Presidential Communications Operations Office Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE 60TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF COR JESU COLLEGE AND TURNOVER OF CHECK TO EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

[Delivered at the CJC Almendras Gym in Digos City, Davao del Sur | 30 December 2019]

Kindly sit down. Salamat.

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; Senator Bong Go; Davao del Sur Governor Douglas Cagas; Digos City Mayor Josef Cagas; faculty members and staff of Cor Jesu College led by its president Brother Ellakim Sosmeña; our brothers and sisters affected by the recent earthquake; other invited guests; akong mga kaigsuonan.

I have a prepared speech. Pero gusto kong mangutana ninyo unsa man ning linog gidaog-daog mo pabalik-balik? [laughter] Daog-daog na basta ingon ana.

You know, one thing is very clear to us: we cannot predict earthquakes. So there's a movement, tectonic, dito sa banda sa --- you know those big rocks, as big as a wall, they grind together; and because of their movement downstairs, they create trouble for us.

Kaning mga buang kung mahimo lang pabuthan ta ning granada kaning mga yawa, nagsige lang ano --- when they move, they create a ripple and that is the earthquake. Kaya ako nung --- I was also --- 6. something, I was asleep. And itong --- my nurse na pulis, inakyat ako sa taas sa kwarto ko, sabi niya, "Sir, sir, naglinog." I could really see the house swaying.

Sabi ko, "Sige lang, okay lang. Bumaba ka lang. Huwag mo akong idamay." [laughter] Sabi niya, "Hindi, sir. Hindi." Tawag siya ng... Gigakos ako niya... Asa na ba tong bayhana 'to? Nagatago kay nahiya. Iya na kong gigakos sa diri sa hawak, iya na kong gibira. Natulog ko sabi ko, "Unsa man imong binuang diha? Patiran taka, hawa diha." [laughter]

"Sir, dili kay kuwan..." Natawag niya 'tong mga laki nga Presidential Security nasaka sa taas kay alsahon ko. Sabi ko, di ko mutuo anang ingon ana. Binuang mana. Kaning earthquake-earthquake. Sagpaon ko pa nang yawa pag nakit-an... [laughter] Nabu-bwisit ako sa... Ayaw mog tuo ana. Panghadlok man lang na.

You know I --- I'd like to tell you all, we came here '48 and up to now. Far and wide in between those years, I experienced earthquake mas malakas pa noon diyan. But wala man. Padaganon lang mi sa gawas sa among inahan. Unya pagkahuman, walay nahitabo hangtod karon. Mao nang hindi ko mutuo nga --- di ko mutindog labi nag natulog. Ayaw mo'g tuo-tuo anang yawa. Kay magsige mo'g hadlok ana mubalik nang buang. [laughter] Sige lang.

Well, I'd like to share this moment with you. And I'm happy that I've been able to make it. Sa akong ka-busy, I'd like to apologize that I should have been here when the earthquake was doing their thing. The problem I was so busy in Manila. Talagang busy ako and there were things which I could not just let anybody handle it because it's a very sensitive issue.

And I'm referring to the --- itong... You know, every administration, every critique, and everyone would always say, "Where is the big fish? Bakit maliliit lang?" But I remember that during the campaign kung nakinig kayo sa akin, if you listened to me, ang sabi ko sa... Ito lang, wala akong --- wala masyado akong programs. One is that I will go after drugs, then corruption, then I'll fix government and the minor corruption dito sa lower end, sa Customs pati BIR.

BIR, the one who is doing the work there is Billy Dulay. He's an Ilocano. He was my friend and right after the war, he also migrated to Davao and became the lawyer of Alcantara House Counsel. He has collected 2 trillion, plus, plus, plus. So okay tayo dito sa --- 'yung mga lower.

Ang problema, I'd like to tell you is the --- magsabi sila, "Saan 'yung big fish?" Okay, I'll tell you. The big fish now? Si Ayala pati si Pangilinan.

And they corrupted the Filipino people. They signed an agreement, a contract, which was not shown to the country. Ngayon na magbayad na tayo, pabayarin tayo, at nung panahon na walang tubig, doon ko na nakuha 'yung kalokohan nila. Somebody told me that there is water.

