

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING HIS ATTENDANCE
TO THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE**

[Delivered at the Tejeros Hall, AFPCOC, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City |
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Kindly sit down. Thank you.

I will read first the prepared speech just two pages. Then I might add some words regarding the issues of the day that confront us day-to-day.

I am pleased to celebrate this auspicious occasion with the brave men and women who keep our nation safe for every Filipino.

Throughout our nation's history, the Department of National Defense has been an important contributor in national development through the effective formulation and implementation of policies and the efficient management of resources to ensure our safety and protect our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my sincerest thanks to you, the brave men and women of the DND, for successfully carrying out the sacred mandate to defend our country against external and internal threats and ensure peace and security.

Your indispensable participation in humanitarian and disaster response, peace and development, socio-economic growth, and nation building are likewise vital to our journey towards lasting progress.

The Filipino nation will always remember you in their hearts for pursuing this noble task that puts you at the forefront of combating elements that threaten our freedom and democratic way of life.

I assure you of my administration's full implementation of the modernization programs by working with Congress towards the enactment of legislative measures that will further enhance the department's capabilities.

I am hopeful that this milestone will inspire you to work harder for an environment that will be the bedrock of a safer and more prosperous society for the present and future generations.

Be assured that the entire Filipino nation is behind you as we advance the common good and pursue genuine reforms for our motherland.

Congratulations on your anniversary. Huwag na muna 'yang salamat, mabuhay kayong lahat. *[applause]*

It's just about --- all in all I add my words. I will have my narratives also to talk to you.

It was not really a knee-jerk reaction or a fast solution to what is ailing the country today. I was interviewed by media I think the other --- the same guys --- and I hope they are listening now.

I was asked this vital question of allowing vaping in this country. And I said I really planned it earlier when I asked Senator Bong Go what will be the questions. I seldom meet the press face to face. And this concerns vaping.

You know everything that is used in this country cosmetics and all --- and more especially --- most especially substitutes for cigarette, and here comes the vaping. It's being used by the youth of this country with gusto not realizing the dangers. And we can understand their youthful negligence.

But when I heard that it was being used and sold everywhere, last night I ordered all law enforcement agencies and the military --- you are supposed to help in this campaign --- to arrest anybody smoke --- vaping or even smoking in public.

I do not like to be rated as one that's pulling his chair. But in Davao, you would see that nobody but nobody, no man there walking along the highway or in the streets of Davao are smoking. They have to find a place.

As you know that... Nicotine is an addictive devil. And if you have to have a fix, well, you have to find some latrine there anywhere, but not in the madding crowd.

And I immediately ordered last night to confiscate and arrest people vaping in public places. Meaning to say, the safest way to do it is in your house. But if you are not that stupid, when you do that, you contaminate all including your children in the family.

And that is why in public places I told them to arrest. Because there is a law which says that you cannot distribute toxic materials in public places. Verily cigarette. And add to that bears the surgeon, general report of the United Nations. It used to be the requirement that cigarette smoking will cause cancer or will cause you death. And this has been validated by our own health people.

And so it was my duty to... There was no executive order yet. I was advised that there was a conference at 9 o'clock. I came to know it 6. I just worked on my mind the things that I would have to say. Then the tariff and everything.

But the most important thing there is that one culprit actually is the indolence of many. So it's not you or if you, you can improve on your work.

It seems that things are moving very slow. And that is why it is still a source of corruption. The longer you sit on the paper or nothing at all --- either you are not working, you are a... I don't know what you'd do with government.

Even the Cabinet members they have one month to decide. I must have your decision of the papers before you. And I said last night, it has to be December 15. It's been so many months now. Papers that are on your table must be out with a decision. If it's for approval, good; if it is for denial, fine. But let it out.

So that many contracts --- even in the military --- it has been there for two years. What's the f*. War cannot wait. War is something which is... It's an invention of mankind that can cause a spark and then you have the problem.

And so we have to have the... That's why I'm going to... Because I'm going to see how delayed. In the military, it's with the gestation period, it's only about one or two months. When you decide to buy and there is money, then the technical working group should go to it and sit there until kingdom come and so that you will have the result and we can buy it easily.

If you think that you are not up to the mandate of being hurried up, and then you go out and tell your commander to replace you. In the Civil Service, it's more... Even the directors, I saw some contracts there.

I do not sign transaction. But on the syllabus, I was looking at the... Only I have about -- of the 200, about 220. And it's because even in the matter of easement, expansion, and the owners are not willing to give the legal easement due the government. Every road, whatever is built on this planet, roads --- there is always --- trains, there is always the easement in your map technically, even if it is not mentioned because that is owned by government.

So if you are not ready to do that, I'm calling the NEDA which is a laggard in the... So it's too much. I cannot wait for that. What are you doing in the office?

So I said, I'll give you one month. The directors... If you sit on it any longer, then you're waiting for the guy to come to you again and you ask money.

