

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

[21 September 2020]

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Let us begin by congratulating Secretary Cimat. You know I remember that meeting and I think everybody was there when I said, "Roy, kaya mong linisin 'to?" And his answer was a very curtly --- very curtly given, he said, "Kaya kong trabahuhin."

Now, people now are really enjoying the reclaimed area with the white sand maski na papaano. Wala naman talaga tayong magawa. You do it, may masabi sila. You do not do it, may masabi si Leni.

What do you want us to do? Ang problema kasi nitong ano 'yung magsabi that we are not doing enough. What can we do with the germ that's flying around? It's the microbe that can't be controlled by any... [*Okay lang, sir.*] Anong gawain mo spray mo from the...? Gusto mo spray mo from the sky? DDT? Wala man tayong magawa diyan sa...

Let us begin with the [garbled] of our meeting is your concern Secretary Duque. You have something to report to us?

DOH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III: Yes, sir. I will report sir our government COVID situationer.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You have --- ? May ano kayo so that we can follow?

SEC. DUQUE: Mayroon po kaming presentation. Nandiyan po sa slides, sir. Mayroon pong presentation sa slides, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Itong ganitong...

SEC. DUQUE: Yes, sir. Iyan, iyan po, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay.

SEC. DUQUE: So magandang gabi po, Mr. President and Senator Bong Go and my fellow Cabinet members.

Malugod ko pong inuulat sa inyo ang pinakahuling datos patungkol po sa COVID-19 ngayon pong nakaraang linggo at maraming salamat po sa pagkakataon Ginoong Pangulo.

As of September 21, may nadagdag na mahigit 3,000 kaso or 3,475 new cases. Sa nadagdag na 3,475 cases: ang 2,648 ay fresh cases at 827 ay late cases. Sa 2,648 fresh cases na naitala: 1,182 ay mula po sa NCR, 560 naman ang kaso sa Region IV-A, 246 sa Region III, 157 sa Region VII, at 503 sa mga natitirang rehiyon.

Sa 827 late cases naman po: 361 ay mula sa NCR, 191 sa Region IV-A, 51 sa Region III, 37 sa Region VI, at 187 sa mga natitirang rehiyon.

May bagong naitalang 15 binawian ng buhay at ang ating case fatality rate ngayon ay mababa pa rin po, Ginoong Pangulo, asa 1.7 percent. Ang case fatality rate po ay nakukuha natin when we divide the number of deaths over the number of total confirmed cases.

Nakapagtalaga naman tayo ng mahigit 20,000 recoveries, 20,021 recoveries kahapon po, 625 from reports at 19,396 time-based recoveries at apat na raan --- 400 plus recoveries today. Ang ating total recoveries ay pumalo na sa 230,233. So malaki po itong recovery rate natin. I believe this is about 77 to 78 percent now.

Ang active cases naman po ay 54,958 at sa mga ito po 4,910 or 8.93 percent ay mga asymptomatic, wala pong mga sintomas; at 47,567 or 86.55 percent ay mga mild cases po; 751 or 1.37 ay severe; at 1,730 naman po

ang naitala equivalent to 3.15 percent ay critical. Ito po ang binabantayan natin at ito po'y tumaas ang ating bilang ng critical cases na nasa mga ospital, nasa ICU po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I'm satisfied with your report. It reflects the --- it mirrors the environment. Ngayon ang susunod who is going to report, Del, you want to...? Go ahead.

DND SECRETARY DELFIN LORENZANA: Maayong gabii, Mayor. Pardon me, this is just a quick update on our repatriation program.

As of yesterday, Mayor, mayroon ng 200,223 OFWs na napauwi natin dito sa ating bayan at sila ay nadala na rin sa kanilang mga lalawigan. Mayroon pa tayong inaasahang 80,000 na uuwi according to Secretary Bello.