So I asked the military intelligence community na silipin nila kung meron ba talagang tubig. And they said meron. Kaya sabi ko, pardon my language, "Mga p**** i** kayo, pagdating ko sa Maynila bukas 'pag walang tubig,

pagsasampalin ko kayo lahat." Kasi alam ko may tubig eh. P**** i** ninyo bantay kayo sa akin.

So when I arrived --- when I landed Manila, niagas na ang tubig. So doon ako nag-ano, doon ako nagkaroon ng bakokang sa ulo. Tapos may 7 million na bayaran ko daw, accountability, doon sa mga Manila Gas pati Maynilad.

I am --- they were asking me to pay 7 million for their losses. Kaya sabi ko, "Bakit ako magbayad?" Tinignan ko 'yung kontrata. 'Yung kontrata, cannot be reformed. That contract cannot be novated, ilisdan ba. That contract cannot be corrected by provisions. Hindi pwede. And that contract is null and void from the very beginning.

Hindi man kailangan na bar topnotcher ka. Sa isang basa mo, kalokohan talaga. You know what? They control the water. They are just distributors. And in that contract, the Philippines surrendered sovereignty by allowing these concessionaires to control when there should be an increase.

Sila 'yang may hawak sa faucet. Walang pakialam ang gobyerno. Ngayon, itinatanong ko na ngayon kung sino itong mga abugado kasi I'm going after them. Number one, kung malugi sila bayaran natin sila.

That happened because they were asking for an increase from the regulator tapos it was delayed because it was election time. And you know, during election time, the politicians with all their hypocrisy would not want to increase the price sa tubig.

So sila ang nagko-control. Noong dumating sa akin na, seven --- eight --- eight billion, sinabi sa aking ganun. Sabi ko, "Ba ko --- bakit ako magbayad?" Sabi ko --- eh talagang nag-explode ako.

Bakit ako magbayad? Na in the contract binasa ko, if they incur losses, bayaran natin sila. If it's the fault of the government that they cannot make money this month, they will sue us or as a penalty, we should pay." Sabi ko ka --- p***, grabe naman ito.

And second, 'yung corporate income tax nila, they were allowed by the contract signed by the government with Manila Gas and Maynilad --- two contracts --- that they can pass it on. 'Yung corporate income tax nila shall be answered by the consumers.

Wala talaga. Tayo ang magbayad. And the contract is 2037. Noong nag-ano sila --- nag --- 'yung sila pa, the contract was signed in 1997. Tapos it was due to be renewed during Gloria's time.

Ang problema, they were given extension. Wala pa, hindi pa dumating ang 2037, naghingi na sila ng extension. So many years away, meron na silang extension ibinigay. Kasi hindi man nila sigurado kung sinong presidente sunod. Sa panahon ni Gloria, sigurado sila, naghingi sila ng extension.

Pangatlo, well I seem to --- 'yung --- basta 'yung pangatlo as odious as the first. 'Yung mga empleyado nila noon sa Malacañan na gumawa nung contract, nandiyan ngayon sa kanila. Prominent of those is si Almendras. He's now an executive sa Manila Water. 'Yan ang...

Tapos may isa pa eh nakalimutan ko. There's another provision that's really something. Pero 'yan lang tatlong 'yan. If you --- some of them are lawyers. 'Pag hawakan mo 'yung Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices --- that's Republic Act 3019 --- 'pag hinawakan mo 'yan, tapos 'yung kontrata nila, itandi mo, all the provisions of the Anti-Graft law can be found in the contract.

Lahat, surrender of sovereignty, tapos may isa. 'Yung palang isa, if you are a Manila resident, you would see in your water bill, meron doon sabi, "environment enhancement." They just, you know, coated it with so... It was water treatment na gawain sana sa Harrison. That water treatment was sa -- kasali sa billing 'yan every day, every collection. So ngayon, ilang trillion 'yan? Paano tayo magka-intindihan dito? Kasi nagbayad kami ng water treatment, until now walang water treatment.

It is not the... That is estafa or economic sabotage. Either way, no bail 'yan. Nakita mo sila, tahimik talaga. Puro apology, apology, apology. Ako naman, I can allow the novation of the contract. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of Justice has his proposal.

It's all encompassing but removing the objectionable things there in the original contract. Pero ang akin nito --- buti nga makinig si Pangilinan pati si Ayala --- there is a violation of law. A crime has been committed.

