

**Presidential Communications Operations Office**

**Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING HIS TALK TO TROOPS**

[Delivered at Camp Melchor F. Dela Cruz, Brgy. Upi, Gamu, Isabela | 18 September 2018]

Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat.

I just like also to introduce the gentlemen who are here with us. Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero; Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu; AFP Chief of Staff General Carlito Galvez; Lieutenant General Rolando Bautista; Major General Perfecto Rimando; the officers, enlisted personnel of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; ladies and gentlemen.

I would have wanted to just talk to you. Hindi kasi ako sanay magbasa. Usually I just would want to talk to my troops para masabi ko rin ang ano sa loob ko. But the problem is, I am having constraints with the night-time naka --- mag-chopper pa kami doon eh.

So I will just read. But sabihin ko sa inyo, I think we are winning the war finally. Maraming front sa Mindanao bumagsak na, especially on the right side, eastern --- Davao, Agusan, 'yan banda. Dito sa western, wala naman silang malakas na front because the Moros are there.

At ang Moro naman, hindi naman talaga papayag na they were --- become too powerful over the area. So dito lang sila sa central pati sa...

And I think that kung maawa ang Panginoong Diyos, this will be over by about the second quarter of next year. Ang rami na kasi nagsu-surrender. And ang maganda diyan is ang armas.

Usually hindi talaga nagdadala ng armas. It's an --- bawal na bawal. Papatayin ka talaga. But this time, they are coming down at nagsu-surrender ng armas.

At pati 'yung mga leader nila, mga PO, nag-surrender. So malaking bagay 'yung ano ang sinasabi nila. Nakapag-trabaho 'yung intelligence based on what the surrenderees or surrenderors are telling them.

Dito it's just a matter of ragtag pa ano except maybe Samar --- Samar, Quezon. Dito sa Isabela, medyo hindi na masyado.

Kaya I will just read my speech. Just the same. It is in honor of my soldiers.

Today, I stand proud as I speak before some of the most courageous men and women of our country.

Your unwavering dedication to duty is a testament to your commitment to protect our people and reminder of your sworn oath to defend the nation. By being here, we also honor the sacrifices of our wounded and fallen soldiers who have fought for the freedom we currently enjoy. In fact, the conferment of the Order of Lapu-Lapu to four of you today is proof of your patriotism and bravery in face of danger.

The development of our nation has always been hindered by insurgency and terrorism. I therefore commend the active involvement and relentless efforts of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division against various threat groups in your area of operations. The presence of the NPA surrenderors is proof of the 5<sup>th</sup> ID's achievements and collective resolve to restore peace in our land.

Because of your valiant efforts, we have convinced almost a hundred NPA surrenderors who decided to return to the fold of the law and we also successfully recovered 45 firearms.

We continue to rely on the assistance of our troops, especially in the relief and recovery of communities affected by Typhoon Ompong.

Alam mo, noon ha maraming nagrereklamo. That was an election promise. Hindi ako namumulitika. Hindi na ako makatakbo eh.

So inuna ko kasi alam ko 'yung... Matagal kasi akong mayor, 23 years sa Davao. Halos 'yan sila nakilala ko lahat, nakadaan ng --- nadaan ng Mindanao, almost kaibigan ko lahat.

Ngayon, alam mo in times of emergency 'yung civilian leaders, in times of crisis wala kang ibang matawagan especially mobilization, Armed Forces pati Police talaga 'yan.

'Pag may baha, sunog, lahat. Ang isusubo mo giyera pati patayan ang pulis pati ang sundalo. And that's why sa campaign ko, it was a campaign promise. I said, 'pag ako ang nanalo, dodoblehin ko ang inyong sweldo.

True enough. *[applause]* Nagpunta ako doon sa Benguet kahapon. So nandoon si Albayalde. Sabi ko, "Sige, pa ba?" Sabi ko, "Huwag ninyong hintuan para naman ang mga tao hindi ma-ano. Kasi may naririnig pa daw ganun na ganun. Whatever."

Sabi ko, "We are not yet in the retrieval, recovery pa tayo." So retrieval is more or less 'yung ano na lang ang naiwan.

Ngayon sabi ko, "Ilan ang nandiyan ngayon?" Sabi niya, "Almost 300 policemen are digging since yesterday." Okay, sabi ko... Sinabi ko doon, sabi ko, "O kita mo? Sino bang ginagawa ninyong basurero? Sinong ginagawa ninyong trabahante? Eh 'di ba sundalo pati pulis?"

Doblado nga 'yung... Dapat kulang pa 'yan eh. So in my time, I give you everything. In my time, lahat na hiningi ninyo ibinigay ko. Lahat, medisina. May nagka-problema lang tayo, nagalit ako. But I hope that the leadership of the AFP will be --- well, good enough to restore 'yung --- lalo na 'yung mga... Hindi talaga ako papayag. Hindi ako papayag na ano...

So I told them to just --- I hope it would not be repeated again. Ganun ang trabaho ninyo.

The Filipino people are grateful for your heroism and as your Commander-in-Chief, I assure you that you are not alone in this fight. You have my full support and I stand by you as we secure a safer future for our children.

The path that we have chosen is one that is difficult and one that requires selfless dedication. Know that the government will provide you and the tools and the resources necessary to effectively perform your mandate as protectors of the nation.