And I said that you do not have to do that. If you have an application, anybody of you here, any foreigner and you want your papers filed with government, give it to me and I will give it to the proper department with a corresponding order. Do that in one month or else you go out of the office.

Now, if you have to drive your workers to death working, kill them doing work. I cannot -- I only have two years left. I want to leave my presidency with a comfortable heart that you have been given --- I'm referring now to the Armed Forces. Almost all that you asked from me in the past and present, I gave it. All.

And I'm going to... I meant to talk again to --- well, on the side. That's what you would call pull-aside. It's not in the itinerary but you are suddenly pulled because this president wants to talk to you. It happens. It happens twice, thrice along the way. It's not in the...

They call it in the diplomatic nuance pull-aside. And I have to talk about security also. So please hurry up.

In the police, I --- the three majors were working on a body camera and they were arguing because maybe of --- because of money. What else? Because of corruption. And so I said, fire them, dismiss them.

If they do not want to be dismissed, just do not allow them to enter the camp. Just tell him, "You are no longer a policeman." "Who said?" You say, "Duterte." "I have not been investigated." Never mind the investigation. We'll come to that later.

Just like the vaping, is there an executive order? No. But I just said that I can do it in words. Not necessarily... No --- in such a danger to public health and public interest and everybody has it and they are doing it. They are vaping. I saw on TV. And you can only imagine the damage of the respiratory system being punished by these chemicals.

The problem with vaping is there is a nicotine. Maybe it would make it more legal, palatable. But I said, look. There are some ingredients you added to vaping, even in the matter of making some added chemicals to --- like vanilla, like --- it's a sort of all... And I said there are chemicals not known to us, not yet examined.

Stop it. And I told --- I told everybody, including the military and the police. Confiscate them. Do not arrest them. But if they want to be arrested, fine. Because really smoking, you are holding --- vaping. I don't know what animal to call the thing.

No, you're smoking is --- just nicotine and that makes it legal for you to be arrested. I do not want anybody in the Philippines vaping. The order, the executive order, never mind, it will come. When you are here, you have to act urgent. If it's an immediate thing, especially if it is to protect the lives of the people, the state under the police power, through the elected officials, can do it.

And the legal papers would follow. But there are already papers posted before the nation. Smoking because it has marijuana. I'm referring to cigarette. The e-cigarette is making it worse. There are chemicals that are added to nicotine which we do not know. And I am not about ready to allow the young people of the Philippines to get sick and to die.

That's why I've been telling you, do not destroy my country. Do not flood the Philippines with shabu. And we cannot control every inch. And you know Philippines is 7--- composed of 7,000 islands. Where will I find the police to --- ? That is why, I said hold the importations, not seize but just hold them. Do not allow it to come in.

And they said, what's the law? Never mind the law. The law will come. Tell them who --- I ordered it. And I'm asking the judiciary. Any judge. I'm addressi --- asking myself to the Supreme Court. I'm here, I'm having a hard time controlling crime and you know all sorts of toxic materials being imbibe by the young.

And there are some importations now. And if they are not allowed, they go to the judges. Judges, I know that you can determine whether a vaping is good or not. But unfortunately, also your indolence does not inspire confidence. It takes you too long to decide and so do not interfere in this.

Judges, I warn you, do not issue restraining orders to the Customs, to the Coast Guard. I will not obey your order because of the peculiar situation this country finds.

You only issue orders. It's very cheap. And the judge will issue it and put a standstill. And in the meantime, the young resumes to --- because of the restraining order. So they are allowed to be brought outside establishments and stalls.

Well, maybe for other presidents. But me? The order will come. Do not worry. Just stop it. And the police, do your work. The Armed Forces, do your work. I will take full responsibility alone. Nobody else. Ako lang.

I will accept the... You are protected because I'm ordering you a legal order preventing injury to the Filipino children. That is what I meant when I say do not destroy my country because I will kill you.

I'm trying here. What I'm trying is to preserve this country. And the next generation is just in the next corner waiting. I do not want Filipinos destroyed by drugs. Shabu shrinks the brain of the person. There are now millions of people who are reduced to slavery although it is no longer allowed by modern science and modern law. Slavery.

Bato says one --- six, one million six in Manila. All covered with the TV networks. But he never included Davao, Bu --- Bukidnon, Bacolod, Cebu, Leyte, Bohol. Bohol is --- before was a serene place. It was really rural along the way. So many people go there for vacation because they find the tarsiers, the smallest monkey in the world.

But with the coming of tourist, marijuana, then cocaine. And in the book of --- entitled... I forgot... But it... It's titled "The Mastermind." There is about two, three pages there dedicated to the Philippines and how the Americans operated in this country with drugs before. Cocaine and meth. And the --- a recorded of the events that led to the murder of [Catherine] Lee.

And also on the other side, we have buffeted by the other side. If you do not do something about it, it will destroy your country, believe me. I'm not trying to but there are places in --- there are places in the world. They are talking to the policeman. *[sniffs]* Every... You...