You cannot reform that contract. You cannot novate, whatever, because at right at the beginning, it is null and void.

Ngayon magkagulo ito and I hope I'd not be forced to assume. Kasi sabi ko sa kanila, ayusin nila ito. 'Pag magkaso-kaso sila, mag-file sila ng kaso, diretso na. Mag-file sila sa Supreme Court, I will declare a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. And I will arrest all of them. I want billionaires inside the prison. [applause]

Makatikim talaga 'yang mga y*** na 'yan. They have been telling you all along sa kampanya ko, itong mga Customs, itong mga --- wala 'yan. Chipipay 'yan. Pagdating mo sa taas, bilyon ang transaction. 'Yang Inquirer, 'yung Mile Long, that is a government property.

Tapos sila --- itong mga may-ari ng Donut, nandoon 'yung ano nila, parang factory. Tapos nilagyan nila --- 'yan, 'yang mga tindahan diyan. They got the money, not their property but they never, never turned the money to the government. There's no turnover.

'Yung ano talaga ng --- 'yang mga mayaman, talagang... Kaya ito, would really be... It can destroy me, it can create --- mayaman 'yan eh.

Pero sabi ko nga sa mga military and you, if per chance I do not make it to the finish line, huwag ninyong bitawan 'yang kalokohan ng mga mayaman. You continue fighting them for they are there really to scratch everything from the barrel --- bottom of the barrel kunin nila ang makuha nila.

Hindi ko naman sinasabi but you know the imponderables of life. You can never tell that you'd --- may go anytime.

Sabi ko, if I do not reach the finish line in this issue, kayong mga abugado, all of you, you read the contract and do not --- do not compromise.

Kasi mag-compromise kayo, then they will just say, "Ah sige aregluhin na lang natin. Pera-pera lang naman 'yan." 'Yan ang style nila eh. Ah pera-pera lang 'yan. So they begin to corrupt and try to negotiate.

Ako, mag-negotiate tayo pero filan (file) ko kayo ng kaso. We will negotiate because it is your equipment, machinery ninyo, it's your pipe pero if you threaten me that you will stop operation, I don't think that will succeed.

I will order the military: General Año sa local government; Rolly Bautista, he's the Army Chief noon; and sabihin ko sa kanila, kunin niyo 'yang negosyo nila by way of expropriation.

I-expropriate ko lang tapos 'yung mga tao na who had --- who has had experience, experiences in the handling of water, 'yung nag- retire, kunin ko, bayaran ko and just tell the soldiers how to operate it para may tubig tayo.

And ano itong hindi matapos-tapos na... Is it the Wawa dam? [Officials answer: Kaliwa.] [Senator Go: Kaliwa Dam.] Ano? [Senator Go: Kaliwa at saka Wawa Dam.]

Itong tubig ba. I know the --- I, I can give you a little bit of an elbow room to move.

Itong mga nakatira doon, they're of course they're all natives. They are trying to delay the project by you know... And we need water.

Manila without Wawa and itong isa --- [Ano 'yon?] [Senator Go: Kaliwa] Kaliwa Dam. This will be the last resort to have water for Manila.

I will order them to go ahead and we will pay the natives and we will relocate them. But for them, for the courts to issue itong mga TRO-TRO, sabi ko nga, do not make it to the point na sabihin ko, "ignore them."

Huwag kayong maniwala diyan sa korte kasi after all, pera-pera rin 'yan.

'Yang mga g***** 'yan mga transaction, 'yung losing bidder mag-demanda tapos mag-TRO. Kaya ang mga project nahuhuli. Only to realize that gusto lang kumuha nung losing bidder, maghingi lang siya ng kaunti doon sa nanalo.

And yet itong korte, I'm warning the judge --- judges --- that be sparing about issuing TRO. Otherwise, I will publicly announce that, "do not follow." You follow the program of government.

'Yang TRO is just --- 'yon ang ginagamit, pera-pera diyan eh. Not all, in fairness to everybody and to the other judges, pero 'pag binigyan mo ng pera 'yang mga buang na 'yan, mag-issue talaga ng TRO 'yan.

And you delay the projects and that is why we are caught in a bind whether we are able --- we would be able to deliver water in the coming years.

