

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
PRESIDENTIAL NEWS DESK**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE PHILIPPINES-CHINA BUSINESS FORUM**

[Delivered at Grand Hyatt in Beijing, China | 30 August 2019]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

The Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin; House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, those are my part of my entourage; Philippine Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Christopher Lawrence Go *[applause]*, first Chinese Senator of the Philippines *[laughter]*; Ambassador Jose Santiago Sta. Romana, our Ambassador here; my friends in the business community; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Well, there is a note here it says, "you have another event with President Xi Jinping". Well, I --- if... Do I understand this as a one-on-one?

You know I don't know if it is proper or not but I would deviate from my speech, a prepared one to just... I don't know if it's a taboo topic but there are two kinds of money that would want or now are entering the Philippine economic cycle.

One is the government-owned corporations or agencies doing business at the behest of the Chinese government. The other one is the private money I think which is not allowed to be brought out of the country without the permission coming from your government.

I was advised of this late but I don't know if I have a chance to see the President again. We had a restricted meeting last night. And well had I known about this then would be a proper subject for a restricted meeting topic, I would have brought it up with him.

I don't know if I'm --- I would be lucky. But I think I will --- I'm going with him to the opening of the FIBA, maybe I will tell him.

Good afternoon and thank you for your warm welcome. I am glad to be in Beijing once again. At the outset, let me thank our Chinese friends for the

interest to be part of the Philippines' growth story. We are encouraged by your vote of confidence in our economy.

The Philippines is one of the fastest growing economies in the region and in the world. We have grown for the past 82 consecutive quarters and recorded above 6 percent annual growth rate since 2012.

To sustain this positive trajectory, we have embarked on a historic "Build, Build, Build" Program, under which we welcome more Philippine-Chinese cooperation.

We have also recently launched our Construction Industry Roadmap for 2020 until 2030.

We aim to increase the value of our construction industry led by Engineer Sid Consunji. They represent some of the most reliable and reputable construction companies in our country.

This is the [first ever] Philippine Construction Mission to China. They are here to benchmark on digital building technologies and deliver quality construction in the most efficient and effective manner.

More importantly, they are here because they are eager to partner with you in creating new and sustainable construction technologies and solutions, given your know-how.

In return, they can offer you the benefits of [our preferential] trading arrangements with various economies, especially the US and European Union.

We therefore have a win-win situation here. And I invite you all to take advantage of it fully.

The Philippines aspires to build globally competitive integrated iron and steel industry.

We thus welcome the agreement between HBIS Group Asia and Steel Asia to establish an Integrated Steel Mill in the Philippines. The project is very important to us. It will enhance our capacity to produce [high-quality and] safe steel products by 2030.

I have specifically instructed Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez, who is sitting at the other side, to immediately facilitate the processing of clearances and other requirements from all government agencies for your project.

Now, we talk of the cooperation in manufacturing, agriculture, and services. There are opportunities as well in manufacturing, agriculture, and services.

The Philippines and China agreed to develop industrial parks where Chinese investors and manufacturers can set up factories.

I am pleased to note that the construction of our first industrial park is projected to start in the first half of 2020. I am pleased to note that the construction and all others investors to utilize this platform and harness our growing domestic market of more than 100 million people.

With our young skilled workforce, you will be [well-positioned] to build your business in my country.

Rest assured that my government is committed to maintaining an environment that allow businesses to thrive.

Let me end by stressing [that] our economic ties are a vital linchpin of our two countries' multi-faceted relations.

I kind of do not deliver speeches --- reading prepared speeches. I'd like to just to talk to you, gossip with you. Gossip is a good word in business.

Well, we do business. I understand that you businessmen have the money and you want to do business because you want to earn profits. That is given. It is well understood by the Philippines. And therefore, part of the your hesitancy before was that the Philippines was a corrupt country and not a peaceful one.

Well, I would like to assure you that during my term I will not allow corruption. And if you go to the Philippines with your partners or he must have something there as an agent, let him come to me for any of your problems.

You know I have given everybody including the issuance of permits for only two days. And that when your agent goes there to apply and submit papers, you are in return also given a list of the many things that you have to comply. This is a one-time transaction.

They give you a list of what you have to produce and you gather those documents and clearances and I will not allow the governmental office to add or take away some of the things that were given you.

If you give them the list, that is it. And your agent cannot be going back and forth. I do not like postponing actions because the more that they ask you to come to their office, the more that the corruption, the opportunity of corruption exists. Because then by delaying the release it only means one thing, he is asking for money.

So if you encounter or your agents or your lawyers would tell you that this official is asking for something like this DPWH or whatever, you just tell me and I will call that official whoever he is in my office and in your presence. And kindly bring some money old money and coins with you. I will tell the officials to eat the money and swallow the coins in your presence. *[applause]*

I am not joking. I have done it several times and perhaps I will do more until and unless the bureaucracy of the Philippines behaves. So that is one.

You are interested in profits. We will guarantee your ROI. You take your money away if you want to go or transfer. Do not worry. We will not make it hard for you.

It is not our money it is your money and if you want to go out, if you are not satisfied or if you are losing, then by all means tell us and get your money without any disturbance at all.

That is a promise which I gave to you. And that is why I give you the privilege of going to my house or office. I have a very simple house. It's a small one. I do not live in the main office. They call it a palace. But that was --- that's a palace that was built by the Spaniards many years ago during the imperial expeditions to the Philippines and by the Americans. I do not sleep in that palace because it is not a palace at all. It is an office of the people of the Philippines.

You can go to my house. It's a very small one. But we can have dinner and maybe if you want to spend a night to sleep in the palace, I will accommodate you just to have the experience.

But you'll have to take care of the ghosts there *[laughter]* especially this is the ghost month. August is the ghost month.

So many things to say but what I can assure you is that I will not allow corruption. I will not allow wrongdoing. I will not allow anything that will destroy or disturb your business. *[applause]*

You have I said the privilege of asking your lawyers or your agents to call me and I will give you the audience. Remember the name because in my

national TV there's an 8888, that's the name of the station. You can name the corrupt official, Rodrigo Duterte asking for money, office of the BIR. There's no libel involved if that message is directly given to me because as a matter of public policy I do not incur libel because that is my duty.

Any wrongdoing must be corrected and it has to be corrected by me. All you have to do is to bring your money. But you know there are also many criminal gangs Chinese and also in the Philippines who kidnap especially those Chinese who are gamblers. And once they lose heavily, there are financials mostly Chinese that would lend you the money. But after that, they would ask for your repayment and if it cannot be repaid at once, they kidnap and sometimes they kill Chinese nationals --- kidnapped by Chinese nationals.

So since there are laws to be followed, we will --- I have asked your government to help us on this. But for those who are into drugs, the drug lords and those who are into this kind of thing of killing people for money, you know when you do that, you destroy my country and you destroy the economic life and eventually you destroy what is there for the people to lose everything, and we go back again to misery.

So for those who are into drugs, crimes, I am just asking them: Please avoid the Philippines because if you destroy my country with drugs, cocaine and everything, I will kill you. Period.

That's the agreement. But if you are a law-abiding citizen, if you are a businessman and you are thriving, rich, do not worry we will protect you. We will protect your money. And when the time comes you want to go out, you can bring all your money outside of the Philippines. That is my guarantee and you have my protection and word of honor.

Thank you and good afternoon. *[applause]*

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