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*Begin and held at the Session Hall of the Senate,
GSIS Building, Pasay City, on Monday, July 25, 2016*

Session No. 1

Monday, July 25, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Pursuant to Section 15, Article VI of the Constitution, the First Regular Session of the Senate of the Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines was declared open on July 25, 2016, 10:01 a.m., at the Senate Session Hall, GSIS Building, Pasay City, with Senate President Franklin M. Drilon presiding.

PRAYER

Sen. Sonny Angara led the Body in prayer, to wit:

Lord, we praise and thank You for showing Your goodness to our nation, the Filipino nation, Your beloved people.

Sa pagsisimula po ng panibagong yugto ng aming kasaysayan sa araw na

ito, hinihiling po namin mula sa Inyo na kami'y pagpalain upang tapat naming magampanan ang aming pagsisilbi sa publiko.

Tulungan N'yo po kami na maakay ang aming mga kababayan tungo sa pag-unlad at maibangon ang lahat na naghihirap mula sa karukhaan.

Lord, we pray for the nation, we pray for our people who have struggled under the yoke of poverty and underdevelopment for too long. We pray for our leaders that we may truly work for the people's interest. We pray for our new President, our new Vice President, the incoming Senate President and leaders of both chambers, for local government officials, and all other public servants that they may hold true to their oath

and to uphold all our laws and safeguard the public interest and trust at all times.

We pray, too, for our law enforcers who are locked in a battle to safeguard our communities to keep them safe for our children, to live, to play and to flourish, a grateful people. We pray that they also respect human life always even as their lives are constantly under threat.

We pray for the Seventeenth Congress that we may lighten the burden of our people through reforms that will be felt and enjoyed by their families immediately; that we may provide better jobs and incomes for our working people, better education and health care for our men, women and children; a better environment to do business here; a government free of corruption, delay, inefficiency and red tape; and a country that is able to live out its collective dreams for its people as we aspire for greatness. May we, at the very least, achieve comfort and happiness as we enjoy Your blessings, O Lord.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter the Senate hymn, *Senadong Marangal*.

COMELEC RESOLUTION NBOC NO. 007-16

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, Comelec Resolution NBOC No. 007-16, proclaiming the duly elected senators in the May 9, 2016 elections, copies of which were earlier distributed to the members of the Senate, was considered read into the Record of the Senate.

Upon direction of the Chair, Secretary Oscar G. Yabes read only the “resolved” clause of the Comelec resolution.

The following is the full text of the resolution:

NBOC RESOLUTION NO. 007-16

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections, sitting *en banc* as the National Board of Canvassers for Senators and Party-list Representatives, officially canvassed in open and public

session, the votes cast for Senators in connection with the May 09, 2016 automated National and Local Elections (NLE);

WHEREAS, on the basis of the tabulated National Canvass Report, attached hereto, the following candidates for Senators obtained the twelve (12) highest number of votes for Senators during the May 09, 2016 NLE;

WHEREAS, based on the tabulated National Canvass Report, the difference between the 13th ranked and the 12th ranked senatorial candidates is 1,332,972 votes;

WHEREAS, there are only 1,211 remaining votes that have not yet been received by the canvassing and consolidation system of the National Board of Canvassers and said votes will not materially affect the ranking of the twelve (12) winning candidates for Senator;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the powers vested under the 1987 Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa Blg. 881), Republic Act Nos. 9369, 8436, 7166, 6646 and other elections laws, the Commission on Elections sitting *en banc* as the National Board of Canvassers DECLARES the following as the duly-elected Senators of the Republic of the Philippines of the May 09, 2016 NLE ranked according to the number of votes obtained, to serve for a term of six (6) years, beginning noon of June 30, 2016, in accordance with Section 6, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines.

1. DRILON, Frank	18,607,391
2. VILLANUEVA, Joel Tesdaman	18,459,222
3. SOTTO, Vicente	17,200,371
4. LACSON, Panfilo Ping	16,926,152
5. GORDON, Dick	16,719,322
6. ZUBIRI, Migz	16,119,165
7. PACQUIAO, Manny	16,050,546
8. PANGILINAN, Kiko	15,955,949
9. HONTIVEROS, Risa	15,915,213
10. GATCHALIAN, Win	14,953,768
11. RECTO, Ralph	14,271,868
12. DE LIMA, Leila	14,144,070

So ordered.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the session was suspended.

It was 10:12 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:12 a.m., the session was resumed with Senator Aquino presiding.

COLLECTIVE OATH-TAKING

Thereafter, Senator Aquino administered the oath of office to the 12 newly elected senators.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Acting Secretary, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Legarda, L.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
De Lima, L. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gatchalian, W.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, E. J.
Honasan, G. B.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R. B.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Lacson, P. M.	

With 23 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Cayetano arrived after the roll call.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the election of the President of the Senate.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF SENATOR SOTTO

In nominating Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III for the position of Senate President, Senator Sotto delivered the following speech:

I rise to nominate the next Senate President of the 17th Congress. In all candor, it cannot be denied that all those who run a race seek victory at the finish line. I was there at the starting gate but along the way, I sensed that it is my duty to pull that lofty ambition down and honor my word to the nominee. Like the knights of olden times, I humbly gave way to a young and valiant warrior. He possesses the right ideology for our times, with proven courage and recognized competence. I trust him to lead this Chamber and

partner with the Executive department to achieve peace and progress for the Filipino in our lifetime and beyond.

The senator-nominee did not have to read recent Philippine history. He lived it. He did not have to be told that during the martial law years, some members of the opposition were harassed and jailed — he knew it firsthand when their dinner table missed his father for a long time. He did not have to be told to know the law, he topped the Philippine bar when he took it. He did not need a lecture on local autonomy and federalism, he was immersed in it for these were his father's advocacies.

He had a continuing education on being a senator and Senate president at home for his father was both. His father was my colleague and since 1998, I called him "idol."

But today is not about the father. It is about the son. Today is about a son that has risen.

So my esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, with distinct honor, I nominate for Senate President, Sen. Aquilino Martin de la Llana Pimentel III.

SECONDING REMARKS OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri delivered the following remarks seconding the nomination of Senator Pimentel for the position of Senate President:

It is my honor and privilege to second the nomination of a fellow Mindanaoan leader who in the past I have the unfortunate experience as having as a bitter rival. But today, we leave all that bitterness behind us as a sign of unity, magnanimity and support for our people and for our fellow Mindanaoan president who has made history for our region.

Today, I second the nomination of Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III for the position of Senate President which will mark another historical milestone for all Mindanaoans as today three of the four highest positions of the land, the President of the Republic, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House, all come from our southern region. Let this day usher a new dawn for our war-torn and development-hungry island of Mindanao where the land of promise has become unbroken promises and the people have been apathetic to the national government.

Today, I congratulate Senate President Pimentel, who is also making history for being

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the first son to repeat his father's achievements in holding that position. No other father and son had held the position of Senate President in the last 100 years history in the Senate.

Naa sa inyong mga kamot ang kaugmaon sa atong nasud. Ug tungod sa atong ug imong kadaugan ug kadaugan sa atong pinalangga na Presidente Digong Duterte, gatuo ko nga makab-ot nato ang kalinaw ug kalambuan sa atong region sa Mindanao ug sa tibuok nasud.

Our future is in his hands and I strongly believe that the future of our country in the hands of Senate President Pimentel and our beloved President Digong Duterte will usher a new dawn of peace and prosperity, not only for Mindanao, but the whole republic.

Mabuhay ang Senado! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

NOMINATION SPEECH OF SENATOR ESCUDERO

In nominating Sen. Ralph Recto for the position of Senate President, Senator Escudero delivered the following speech:

Magandang umaga po sa ating lahat.

Three years ago, I rose to nominate a friend to the second highest position in this Chamber. This time, I stand to nominate him to the highest post. There are many reasons why I think he is qualified and deserves a promotion.

The man, I believe, is ripe and ready for the Senate presidency. He is never a stranger to adversity. He is a man who would sail against the wind of public opinion and shun the safe harbor of populism if he thinks it will serve the best interest of the public even if it damages his. He is a man who in the past had opted to be right than be popular and paid a price for taking a principled position.

My nominee has logged nearly a quarter of a century in lawmaking, three terms in the Lower House and three terms in the Upper House. With this tour of duty, I believe he has earned his spurs to be the Senate leader. But it is not only the length of service which qualifies him for the post but the quality of work that he had rendered. We have known him as a hard worker, one who keeps long working hours and one who comes well prepared to the committee hearings and for debates and one whose speeches are a joy to listen to.

At a time that the politicians live by the motto that eternal publicity is the price of

incumbency, he is not after the sound bite that will land him in the evening news. He would rather work on sound laws that will create a better tomorrow for this nation so that we can all leave it in a better state than before. We have known him as someone with a head for numbers and an eye for figures, whether tax, budgetary or any of the female kind.

It has been said that while we can only read the prose in the laws that we pass, he sees numbers in them. While we simply see the provisions, he would see the cost in them in each section and then proceed to remind us of their burden to taxpayers.

So whenever the tug of populism tempts us to pass measures without regard of their fiscal cost, he is there to ask us if those who would ultimately foot the bill can actually afford it.

All of these he does in a manner that is assertive but never abrasive, resolute but always respectful.

He can improve bills without having to be insulting, as he had always used language that generates light than heat. He is a man who can shuttle between both sides of the aisle, who would not let healthy differences stand in the way of friendship, or disagreements damage the need to cooperate for the good. He personifies the saying that, "One can disagree without being disagreeable," the kind who sadly is becoming endangered in the political landscape scarred by scorched-earth perpetual campaigning.

The tradition in the Senate is that the election of its president has always been a contested affair. While hegemony might be the mantra in other legislatures, here we value the contributions of the minority as indispensable to the conduct of our business.

Those who have come before us have always treated minority views as essential ingredients in lawmaking because laws to be good have to pass through the study and scrutiny of those who are outside the majority coalition.

