

**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE'S SPEECH DURING THE OATH TAKING  
OF NEWLY-APPOINTED GENERALS AND FLAG OFFICERS**

Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace  
06 December 2017

Congratulations and more power to you gentlemen.

You know I was met by the protocol and said na hindi na ako kailangan magsalita kasi nagcommand conference tayo kahapon. Well, that is for those who attended. For those who did not, I still have to say: Maraming salamat sa serbisyo ninyo sa ating bayan. And in behalf of the Filipino people, as an elected official, I am extending my warmest congratulations for your rise in your careers to be where you are now.

Kailangan kong magsalita kasi kausapin ko... I cannot just go directly na maguwi ako doon ni walang... Ang akin lang is that I ask of you, I plead of you to remain loyal to the flag and to the Constitution. Iyan lang ang hinihingi ko sa'yo. I discourage 'yang personal loyalties, nothing about that for me also. Akin lang is alam ninyo ang tama, alam ninyo ang mali. So there's the Constitution to guide you and if at all, it is really the document that binds us all.

Alam mo, ganito 'yan eh, Bisaya ako, from Danao, Cebu. Ang lola ko Maranao, but my grandfather was a Chinese pure Lao --- Lam. So, iba Ilonggo, Waray, Ilokano o Igorot, Bagobo, we do not speak the same dialect. We do not even share the same menu sa pagluluto. Itong mga Bisaya gusto maalat. That's the secre --- ay 'yung ano ng Bisaya. Kaya karamihan kidney diyan. It's because it's coastal town historically. Wala namang gubat sa Cebu eh. So it's usually the fish that provides the nutrients.

Nagdatingan lang tayo dito because our forefathers, however diverse they were during their time and even without a flag to guide them at that time, decided to organize a government. So lahat tayo iba-ibang kultura, iba-ibang ugali, iba-ibang salita, we decided to be one nation. One republic. There's a Constitution to guide us and there's a flag which we salute everyday. It is the external manifestation of our unity. So what binds us together is really the Constitution and the flag. Once you mess up with those things, the symbols of our country, then maiiba ang istorya ng bayan.

My oath of office says that I have to protect the Filipino and preserve the Republic of the Philippines. That is my duty. And the long and short of yours, the same --- that we have a country, a nation to protect. So let us do that. So anyway isang daanan lang tayo eh. We only pass through this world but once. Ika nga when I was a student, there was this... Says there anonymous pero I later found there was an author and it says: "I expect you to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do to --- or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now, it will not defer or neglect it, or I shall not pass this way again."

So in 100 years, magkikita pa rin tayo. It's a primordial thing that drives a man to procreate. Of course, it's the resource for the sex but that is for the attraction for two people to be together. Ang ating ano is, we guard our nation at tayo mag-asawa, so we have a son or daughter that would carry the seeds of your being... And your daughter or son will marry and his son will marry and the grandson will marry. So perpetual 'yan and it's there in the mind to procreate. One hundred years from now, I don't know where Malacañan will be or if this would still... Magkita-kita tayo pero hindi tayo magkakilala. Pero alam natin na 'yung mga anak natin will guide us and their sons and their generations will give us life of eternity.

When shall it come to an end? Well, sa Diyos 'yan. It depends on how God look at it. "But at the end," I said, "at the end of time we really do not know when is that." But as we progress each generation, meron tayong --- and that is the seeds of your being that you pass on to your children. So that's the essence, that is psychological background of what we really we would call love of country. Ako I will not, for the life of me, ask anything that is beyond my power. Remember that.

And I do not ask loyalty just because I sign the paper. Because whether you like it or not dadating kayo sa kung saan kayo ngayon. But one thing is really sure is that I said, we have to keep this Republic intact. Whether it was in Marawi or was it --- I had a talk with and I said, "We can go into anything. I am not..." I'm talking about the Mindanao issue. There is no assurance that this will pass the plebiscite or plebiscite, if you may. Because apparently 'yung mga taga-Luzon pati Visayas are not yet convinced of the soundness of the proposal. But kaming mga taga-Mindanao, alam kasi naming and we will go for it because anyway, we know also the leaders. Pero ang sabi ko kasi sa kanila, "Kung hindi lulusot 'yan, do not be precipitate. There will always be another way of doing it." And I can convince the people that we'll just give you a form na autonomy, like the one granted to Hong Kong by China or something... parang ganun.

