ang mahirap, take it on a larger, bigger picture, it is really what's happening, what we do, we do now. Tayo ang nandito and Mindanao.

Allow me to ask me this question: are we ready to fight just like the Middle East? That we want to destroy --- Look at Marawi.

Malakihan mo 'yan, make it a larger area of conflict. You really think we would be happy to see war in our country?

And that is really a... Communal war is more cruel and --- mas mabuti pa 'yang ibang kadugo but an internecine within is really very deadly. And that is why I said, the time for... That's the --- the very least na hiningi ng mga MILF.

So I was about to greet Chairman Murad but I reserved this moment for you, sir. We will try to pass the BBL. I hope Chairman Misuari can be convinced to join the talks so that if there are corrections or maybe additions, or provisions that would not sit well with Tausug and the rest of the southern part of Mindanao, then maybe we can realize altogether the friction of the MI, MN and the rest of Mindanao.

Pero kung sabihin mo na --- if we do not think about it, if we kind of adapt in an intransigence behavior, magpatigasan, it will result in a war.

Kindly, if you want, do not do it on my term. 'Pag hindi naman tayo nagka-aregluhan, eh ako nasa gitna, mahirapan ako. Sinong barilin ko? Sundalo ng Republika o sundalo ng MI pati MN, and the rest of the revolutionary groups here?

More dangerous is the coming in of ISIS. Utang na loob po, huwag kayong pumatol diyan, or even the brutality of ISIS in the Middle East. It is something which nobody can stomach.

Raping women, killing children, dropping bombs against human beings, and most of the time, the children are the victims who suffer pain. Wala nang katapusan 'yang... Every time there's a...

That's the problem with ISIS. That is why it is very important that we get together. We will try to pass the BBL with no catch. I'm sure the speaker would agree with me. Eh si Bebot mixed rin 'yan eh. Iranun ang nanay niyan, if you know. Ang tatay niya ang Chinese. Me, Lam.

Puro kami Intsik dito. Mga mixed. Kaya when he was bannered, not *[unclear]* about, but bannered to have several wives and the press was attacking him right and left.

Sabi ko, "do not waste your time about the behavior of Alvarez. He can take as many wives as he wants. Sometimes he is a Christian, sometimes he is a Muslim." *[applause]* Depending on the situation were not, how not to marry without trouble.

So ganun 'yan eh. Sinong... And ganito 'yan --- if per chance, if nothing really works out dito sa BBL, then give us time because I do not want to fight. I do not wage a war against my own countrymen. Ayaw ko talaga eh. *[applause]*

That is why and despite 'yung my behavior, sometimes mag-init ang ulo ko. But when it comes to Mindanao, I've always been trying to use and appease the methods.

Nandito pala si National Security Adviser General Esperon, and we have Mon Lopez of the DTI and Secretary Año ng DILG. *[applause]* Sorry. Si Secretary Evasco, and the peace maker, Attorney Quijano. I don't know if you are a Maranao or Maguindanao or what *[laughter]* but what I know is that you are always there and he's also for peace in Mindanao.

Huwag muna tayong mag-umpisa ng ano. Because if we allow the ISIS to take over, my God it's going to be bloody. And for the Christians and the Muslims who are already here, established with their families, there will be chaos and a total dysfunctional country.

In the advent of the... So dapat tayo lang talaga ang mag-usap and we make the corrections.

I am for federalism. I am for peace. *[applause]* Now 'yung kay Chairman Murad, 'yung ano ninyo, we can do it now, I said, we'll just wait for the passage of the law.

And we can have a draft already there existing to be added in the federal scheme of things. Ilagay na natin. *[applause]* But it must be something like alongside the Philippine Constitution.

Alam mo ganito 'yan eh. 'Yan ang problema dito. We do not speak the same. We can understand some. And because of this mixed community we have, kami 'yung nandito noon maliit pa, we can talk --- I can understand Maranao, I can talk the Ilonggo, then the Visayan, a little of the Dabaweno.