And that is why itong kalokohan ng Pilipinas, part of the graft and corruption 'yan. It's money. Money-money lang 'yan. 'Pagka bigay kaagad itong g***** judge na ito.

Otherwise, I will go to him tapos sabihin ko basahin mo 'yang TRO mo. If it is really a work of a legal mind then maybe 'pag hindi, ipakain ko 'yang TRO mo.

We have to do something about this. Kapag ka hindi --- puro ka na lang TRO, TRO. Kaya sinabi ko huminto kayo. Otherwise, pupuntahan ko kayo doon sa opisina ninyo at mag-usap tayo. Siguraduhin mo lang na --- kay 'pag hindi, kakainin mo talaga 'yang papel. I am desperate. I am desperate. Simply because I have been trying to stop corruption in this government. Hanggang ngayon mayroon pa. Hanggang ngayon hindi 'yan... Every table in government, mayroon talaga 'yan.

Kaya sabi ko Cabinet members, you have 30 days. Itong mga director-director sabi ko, you have three days to act on it. You do not do that, I will file a case against you. I will assign you in Malacañan. You get out there in that office and diyan ka sa Malacañan. Bigyan kita ng bingwit. Karaming tilapia diyan sa... Diyan ka.

Ganun. Sabihin nila diktador ako? Diktador. Diktador kung ayaw mo nang umalis. I assure you when my term ends, I will gladly go step down with no fanfare. But in the meantime that I am here and people expect problems to be solved, do not be a part of the problem.

Otherwise, I don't know. You are part of the problem kagaya nitong droga, do not do it. Mayroon dito malakas pa rin. Do not do it.

Maybe one or twice. Kung hindi ka pa nasa labas ka, you will die. I could not be more emphatic and clear to you.

You start to f*** with drugs, you destroy my country. And if you destroy my country, I will kill you. Sigurado 'yan. Stop it, lalo na kayong malalaki. Wala akong pakialam diyan sa human rights. I'm trying to save the youth.

Tingnan mo 'yang sa TV, sabi nila there's no pro --- it's not a big problem. It is a big problem.

Ang cocaine galing sa Medellin, Mexico. Nandito na ang mga u***. Tapos sa Triad itong shabu. We are buffeted with the so many... Kita mo diyan, every day you look at the television and 'yung crawler meron diyan "shabu seized, worth at 800,000" araw-araw 'yan. And if you really want to know the truth you tune in to PTV-4, inilalagay ko 'yung lahat ng kaso sa Pilipinas. It's all there. I publish it. All na kaso na --- 'yang patayan, nandiyan 'yan.

But most of them surrendered. So we still have a problem with drugs. Do not, you know... I'm trying to save the next generation.

I am not saying I'm the savior. But I am the President now. 'Pag hindi ko makontrol itong drugs by the time itong mga nasa college na ngayon graduating, 'pag sila na ang maging tatay pati nanay, they will have a problem.

If we cannot control the flow of drugs, then I will consider my presidency a total failure. So I do not want that to happen. Do not do it. Kayong mga Human Rights listen to my words: Do not do it. Drop it. Pagka ayaw --- pagka gusto mo, then that's the time. So, to me one --- one criminal carcass diyan, a dead criminal, to me, it's carcass.

But ilan ang pamilya --- how many families are broken? How many families are...? Ito when the father starts to take --- maghigop og drugs, ito pamilya niya is put at risk. At risk because itong asawa maghanap na. Usually itong mga recruiter isa ko --- gusto ko ring patayin 'yan.

Kayong mga recruiter gusto ko talagang patayin kayo. Kasi ito 'pag may makita problema niya, she will say punta ka ng Middle East. Pagdating doon sa Middle East, nagkaproblema, or are sold to questionable Arab families.

You know why? When I was mayor, may dalawang --- there were two ladies sa Toril and one dito sa Digos, nakulong ang mga anak nila because of this recruit --- recruitment na kabulastogan. So they were there at the gate crying day and night. Pagka bukas nandiyan. Early morning they are there.

So finally my wife said, "Why don't you do something? Do something kung anong kaya mo." Sabi ko, "Sige, I'll try." So I went to Saudi. I invited my Muslim brothers sa Congress to be with me. Tapos nag... King Fahd was already in the advanced stage of dementia. But may lucid interval siya, nakakaintindi siya, pumayag siya.