Because the historical injustice is really that they were deprived of their territory, they were the first one to be there. Because if you are a Christian, you are not an original resident of Mindanao because Islam was ahead by almost --- sabi nila, 100 years. I went to Malaysia, once upon a time when I was a congressman, I made a research. About mga 60, 70. So by that time, lahat ng tribo doon --- Maranao, Maguindanao, Iranun --- were all convert to --- converted sa Islam. Then Magellan came and brought Christianity. So 'yan diyan. Pero sila talaga 'yung nauna. But because of the imperialism, they were conquered --- first by the Spaniards then the Americans --- and all of us dito sa Visayas pati... embraced Christianity.

So there's really something there. It is not religion for now, it has never been and I hope it will never be an issue. But let us try to find out something, a way out here. If we cannot have an autonomy then I'm talking to them, 'yung MI pati MN.

For me, during my time, I will say to you now that I can not negotiate with terrorists. Hindi ko talaga matanggap 'yung... the kind of brutality and the... 'yung paradigm nila of

destruction and killing for no reason at all. So how can you deal with such kind of people? Hindi talaga, hindi magkasya. Ito namang NPA-NDF-CPP, we should expect a longer war of attrition here. But kung matapos natin during my term, I will be happy. But I am not talking to them anymore, and you'd notice that in the newspapers, they are the ones demanding the resumption of the talks.

And it says a lot, actually. At it says a lot na sila na mismo ang gustong makipag-usap. So what could be the reason? Well, I will not speculate. I will not insult them. I'll just keep saying that... I will bide my time. Maybe in the fullness of God's time, there will be a moment where we would all think, the military and the police, and you will be consulted all the way. I will never make a single na akin lang. It has to be a consensus. Maybe someday. I'm telling the communists now. But for now, because marami kasi akong sundalo pati pulis na for no reason at all.

That's why if you noticed, I'm trying to prioritize. Wala namang stock but the money is there. I -- nagreserba talaga ako na makapagbili ako ng mga side arms. Because itong sundalo, they go out of the camp na with nothing at all except their belts and shoes. At ang masakit sa akin is that they are being shot without any reason or --- there's no rhyme or reason really. The one that was killed earlier, kumuha lang ng pension nila sa Land Bank and they were gunned down with 73 gunshot wounds.

But what really --- tama 'yung sinabi ni --- siguro si... [Siguro ikaw ba 'yung 'yung Secretary?] Na what broke the commies' back is --- they will waylay everybody. When you are there, you can not say that you did not know because when you set up an ambush at paputukin mo, 'yun na 'yun. When you say that you'd kill everybody there, pati 'yung bata na four year... four months old, it's a brazen na they are --- I'm accusing them of impunity.

Ako 'yung sabi nila sa droga, anak ng... masiguradong --- Ako sabihin ko sa inyo ha, I had only three messages during the campaign. It's a very short message. For one, I was not really expecting also to win. Para lang ako nakikipag-debate but I promised the bare essentials of governance. Sabi ko, there will be no graft and corruption. It will be stopped panahon ko.

Second is drugs. So it's useless to debate with the human rights and everybody else, it will not stop. I am determined to wipe out the scourge of drug in this country. If I will do it alone, which --- kaya ko mag-isang gawin ito. To me, that is a sacred thing. I vowed to do it.

And third, 'yung sabi ko that I'll make this country prosperous by talking to the enemies of the state. Problem is, sila ang ayaw. You know, as I have said, and I'll repeat it because they are harping on it incessantly. Sabi ko, I can not give you what I do not own. So, 'yung mga working papers nila na dinala ng iba, binigay sa akin at saka 'yung mga fino-forward officially, meron isa diyana na secretly providing me with the working papers and even the conversations ganun.

