

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH
OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE
CONDEMNATION AND PUBLIC DESTRUCTION OF
CONTRABAND LUXURY VEHICLES

[Delivered at Port Irene, Santa Ana, Cagayan | 14 March 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet; CEZA Secretary Raul Lambino; Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña; Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa; officials and employees of Cagayan Economic Zone Authority; mga kasama ko sa gobyerno; mga kababayan ko.

I --- Babasahin ko na lang po kasi gabi na. I have to travel to Davao because of some urgent matter. I have to see some guys from the Middle East who are waiting for me. Sabi ko, late dinner kami.

But today, we reaffirm our commitment to build a country free from the shackles of corruption. This condemnation of these smuggled vehicles demonstrates our firm stand to put an end to a longstanding societal disease that has eroded public trust and tainted the government's sincerity to deliver equitable social services.

The destruction of these contraband luxury vehicles signifies our strong resolve to restore good governance, preserve our nation's dignity and safeguard our people's welfare.

I reiterate that I will never tolerate smuggling and all forms of irregularities in our ports, especially in our Freeports. Illegal practices will be dealt with to ensure that every department, agency and instrumentality of government is free from corruption.

To this end, we will continue to persevere in bringing transformative change so we can build a foundation of our nation's unceasing sustainable growth.

I recognize the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority for its contribution to this undertaking. Truly, Lal-lo airport has established itself as an important gateway to Cagayan Valley and the rest of Northern Luzon.

Your commitment to spur industrial, economic and social development has promoted efficiency and good governance not only in the zone but in the entire region.

We will continue working with our partners in various sectors of society to ensure a faster and easier means of public transport.

Our advancement in these areas not only spurs equitable development in the region but also ushers a new era of progress for the entire nation.

Again, I call upon every local government official, civic leader and the general public to stand with us in forging a drug-, crime-, and corruption-free Philippines.

The confiscation of these luxury cars implies that there is still a lot of work to be done until we can give our people the stronger and more progressive nation they deserve.

Together, let us fight for a better government and for a better Philippines that will last generations.

This will be our most important legacy as public servants and as Filipinos.

Maraming salamat po at mabuhay kayong lahat! [applause]

Meron lang akong ipakita. Though I am not giving this away because nahihya ako. But, one day last --- two months ago I was talking before the police and you know, lahat naman tayo in every organization meron talagang mga loko-loko.

But this has not happened only once, but twice for the 23... mayors that ---23 years that I was mayor in Davao City.

Nagpagawa na po ako ng ano at ang problema kasi nag --- nilagyan nila ng litrato ko. This is the picture that was taken during the Marawi siege.

Eh wala naman ang kalaban natin, tapos na. And I do not want to rekindle memories pero maganda kasi ang pagkasabi ko doon.

Sabi ko, “bantayan niyo muna.” Sabi ko, I usually do not read speeches.

Ngayon lang kasi mag-uwi na ako, baka... ang layo pa naman nitong lugar na ‘to [laughter] and it simply says --- I’ll just give it to one person maybe.

And I said to them, “Not during my watch.” [applause] “Huwag ninyong gawin sa panahon ko.” Eh tatal ako lang naman eh --- I’ll be there for three more... three plus years, months. Eh aalis na po ako. And I just would want to give a little respite sa paghihirap sa Pilipino.

So kung ano man, every centavo should be spent for the people. Though I may not be able to deliver really the comforts you want, but I assure you that during my time, at least before I step down, eh kailan ‘yun, maibigay ko ‘yung komportableng buhay para sa lahat. [applause]

Do not believe in that b*** s*** that I am aiming to be a dictator. The sole and only reason why I am interested in pursuing the federal setup of Mindanao.

One because it is not my promise. It was the promise of Corazon Aquino to Misuari many years ago when she took power during the EDSA revolution.

And this has been the promise that has been no --- knowing naga --- kitkit, the relations between the people --- the Moro and the Christians of Mindanao.

I’d like to tell you something: Alam mo, the only singular, sole reason why interesado ako is because there will be war and I hope it would not create something big enough to destroy the unity of our country.

I would be the last. I would be the person, the last to say, “do not --- there can never be a division in this country for as long as I’m President.” I don’t know [unclear].

Kaya kung ako, talagang double time ako. ‘Yun lang po ang rason ko. At ang sabi nila na ako’y mag... will take advantage of any changes in the Constitution, let me assure you today, remember this:

If by 1920 --- 2020, we could have perfected the structure and we can move ahead, kung... if it is already fine-tuned, I still have about until 2022.

