

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE MINDANAO ISLAMIC TELEPHONE COMPANY  
CONSORTIUM CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND  
NECESSITY (CPCN) ISSUANCE CEREMONY**

[Delivered at the President's Hall in Malacañan Palace | 08 July 2019]

Kindly sit down.

Information and Communications Technology Secretary Gregorio Honasan II; National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.; National Telecommunications Commissioner Gamaliel Cordoba; China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Chief Engineer Zhang Feng; Mislattel Chairman Dennis Uy; officials and members of the China Telecom --- Secretary Rio --- have I mentioned you? Ladies and gentlemen

Today, we mark another milestone in the continuing advancement of our country's information and communications technology capability with the entry of a new major telecommunications provider.

Through the efforts of the Department of Information and Communications Technology and the National Telecommunications Commission, we take one step forward in fulfilling this administration's commitment to provide better telecommunications services to the Filipino people.

More than a year ago, I directed government agencies to commence the selection and assignment of a radio frequency for a new telco player to solve our Internet woes.

Today, I am glad to announce the entry of a new player that will take on the challenge of competing against the existing players in our country's telco industry. This new player is the Mindanao Islamic Telephone Company or Mislattel Consortium.

After complying with the stringent standards set by the National Telecommunications Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Philippine Competition Commission, our [new] telco player posted a performance security bond amounting to 25.7 billion pesos.

Accompanying this bond is a commitment – that I will hold you to that commitment – that you will improve the country's prevailing Internet speed from 4.5 Mbps to 55 Mbps.

The entry of this Mislattel Consortium – assuming that it complies with this commitment – is indeed a milestone in our efforts to provide fast, reliable, secure, and more affordable telecommunication services to the public.

Let me take this opportunity to pose this challenge to Mislattel [Consortium]: Break the prevailing duopoly in the telecommunications industry and fulfill your commitment to provide better telco services to our people.

To our people, I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities arising from a more vibrant telecommunications industry by engaging in productive ICT-based undertakings.

Expand your businesses, engage in online jobs, avail of online learning and training opportunities, and participate in productive public discussions.

Now that we are moving forward to a greater capacity in information and communications technology, we will have a better opportunity to improve our personal, social, political and economic aspirations.

Indeed, a well connected society is a well informed and empowered one.

Let us take the entry of this [new] telco player as a breath of fresh air in our rapidly evolving information age, where no one should be left behind in our pursuit of an inclusive and sustainable progress for all Filipinos.

Congratulations at mabuhay kayong lahat! *[applause]*

**--- END ---**