Tapos ang sabi sa akin --- itong opisyal lang naglabas sa amin --- a member of the royal court who accompanied us out, sabi niya "No --- you know you should know, Congressman." Congressman ako noon eh. "You should know that there are not --- not all..." Remember ha? Not all but there are Arabs who still practice slavery. And if you are a paid handler or an outright slave na binili sa African market of slavery, 'yang rape na 'yan is inevitable.

Kasali ang rape. Kaya makita mo 'yung mga kasa --- ating kababayan diretso tumatalon sa labas. Wala ng seremonya, talon 'yan diretso.

How many...? Almost once, twice a week tumatalon lang sa ano. So maybe the human degradation is really at its worst. What I know is that if he cleans the master's house, he still has to clean the house of the daughter-in-law, and the house of another son, and the house of another relative.

Kaya sila uniform 'yan tanungin mo, "how many hours of sleep do you have?" And they would say, "three." "What about the food?" They say, "it's garbage." Kaya itong mga recruiter, ito 'yung nagbibigay talaga ng problema sa Pilipinas.

And there are Filipina girls who went there who cannot be accounted anymore. Ang sabi nila kung hindi na makita, ipinagbili 'yan doon sa slave market sa Africa. And I just cannot imagine for the life of me to think that a Filipina is being --- made a slave and being raped every day.

Tapos cleaning the house and... I said it's part of... They lose their dignity and that is why to them it's --- 'yan, tumatalon na lang. And yet itong mga

Human Rights grieve for the criminals. I kill criminals especially drugs. No doubt about it.

But look at the other side. How many families are dysfunctional? How many families --- father and mother goes out of the country. 'Yung mga anak nila, tender age of five, six, iiwan lang doon sa kapitbahay. Doon sa neighbor o sa mga relatives.

Look at the dysfunction of... Well, there are other reasons of --- but mainly 'yung asawa na binubugbog na hindi na makatiis, maglayas. 'Pag hindi nakakita, doon na --- they are embraced by this... Sabagay itong illegal recruitment no bail 'yan. Pero mas gusto kong mag --- bigyan ng sample. Para talaga huminto na.

I am not --- I hope I have not make you sad. I do not see you smile. Pero in fairness to the lady who prepared this. Hindi naman ito akin eh. Every time I get invited nandiyan na 'yan, ibigay lang 'yan. Basahin mo lang 'yan. So in fairness to her toil, basahin ko.

I join the administrators, faculty, students and my fellow alumni of the Cor Jesu College in joyous celebration of its 60th Founding Anniversary.

Nandiyan pa ba 'yung building namin o sira na? Ang tindahan ni Pilang? She's still alive? Si Pilang?

For decades, this esteemed institution has produced outstanding graduates who went on to become distinguished leaders and innovators in their respective fields and professions.

More importantly, it has imbued upon its alumni the wisdom, faith and values, that have enabled us to become productive, and upright and well-rounded Filipinos.

This administration's foremost priority is to allocate the biggest part of our government's budget to ensure that all Filipino students will receive quality and accessible education that would best meet the needs of our time.

May the school continue to support this thrust by uplifting the standards of its academic instruction. May it pursue relevant research in response to the growing needs of our people and economy.

As you begin another chapter in the school's history, may this celebration unite and inspire my fellow alumni to actively engage in noteworthy causes for the improved welfare of the community.

Let me take this occasion to extend our assistance in the rebuilding of Mindanao. It pains me to hear that more than 80,000 families were devastated by the recent earthquakes that struck Matanao, Davao del Sur.

We came from M'lang, we are short of time so Digos na lang muna. But I will be maybe the day after Malalag, Padada and the rest of the --- na-ano lang ako, nahuli lang kasi ako because Rizal Day ngayon. Ako 'yung nag --- pati anak ko, dalawang anak ko ang nag-raise ng flag. Si Mayor Inday pati si Vice Mayor Baste.

As such, I gave marching orders to hasten the repair and rehabilitation efforts so that we may help those affected resume their normal lives and bring them renewed hope in the coming year.