If fate will not smile kindly on my friend today, then again, by tradition, he will have to assume the mantle of Minority Leader. If that be the case, then it will be my distinct honor to work with him in this Congress.

But whether Minority or Senate leader, he will have to perform other duties with the same set of principles, foremost of which is to be the trustee of the Senate's historical role as an independent body answerable to none but to the

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laws and to our people. Whether Minority or Senate leader, he will have to argue against policies which harm the national interest but advocate those which help. Whether Minority or Senate leader, he will have to defend the institution so its constitutionally assigned task will proceed unencumbered by attempts to erode it.

This is not just the job description of the leader we elect today. It is actually the work cut out for each and everyone of us. And among us here, I know of a colleague who fits the bill and is up to the challenges of the office and of the times.

It is, therefore, my distinct honor, Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, to nominate Sen. Ralph Recto for Senate President.

SECONDING REMARKS OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Senator Trillanes seconded the nomination of Senator Recto for the position of Senate President.

CLOSING OF THE PERIOD OF NOMINATION

There being no other nomination, upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Chair declared the period of nomination for the position of Senate President closed.

NOMINAL VOTING

Pursuant to Section 2, Rule II of the Rules of the Senate, upon direction of the Chair, the Acting Secretary called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

For Senator Pimentel:

Angara	Lacson
Aquino	Legarda
Binay	Pacquiao
De Lima	Pangilinan
Drilon	Poe
Ejercito	Recto
Gatchalian	Sotto
Gordon	Villanueva
Honasan	Villar
Hontiveros	Zubiri

For Senator Recto:

Escudero	Trillanes
Pimentel	

With 20 senators voting for Senator Pimentel, and three senators voting for Senator Recto, the Chair declared Senator Pimentel as the elected President of the Senate.

NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Chair appointed Senators Drilon, Sotto and Legarda as members of the Notification Committee to notify Senator Pimentel of his election as Senate President.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Angara, the session was suspended.

It was 10:31 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:31 a.m., the session was resumed.

OATH-TAKING OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Witnessed by members of his family, Senator Pimentel took his oath of office as President of the Senate before Senator Pacquiao.

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT PIMENTEL

Senate President Pimentel delivered his acceptance speech, as follows:

My fellow senators; Chief Justice Sereno, my professor in the UP College of Law, and other members of the Judiciary, members of the diplomatic corps; my fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; my fellow countrymen, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin by thanking all of you for being here today.

I read your presence here today as indicating your support for the change that President Rodrigo Duterte has promised would come to the country.

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Inevitably, then, as a part of the machinery of government, change must also come to and from the Senate.

One evidence of that change coming to this Chamber is the fact that you, my dear colleagues, have made it possible for the lone representative of the PDP Laban to be elected as President of the Chamber.

And why did this happen?

I suggest that it is because you, my dear colleagues in the Senate, are able to think outside of the box and apply new approaches to old set-ups.

And, more substantially, it also means that your Senators are selfless and self-denying, thus making it possible for this son of Mindanao, particularly of the City of Cagayan de Oro and the province of Misamis Oriental, to act as THE SERVANT of the servants of the people in this bastion of freedom and democracy, the Senate of our Republic.

I am proud to say that the value of “subordination of personal interest to the common good” can be found here in the Senate of the Philippines.

I also find it greatly gratifying that for the first time in the history of our country, a Mindanaonon, Rodrigo Duterte, the extraordinary mayor of Davao City, has assumed office as the newly elected president of the nation.

And that at this very hour, coincidentally, the members of the House of Representatives are installing by overwhelming numbers the Honorable Pantaleon Alvarez, a congressman representing the 1st District of Davao del Sur, a province in Mindanao, as their Speaker.

It has never been this way before, my dear friends.

In fact, for a long time, the people of Mindanao have felt excluded from the center of political power that defined policies and programs for the progress and development of the nation.

Now, history seems to be making up for those times of exclusion. And it is now mandating that the two main branches of our tripartite governmental setup, namely, the executive and the legislative departments, be led by individuals from Mindanao.

Should that circumstance, then, be a source of pride?

Forgive me, my dear friends, if I say, “Yes,” because, at the very least, it reassures our fellow Mindanaonons that we are, after all, truly on par with the rest of the country in matters of public service.

But, more important, the above-mentioned events now give us, Mindanaonons, a singular opportunity to show the nation and the world at large – that we are up to the challenge in serving the best interest of our people.

Hence, I pledge before all of you today that I will be fair in carrying out the mandate that you have given me as Senate President. I assure all our colleagues that fairness will be the guiding principle in our implementation of the Program of Government for Change that the majority of senators have agreed upon.

As President Rodrigo Duterte puts it, “*tinud-anay nga kabag-o-han, mao kini ang tumong sa atong gobyerno.*” The introduction of genuine and meaningful change is the purpose of his government.

I am therefore putting on record the essential elements of the Program of Government for Change that your majority senators have agreed upon, that will, hopefully, lay the basis for the development and progress of our country and people.

1. We dedicate ourselves to the all-out search for peace in our land;
2. We will move for the adoption of a federal system of government;
3. We will support the all-out war against crime, drugs and corruption;
4. We will reform our taxation system and make it more just and truly progressive;
5. We will strengthen the rule of law and make our justice system work;
6. We will reform the budget and declare a war on waste;
7. We call for sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
8. We will protect the environment;
9. We will deliver quality education and quality health care;
10. We will fight abuse and the abusive; and
11. We will focus on the needs and situation of the helpless and impoverished members of the Philippine society, especially the sick, the elderly and the children, because they need the help of government more than the others.

But even as we do what needs to be done for the good of our people pursuant to our

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mandate as legislators, we will also support the legislative initiatives that President Rodrigo Duterte envisions as necessary to promote the public welfare.

In short, my dear colleagues, if we follow the mantra “The Poorest First, the Poor Second,” then we will never go wrong.

That said, the fact is that even if the people cannot realistically expect us to solve all the problems besetting our society today – the thing is, that the people who put us in power, wish us to do our best! We therefore have no choice but to do just that – our best!

At this point, allow me to recall a fundamental principle so crucial to the success of our democratic experiment – that good governance is not a function of the governors alone, but of the governed as well.

Thus, even in the passage of laws – which is our primary duty – we should always keep the doors of our legislature and legislative committees open to suggestions coming from the people for the enactment of certain legislations that will promote the general welfare and enhance the common good.

Salamat kaayo mga higala ko sa Senado sa inyong pagsalig niining inyong ubos nga igsoon, especially to Sen. Franklin Drilon and his team, as well as to Senators Sotto and Loren Legarda and their group, without whose support this event would not have come to pass.

And to those who disagree with the current majority in our beloved Senate, let me offer my hand of friendship and camaraderie with the assurance that in the running of the affairs of our institution, we shall ever be guided by the democratic principle that even as the majority rules, the rights of the minority will always be respected pursuant to our promulgated rules, clear precedents and well-established practices.

And as I have said earlier, I will be fair to all. And to be fair to all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my family, especially my parents, *Tatay Nene* and *Nanay Bing*, for all the support that they have given me. They know my story. They know the hardships that I have gone through, which I will no longer mention, because as I have stated way back in August 2011 when I joined this Chamber, “let bygones be bygones.”

I would like to especially thank my *Tatay*, former Senate President Nene Pimentel, for inspiring me to become a senator and for inculcating in me the attitude of focusing on the people and on their problems and on their needs.

So, *Tatay Nene*, I may not have been able to work with you in the Senate in the 14th Congress but, at least, I will join you now on the list of our country’s Senate Presidents.

My dear colleagues and my fellow change-minded countrymen, it is time to buckle down and start our work. Together, let us build a Philippine society which is just and fair, peaceful and democratic, educated and healthy, and which is, most of all, happy and free with overflowing love for God and country.

May God bless the Senate and our country! *Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Maayong buntag sa inyong tanan.*

ELECTION OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the election of the Senate President Pro Tempore.

NOMINATION SPEECH OF SENATOR EJERCITO

In nominating Sen. Franklin M. Drilon for the position of Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Ejercito delivered the following speech:

With great pride and honor, I nominate to the position of Senate President Pro Tempore one of the highly respected leaders of our country.

Popularly known as the “*Big Man ng Senado*,” he topped the recent senatorial elections with over 18.6 million votes.

The gentleman from Molo, Iloilo is a proud product of the public school system. From Baluarte Elementary School in Iloilo, he went to the University of the Philippines where he finished both his college and law degrees.

He placed third in the 1969 bar examinations and went on to work in prestigious law firms. He was a distinguished labor lawyer before he joined the government during the administration of the late President Corazon C. Aquino.

His brilliance and legal expertise were showcased during his stint at the executive branch. He served as Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment from 1987 to 1990; Secretary of the Department of Justice from 1990 to 1991 and from 1992 to 1995; and Executive Secretary from 1991 to 1992.



In 1995, he threw his hat in the political arena and won a seat in the Senate where he relentlessly pursued his advocacies of good governance, economic reforms and improvement of the justice system. He holds the record of being elected Senate President four times. His brand of leadership is marked by decisiveness, honor and integrity.

In the 16th Congress, he skillfully steered the Senate out of a fierce political crisis. While others saw the downfall of the institution because of the PDAF scandal, he saw an opportunity to institute meaningful change in the institution.

He is a reformer who has shown strong political will in pushing for the passage of reform measures.

In his more than 30 years of outstanding service to the nation, he received numerous awards and citations. In 1992, former President and democracy icon Corazon C. Aquino conferred upon him the Philippine Legion of Honor, Degree of Commander for the "exemplary services he has rendered to the Republic of the Philippines as Secretary of Labor and Employment, Secretary of Justice and Executive Secretary. In 1994, he was awarded Most Outstanding Alumnus in Government Service by the University of the Philippines Law Alumni Association. In April 2014, his alma mater, the University of the Philippines, conferred upon him the Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* degree.