Iyon namang mga human remains from Saudi Arabia, 261 na ang dumating: 164 ang COVID case at saka 97 'yung non-COVID. Iyon naman ating mga kababayang nasa Sabah, ang bilang po ng ating mga kababayan doon na total na uuwi ay 5,300. Ang nakarating na po dito sa atin ay 1,570 ang nakarating na dito, mayroon pang darating na 400 sa Miyerkules at ang natitira pa doon sa Sabah ay 3,300. Iyan po ang ating updates sa mga repatriation.

Ngayon po ang ginagawa namin sa National Task Force, kami po ni Secretary Galvez, ay umiikot kami. Nagpunta kami sa General Santos City noong last week kasi tumataas po ang bilang doon dahil doon sa fish port at kinausap namin sila at --- kung papaano nila gagawin. At okay naman po 'yung kanilang reaksiyon and I think they will be able to contain the spike of the cases. Nito pong last weekend ay nasa Baguio naman kami. Kinausap din naman namin 'yung... Although wala namang problema ang Baguio. Kaya po inipon lang naming lahat nung mga Cordillera provinces para kausapin sila kung --- turuan sila ng mga pamamaraan para hindi umakyat 'yung kanilang kaso.

Nito pong darating na mga linggo marami pa kaming bibisitahin: Bataan, I think Batangas, at iba-iba pang mga lalawigan para po maplantsa na natin para hindi na --- masolba natin itong problemang ito. Iyon lang po, Mayor. Maraming salamat.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Del, may tanong ako. Ito bang pauwi na mga Pilipino, is it because they are deported or it is a voluntary repatriation?

SEC. LORENZANA: Iyong galing po sa Sabah?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Oo.

SEC. LORENZANA: Gusto rin po nilang umuwi karamihan sa kanila dahil for a while tumataas 'yung kaso doon sa Malaysia, gusto nilang umuwi dito sa atin.

Hindi naman sila pinapaalis yata ng ating kapitbahay pero they are volunteering to come home, 5,300 of them. So opo mga voluntary na umuuwi 'yan.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So but we have a long way to go actually. What's the total number of Filipinos who want to come home? All of them?

SEC. LORENZANA: 5,300 po, Mayor.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Five thousand ---

SEC. LORENZANA: Mayroon pang 3,300 na naghihintay na maiuwi natin.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Majority of them ---

SEC. LORENZANA: Majority of them are from BARMM, Mayor: Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, and Basilan, plus sprinkling of people from Cotabato at saka sa Zamboanga. Majority Tawi-Tawi. About 70 to 80 percent of those people are from Tawi-Tawi.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay, thank you. Secretary Año.

DILG SECRETARY EDUARDO AÑO: Magandang gabi po, mahal na Pangulo. Kaunti lang naman po 'to.

Unang-una po ay nagpapasalamat po kami sa inyong desisyon at guidance na i-maintain po 'yung one-meter distancing sa ating mga PUVs at mass transport.

Nais ko lang pong ipaabot ang pasasalamat ng ating mga mayors at mga governors ng --- unang-una na po 'yung mga National Capital Region mayors natin at 'yon pong League of Provinces of the Philippines, ang League of City Mayors, ang Liga ng Munisipalidad ng Pilipinas, Liga ng Barangay, at ang ULAP. Nagkaroon po kami ng pagpupulong ng ULAP noon pong September 18.

Sa dako naman po ng peace and order, ito po 'yung report ni Philippine --- ni PNP Chief General Cascolan. Kung ikukumpara po 'yung panahon ng anim na buwan bago po tayo nagkaroon ng lockdown mula po September 2019 hanggang March 2020, nagkaroon po ng 31,661 crime incidents sa eight focus crimes.

Kung ikukumpara po natin sa period ng lockdown, March 17, 2020 hanggang sa kasalukuyan, nagkaroon lang po tayo ng 16,879 crime incidents. Ang ibig pong sabihin ay 47 percent reduction po ng crime volume: from 172 cases a day noon pong bago mag-lockdown, naging 92 cases per day.