Alam mo, totoo lang, panahon ko, iyang AFP Hospital ninyo has 50 million a month, medisina lang; and V. Luna has another 50. So huwag akong makakarinig na wala ang medisina ang sundalo.

And right after Marawi, nag-release ako ng separate 500 million for intervention lang sa mga medisina rin ninyo, aside from the 50. Kasi karamihan ng mga sundalo matatanda na, may management, high blood, kidney.

So sinugurado ko 'yan. At 'yung PGH sabi nila na walang pera palagi ang Pilipino, pati mga doktor na ang nagko-contribute na lang doon para makabili. Ang pobrang Pilipino, tinawag ko ang chief nila. Sabi ko, "Magkano ang ano ninyo yearly?" Siguro mga --- I don't know if I heard it correctly, mga 36 million.

Sabi ko, "Isang --- 100 million. Makatulong 'yan?" Sabi niya, "Sir, malaking tulong 'yan sa taong bayan." Sabi niya, "Yearly, sir?" Sabi ko, "No. One hundred million a month kayo."

Nandiyan 'yung mga espesyalista natin. And I want that all my injured shoulder --- soldiers rather --- iyong mga ano ninyo must be 'yung titanium. Ayaw ko 'yung plastic-plastic na... I want a titanium --- 'yung prosthetics for magamit niyo.

Ayaw ko 'yung mukhang plaster cast na --- gusto ko titanium para sa mga napinsala nating sundalo. And I will always take care of you for as long as I am the President of this Republic. *[applause]*

Now, more than ever, we need to --- we need reliable and determined leaders who will continue to fight against the ills of society and help us in realizing our shared vision of a stronger and safer nation.

Alam mo ang sinasabi ko talaga sa lahat. Kasi kanina sa meeting and any other meeting, alam mo sabi ko, 'pag wala tayong law and order pati ang corruption nandiyan, hindi talaga aangat ang Pilipinas. Maniwala kayo. Maski gaano niyo...

You can die five times and this country will never improve. Kailangan talaga matahimik at maraming makapunta dito, walang kidnapping, walang hold-up, walang patayan, walang droga at ang korupsiyon sa gobyerno, 'yan ang...

At ginagawa ko lahat 'yan because ang promises ko noon, graft and corruption ginagawa ko, hindi ko lang talaga kaya lahat sabay. Sabi ko droga, alam naman ninyo, ilang demanda na ako ngayon.

Sabi ko hindi ako makialam sa pinansya ng gobyerno. Walang transaction sa gobyerno na papel na umaabot sa mesa ko. Lahat 'yang contract about MRT, train, reclamation, doon lang 'yan sa Cabinet member. Hindi 'yan umaabot sa ano. Wala ka talagang maturo sa akin because I do not sign anything. And I do not intervene.

Kaya ayan ang pangako ko. Wala kang makita sa akin. Ako tatrabaho lang. Iyon, 'yung promotion ninyo ang madalas kong kaharap. Kasi 'pag na-promote na 'yung isa, eh wala nang katapusan 'yung papel kasi promote lahat eh.

May mag --- mag-retire dito sa Navy, mag-retire sa Air Force, akyat lahat, pirma na naman. Pare-pareho lang 'yung pangalan, iba-iba na lang ang rango.

With your bravery... Nasa inyo ako. Naintindihan ko trabaho ninyo and patriotism. Pareho lang tayo. Ako trabahante. I do not --- narinig ninyo ako nagsabi nga "President Duterte."

Have you ever heard me talk about myself, "President Duterte?" or calling myself, "President?" or calling Malacañan Palace as a "Palace?" Sige daw, mag... Try to remember.

Ako 'pag mag-address ako, que se joda kung sinong kaharap, sinasabi ko, kung tayo-tayo, "we are all workers of government and we work for the people," period.

And if I want to see you --- *[applause]* Hindi ako nagsabi na you go to the Palace o Malacañan Palace. I just said, "Go to my office."

Magtanong, "Saan ka nakatira?" "Sa Pasig." Hindi ako nagsasabi, "Malacañan."

Kasi nakokornihan ako. Kaya tawagin ninyo ako, totoo lang. Alam ng... "Mayor". Do not address me as President. Hindi kita sasagutin. Dadaan lang kita.

You say, "Mayor, mayor." "O, ako 'yung tinatawag mo?" Mayor. Presidente, maghanap ka nang iba diyan.

With your bravery and patriotism, I am optimistic that we will one day defeat all threats to our sovereignty, improve the lives of our people and strengthen the foundation of a more inclusive and progressive tomorrow.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang 5th Infantry Division! Puro matatapang. *[applause]*

May I call General Bacarro, iyong medal of honor na... Sir, lahat na idol ko 'yang...

Yes, sir! Happy birthday, sir. *[applause]*

Bong, may ibigay ako kay --- bukas ka na mag... Iyong maganda. Hindi magandang babae, maganda sa... *[laughter]* Magandang bagay.

Sir, I hate to disappoint you. Gusto kitang maka-dinner ngayon pero we are here in the field. But if you'd allow me to invite you one of these days for coffee a...

Basta mga Valor sir bilib --- kasi sir, duwag ako. Takot ako mamatay.

Lahat ng matatapang, sir, idol ko. Congratulations, sir. I salute you!

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