With great respect and admiration for the gentleman of Iloilo, a statesman, and one of the best minds who have graced this august Chamber, whose life and work never ceased to amaze and inspire me, I hereby nominate Sen. Franklin M. Drilon for the position of Senate President Pro Tempore.

SECONDING REMARKS OF SENATOR DE LIMA

Seconding the nomination of Senator Drilon for the position of Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator De Lima described Senator Drilon as the mentor and moral leader of the Liberal Party bloc of the Majority, and that he was also one of her predecessors in the Department of Justice.

CLOSING OF THE PERIOD OF NOMINATION

There being no other nomination, upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Chair declared the period of nomination for the position of Senate President Pro Tempore closed.

ELECTION OF SENATOR DRILON AS SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

There being no objection to the nomination, the Chair declared Senator Drilon as the duly elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

OATH-TAKING OF SENATOR DRILON

Witnessed by his wife, Mrs. Mila Genuino-Drilon, Senator Drilon took his oath of office as Senate President Pro Tempore before Senate President Pimentel.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the election of the chairman on the Committee on Rules,

NOMINATION SPEECH OF SENATOR HONASAN

Senator Honasan delivered the following statement nominating Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III to the position of chairman of the Committee on Rules:

I have the honor and privilege to nominate Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III as chairperson of the Committee on Rules.

From my personal experience with him in several Congresses, I am confident that Senator Sotto shall ably enforce the rules of this collegial and consensual Chamber and help the other officers of the Senate manage our legislative agenda.

In terms of years of dedicated service to the nation as a legislator, Senator Sotto is our most senior senator and among the most experienced public servant in the country today. All these will be made to bear on his proven capacity to serve the highest public interest in the name of God, country and family and our most precious strategic and renewable resource, our next generation of citizens and leaders, our children.

SECONDING REMARKS OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda stated that it was an honor to second the nomination of Senator Sotto, being the most senior senator, having been a member of the Senate in the 9th Congress in 1992 to the present; a good

friend and *kumpadre*; an NPC stalwart; and a former Minority Leader when she was a new senator and Majority Leader. She expressed confidence that Senator Sotto is capable of bringing the Body to do the legislative work that needs to be done.

CLOSING OF THE PERIOD OF NOMINATION

There being no other nomination, upon motion of Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Chair declared the period of nomination for chairperson of the Committee on Rules closed.

ELECTION OF SENATOR SOTTO AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Thereupon, the Chair declared Senator Sotto as the duly elected chairman of the Committee on Rules and pursuant to the Rules, the Majority Leader of the Senate.

OATH-TAKING OF SENATOR SOTTO

Witnessed by his wife, Mrs. Helen Gamboa-Sotto, and his daughter, Romina Frances G. Sotto, Senator Sotto took his oath of office as chairman of the Committee on Rules before Senate President Pimentel.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR RECTO

Senator Recto delivered the following manifestation:

I would like to thank Sen. Chiz Escudero, my good friend, for his kind "eulogy."

To borrow your own words, fate may not have smiled kindly in your bid to be the number two official in the land, but you can always be my number two.

One of the benefits of this position is the privilege, which I have come to realize just now, that I will be working with two ex-future number twos. By my count, almost all of us here, save for a handful, had once belonged to the minority, whether here or in the House.

Even among the distinguished batch of 2016, many had done tours as soldiers of the opposition, like Joel and Risa, who performed it with distinction.

A senator who had come before us once said that there is no greater learning experience in lawmaking than to be in the Minority where one is always outnumbered in voting but is never outfought in debates.

So, to the question as to how I would dispense my duties as a Minority Leader, you have provided the answer by the way you have performed them in the past — resolute but responsible; critical yet constructive; proposing solutions rather than merely identifying problems.

By your past actions, you had written the handbook on responsible fiscalizing. I know that on this honored Senate tradition, I will not be alone.

The beauty of having 24 independent republics in the Senate is that the Majority-Minority divide resolves on bills it tackles as a sovereign would vote based on merits of the proposal and never on political affiliation.

Senators of the republic do not deposit their principles at the door and allow the void to be filled by the party in power. Often, the most incessant opposition to a bill actually comes from within the Majority. And it had also happened in the past that the most ardent support for a Palace-backed measure comes not from its allies but from across the aisle.

It simply means that in Senate dynamics, Minority should never be automatically equated as opposition for it is a false characterization of its role. I would rather see its role as guardians of the public interests which fully guide its actions here.

If the agenda of the Majority serves the public interest, then its correct stance is to cooperate. Oppose for opposing sake is a bankrupt ploy which has never prospered in this marketplace of ideas.

If the agenda of the Majority, however, harms the people and hurts the nation, then it is duty-bound to oppose it. And when that happens, we in the Minority will try to convince you, not by the shrillness of our voice but by the soundness of our arguments, because reasoning should rely more on facts than on flair. This is one Senate Minority, I assure you, that will know when to stand its ground and when to seek common ground.

My dear colleagues, I know that there are more that bind us than separate us. Of the former, the Minority is willing to do its share in putting in its inputs so bills would evolve into superior pieces of legislation.

We will also put forward our ideas, and we would solicit yours, because though we humbly know that our proposals are great, we do not have a monopoly of good intentions.

I envision our role as quality control inspectors on the lookout for weaknesses, subjecting every bill to a stress-test, so it is assured of trouble-free implementation.

We will also do our role to identify moral hazards and demarcate them as no-go zones for all of us.

There is one area, however, where we should work together — and that is to defend the institution from any attempts to emasculate it.

The weakening of this 100-year old Body should not happen on our watch, or else those who came before us will haunt us for being feeble trustees of this proud heritage.

That is why we have to boost our immune system and the best way to strengthen our defenses is to work hard to churn out good laws.

If regular exercise leads to a healthy body, regularly exercising our functions is the key to a strong Senate.

This afternoon we will hopefully hear President Duterte enumerate his wish list to Congress. Without sacrificing scrutiny for speed, let us act on measures which we agree can be approved without delay.

As we do that, perhaps, it is worth jogging our memories on what the Senate's attitude had been toward measures which have come its way. We do not countenance abuse, we counter it.

We do not diminish our sovereignty, we defend it.

We do not top tax proposals, we temper them.

We prefer bad peace over a just war.

We believe that those who have less in life must have more in government help.

We do not choke free trade, we champion it.

We affirm that progress should not always be at the expense of rights.

We believe that in creating wealth, merit is better than mandates.

We believe that investing in our people yields the highest returns.

We believe that in building a kinder and gentler society, we must appeal “to our people’s basic decency and not to our fears.”

Again, *maraming salamat*.

Congratulations, Senate President Koko Pimentel.

ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the election of the Secretary of the Senate in order.

NOMINATION REMARKS OF SENATOR SOTTO

For the position of Secretary of the Senate, Senator Sotto nominated Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo.

CLOSING OF THE PERIOD OF NOMINATION

There being no other nominee for the position, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the period of nomination for the position of Secretary of the Senate was closed.

ELECTION OF ATTORNEY BARBO AS SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Thereupon, the Chair declared Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo as the duly elected Secretary of the Senate.

OATH-TAKING OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo took his oath of office as Secretary of the Senate before Senate President Pimentel.

ELECTION OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE SENATE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the election of the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate in order.

NOMINATION REMARKS OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto nominated Maj. Gen. Jose V. Balajadia, Jr. (Ret.) to the position of Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

CLOSING OF THE PERIOD OF NOMINATION

There being no other nominee for the position, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the period of nomination was closed.

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ELECTION OF GENERAL BALAJADIA AS SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE SENATE

Thereupon, the Chair declared Maj. Gen. Jose V. Balajadia, Jr. as the duly elected Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate.

OATH-TAKING OF THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS OF THE SENATE

Maj. Gen. Jose V. Balajadia, Jr. (Ret.) took his oath of office as Sergeant-at Arms of the Senate before Senate President Pimentel.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 23, entitled

RESOLUTION INFORMING PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED WITH THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Secretary Barbo read the text of the resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the Senate, that President Rodrigo Roa Duterte be informed that the Senate has been organized with the election of its officers and that this Body has entered upon the exercise of its functions for the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 17 was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 18, entitled

RESOLUTION INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE HAS BEEN ORGANIZED WITH THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND THAT THIS BODY HAS ENTERED UPON THE EXERCISE OF ITS FUNCTIONS FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Secretary Barbo read the text of the resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the Senate, that the House of Representatives be informed that the Senate has been organized with the election of its officers and that this Body has entered upon the exercise of its functions for the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 18 was adopted by the Body.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO HOLD A JOINT SESSION TO HEAR THE MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Secretary Barbo read the text of the resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that both Houses of Congress of the Republic of the Philippines hold a Joint Session on Monday, July 25, 2016, at four o'clock in the afternoon at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, to hear the message of the President of the Republic of the Philippines.



ADOPTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, House Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was adopted by the Body.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR HIS STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES.

Secretary Barbo read the text of the resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives of the Philippines concurring, that a Joint Committee of Both Houses of Congress be created, composed of ten members, five to be appointed by the President of the Senate and five to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to notify the President of the Philippines that Congress, now convened for its First Regular Session of the Seventh Congress of the Philippines, is ready to hear his State of the Nation Address in a Joint Session of both Houses.

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 was adopted by the Body.

JOINT COMMITTEE TO NOTIFY THE PRESIDENT

Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1, Senate President Pimentel appointed Senators Binay,

Legarda, Hontiveros, Poe and Villar as members of the Joint Notification Committee, on the part of the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto requested the Members to remain inside the Session Hall for a photo session and advised the public not to enter the area while it was ongoing.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session suspended until four o'clock in the afternoon for the Joint Session of Congress, after which, the session of the Senate shall be considered adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 11:21 a.m.

Joint Session held at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, Quezon City.

At 4:00 p.m., the Secretary General of the House of Representatives announced the arrival of the President of the Philippines.