But if it calls for an election of a President, I will step down immediately.

‘Yan ang ipangako ko sa inyo. Hindi ho ako magiging diktador. I’m tired and I want to retire.

You know, all in all, I’ve been with government at kung bilangin mo naman, if you want to another --- I had about 10 elections behind me. The 11th was itong presidency.

I never lost an election and I would want it to be that way. So huwag ho kayong matakot. Huwag kayong maniwala diyan sa opposition na ‘yan. Believe me, I would be last.

Sabi ko nga sa military, eh trabaho ninyo ‘yang to see to it that the Constitution is honored.

If you think that I am violating the Constitution or if I am overstaying there even for a minute, shoot me dead. Oust me. ‘Yan ang i-guarantee ko sa inyo.

But in the meantime, tulungan ninyo kami at ang aming hangarin lang para sa Pilipino, natin lahat. Whether you are an Ilocano --- remember that hindi tayo magkadugo, well in the same --- it goes without saying that the Malay blood is in us but we speak different dialects. We do not share the same menu, the values are totally different, and the customs and everything.

What binds us really is that document called Constitution. And it was our forefathers who decided long before that even in the midst of multiple tribes and different languages na sana sumulat tayo ng isang Constitution and it's represented by the flag.

You start to... You start to mess up with this Constitution and the flag, it will destroy the nation forever.

Kaya lahat ako, kayo, military, pulis, and if we happened to select --- Iyan ang ano sa... Two minutes.

That's the reason why may importante kaso... Sino 'yung NPA po dito? Pakitaas po ng kamay, huwag pong mahiya. [laughter] Kita mo. Maya-maya pagtalikod...

Alam mo sa totoo lang, we had these talks. Nagpadala ako ng mga... sila Bebot Bello, Dureza, sila doon wala namang ginawa kung hindi mambababae pala eh, kaya walang... [laughter]

You know Bebot was occupying a room in front of me sa dormitory. Siya 'yan magka-roommate pati si Dulay, Ilocano rin galing Baguio.

Magsabi kayo na anong pinakamaraming tribo diyan sa aming Gabinete, Ilocano. Cimat, lahat halos.

I'll tell you the reason why, pero mas madali magpatakbo ng gobyerno pagka --- 'yung isang utos lang. I'll tell you about it some other time.

So ngayon itong mga komunista, if you sum it all, hinihingi kasi ninyo 'yung coalition government. You know this Constitution, the one document that governs us is ganito.

Sovereignty is with the people, all Filipinos. But since sovereignty cannot be exercised by all Filipinos, we elect representatives to Congress, then appoint by the appointing authority vested by government.

Eh ako 'yung appointing authority sa ngayon --- even the justices of the Supreme Court. So that is sovereignty.

But they want a council and we share the same powers with them. That is a coalition government that they want.

Ang sabi ko, "if that is what you want then putulin na natin ito. I cannot give you what I do not own. It belongs to the people."

Ang sabi ko naman nga nagustuhan man ninyo ako, I may be a son of a b**** to the others, but elected man tayo ng tao, so everybody respects that.

Kayong taga-rito you have to recognize that although ang connection ko dito si Tugade. Classmate man namin ito. Ito 'yung valedictorian. Lahat 'yan sila mga... Bebot was my --- sa room, dormmate.

Puro 'yan sila bright. Kinuha ko 'yang mga bright na. Esperon, si Lambino. Si Sid Lapeña, he used to be my chief of police then regional commander sa Davao. Wala akong kinuhang iba. Ilocano puro kasi matino pati hindi mo ma-corrupt. [applause]

Puro bright 'yan sa Philippine Military Academy, kung saan-saan. They all excelled.

Ako 75 lang [laughter] pero sa awa ng Diyos itong mga bright --- Delfin Lorenzana, he was a valedictorian. He is an Ilocano but grew up in North Cotabato.

In his class he was the valedictorian, sabi ni Pastor Quiboloy. Taga-Cotabato 'yan eh. Mga Ilocano, Ilocano rin nagpunta doon long, long time ago. Mga migrants kami.

So puro bright 'yan sila. Pero tandaan ninyo ito. Kayong mga Ilocano, utusan lang kayo ng Bisaya. [laughter and applause]

Maraming salamat po.

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