Sa amin pong pag-a-analyze, ang mga best practice po na dapat naming ituloy-tuloy: ang visibility, ang beat patrols, ang pag-coordinate sa LGUs, barangays at community, at ang mabilis na reaction time. At kumpara po sa ibang bansa, wala pong naganap na anumang looting dito sa ating bayan o sa Pilipinas noong tayo po'y nagkaroon ng lockdown.

Ang mga crime po katulad ng robbery, 61 percent po ang ibinaba. Ang carnapping ng motorcycle at vehicle, 66 percent at 61 percent, respectively, ang ibinaba din po. Sa murder po ay 22 percent ang ibinaba. At ito po, 'yung rape, marami pong nagsasabi na tumaas daw ang rape incident nitong lockdown pero 24 percent po ang ibinaba ng rape cases.

Mula naman po ng inyo pong pag-upo ay talagang tuloy-tuloy po 'yung pagbaba ng crime volume at ito po ay itutuloy-tuloy po namin para sigurado po ang kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan.

At ang panghuli po, ngayon pong Undas ay gumawa na po ng resolution ang ating IATF base na rin po sa request ng ating mga mayors. Isasara po ang

lahat ng sementeryo mula October 29 hanggang November 4 pero papayagan po nating dumalaw ang lahat ng ating kababayan mula ngayon hanggang November 15. Huwag lamang po sa petsang October 29 to November 4. Basta io-observe lang po ang 30 percent capacity sa lahat ng sementeryo kaya magfi-field po kami ng mga marshals at mga health officers.

Iyong amin pong pag-iimbestiga sa mga may mga anomalya ay tuloy-tuloy naman po. Ang aming koordinasyon sa Ombudsman, sa CIDG ay maganda po at tuloy-tuloy po nating napa-file-an sila ng kaso.

Iyon lamang po ang maiuulat ko, mahal na Pangulo. Magandang gabi po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Secretary Año, if you would --- if you would notice the fact that at no other time 'yung rapport ng Ombudsman pati Executive department maganda ang pagsamahan and it's because of a --- it's a matter of human relations 'yan. How you present the problem and try to ask his help.

Eh si --- I find Martires as a very reasonable man. Pero iyong naglabas 'yung sa PhilHealth na sunod-sunod, sabi ko na well I think he is really also trying his best to help us. So kung ganoon ang sitwasyon, we are better off at least for now. Iyong sana magpatuloy 'yung pakisama natin sa ano.

Anyway, we do not really go to them to the --- to ask for a decision either for or against anybody. We just want to expedite and cut the delay because that is really the --- the strategy of a lawyer to prolong the case until such time na 'yung complainant nawalaan ng hangin.

But this itong sa PhilHealth iba ito kasi interesado ang gobyerno eh. And of course, as I have said, I'd like to commend the --- it's a very commendable act of the Ombudsman in trying to go out and help. Iyan ang isang nakuha lang natin, thanks to you. Mahirap. I do not even know him. I do not know him pero kung ganoon ang nakuha mong reception sa kanya, wala 'yan. It's a matter of human niceties.

And I'd like to thank you for that. We need that kind of I said relationship with the Ombudsman. Iyon ang pinakamadaling ma-ano natin eh. And with his help, we can really expedite.

Now going back to this sand of --- the sands of time of Cimat, napabilib niya ako when he accepted my dare. I don't know if you were there in the meeting sa --- hinamon ko siya. Sabi ko, "Kaya mo?" Sabi niya, "Kaya ko basta trabahin lang." It was a very positive statement. It was not even a neutral thing or a thing that would border to speculative. "Kaya basta 'yon wala..." Sinabi niya, "Kayahin ko." And people are now enjoying the benefits of the determined action of a Cabinet member to do good.

Lahat naman kayo eh nagpapasalamat ako sa tulong ninyo. I --- I think that I would... Kung wala kayo, I would have a very hard time running the country. But because you are there... I'm not saying I have succeeded. That is for the people to --- to assess or give when I'm no longer the President.