OPENING OF THE JOINT SESSION

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives declared the joint session open at 4:00 p.m.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

The national anthem was sung by Bayang Barrios, followed by ecumenical prayers led by multifaith religious leaders.

THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

The President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Roa Duterte, delivered his State of the Nation Address, to wit:

Allow me a little bit of informality at the outset. You would realize that the three guys in the elevated portion of Congress are from Mindanao. So, *wala talaga kaming masabi*.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III, members of the Senate, Speaker Pantaleon

Alvarez and the members of the House of Representatives, Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo, President Fidel V. Ramos, President Joseph Estrada, President Arroyo, Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno, and the justices of Supreme Court, His Excellency Papal Nuncio and members of the diplomatic corps.

Of course, I also have to greet Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, the members of the Cabinet, fellow workers in government, my countrymen.

We cannot move forward if we allow the past to pull us back. Finger-pointing is not the way. That is why I will not waste precious time dwelling on the sins of the past or blaming those who are perceived to be responsible for the mess that we are in and suffering from.

Except maybe to extract a lesson or two from its errors, we will not tarry because it is the present that we are concerned with and the future that we should be prepared for.

Lest I be misunderstood, let me say clearly, that those who betrayed the people's trust shall not go unpunished and they will have their day in court. And if the evidence warrants, they will have their day of reckoning too.

When I decided to seek the presidency of this Republic, I knew what the ills of our country were; I knew their causes; and I was briefed on those who caused the causes.

I heard the people on the streets complain that justice had become illusory; that equity and fairness and speedy disposition of cases had deteriorated into hollow concepts fit only for masterful dissertations. It was, and still is, very sad indeed.

As a former prosecutor, I know there are ways of knowing how fast or how slow cases go. What I did was to look into the number of postponements and the time difference between each postponement and the next setting. It was simple as that. I will appreciate deeply if we all in government attend to this urgent need.

I was determined then as I am now determined and better positioned, to wage war against those who make a mockery of our laws, including those who make life for us all miserable.

I wish to assure everyone though that vindictiveness is not in my system. Just like you and I, all, equal treatment and equal protection are what I ask for our people.

But we must have the courage to fight for what we believe in, undeterred by the fear of

failing or losing. Indeed, courage knows no limits, cowardice does.

At this point, there are few concerns I wish to convey to all to the end that as I perorate on facts, figures, plans, programs, and solutions, these concerns will not dissipate or get lost along our way.

Thus to our religious bishops, leaders, priests, pastors, preachers, imams, let me assure you that while I am a stickler for the principle of separation between Church and State, I believe quite strongly that there should never be a separation between God and State.

During my inauguration last 30 June 2016, I said that the fight against criminality and illegal drugs and corruption will be relentless and sustained. I reiterate that commitment today. And that is why I call on the Philippine National Police, the barangay chairmen, the mayors, and governors and all those occupying seats of power and authority, not to lower their guard. There will be no let-up in this campaign. Double your efforts. Triple them, if need be. We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier, and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars or below the ground, if they so wish.

To our police officers and other officials, do your job and you will have the unwavering support of the Office of the President. I will be with you all the way. Abuse your authority, and there will be a hell to pay, for you will have become worse than criminality itself.

I order the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) to hasten the conduct of investigation and adjudication of administrative cases against police officers involved in criminal activities and illegal activities and prescribe policies on lifestyle checks for PNP members.

In this quest, I will put at stake my honor, my life, and the presidency itself.

The DILG is also directed to strictly monitor how LGUs perform their supervision functions of the police and those found not performing will be sanctioned including the loss of police deputation from the NAPOLCOM. Let me repeat my warning to all: Do not do drugs because you will be the solution to the drug crisis that has engulfed – *malawak* – the nation.

We will create an Inter-Agency Committee on Illegal Drugs that will integrate efforts and strengthen the partnership of all stakeholders.

The reservists will be mobilized for information campaign against drug use and the dissemination of information regarding drug

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rehabilitation programs being offered by the government. Let us also strengthen our ROTC program to instill love of country and good citizenship.

We will also prioritize the rehabilitation of drug users. We will increase the number of residential treatment and rehabilitation facilities in all regions of the country. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will facilitate the preparations for the use of military camps and facilities for drug rehabilitation.

There can never be real, tangible and felt development without making our people feel secure, and it is our duty to uplift the people's welfare.

With this, my administration shall be sensitive to the State's obligations to promote, and protect, fulfill the human rights of our citizens, especially the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable, and social justice will be pursued, even as the rule of law shall at all times prevail.

My administration shall implement a human approach to development and governance, as we improve our people's welfare in the areas of health, education, adequate food and housing, environmental preservation, and respect for culture.

Human rights must work to uplift human dignity. But human rights cannot be used as a shield or an excuse to destroy the country — your country and my country.

Meantime, since our country continues to be confronted with internal security threats aggravated by the existence and activities of the terrorist group Abu Sayyaf, the full force of the AFP will be applied to crush these criminals who operate under the guise of religious fervor. The AFP shall enhance its capability to search and engage these rogue and lawless elements.

We have to strengthen our coordination with Indonesia and Malaysia to suppress the kidnappings in the waters of our neighboring countries. We will strengthen our counter-terrorism programs by amending various laws on human terrorism, terrorism financing and cybercrime.

This is our answer to the challenges of the global development, of the non-traditional threats of transnational crimes and fanatical terrorism. Addressing global warming shall also be our top priority, but upon a fair and equitable equation. It must not stymie our industrialization.

We also endeavor to develop and corporate partnerships with nations sharing common interests and concerns with the Philippines;

maintain and sustain bilateral and multilateral consultations and dialogues.

We will continue to expand cooperation on human assistance and disaster response, maritime security and counter-terrorism. We shall deepen security dialogues with other nations to build greater understanding and cooperation.

With regard to the West Philippine Sea otherwise known as [South] China Sea, we strongly affirm and respect the outcome of the case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration as an important contribution to the ongoing efforts to pursue the peaceful resolution and management of our disputes.

On the aspect of our peace processes relating to our engagement with the international community, the Philippines shall remain committed to work under and with international partners achieving lasting peace and progress in the country.

We will vigorously address the grievances that have been time and again expressed not only by the Bangsamoro, indigenous peoples and other groups for security, development, fair access to decision-making and acceptance of identities.

Enduring peace can be attained only if we meet these fundamental needs of every man, woman and child.

To our Muslim brothers, the Moro country, and the members of the CPP/NPA/NDF, let me say this:

All of us want peace, not the peace of the dead, but the peace of the living. We express our willingness and readiness to go to the negotiating table, and yet we load our guns, fix our sights, pull the trigger. It is both ironic and tragic — and it is endless. While we extol the bravery and heroism of our soldiers, *kayo* the rebels do the same for the rebels and fighters. What I see instead are the widows and the orphans. And I feel their pain and grief. And no amount of cash assistance or the number of medals can compensate the loss of a human life. Sorrow cuts across every stratum of society. It cuts deeply and the pain lasts forever.

That is why, I reach out to you, to all of you today. To our Muslim brothers, let us end the centuries of mistrust and warfare. To the CPP/NPA/NDF, let us end these decades of ambuscades and skirmishes. We are going nowhere. And it is getting bloodier by the day.

To immediately stop violence on the ground, restore peace in the communities and provide



enabling environment conducive to the resumption of the peace talks, I am now announcing a unilateral ceasefire with the CPP/NPA/NDF effective immediately and call on our Filipinos in the National Democratic Front and its forces to respond accordingly.

Let me make this appeal to you: "If we cannot, as yet, love one another, then in God's name, let us not hate each other too much," so it was said. I say the same to you today.

We will strive to have a permanent and lasting peace before my term ends. That is my goal, that is my dream.

On the macroeconomic management, my administration will continue and maintain current macroeconomic policies, and even do better. We will achieve this through prudent fiscal and monetary policies that can help translate high growth into more and better job creation and poverty reduction. By the end of my term, I hope – I hope and pray – to hand over an economy that is much stronger, characterized by solid growth, low and stable inflation, dollar reserves, and robust fiscal position.

On taxation, my administration will pursue tax reforms towards a simpler, more equitable and more efficient tax system that can foster investment and job creation. We will lower personal and corporate income tax rates and relax the bank secrecy laws. *Eh na-Presidente ako eh. Ayaw ko sana makialam dito sa mga 'to. Alam mo na.* Well, anyway. May I continue.

At the household level, there must be sufficient income for all Filipinos to meet the basic food and non-food needs for their families. We shall continue to attract investments that will generate thousands of jobs each year – jobs that are suitable for the poor and less skilled members of the workforce.

Reforms to ensure competitiveness and promote ease of doing business will be mandatory. Reacting to these needs, the restrictions on the economy will be needed to make more investments to come and to develop labor-intensive industries such as manufacturing, agriculture and tourism shall be pursued.

We must also invest in human capital and ensure equal access to economic opportunities.

The implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law must be put into full force and effect so that couples, especially the poor, will have freedom of informed choice on the number and spacing of children they can adequately care and provide

for, eventually making them more productive members of the labor force.

When employment is not an option, for instance in extremely rural neighborhoods, entrepreneurship will be advocated.

We shall also enhance local business environment by addressing bottlenecks in business registration and processing, streamlining investment application process and integrating the services of various government offices.

Government financing institutions (GFIs) shall come up with out-of-the box financing packages to capacitate our small and medium entrepreneurs.

In the field of tourism, we shall construct more access roads and tourism gateways to service centers and tourist sites.

Road development projects shall complement with our thrust to provide modern agriculture infrastructure by expanding and improving the construction and rehabilitation of roads and the irrigation and establishing modern harvest and post-harvest facilities to minimize losses.

We shall also conduct a nationwide soil analysis to determine areas most suitable for rice farming to optimize production with the use of effective soil rehabilitation and fertilization.

We shall strictly enforce fisheries laws, particularly on illegal fishing, and promote aquaculture along river banks and in backyards.