Let me see. We have a housing. I was told by the generals that we have a housing Magsaysay para sa kanila. I think that I may also put up some housing doon sa Malalag and maybe Padada. [applause]

Dito I can put up a 1,000 unit na condo. [applause] Totoo 'yan ha. Have you seen the houses of the soldiers? Doon sa --- doon sa Ranger? You go to the Ranger --- saan ngang lugar, sir? Ah, sa San Miguel, Bulacan. Tignan niyo 'yung mga bahay nila, talagang --- well, worthy for a soldier.

Another thing. I have been hearing a lot of complaints about, bakit inuna 'yung suweldo ng military pati pulis, doblado. Kasi 'yung sa --- sa mga maestra hindi pa. You know, this country is a troubled land. I need soldiers and policemen who are not afraid to die.

And when there is trouble I send them there and say fight and die if you must. Ang sundalo kasi 'pag lumabas ng kampo, chances are, there's an

encounter, kung siya 'yung casualty for the day, dalawa, tatlo. Tayo, lumabas ng bahay. Chances are we can go anywhere and go back all right. Iyong mga sundalo wala 'yan.

So kayo na lang ang magintindi. Kung may baha, sundalo. Kung may tornado, sundalo. Kung may earthquake, sundalo. Kung may --- lahat na, may landslide, sundalo. Ang sundalo lahat trabaho na hindi kaya ng civilian, kanila 'yan.

So in fairness, sabi ko nga, may mga pamilya 'to. Maglabas ito ng kampo, there is no telling that they will arrive alive. Chances are... So that is the reason why.

We need the soldiers. We need their industry and we should help them. Inuna ko muna ang sundalo ko. Doblado talaga ang suweldo nila. And I'm sure this little amount would go a long way to make their life happy.

So I think that is all. I am a graduate of Cor Jesu. A good school. A very good institution, learning. I was expelled and since my father was a political ally of Mayor Llanos. Mayor Llanos said, "He needs discipline." And I was sent to the house of Llanos to live there. Disiplinado nga.

One time, when I was already out of the house renting a room sa Brothers of the Sacred Heart. I don't know if it was still for rent. But I was there and well, they supervised my study. But after the study, I crawled out of the wire fence and went there around drinking.

And so... And one thing, in our school, Cor Jesu, may dadaanan ka. Puro boys lang 'yan noon, puro boys lang man ito. Magdaan ka, pagdating mo sabihin ng yawa ng --- "Oh, Duterte oh." [taps the glass] Ganunin 'yung baso, "Bahal, bahal." [laughter]

Talaga. Unforgettable ang experience ko dito. I graduated 75 lang rin. Just the same. Kindergarten hanggang high school, fourth year, 75. Pagdating doon sa law school, 75. Grade sa Bar, 76. Oo, totoo 'yan. You can check.

Then I was expelled because I shot somebody inside the school. But Justice Puno, he is --- patay na 'yon. May God bless his soul, pati si Paras at si

Ricardo Puno, hindi pumayag. Because 'yung binaril ko may baril pero walang lisensya.

Nahuli man kami. Ako may lisensya. So, sabi nila kung dalawang kaso walang mangyari. Tabla na lang. Ayun.

Ngayon, by stroke of faith and nobody really believed --- of course, kayo dito mga --- but outside of --- nobody believed that I'd win as the President. But today, when I preside a Cabinet meeting, of course Secretary Año, DILG, si Rolly sa DSWD, they are all generals and very bright.

Lahat ng mga ano ko, of course, sila Lorenzana --- talagang mauutak. Mga valedictorian 'yan sila. Pati Sonny Dominguez, my Finance officer. And all of them studied abroad. And ako 'yung 75, well, when I preside I look at them and say, "Hey guys, you with the summa cum laude --- General, listen to the 75 boy." [applause]

That is the irony of life. Nobody really --- nobody really gave me a Chinaman's chance of making it. But I made it. And so, I can assure you that it has my --- you have my solemn pledge that there will be no corruption. As you can see marami na akong...

Wala talagang corru --- I will not allow corruption. And the one corruption that has been discovered, itong kay Ayala. Milking us with trillions of pesos.

Paano nila ibalik 'yung pera sa water treatment? How? Trillion na 'yon since 1997. Kalokohan 'to.

But I said, again, I am praying and pleading to you as my closing remark, that this is a fight against the oligarch --- the corrupt oligarchs who took advantage of the Filipino people.

So that if I do not make it to the finish line, kindly continue the fight to give justice to our people.

Maraming salamat po. [applause]