Ganyan talaga ako magsalita. Ang hindi ko kaya --- ng dila ko, ang Maranao. Mahirap ma-ano. Where did you learn your dialect? Very hard to... Ang malapit you know what? Tausug. Makinig ka lang ng Tausug, slowly you will understand what they are trying to convey.

Nakita mo si Lapu-Lapu? Lapu-Lapu... Nakita mo 'yung headgear ni Lapu-Lapu? Diyan sa paintings, 'diba may headgear 'yan siya? That's the Tausug. 'Yung suot-suot ni Misuari. *[applause]*

So very li... Kaya hindi nagpa-areglo si Lapu-Lapu eh kasi Muslim siya. But he was really a Muslim. Tignan mo 'yung mga depicting his person, lalo 'yung headgear. That's a Tausug, anong tawag niyan?

Tingnan mo 'yung litrato ni --- mga paintings natin, that's --- from generation to generation. We are a Tausug... So maghanap ka ngayon. It's only now that we have a hero.

It was Lapu-Lapu who first fought the invaders, binira niya si Magellan. Pumunta kasi dito, baka gusto gawin din ng --- eh gusto niya siguro mag-Muslim rin. He was trying to impose the religion. Eh alam mo naman mga Tausug. Ayun, bakbakan sila.

Balita ko hanggang ngayon walang ulo, hindi nakita 'yung ulo ni Magellan. *[laughter]* T\*\*\* j\*\*, problema niya 'yun. Bakit siya pumunta dito?

You... you are a --- you are a... you are far away in the... Tapos pupunta ka dito, mag-agaw ka na... And you stayed here, subjugated for 400 years. Bakit nakakatawa ba ang p\*\*\*\*\* j\*\*\*\*\* 'yan. G\*\*\* 'tong...

Buti't na lang hindi na tayo abot. Kaya I honored --- Lapu-Lapu was never given the proper honors of the previous government.

'Yung Human --- si Badoy ng Historical Commission. Eh taga-Cotabato naman sana 'yan. He used to be mayor of Cotabato City, 'diba? O ngayon nandiyan na siya. He never bothered to look, na silipin niya.

So when I went to Cebu to campaign, nakita ko 'yung istatwa ni Magellan mas taas pa kay Lapu-Lapu. Nagtitingin-tingin ako. Sabi ko, g\*\*\* 'to ah. *[laughter]* So I had a notion ipasira ko or para...

Eh ang Cebuano, they are the conservative type. Basta religion, ano ang... Ang hindi lang nag --- tingin ko na ayaw talaga ng to be tied to his religion. Nag... Tuloy, jumoin (join) pa ng NPA, nahuli pa diyan sa Cotabato si Secretary Evasco.

Ngayon ang kaibigan mo diyan sa likod mo, bantay ka ha. *[laughter]* Nahula --- nahuli man 'yan. Tapos gusto --- totoo 'to ah. Alam niya --- andiyan 'yan siya. Itong Estares na 'to walang ng ano, "Sir, i-salvage na lang natin 'yan." Sabi ko, "G\*\*\* ka." Piskal ako eh. Inquest.

"G\*\*\* ka man. Pari 'yan. Buang. Taga-Cebu pa --- ah, taga-Bohol. Baka pinsan ko pa 'yan." But he was scheduled for a... *[laughter]*

Kaya... so ano itong --- we are facing, or I am facing so many fronts. Terrorism ng ISIS, hindi ko talaga matanggap 'yan. But rebellion of the Moro people to reclaim your mother land, okay sa akin' 'yan. Mag-usap lang. *[applause]*

There is much worry --- and they are wary na baka 'yung sabi ninyo sa Liguasan Marsh. If there are trillions of cubic meters of oil, do not be worried at all. Hindi na kukunin ng gobyerno 'yan. Inyo 'yan. *[applause]* Walang makialam niyan.

If you grow rich, mag mayayaman kayo diyan sa Maguindanao pati sa Sultan Kudarat. Eh huwag naman din ninyong bawalan 'yung ibang pumunta doon. Kasi nandiyan 'yung pera.