On the other hand, we will accelerate infrastructure spending by improving national roads and bridges and implementing the Mindanao Logistics Infrastructure Network and other road network master plans. We shall pursue inter-island linkage projects.

We shall be implementing structural mitigation measures to address the perennial flooding in Metro Manila and neighboring areas. We shall put up new pumping stations in strategic places.

The revival of the operation of the Pasig River Ferry Service System is a viable option for the severe traffic congestion in Metro Manila. This serves as an alternative mode of transportation for passengers particularly those coming from the east side of Metro to reach specific destinations within the cities of Manila, Mandaluyong, Pasig, Taguig, Marikina and Quezon City.

Our anti-colorum campaign and out-of-line apprehension including the removal of terminals will be intensified and, my God, it will be done immediately, immediately.

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To address lack of road infrastructure in Metro Manila, usage of existing roads will be maximized. Thus, there is a need to cooperate and coordinate with LGUs to map out secondary routes and to consult various stakeholders, including the public transport operators.

Many in government opine realistically — and I would have to agree — that the worsening traffic situation could be logically addressed if Congress would also accord emergency powers to the agencies concerned.

Ayaw mo? Okay lang rin. Para makita namin kung gusto ninyong madalian. Alam naman talaga ninyo sagad na lahat, sagad na. Nasa inyo yan. If you give it, fine. If you don't, we take the longer route, slowly. And *tanggapin ko 'yung pagmumura ninyo. 'Wag lang sa malapit. Eh ganun talaga eh.* You've done it. It's an urgent and immediate situation, solution. *Gusto ninyo madali lang, okay. Kapag ayaw naman ninyo,* because *baka sabihin niyo* graft and corruption eh 'di okay. But I assure you — *wala ito sa script* — I assure you, this will be a clean government.

If that is the only worry that you have and I can understand your misgiving. *Wala na ito sa... ang haba. Wala na ito sa script.* You know, *ako maka-garantiya*, 101 percent it will be clean. The problem is I can only act through agencies and departments. That's why I urge you *na maski konting mali lang, wala akong ano sa inyo, wala na akong politika, wala na.* I'm through after this. I just pass on to you the information that, you know... I act through secretaries and... I cannot guarantee their honesty and competence at all times. Cabinet members, yes. *Pero yung sa baba — yung procurement, yung magbi-bidding diyan.* But as far as I can really — *malinis talaga 'to. At napag-usapan namin sa likod* about the federal system.

You know my advice to you is maintain a federal system, a parliament, but be sure to have a president. *Huwag... Hindi na ako niyan.* I'm disqualified and by that time I would longer be here. But, I can commit today to the Republic of the Philippines and its people: If you hurry up the federal system of government and you can submit it to the Filipino people by the fourth, fifth year, *proseso yan e.* You call for a referendum and after that call for a presidential election, I will go. *Sibat na ako.* But you just have a president. You copy the France system. *Huwag mo hayaan yung puro na parliament. Delikado iyon.* It takes time even for the... *Iyong kagaya ng England noon.* There was this bomb,

double deck. It took them time really. There's no one apparatus for a commander-in-chief down. You can have a president you can elect. Maybe Tito Sotto would be the lucky guy at that time. *O, 'di, limitahan mo lang.* Ceremonial powers. Power to dissolve, power to accept the resolution or whatever, mandating you this, do that, or ceremonial powers except *yung* in times of need, if there's a demand for action. You must have a president. *Wala na ako niyan.* I said if you can give me that document, I will urge you to conduct a — to order — to order, call for an election the following day, following week. And even if there is still two years, three years I will go. *Okay na ako.* Do not worry about me. I don't aim to that much ambition. *Eh nanalo ka eh. Hindi ko nga alam bakit nandito ako ngayon. Noon nandoon lang ako o.* *Totoo man. Sino man nagsuporta sa inyo sa akin dito? Wala man?* Not a single congressman. Except for two provinces, governor. *'Yun lang. Wala akong barangay captain. Wala akong... wala lahat. Pero ngayon.*

Processing time in issuing permits and licenses shall be reduced to the barest minimum. In my city, it is always three days for local governments. That will bind the Office of the President down to the last barangay elect. Three days. Three days. Local government. Business permit, clearances, no follow-ups. *Bigyan mo ng stub.* Be back next week, *tingnan mo yung work load* and I will require every department, *yung dito sa itaas.* They must have a log book. *Huwag sa computer.* *Kasi itong ganito na, na-erase yan.* *Lagyan mo date, time, "I accept the documents of Rodrigo Duterte."* Then you go to your computer. You must have an actuarial projections there.

Look at the work load. *Napaka-bobo mo naman. Tingnan mo, "Ilan ang workload ninyo?" Pagkatapos, 'O bumalik ka dito, August 3, 3 o'clock.' Iyan 3 o'clock, ibigay mo, ibigay mo.* *Ngayon, I will be establishing 8888, only for, dedicated to corruption.* *Kapag may marinig ako sa Executive Department, even a whisper, even a whisper, hiwalay-hiwalay na tayo. Marami diyan, diyan sa gallery marami diyan walang trabaho, nag-a-apply hanggang ngayon. Hindi naman lahat kasi mayayaman yan eh. Mga asawa ninyo ata 'yan.*

The issuance and distribution of motor vehicle plates at point of sale, or through motor vehicle dealers shall be considered. *Huwag na sa LTO kasi hanggang ngayon, panahon pa ni Hesukristo yung first plate nila, hanggang ngayon wala pa.* *Bayad na yon.* Until now, *sa awa ng Diyos.*

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For the driver's licenses, its effectiveness will be extended from the current 3-year period to 5 years.

To reduce queuing time at ticketing stations, tickets *sa mga train* will be made readily available and easily accessible to the riding public *kung bilhin mo 'yan sa malls, stalls and stores. Eh ipinagbibili mo yung mga sa — e 'di diyan mo na ibigay sa accredited. Huwag doon banda sa Recto kasi sigurado pekein 'yan.*

May I address again the Filipino: *Ako po'y nagdo-doble ang pagod para sa inyo, para sa kapakanan ng bayan. Seryoso po ako. Kaya yung mga ganun, ticket-ticket at magkaroon ng gulo, huwag ho ninyong gawin yan. Ito na yung warning ko, yon na ang last, wala nang iba, hindi ko na gagawin: Huwag ninyong sirain yung mga bagay-bagay na ginagawa namin para sa kapakanan ng tao. Mabuti ang magkaintindihan tayo.*

Mamaya yung kayo — kaibigan ko — tangod, tangod, tangod. Kaya huwag na ninyong gawin. Simple lang 'yan eh. Para walang away sa gobyerno, yung mga bagay na illegal at masama at hindi tama, huwag mong gawin, at hindi kami mag-aaway dito.

*Pati yung pari ha — pati si Pope tinamaan. Let us be clear with each other. I am for the comfort and the welfare of the Filipino. Kayo namang hindi pa bungog diyan, hindi pa pumasok yang mga droga, eh kung ayaw ninyong mamatay, ayaw ninyong masaktan, huwag kayong umasa diyan sa mga pari pati human rights, hindi nakakapigil yan ng kamatayan. So huwag ninyong gawin. Eh tapos nandian ka nakabulagta and you are portrayed in a broadsheet *na parang* Mother Mary cradling the dead cadaver of Jesus Christ. Eh yan yang mga yan magda-dramahan tayo dito. [Dito ako nakatingin kasi nandito ang public eh]. Alam mo, ilang beses ko na sinasabi, sa Davao, "Huwag mong gawin kasi magkaproblema tayo." He who is the cause of the cause is the cause of them all. Ikaw yung nagumpisa, you swallow —*

Ulitin ko ha: He who is the cause of the cause is the cause of them all. Kami nagtrabaho lang. We have a mission to God. We have millions of people to see that they are healthy. It's a question of drug, it's a question of public interest, public order. Kita mo, lesser crime. Wala na kasing magnanakaw, wala nang naghoholdap. Kasi para—Bakit tapos sabi nila eh, 'malilit lang 'yan'. Gamin mo utak mo.

If you are able to contaminate, *kagaya ng negosyo ng mga Chinese, wholesale yan sila.*

Maski konti-konti kung the whole of Tondo contaminated, pera 'yan. I am not saying it's the Chinese. Practice of nitong wholesale, retail. They go for wholesale. Maski na kumita lang ng isang piso diyan sa isang... Okay na yan. Kasi paramihan eh. Iyan ang ibig kong sabihin.

Now, let... I hope the military and the police will not react on this. It is part of the deep intelligence that we have gathered. I am forced to come in public, *kasi pati yung mga pari nag-aano... Alam mo kayong mga media, naghahanap kayo ng, "Where's the big fish?" "Saan yung bilyonaryo na mayaman, yung may kotse, yung may mga Mercedez na yan?" Ma'am, nandoon yan sila sa labas, wala dito. Maghanap ka ng isang batalyon na pulis para hulihin natin doon. Kung kaya natin. They direct the traffic of drugs *sa kanila. Meron silang ganito, malaki. Real time. Nakikinig sila ngayon dito. I am very — 101 percent, nakikinig yan. Nandoon. Doon lang. Izo-zoom in nila sa Tondo. 'O, itapon mo diyan. Tapos umalis ka, kunin mo doon sa tindahan yung bag o package.**

*Nasaan yung mga nakikita ng media na... Kayo lang ang naba-brand niyan na "drug lord" eh. Those are not the drug lords. Mga lieutenant, delivery boy yan. Kumbaga LBC lang yan pati DHL pwede rin. Pati yung tawag nilang "basura", yun yung street ano. Huwag kayong maghahanap. Gusto niyo, sabihin niyo, puntahan natin, I'll give you the names. I'll show you the intelligence paper pero give me the guarantee *na may magawain ka*. Because I'll give you the name, I'll give you the country. Kung wala ka ring magagawa, mag-shut up ka. Kaya hindi lang kami nag... But do not get too personal about our work here. I am saying that dito... [Balik na tayo kasi yung hindi nakakaintindi ng Tagalog ano na yung, ang tagal naman nito...]*

Passenger capacity congestion shall be addressed by increasing the number of running trains from the current 16 trains with a total of 48 cars per hour, to 20 trains with a total of 60 cars per hour. You increase the train speed from 40 [kph] to 60 [kph]. *Ang problema nito, yung mga railway na ito [Hindi na ito kasali diyan. Huwag kayong maniwala dito]* Two-thirds of these are mine, the other third is *yung — correct yung grammar ko, ayaw lang nila*. Sixty kilometers per hour. *Problema nito*, and you must agree with me, that the rails are quite aged. Most of the rails maybe, *doon pa yan sa panahon ni Marcos, Imelda. Nandyan pa. Ngayon, sabi ni Tugade, pagbigay sa akin sabi ko '40 to 60 kilometers per hour.'* Sabi ko, 'Art, sigurado ka maka-hold

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ang rail niyan? Baka maputol 'yan mag diretso ang train sa Cavite.'