Netflix. There's a "Bad Teacher." You can see how they smoke. Very casual thing and nonchalance about the law. That is because their constitution --- they say allows it.

And I would like to ask --- Senator Go is here. The hearing yesterday in the Senate to defend the... Bong, kindly stand up. Senator Go, can you stand up because you did not join us. *[applause]*

And he said, "Do you mean to say that there are more rights for criminals than the victims?" I will --- we will show you all the... All the --- they say the extrajudicial killing. It's about 4,000 officially, plus.

But we will show you the so many thousands of children killed, raped. And the latest was in Makati. A one-year-old boy was violated through the anus and he died. And those are forgotten by the Human Rights. They don't say, "Oh, also --- we'll also take care of the misery and to try to share the grief, the grief of the bereaved." That's why I do not like...

And let me explain to --- this issue about the Vice President. I invited her to the ICAD for a joint management. She has the power because the office she stays there --- it was created lawfully and they had the power of... It has the co-chair, the civilian and the police, and she can give the direction, give orders to make the killings especially if they brand it as extrajudicial, to take all the steps to do it, examine, then get the witnesses and all. Those are policies.

But I cannot understand why the day after I ordered the police to give way to her being a co-chairman, she started to say, "well, I'm going to" --- until now --- "I'm going to talk to the EU. I'm going to talk to the Human Rights Commission. As a matter of fact, I have invited the prosecutor of the Human Rights Commission."

And then the Human Rights --- I think the Human Rights guy said, "I'm packed and I'm ready to go there to arrest Duterte." You --- you... It's --- it's an insult actually.

The greatest insult that I have received from these people is they refused to understand that the case against De Lima is true and accurate. They took the line of the left that she is a political prisoner.

On my oath as President, I'm telling you, it is true. If she really did collect money, why? She was not into business but ambitions can blind you. That is why you need money to run for senator. You need millions to do that.

She does not have any business. I do not... I have not heard that she owns a mall. Where do you get the money when you run? And that started everything. It always sometimes to go to --- greed or if you aspire for things which you cannot afford and really want to get it.

De Lima, before that, was secretary. She allowed to be filmed when she was having sexual intercourse with her driver, who was the collector. And that picture has been making the rounds. You saw it all.

Can you really believe a woman like that? Allowing herself... She was then the Justice Secretary. And if you want, I will give the disc to you. Look at the way she slurped after doing it. And her doggie --- her favorite doggie was walking around the...

And she does not deny it now. Maybe she would tell us that those are fake. Well, we can submit it to any expert if you want. That was a part of a bad dream. And she's making a crazy course to everybody to write unfair.

And those stupid liberals around the world also joined her and Iceland sponsored a resolution to investigate us. [unclear] We have our courts, we have a government. I said I take full responsibility.

If that responsibility would bring me to the criminal bar, I'm willing to go to prison. But I would not tell you that it is not true. Yes, it is true. I said it. I said it before. Do not do it. Do not destroy my country because I will really kill you.

If that is not enough for the human rights idiots to understand that. Do not destroy my country. I have to preserve the Filipino. You do something crazy, then you get something from the President and all others who never believe me.

We have our own advocacies in life. If you do not like it, fine. You go out of this country and see there somewhere else. But at least there has been a 49 percent drop of criminal cases in the country today.

The drug problem is just about very low. Why? Well, you would understand from my declaration why. And why did I do it? Who would? Who would not? This is my country. My only country.

We have a new generation who will take over. Then you distribute... I said there are one million six according to Bato in Manila when he made the count. Not counting Bohol, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga.

Everyday in the newspaper, it is always drugs. Look at the 8888 in PTV. I publish all. I required all, even the military, about drug incidents. Look at the "A,A,A." It means arrest. And if you can find one or two "N," that is neutralization because they resisted arrest. And probably those guys are...

Meth is destroying my country. It will destroy, I am sure, as the day will --- as the sun will rise in the east --- it will destroy a country. So full of prot --- almost protecting...

And you can see on TV that the commentaries, they arrest them, then they imprison them even the serial rapists who are crazy with drugs. And after two years, they are given the parole.

That's the country for you. If you want it for your people, fine. But not for me. I do not want you... So if you like it here, it's a little bit peaceful. There is no such thing as a south sea --- south side.

You can... From the Diplomatic Corps, you have been to Washington. Can you really go out at night? In LA? Is it really safe if you are in a downtown hotel to go out and see the place? If you are in Manila, here, you can walk. I assure you. I assure you can walk around, nobody will hurt you.

If ever it's going to be a bad day, and it has to be somebody connected with shabu. No more kidnappings and all. Most of them are in...

Well, I remembered every November 1. It's their day of remembrance. All the kidnappers, I warned them. Who did not obey, join the charade every November 1 because everybody is there. They eat beside your grave, they talk about your goodness, and they never mentioned what you did to your fellowmen.

Thank you.

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