

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE "KAON TA!" DAVAO REGION LAUNCH

[Delivered at Activity Center, Abreeza Mall, Bajada, Davao City | 07
December 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat. May kulang 'to. Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat... Ah, Tourism Secretary Bernadette Romulo-Puyat-Duterte. *[laughter]* Hindi, pinapatawa ko lang 'yung ale kasi malungkot.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles; Representative Corazon Malanyaon, Chairperson House Committee on Tourism; officers and employees of Ayala Corporation led by its Chairman and CEO Mr. Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala; other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me congratulate the Department of Tourism and Ayala Malls on the launching of "Kain Na!" here in Abreeza Mall Davao. I am truly pleased with your efforts to ensure the success of this food and travel festival which highlights the Philippines as a center of food and gastronomy in the world.

Today, we reaffirm the important role of tourism in achieving inclusive growth and reducing poverty through the creation of more job opportunities for our people.

I welcome this initiative as it harnesses the potential of the farm tourism as an effective tool in facilitating the growth of our local communities and promoting sustainable development.

I am glad that this tourism approach has gained increasing popularity with the growing number of Filipinos and foreign tourists aspiring to take a break from the stress

of city life and, at the same time, augment their income, help them provide more [for] their families, and improve the crop production.

The success of this platform demonstrates our commitment to raise awareness and generate more demand for these growing industries. More importantly, this will also provide our people access to a healthier and more sustainable [lifestyle].

By bringing together local chefs, world-class dishes and other agricultural arts and crafts in this festival, we foster the image of the country as a great culinary destination.

Let this occasion therefore strengthen your resolve to further develop Filipino cuisine, agricultural products and technology that celebrate the best of being Filipino.

I trust that the [participants] will always pursue [sustainability] and innovation [in] their production processes so we can ensure [their] global quality and competitiveness [with] the rest of the world.

This unique but truly wonderful Filipino culinary experience is something that we should be proud of. Let this gathering spark greater appreciation of our diverse cuisine as we steer the [Philippine] agriculture and tourism into even greater heights.

Daghang salamat! *[applause]*

Mangaon na ta?

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