Diretso ng Cavite, mulipad doon kay Tolentino. 'O bakit may train dito sa Tagaytay?' It's quite fast, quite fast. Sixty kilometers per hour and you are pulling something that's heavy. When it really moves — mawala ng ano — it moves with a speed at a heavy thing at a great speed, ang hirap mong... Sumasadsad kasi mabigat eh and reduce headway time from five minutes to three minutes. Mahina lang tayo...Ang plano ni Tugade, mahina lang tayo ng one minute sa Hong Kong. Two minutes, sa kanila three minutes eh. Art, ambisyoso ka ah. Kaya mo kaya ito?

Specifically for the LRT, the operating hours shall be extended from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., so marami pang mga bata ang uuwi niyan. And to absorb more passengers, delays in the procurement of additional trains shall be addressed soonest. Now, iyan ang sinasabi ko, if you want the long way, fine. *Wala akong problema. Sabihin ninyo na doon ang — we go the normal way if we are able to make purchases.*

Eh ang maganda nito, I have signed the Executive Order sa aming FOI. Naunahan ko kayo. Iyong inyo... Nandoon na ang sa akin. Oo, tapos na ako. Ilabas ko na — it will be out today. Alam mo sabi ko, unahan na natin itong Congress, puro mayayabang ang mga nandiyang. We grab the — each other... They say, "stealing one's thunder," ika nga. Unahan na natin.

So, we shall also pursue rail projects in Metro Manila and the major key-points in the country including the Mindanao Rail Project. *Hindi ako nagayabang pero totoo talaga 'to. Well, depende sa federal. But six years, lalabas talaga ito.* I assure you because it's going to materialize: Rail projects, the Davao Transit System, the Cebu Transit System, the North and South Luzon Railways and the Panay Railways project. *Kita mo? Panay. Eh taga saan si ano? Eh 'di Panay. Panay ang bigay natin para...*

Sabihin naman ni Senator Drilon, 'Bina-backbite ka dito. Lalagyan daw nung ano, yung island mo ng train. May tawa pa.' Bina-backbite ka dito. Mag-sumborg man 'yan. Tingnan mo 'yan.

Different approaches are also being considered to decongest NAIA including the possible transfer of general aviation. *Ito ang... I will... Hindi... Ang style ko kasi ganito...Hindi naman ako... I am not sticking to formalities. Itong trans — general aviation, alam mo kung*

sino ang tinatamaan niyan? Kayong mayayaman. Kayong may mga helicopter pati eroplano, ilipat ko kayo. Alam mo yung general aviation niyo — mga Learjets, mga 'yung mga sa mga ano kumpanya, ilagay ko kayo sa Batanes para wala masyadong air traffic. No, I'm offering Sangley Point. Kasi kahiiyan ko ang isang runway. I can make a new runway there, sabi ng mga aviation experts but tumbok niyan is the Merville Subdivision. Baka isa pa akong runway dito sa Metro Manila. But if not them, it's going to be Clark but on a condition that we will have a fast train. Sabi ko kay Art, it will be something like 30. One hour of travel, sabi ko kay Tugade, is not acceptable. Make a rail there bago, marami nang... [inaudible] is the bullet train. Ilagay mo yan sa Filipino na driver, sutoy talaga kayo doon, maglampa kayo.

The Clark Airport can be utilized to shift some operations of our domestic and international airlines. Moreover, a one-stop shop will be established within the civil aviation complex for the benefit of the Overseas Filipinos. *Ito mangyari na 'to: To utilize the Clark Airport, it is necessary to establish... Yung mga, well, you have a rail to connect. [Tapos na yan. Itaas mo na kay na i-Tagalog ko na.]*

In the area of environment, the military is directed to intensify its support [*Makinig kayo, sige tawa diyan*] its support role against illegal logging, illegal mining, *nandyan pa naman si Gina Lopez*, and other destructive practices that aggravate the devastation of our natural resources.

I have to protect the country. Many are complaining against the appointment of Gina Lopez. But *si Gina pati ako*, we share the same paradigm: The interest of the country must come first. But *hindi ko naman sinasabi*, there's a law allowing mining. Gina Lopez and I are just telling you: Follow government standards. Do not destroy the environment. Follow it to a tee. *Wala tayong problema. Just pay the correct taxes, follow the standards. Gina is just doing her job. You know, she's a really a crusader, that is how I describe her persona: Crusader. Sabi ko tama yan. Bakit? Nandyan ba si Ma'am? Si Gina Lopez? Secretary Lopez, nandianyan?*

[DENR Secretary Lopez stands up and waves]

Ganito yan, pumunta siya sa Davao. Gabi na mga one o'clock because in the early days of my — when I won, pero hindi pa ako nag-oath, marami nang nagpuntahan. Felicitations, congratulations. Eh si ma'am pumunta twice. Every time, she shows me the degradation.

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Tapos dalawang oras naman mukhang hindi na matapos. Sabi ko, 'Ma'am'. Ma'am, do not be offended ha, totoo man. Huwag ka magalit kay — it's the truth. So mag-a-alas tres na, tapos extemporaneous siya, para ring congressman. Sabi ko, "Ma'am, maga-alas kwatro na." "Ma'am, ano kaya kung ikaw na lang ang DENR?"

Bigla din siya nagsagot, "Totoo ka?" "Oo." Hindi yung "oo." Sabi niya, "I will ask the — I will consult my family and ask my..." The following day, tawag siya kay — my aide, kay Bong. Sabi niya, "Bong, okay na, tinanggap na. Sabi ng pamilya ko, okay na." Sabi ko, "Hay, bantay kayo lahat." But you know, I would not be appointing somebody who is alien to my thinking. I would take in somebody who shares my horizons in life, especially yung degradation ng —

Tama yan. She is a crusader and she will continue. The DENR is likewise directed to review all permits granted to the mining, logging and other environmental sensitive activities to ensure compliance with government standards and if warranted, *ito na yung pinakamaganda*: amend, suspend or revoke permits. Go ahead.

I'd like to thank God that I had this opportunity really — I never — *wala namang ano*, I never thought *umabot ako dito*. I've always... That...*Sa isip ko mahirap itong ano. Itong Laguna Lake, naubos ang mga...* *Wala na ang fishermen. Iyon na lang* — the difference with one big fish pen to the other — *iyon na lang ang sa mga tao. Makita mo sa plane* every time I go to Davao, I pass by that lake there. Every time *nakita ko, talagang wala ng ano*. And the fishermen are complaining about their loss. *Talagang wala na sila kasi ang malit na lugar iyon lang ang kanila.* So *dito pinaraan ko lang* in diplomatic way that the Laguna Lake shall be transformed into a vibrant economic zone showcasing ecotourism by addressing the negative impact of the watershed destruction, land conversion and pollution. *Ito ang nilagay ko.* This is what I am telling you. The poor fishermen will have priority in its entitlements.

Order to Gina is: *Ayusin mo, Ma'am. Huwag mo namang ipitin* but they have to reduce the areas of occupation. They cannot have their cake and eat it too. *Sila na yung may pera, sila na yung* — this must stop. So *kung itanong, 'Sino ang may-ari niyan?'* Simple lang: general, *mga mayor, governor, baka congressman* — this is not personal. This is something that I feel that I must do because it is the right thing to do.

To have adequate disposal facilities for the Metro Manila garbage, the final closure and rehabilitation of the Carmona Sanitary Landfill shall be pursued while the adoption of appropriate waste-to-energy facilities will be explored. *Marami yan.* The technology is coming very fast.

In the area of governance, there is a need to strengthen our efforts along this line. [*Itaas mo na.*]

To better manage public information, a law should be passed — I'm addressing Congress — to create the People's Broadcasting Corporation, replacing PTV-4, the government-run TV station, which now aims to replicate international government broadcasting networks. Teams from these international news agencies — I'd like to mention those interested, BBC — are set to visit the country soon to train people from government-run channels to observe. *Ito ang gusto ko — tutal pera naman ng tao* — to observe editorial independence through innovative programs and intelligent treatment and analysis of news reports, as well as developments of national and international significance.

The government's Bureau of Broadcast Services, better known as the *Radyo ng Bayan*, shall undergo upgrading to make it financially viable and dependable for accurate and independent, and enlightening news and commentary. *Radyo ng Bayan* will be integrated with the PBC.

As we are presently setting up a Presidential Communications Satellite Office in Davao City, PBC will also put up broadcast hubs in the Visayas and Mindanao. Davao City will also be the first site of the first Muslim channel, to be called Salaam Television, and the first Lumad channel.

The PCO shall coordinate with the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Presidential Legal Counsel in implementing the recently approved EO on the Freedom of Information. There is an Executive Order, it's out. As an example on the part of the Executive Branch to make transparency and integrity as yardsticks in government performance, savings and expenses while engaging the public to be vigilant in participating in government programs and projects.