If there is a commercial activity and there's really oil in Liguasan Marsh, my God, pupunta lahat 'yan. Christian, Muslims, Lumad and will join the fray to enjoy progress and development.

Wala tayong apihan dito. But kung sabihin mo na --- it will remain in your control and possession. But you just have to pay the taxes and the service that the government that would spend.

But kung sabihin ninyo na magpasok 'yung mga ibang mayaman sa Pilipinas, I promise you --- and that's my commitment --- it belongs to the Moro people. Inyo 'yan. *[applause]*

Pero sa Cebu naman, doon sa tatay ko, 'pag nakakita kami ng mina, ang diamond ganito kalaki ng baso ko, wala rin kayo. Biro lang. *[laughter]*

Look. We're all human beings. Prangka-prangka tayo. Let us not abandon each other. Let us not forget that we belong to the Malay race.

That's about the only thing that really destroyed the whole set up was because of colonials. And it was the sin of the Spaniards and the Americans. Why do they have to kill me?

And if I want to join the fray, to which side would I go to? I'd go to join the military or join the rebels? And then we start to fight. And we lose everything now. And ISIS does not respect religion.

That's totally b\*\*\* s\*\*\*. They use the Quran but they kill people, even their blood brother, the Arabs. They've shown no mercy. So I'm sorry. If they come here, we'll have to fight.

Now for the Moro rebels, the main line, let us talk. Why don't you just also go there and see how we are developing or crafting the system that you want if you want federalism. What type that -- I cannot talk it now. I cannot talk about it now. Wala pang ano eh. Wala pa 'yung papel. 'Pag nabasa ko in final form, then I can tell you if it's patterned after the French or a pure parliament like the England and all.

But I've been telling the military and all that the best federal system would be you have a President, the only elected leader nationwide. Hindi na ako 'yan. And that would come 17 years from now.

We're just trying to perfect everything. And if you want a new leader during the transition, you can provide it in the law itself, creating the parliament, the system of the distribution of the regional autonomous region, and I would be happy to step down. Wala akong ano.

'Pag ang --- transition gusto ninyo, and you want a new leader, I am telling you now. I will step down if that is the wish of the Filipino people. Wala akong... Ah, hindi. Huwag kayong maniwala na 'yang I intend to stay forever. 'Yan lang ang ano ko. It's a...

And the sole reason why I am holding out dito is because I do not want trouble. The singular reason why I'm trying to fix everything, back-channeling ako. Hindi ako nagpapahalata eh. Because they are talking of a Constitution.

Sabihin nila, "Duterte is using his influence to come up with a Constitution that would favor," ganun. The usual garbage. Kaya para walang ano.

If you --- if the BBL and it provides for a Constitution and you craft a Constitution adapting to the federal system and yet during the transition, you want a new leader to handle the transitioning of this country from unitary to federal, I would be happy to step down. I will resign.

'Di na ako mag-ano. I will not fight for it. Basta kung sino 'yung gusto at kaya niyang gawin ang Pilipinas na maganda. If there's somebody who is ambitious, but who has the talent and expertise of crafting a government, or a Masters of Governance, eh 'di ibigay natin. They can try, anybody.

Now, before I end, kumain na po kayo? Eh may birthday eh so kailangan --- sa bahay --- I have to share. I have to break bread when I --- sa pamilya ko may birthday. So sabi ko mauna na lang kayo.

I --- but I will just read the last --- kaawa naman 'yung gumawa nito. [laughter] Babae 'yun. Saan na 'yung... Uy ito, ma'am ha. Binabasa ko 'yung trabaho mo. [laughter]

The Islamic faith reveals to us the importance of sacrifice and charity. As we look to the future with hope and optimism, let these values guide us as we pursue real and lasting change through peace, unity, and prosperity for the sake of our nation.

Shukran. Eid Mubarak! Salamat. [applause]

**---END---**