It would amount actually in the end. At the end of the day, it's coalition. Alam mo itong sovereignty is one. And the one who decides, what the drift would be in the sovereignty of our country, Constitution says, our people, who are elected, by the people. So he might turn out to be son of a b\*\*\*\*\*, but 'yun ang pinili ng tao, then he... he's the right, he's the only one who can --- Congress, Supreme Court at ang Executive Department. They are the only ones who are the repository of governance. Kaya lang piliin ka ng tao. If you are not elected, you cannot be a part of holding that sovereignty, because that is sacred. It is a gift of the people for those who are elected to run the country. And a coalition government you divide sovereignty, it cannot be done.

Kaya sabi ko, "If that is really the target, might as well end the talks." And with your depredations sa...everyday, ang sabi ko, "kalokohan." "I will not stand for it," sabi ko. So that I decided to just... So they are now considered ordinary criminals. And so if they ambush you, that's murder, multiple. If they use an explosive, use of explosive is always a murder, then it's no bail for everybody. And for those who are out temporarily, you just, maybe zero in now, because any day I will order for their mass arrest.

Wala akong magawa eh, ginusto ninyo. I'm addressing them through the TV. Ginusto ninyo eh. You demanded --- I gave too much, too soon. I know 'yung police, military medyo may sentimyento sa akin. You know, I released almost about 32, just... 'yung Tiamzon na spouses. They are the ideologues of the Communist Party. Matanda na rin sila. And I can understand why they are insisting in the resumption of the talks.

Well, you might be ready now, not before. Ang problema, ako na ang ayaw na rin because I said --- Not to win a thing, I concede to your brilliance or whatever, you are the ideologues. But then the simple matter is really a sovereignty is owned by the Filipino people and nobody else. So --- and one day, I will have just have you arrested. You want to fight the country, create a revolution? Fine. We have been fighting you for 50 years and we will fight again for another 50 years. That is what you... what you want. I'll just have to prepare the country for such eventuality.

Tsaka 'yung mga executive orders na ayaw ninyo. There's a law that would protect the Filipino people from lung cancer and everything. [inaudible] kayo nagbubuga-buga ninyo tinatakot niyo 'yung mass action. Well, you try. You... you try and I will show you that I am also sincere. When I say that I will arrest you and confiscate all those things that are not allowed by law, it is not mine, it has been there for so many presidents to act. Ngayon, dito sa akin, I will do it. Why? I will do it simply because it is the law. Kung ayaw ninyo, well then, we can always prepare for that eventuality.

In the meantime, kayo man 'yung nauna-una diyan. You always insist on the rule of law. We will follow the law. And if you don't, then the simple thing is to arrest you and place you in prison. If you come at by violent resistance, you place in danger the lives of people and the soldiers and the police, we will answer the appropriate action. That is my message to the Communist Party of the Philippines.

But to you guys, the soldiers of the Republic, I'll say it once again: Maraming salamat sa serbisyo ninyo sa bayan. I'm just one of those passing by. But really, in my time, you will have everything you need. 'Yan ang pangako ko kay Delfin. You know, si Secretary Lorenzana is matagal ko nang kaibigan 'yan. He brought in the Second Ranger Battalion sa --- magkilala na kami. Then there was si Gus... 'yung pumalit sa iyo na Arriola ang na-ambush ng komunista. Inabangan talaga nila noon sa ano. He was also a good friend of mine. I'm always been a friend of people, military o police na na-assign sa ---

Kaya 'yung mga ano diyan --- komunista ako, kalimutan --- politika lang 'yan. Pagboto mo kasali na ang NPA diyan. Sundalo, pulis, NPA, sibilyan, barangay captain, eh numero 'yan eh. But you know, nandito na ako sa itaas, I said that there are things which I cannot concede, because simply, I cannot do it. And that is my message to all of you.

Maraming salamat po.

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