The PCO, in coordination with the Office of the Executive Secretary, is drafting the Administrative Order on the Task Force on media killings.

This government does not condone violence and repression of media. The bona fide media...

Bona fide media...Sometimes they pronounce it "bonafid". But whatever that thing is, the bona fide media has always been our partner for change. *Medyo klaro yan. Anong gawin mo sa hindi bona fide media? Iyan ang problema.*

To address backlogs and low prosecutorial effectiveness and efficiency, the investigation and case management processes shall be streamlined including those for illegal drugs and heinous crimes.

To eradicate the prevalent cultures of fear and silence that have hounded our justice system, I asked Congress — you — to enact the Whistleblower Protection Law while the present Witness Protection Program shall be strengthened. [*Hirap maging Presidente. Maski dito lang.*]

The number of lawyers and support staff in the PAO — that is the Public Assistance Office — regional and districts shall be increased to provide indigents with more access to counsels.

At this stage, I also have directed the DILG to undertake nationwide information and campaign on federalism in partnerships with various alliances and with LGU, civil society, grassroots and faith-based organizations.

Punta muna ako dito ha, itong federalism. Ewan ko kung tama. Alam mo, itong bayan natin, if I may just repeat. I know that you know — on 1521, Magellan landed in Leyte. Kumare ko man ito. [Salamat, mare ha.] Mindanao was already Islam by 100 years. So, ano ito, it's an imperialism thing. There's a historical injustice committed against the Moro people. We have to correct it. But it is well possible now. Kaya kayong mga kapatid kong mga Moro, alam naman ninyo. Ako, I'm mixed. Migrant ang tatay ko doon. So, mixed-blood ako. Moro pati Christian. But, you know, intindihin na lang natin ito, that we can return to you all. Iyong nakuha ng mga Amerikano, Español, pati yung mga Pilipino, mga kapitalista, those who exploited Mindanao with that thing slogan engineering go to Mindanao because it is a land of promise. With the vast entry of so many people, basically coming from the Visayas, magkaroon tayo ng... We cannot solve it the way you want it to be. We have to understand each other then you have to live with each other, but we will try.

Ang sinasabi kong babalik ako, dahil ako sa federalism. Both Misuari, Sema and all, at least the politiko leaders ng Mindanao will agree to it. We do not...Remember that ako 'yung... Hindi ko dinidikdik yung masyadong Abu Sayyaf because it is really connected with the first talks

between Misuari, the President, subsequently President Marcos and now, until now, until now.

The only way they said that we can have this. *Iyong BBL, ibigay na natin, minus the things that you do not want. Iyong mga constitutional issues. Tanggalin muna natin. Ibigay ko yung area. Nandiyan na yan eh. So I ask you pass it minus the constitutional issues that are contentious. Ibigay na natin at when the federal system comes, isali mo na sa package, together with Misuari. That is the solution for Mindanao. Nothing else. Believe me. Nothing else will do. Please sleep on it, ponder on it, because that's the only way to proceed.*

On the clamor of our citizens for timely issuance of Philippine passports, the government shall work towards amending of the 1996 Passport Law to lengthen the validity of the passports from the current five years to 10 years. *Tutal kayo naman ang maggagawa ng batas. You are the ones who will pass the law, even if you make it good for 30 years, okay ako. Bahala kayo. Basta, stretch a little bit because five years is just really simply on a regular basis.*

Matagal pa naman itong passport. Mag-apply ako, ten days. Alam mo, I'd like to call the attention of Secretary Yasay. If you go to Davao, look back doon sa... Look at the back, likod ng nitong mall, yung malaking mall doon. O sige, pangalanan na natin, SM. Doon, yung mga tao nandiyan sa pavement natutulog.

For the many times *nadaan ako na walang ulan, doon lang sila* because first come, first served. And the only outlet there — the outlet of your department is yung sa SM. So yung mga, maawa ako. *Dito sa side sa Cotabato, lahat ng Cotabato, doon sa Davao. Karamihan yan, walang mga bahay.* If you're an applicant in Davao City, fine. But you know, *kung walang mahirap kasi. Karamihan diyan, mga Moro. Naghihiga lang diyan sa pavement. Nasasaktan talaga ako. Masakit eh. Buong gabi mo hintayin hanggang mag-bukas yang SM kasi first come, first served.*

Kaya sabi ko... But that is...I am addressing to all of the Cabinet members: Make use of the computer. I do not want to see people lining up under the heat of the sun. I do not want people lining up under the rain. And I want itong labor... Wala na ito sa script. [Iyong prompter natutulog na siguro 'to, papindot-pindot diyan.]

Alam mo, nandiyan naman yan. Sabi ko what I want is a journal. When the applicant presents the documents, give them a shopping list. Do not add or get anything away from it.

Iyon lang yon, final. And when he complies with that, that is good. Huwag mo na siyang pabalikin. Kasi kung mag-tawag yan ng 8888, my God, puntahan ko talaga kayo. Iyan ang bisyo ko noong mayor ako. It will not make a difference mayor o presidente. Puntahan talaga kita, hiyain kita sa maraming tao. And I would publicly ask you: "What the hell happened to the procedure?" Pupuntahan ko talaga kayo. Local, barangay, pulis, military, lahat. Bigyan mo ng shopping list, huwag mo ng pabalikin. Because pag mag-tawag ng 8888 yan, tapos makita ko na the grievance is valid, bahala ka. Anong walang panahon? Pupuntahan kita sa opisina mo. Bakit? Bigyan mo ng stub. You have to employ actuarial ability, that's easy. Para pag-tanggap ng tao — I'm addressing myself, under me — journal. Papirmahin mo siya. Lagyan mo doon, tingnan mo sa computer. Mag-connect ka doon sa actuarial. Hindi mo kailangan ng bobo diyan e. Matatapos siguro yan mga next month tapusin ko. Projections lang naman. 'O, balik ka dito August 15, 3 o'clock.' Pagdating, ibigyan yan.

Now, if he goes to Malacañang, I'll open it up. For those who have valid reasons to complain about graft and corruption, the gates of Malacañang will be open. *Doon ka. Mag-sumpong ka.* At I will be briefed by my military or aide or yung si ano, itong nagbigay ng tubig. 'Sir, dito marami ka.'

I have the reason why I do not go out. I do not accept invitations. *Hindi ako tumatanggap* because every time I travelled around Manila, it causes a huge congestion. *Kasi pag itong pag-uwi ko*, by projection. *Paglabas ni presidente, ano yan*, picture taking ganon. And they start to block the — yung roads access to the...*Ganon iyan.* Everytime a president comes out, *ganon iyan.* So, *paparahan nila iyan, sasabihin nila, dadaan iyan* by this time. And in the meantime, *sarado yan. Paglabas ko, akala mo Biernes Santo. Walang sasakyang diyan.*

Ikaw pala exponentially — ang traffic, the tail end of the traffic is somewhere [inaudible] And it would take about two to three hours to normalize. *Kaya hindi ako tumatanggap ng...* And I hate to travel. *Kasi talagang lilinisin eh. Ito namang...* *Kasi ang taas kasi ng entourage ng Presidente. Dulo sa dulo may ambulansya.* *Hindi lang entourage, parang [inaudible]* Sabi ko: *Dalawa, tatro, tama na, sa gitna lang ako.* Pero ang totoo, *mag-taxi lang ako dito sa likod. Sunod lang ako. Eh takot man sila na...* *Ano naman ang makuha ko kung patayin mo ako?* What for... *May ambulansya doon. Dagdagan mo na ng punerarya.*

I have also ordered the DFA to streamline documentary requirements and passport applications and open additional Consular Offices in strategic places to decongest Metro Manila sites and avoid queues that have caused hardships and suffering to passport applicants.

I have also directed the newly-created DICT, Information and Communication Technology, to develop a National Broadband Plan to accelerate the deployment of fiber optics cables and wireless technologies to improve internet speed.

Ito para ito sa... Alam ko, mahal kong mga kababaylan, maligayahan kayo nito. Ipag-paano mo lang yung Tagalog ko kasi... Eh kayo hindi kayo marunong mag-Bisaya eh 'di...

Wi-Fi access shall be provided at no charge in selected public places including parks, plazas, public libraries, schools, government hospitals, train stations, airports and seaports. *O 'di ba? Happy lahat.*

All government agencies are instructed to enable their clients to submit applications for coordination to other agencies combined. [*Itaas mo, wala na yan. Ayaw ko nang mag-salita.*]

The national portal, yes, because it's our *parang website. Ito: We shall intensify — mainit talaga ako dito* — I place it in parity with drugs. We shall intensify our war against human traffickers and illegal recruiters that prey on our migrants.

To help ensure that the hard-earned money of the Filipinos overseas are put into productive use, a mandatory financial education for all migrants and their communities will be pursued with incentives to encourage entrepreneurship among them.

I may now also ask on Congress to consider drawing up bills consolidating and merging agencies and offices having to do with the Overseas Filipino to have a department that shall focus on and quickly respond to their problems and concerns. *Kailangan ko ng isa.* And I have asked... I don't know if Secretary Bello is here, Bebot. *Wala? Absinero talaga yan. Maski sa Cabinet absinero yan. Gusto ko, he will rent or we'll lease some buildings here for overseas only.* *At lagyan ko ng* — and they will direct all BIR, *lahat na. BIR, lahat ng something to do with the clearances of the police, in one building, may booth lang.* I said: My God! Make use of the computer.

So doon lang siya mag-ikot sa isang building. Ang Filipino, hindi na siya mag-punta doon sa Statistics. Hindi na siya punta doon sa

ano, diyan, diyan sa opisina. Gamitin ninyo ang computer and you can get the results right after. Why do we have... Has to travel to Malate, then he will just stuck in the traffic. He can only accomplish one document at one time.