But what I am trying to impress also upon the people is that we are doing our job, period. If you like it, kagaya nila na 'yung mga dilawan. Maski anong sabihin mo, hindi mo gawin, masama ka; gawin mo, masama ka pa rin. Eh p***** i** mo anong gusto mo? Spray-han kita ng DDT?

They are trying to delude people about --- they are trying to picture that there is a failure of government. We have done our best. We have responded to the medical needs of the... Hirap na nga at a very high cost of human effort kay Secretary Duque with all the --- mga atake.

We are surviving and we are only waiting for the vaccine. Iyon lang man talaga ang ano ko. When you talk COVID, what about COVID? It's vaccine. Wala tayong pag-usapan diyan na... Unless the vaccine is there available and effective, the efficacy is proven, then we can really say that we are moving as far as we are... If I were to try to answer a question of how fast it is developing, wala, the dynamics is that we are in still waters. Hindi naman tayo barko na ano, but we are in still waters with the engine conked out. And that is what we have unless the vaccine is there and for as long as human beings continue to relate to each other, wala tayong magawa at hindi natin makulong ang Pilipino eh.

We have been trying to be very strict about itong mga violations ng quarantine. We don't like it. Ako, I don't like it. It's a very --- it's a transgression that's almost --- na lumabas ng bahay lang.

Pero sabagay itong nag-iinuman, p***** i**. Iyan, 'yan ang dapat ikulong ng pulis pero 'yang naglalakad dahil emergency, if you know the reason why which is really true and he needs to go out, then pulis na ang bahala diyan. You can give the direction. It's only those who are really --- with intent to --- not to obey the law or take it nonchalant, 'yan ang problema.

Pero dito ngayon we are just waiting for the... I said the vaccine will be sa --- sabi ko December. I'm sure that by September, sabi ko, pagka lulusot ito, mga by January we will --- we will be better off.

Ang problema lang the testing sa clinical trial sa Moderna, may mga tao na nag-exhibit ng side effects. So --- but if it's only one out of 50, then that is native to him. Hindi naman sa --- it's not the vaccine anymore. Well, we will just try to wait and malapit na man.

Let's go to the next. Who's next? Charlie? Sir, you go ahead.

PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON PEACE PROCESS AND NTF COVID 19 CHIEF IMPLEMENTER CARLITO

GALVEZ JR.: Mr. President, dadagdagan ko lang po, sir, 'yung report ni Secretary Duque. Talagang maganda po na mga --- 'yung ginagawa po ngayon ng mga LGUs po natin dahil kasi noong bumaba po kami sa mga LGUs na i-localize natin po 'yung ating strategy ay tumugon po sila at nakita po natin na ang NCR nagkakaisa, na talagang puspusan po na pinalalakas po nila 'yung mga capacity po nila.

Ang testing po nila umabot na po ng 320,000 ang nagawa na testing po ng Metro Manila at pinalalakas po nila 'yung mga quarantine facility. Ang Taguig, magbubukas po sila ng mga mega quarantine facilities at 'yung Nayong Pilipino rin po next week po ay baka maumpisahan na rin po.

And then sa contact tracing po, tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagpapalakas po natin. Sa ngayon po, mayroon po tayong 25,767 contact tracing teams. Ang contact tracers po natin is 227,648. At ang na-train na po natin sa pangunguna po ng ating --- si Mayor Magalong at saka ating si Secretary Año --- 43 percent na po ang na-train natin at nag-improve na po ang ating close contact ratio to 1:5, dati po 1:3 lang at iaakyat po natin 'to na dapat 1:10, 1:15, hanggang makuha po natin 'yung at least 1:20.

Ang maganda po ay 'yung contact tracing natin ay nakukuha na natin 94 percent 'yung mga first contact, nakukuha na po natin within ano sir within ano po --- ibinigay na po na panahon.