NBI clearance is doon na ninyo ibigay. Lahat na doon na. At kung dapat, may-awa si Bello, pakainin niyo yung mga tao doon. Lalo na sa probinsya. Pagtingin ninyo taga-probinsya, finish it right away. Make use of the computer. O kapag hindi niyo ginamit yan, tapon na lang ninyo. Throw away your computers and I will understand that. It would take you years to do it. Do the computer. [Taas mo na yan. Wala na yan.]

Ito: To help avoid squatter-like conditions in relocation sites, we urge utilities like Meralco and electric cooperatives to exercise their social corporate responsibility by making direct connections to relocation sites and depressed areas.

Alam mo kung bakit? Kaya nga nilagyan nila diyan e. That's why I had to talk to you ganito. 'Bakit?' It's because walang kuryente pagka mahirap ka. You do not own the land. That is my experience 23 years as mayor. Hindi magbigay ng direct connection. Kasi hindi ikaw ang may-ari ng lupa but that squatter, they have been there for 20 years.

So mag-connect-connect sila. Pag k-connect-connect nila, ang gamitin nila yung wire na, yung pinaka-mura. So it overheats because connect-connect na lang sila kung sino yung minsan magnakaw. You know, we will have to make the adjustments. It is not for these people to make the corrections because they are not in a position to do it.

We have to adjust to the needs of our people. *Tutal diyan naman yang sa squatter na yan*, as long as I sit here as President, there will be no demolitions without relocations. *Hindi talaga ako papayag. Hindi naman aso yan na* — just like in Davao. I'd like to make a dialogue with the businessmen. "Sir, how much are you investing in this land you have bought with the squatter?" "So, I bought it at about 60 million." *Dagdagan mo ng 20 million. Ako na ang bahala. Sabihin ko doon sa mga tao, "Bili tayo ng relocation site or I will provide."* Government will expropriate. I will make use of the expropriation powers. *Ako ganon sa Davao eh. I have 20 hectares there. I will expropriate some land there. Iyong malapit lang.* Then sabihin ko: "This 20 million will help your journey to a new land." And I will urge everybody *na yung mga bagong mga factories, doon sila mag-tayo.*

Magtiis-tiis lang muna kayo. In the meantime, you have to mitigate the hardships of these people. That's the only way to do it. *Sa demolition, walang matirahan ang tao. Tutal* you sat on your rights for many years *eh bakit mo ngayon, pipilitin mo ako magka-problema ng ganon?* Eh may iba kasi, hinahayaan nila. Ten, 20 years, they do nothing. And when the time comes, *na pagbili lang nila, tayo na disturbuhin.* O 'di gumastos ka para mas madali. Just add a little bit more and there will be at least peace. *Pag hindi, wala yan.* Fight *na naman yan*, between government and the *tawag nila*, "squatters". Squatters *naman talaga yan. Masasaktan lang, mamatay* for no reason at all. *Eh kung mayaman ka, bigyan mo ng konting ano*, provide a relocation. And I'll be glad to talk to the people and say: "Go. It is not yours."

I have directed the concerned regulatory agencies to prioritize the issuance of required permits for power development. *Okay yan sa akin. Ang problema sandali ito.* [Para ka diyan.] Iyong mga environmentalist, meron tayong, meron tayong, ano kasi – marami ang coal. Pati yang... *Ito nga, itong energy emissions, wala man akong problema diyan.* But do not tell me na, if you... Ambassador *ka tapos sabihin mo sa akin na, 'medyo hanggang diyan lang kayo, kasi kami hangang dito lang kami.* 'Sabi ko, 'Ano? Kayo umabot diyan. You are now in the apex of your industrial might. But along the way, you were the first – America, China, Europe.' *Kayong bomba-bomba*, until now we contribute only something point zero. So, if you put so much restrictions *doon sa treaty na yan*, the treaty which we are trying to – it's still here in the Senate. Let us be very clear on this: We need to industrialize. We need the power and, therefore, the emissions would also be considered. You just can't say it: 'I established five economic zones here'. And you start to say that, 'you are spewing so much carbon footprints'. *Mahirap yan.* I mean, it's hard. I cannot just agree on anything that will delay. I'm only good for six years.

And I intend to do something during my term. Now, I'm sure that the heavy machineries would come in and even the power, cheapest is coal. So *ito naman* locally, you get in trouble with Gina. So, we'll just talk *sa Cabinet na lang.* Si Gina *naman* is a very fine lady. *Huwag ka lang magsimangot sa harapan niya. Bigyan ka niya permit maski lima. Magsimangot ka, zero.*

Oo, just be gracious to her, that's all. It's a matter of talking and explaining to them. But if it is... You're using the state of the art technology and I've seen it several times in the other power

plants in this country. If it is really a good one, then we will consider, I said, because we need the energy to power our industrialization.

To strengthen the delivery of social services, the government will intensify its protection programs, so it can use its resources, expertise to make a dent in the country's poverty levels.

What we want is genuinely to reduce the vulnerabilities of our people, build resiliency and empower individuals, and families and communities.

The beneficiaries of 4Ps shall be made to become independent and self-reliant after they have graduated from the program. But the aim is to present it with other forms of assistance, so that they can stand on their own two feet.

But now, I have decided to direct the DSWD to provide the rice subsidies to the poorest of the families, at least, *para makain lang* every month.

Iyong sako na ano...

We are planning to increase spending on basic education and incorporate mandatory education about the evils of drugs.

We will also intensify and expand Alternative Learning System programs. The government will also provide universal health insurance for all Filipinos. Benefits – *Sali na lang natin sa PhilHealth.*

The professional competence and operational capabilities of government hospitals and health facilities will be strengthened.

Consistent with our international obligations, in keeping with national mandates, this administration vows to protect women's rights and human rights abuses against our women, because this is unacceptable to... *Kung mag-bugbog ka ng babae.*

Thus, I order all agencies and oversight bodies and local government units down to the barangay level to fully implement the Magna Carta of Women. By doing so, we'll ensure that man and woman will be partners in the pursuit of country's economic, social, and cultural and political developments.

To our Lumad brothers, and they are here outside. Outside? They are here outside I'm sure. I told the... Just to let them come if they want. *Kanila man ito.*

To our brothers, I have this to say: The government has issued you the Ancestral

Certificates Domain Title covering vast tracts of land especially in the Island of Mindanao. You have the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples to protect you and to assist you.

Government has given you the tool, the legal tool to improve yourself financially, economically and socially. Make use of your ancestral domain. Do not let it remain idle.

While the government is always ready to help you, you must first help yourself. We cannot legislate financial and economic progress for you. It is you and you alone who can do that. You can chart your fate, but do it within constitutional and legal means.

After being devastated by natural and man-made calamities these past few years, we are still to recover emotionally from the loss of our loved ones, and materially from the loss of our homes and our income sources.

There are many among us whose emotional wounds are still fresh and painful to the touch. We cannot erase the images of death and destruction from our minds. We cannot wash away the stench of rotting flesh from our noses. And there are many of us who are still waiting for the help that was promised.

The enormity of the problem of drug addiction has been made manifest by the number of surrenderees which grows by the hundred each day that passes. Since July 1, we have already made 3,600 related drug arrests. 120,000 drug dependents have already surrendered and 70,000 of them are pushers. You think this is just a... It could take the entire resources of this government to fight this war.

I have nothing but the interest of my country. But let's wait because the PDEA says that – it's about the past statement made by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Two years ago, PDEA came out with a statement that there are three million drug addicts in this country. That was two or three years ago. How do you think – would the number incrementally if we count now?

Give it a liberal addition. Maybe, *gawin mo na* 700,000. So three million seven hundred thousand [3.7 million]. The number is quite staggering and scary.

The drug lords that you desperately want to strangle are not here. *Wala mga bilyonaryo dito.* The ones that you caught, running after, are just the lieutenants. They do it with technology. They're cooking it in the international waters.

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Itinatapon nila 'yan bulto, by the drums. Dikitan nila ng GPS. So makikita agad. We are hard put sa intelligence because they have invented this direct satellite.

Hindi na magdadaan yan ng...All they have to do is to triangulate where the – pag-ikot niya. And there's so many – and they are in codes. If we do not help from our friends here in Asia and America, and Europe – this year number and problem, believe me, will drown us as a Republic.

Kayo tingnan ninyo ito. How can I solve the problem now by arresting? Hinahanap... Kung matagal na akong Presidente, gusto kong patayin. Ang problema pupunta pa ako doon and I'll ask the permission from this country that I will go because I have to slaughter these idiots who are destroying my country.

Ganoon yun eh. Presidente, ayaw ko naman bitawan, kasi ayaw naman kasi ng military, pati pulis. But you know, I said, "I'll be talking in front of the Republic to its representatives, for the people". So I have to tell you: "How do we solve this problem?" Can we? Ako naman okay lang eh. Make it public, fine. Make it confidential, if you go to me or go to you, to your house, okay. But that is really the enormity of the problem. It's so enormous that you are intimidated even just to make a move. Because you cannot stop it anyway. Mabunggo mo isa dito hinulog sa dagat, eh marami naman nagluluto doon.

It's a free for all enterprise for the criminals at this time. Kung ako, if I had just the plan...Sabi ko, sabi ko sa military kapag nakita ninyo, pasabugin mo na. Maski nag-surrender yan, may white, white flag. Pang-giyera lang yan, hindi yan pang-kriminal, pasabugin mo.

Show no mercy to them because they're not doing any mercy to us anyway. *Bakit ako...Iyan ang problema.*

But we should not despair. Like someone wrote: It is when the night is darkest, that dawn breaks.

We are imbued with resiliency that has been tested and proven. More difficult times as in the past. We have a bond to act together. We have to help each other. For then and only then can we truly prevail.

And the Filipino, disciplined, informed, involved, shall rise from the rubbles of sorrow and pain. So that all the mirrors in the world will reflect the face of a passion that has changed this land.

Daghagh salamat.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT SESSION

Thereafter, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives declared the joint session adjourned.

It was 5:40 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Atty. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on July 26, 2016