At tayo po ay sa Metro Manila, naging aggressive po tayo sa pagkuha po sa mga positive doon po sa mga areas na hindi po ma-implement nang mabuti 'yung home quarantine.

At ang so --- sa ginawa po natin sa Oplan Kalinga, sa pamumuno po ni Secretary Vince Dizon at ang ating MMDA chairman, si Chairman Lim, at saka si GM Jojo at saka si Mike Salalima ay nakapag-ano po tayo, nakapagtala po tayo ng more than 18,423 sa mga mega quarantine facility natin at saka sa mga hotels mayroon po tayong 7,007 na na-isolate.

Ito po ay --- total isolated po natin, kasama na po ang NCR, Region III at saka Region IV-A, is 25,430. Kung ito pong --- itong 25,000 po na 'to mahigit po na ito hindi po natin na-isolate, ito po ay mati-triple na puwedeng mag-transmit. Kasi po karamihan po sa home quarantine, hindi po natin nako-control na umaalis po ito, 'yon pa nga po, nakikipag-inuman pa, kasi po ito 'yung mga sa mga densely populated areas, sa mga informal settlers po natin.

So nakita po natin katulad ng ginawa natin sa Navotas noong kinuha po natin ang mahigit na 1,500 doon, napakabilis po nang pagbaba ng transmission. At marami na pong mga mayor ang sumusunod na talagang nagkakaroon po sila ng no home quarantine faci --- no home quarantine policy.

Kung titingnan po natin 'yung datos natin tumataas po. Umaabot po tayo ng more than 290, pero 'yung active cases po natin naglalaro lang po ng 50,000 to 60,000 dahil po sa ating active isolation. Kung makikita po natin noong August 14, ang active cases po natin is 88,109. Ngayon po, ang ating active cases is only 51,894.

Ibig sabihin ang laki po nang ibinawas noong nagkaroon po tayo ng aggressive na isolation. Bumawas po tayo ng more than 36,215 noong mataas po tayo noong August 14. Kasi po noong August 14, ito po talaga 'yung pinakamataas natin na nagkaroon po tayo ng mataas na transmission at saka mga casualties.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, I'll just make a short statement to the nation. Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat mga kababayan ko. We are here in Davao City and we are having a meeting, as usual, in my program I should

be talking to the people and informing them of what's --- what's developing and how are we coping up with the COVID-19.

Sa aking executive order noon, pagkatapos ng passage ng Bayanihan II, nag-issue na naman ako ng Proclamation 1021, extending the state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID-19 until September 12, 2021. This will give time for the government and LGUs to marshal the resources in fighting the pandemic. I also requested the Armed Forces and the police to extend all necessary assistance needed to fulfill this mandate.

The ban on the deployment of Filipino health workers with existing contracts abroad is now lifted. Iyong may mga kontrata na perfected na, there is already the contract signed, the nurses, the doctors and other healthcare professionals who signed contracts with employers abroad this year would now be allowed to leave. Puwede na. Iyong iba, maghintay-hintay muna kayo sandali, kina-calibrate lang natin 'yung paglabas ng mga --- kasi kailangan rin natin 'yung mga tao.

But you know, this is not really to offend those health workers of ours, doctors, nurses who want to go abroad to earn good money. Hindi ko naman kayo --- I do not have anything against you but sana 'yung iba naman will have the --- the spirit and the fervor to serve the Filipino people because we also need help and we have a crisis also to deal with.

Ganun ho ang ano natin diyan. Hindi naman ako --- hindi ko minamaliit, nothing at all, nothing at all. I have but respect for all of you. But for those who want to go out, puwede na ho. Pero naiwan naman, sana tagal-tagalan na lang muna ninyo until after this COVID-19 will pass. It will come to pass. Sigurado ako.

Sabi ko nga sa inyo noon eh COVID-vaccine. Now, you might be hearing of critics and 'yung walang magawa, that we are not doing enough. Ano mang enough na gusto ninyo? May ospital, may kama, at may punerarya. Nandiyan lahat. Ano man...? Wala man tayong... Mag --- nag --- saan... Ano pa man ang gusto ninyo? The microbes --- the virus is flying around that is why you still have to wear the mask.

Hindi lang ngayon kasi hindi kami --- hindi kami maintindihan. But you still have to wear the mask pati 'yung sa ilong pati sa mukha or something enough to cover your face. But iyong plastic na ginagamit ng karamihan ngayon, iyon ang pinakatama na magawa ninyo.

Huwag kayong maniwala diyan --- sus mga itong dilawan lalo na --- I hate to mention her name, but ito si Leni, kung ano-anong pinagsasabi. Alam mo Leni, kung gusto mo --- if you really want to do away with the COVID, spray-han natin itong Pilipinas o Manila ng pesticide galing sa eroplano para patay lahat. You cannot --- you cannot exterminate the --- the COVID by itong ano lang ngayon. And you'll just --- the only thing that we can do really is to wear a mask, wear a face mask, and that's it and wait for the vaccine. It's COVID-19 equals vaccine.

Huwag na ninyong palakihin ang problema. Do not add something to the pan --- pandemic by making such reckless statements that we are not doing enough. Ginagawa na ni Secretary Duque 'yung... Halos na nga hindi na kumakain, hindi na --- hindi na natutulog sa trabaho. So huwag ninyo masyadong pasobrahan. And do not, I said, delude the people na bobolihin ninyo about not doing enough.

Iyong mga bunganga niyo wala nang ginawa para lang to criticize at idiin ang itong administrasyon. So wala man rin silang magawa. Kita mo may pari, sabi niya, "Ito si Duterte dapat may COVID." A day after, siya ang nagkaroon ng COVID. Ang p***** i** niya. Baka dadapo rin sa akin 'yan, okay lang. There's no wise guy who can really --- pero when you ease --- when you ease up the --- the requirements, ah delikado 'yan.

We are just doing enough. So you want us to do away with the mask for the face and the --- ? Mahirap 'yan. Sumunod lang muna kayo tatalapitan na. 'Pag nandiyan na 'yung vaccine, mag-utang ako. Utangin ko kung wala tayong pera, and as I said, we follow the program laid down by the IATF na 'yung mga tao na mauna.

Ang sabi ko iyong mauna nga 'yung nandoon sa ano, 'yung mga mahihirap. Iyon na munang mahihirap. Iyong mga medyo may ano, gamit muna kayo ng mask until such time. But this will be fast. I have ordered that this be done in police stations with the --- the doctors there para isa lang ang puntahan ninyo doon. Tatalapitan ang bakuna dali lang 'yan, injection lang 'yan. It does not take about two minutes, three minutes, magtusok ng bakuna. Sa pulis na lang kasi mas madali mapuntahan ng mga tao. Pila lang kayo doon.

Iyong mga drug pushers, sa tainga ipasok 'yung p***** i**, buwisit kayo. Galit talaga ako. Huminto na kayo kasi mamamatay talaga kayo. Hindi iyang sabihin na mamatay sabi ng Human Rights na patayin kita na nakaupo, nakatali 'yung kamay. Mamamatay ka talaga kasi lalaban ka kasi alam mo makukulong ka. That's why negosyo 'yan, you have to fight it out to survive not only to avoid imprisonment but 'yon ang hanapbuhay mo eh. Kaya 'yan. Kaya ako galit sa inyo.

Kayong mga NPA sabi ko mag-ano na lang, mag-linya rin kayo pero doon kayo sa Army camps para pagpasok mo bakuna, diretso ka na sa stockade. P***, wala akong magawa sa inyo. Galit ako sa inyo sa totoo lang. Ayaw ko na magsalita eh.

I hope that I have said enough about the situation and thank you for listening. *[applause]*

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