

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE GRAND OPENING OF ACACIA HOTEL DAVAO**

[Delivered at the Grand Ballroom, Acacia Hotel Davao, Davao City | 22
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Kindly sit down.

Tourism Undersecretary Arturo Boncato; the officials and employees of Puregold Price Club and Acacia Hotel Davao led by Chairman Lucio Co; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

I have a prepared speech, medyo kulang ito. *[laughter]* Kasi pare-pareho 'yan lahat 'pag ka ang opisina ang naggawa, it's almost the same ang ano lang 'yan ang --- a few things about the topic pero the semantics are almost the same. But I'd like to just add a few words para sa inyong lahat lalo na kayong mga negosyante.

I am deeply honored to have been invited by CHMI Land, Inc. to take part in this important milestone for their company. It is my hope that this undertaking boosts the continued growth of tourism in Davao.

Today, as we celebrate the opening of your latest luxury hotel, I congratulate you for the remarkable construction and interiors of this structure. Pero hindi pa ako napasyal, but I know the history of this building.

May this achievement inspire you to further develop projects in other urban centers and tourist destinations in the Philippines.

Hindi ho ako nakabarong kasi galing akong Cotabato to switch on the power plant of the Alcantara Group. So wala na ho akong panahon na magbihis pa. Hindi ako nakadala. So I'm just wearing an ordinary... Sabagay kayong lahat naman halos naka-polo lang rin with a few... *[laughter]* Puro casual. Mabuti 'yan ha.

I thus take this moment to acknowledge your efforts to showcase the hospitality and warmth of Davaoeños and highlight the scenic and vibrant

landscapes of our locality to the rest of the world by providing a hub for exemplary guest accommodations and lodging.

With the effective implementation of laws such as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018, this administration remains committed in enforcing measures that will provide a more conducive regulatory environment to encourage business development.

Let me tell you something. A long, long time ago before I was a --- even a candidate for the president --- Mr. Lucio [Co] invited me for dinner. And he was one of those who was eagerly pushing na "tumakbo ka". Ang sabi ko naman na, "Alam mo maganda man 'yan sir pero eh alam mo na short sa lahat: edad, pera, lahat na. I am old. I do not have enough marbles in my pocket. Masyadong mataas 'yan." Sabi niya, "Subukan mo lang. Many people will help you along the way."

Actually he is my personal friend si Lucio Co. He took care of me after the elections too. Kaya sabi ko naalaala ko nung pagsabi siya na he is not a hotelier, meron siyang hotel na doon ako tumira bago ako pumasok sa Malacañang kasi inaayos pa. In the meantime that I was waiting for the amenities inside to be --- well, you know --- doon ako nakatira sa kanya, sa hotel niya, naalaala ko na ngayon.

So talagang kaibigan ko because usually I do not accept 'yung mga ganyan. I seldom, very seldom na magtanggap ako ng... But at the first time kasi nagka --- well, there was this kind of 'yang being 'yung sa Bisaya na magaan ang loob ko sa kanya. So we talked about everything in politics.

Ang sinabi ko well the one thing that really was pulling down ang ating development plus of course the investors. But the investors were afraid because of corruption. The investors were afraid of venturing into business kasi ang mga politiko naghihingi ng partida. Sometimes they want to be partners, sometimes itong mga mayor, mga councils, they demand money before you have the conversion or before they will, you know, itong clearance ng environmental requirements. Diyan ang nagkahirapan eh.

Kaya pissed off talaga lahat. Ngayon nag-usap kami sabi ko, "Sir, kung sakali tatakbo ako, I will do something about it." Just what I did in Davao. Dito sa Davao --- sus makita mo lang dito --- halos barilan, patayan dito ang NPA. Noong na-mayor ako sinabi ko sa NPA, magkaibigan kami eh: "Umalis kayo ng Davao kasi kung hindi, magpatayan tayo." It's either you will continue to kill my --- because we were losing four, five policemen a day dito sa Davao.

Suma total siguro mga about 400 including military men. Kaya sabi ko I cannot govern a place na nandiyan kayo. Umalis kayo dito. So umalis sila. Well, in the fringes of Davao. But fundamentally the political and economic landscape began to change.

But the one that has to be controlled and even now is corruption. Every table sa gobyerno na dumadaan 'yang papel, there is always a demand for money. Kaya sabi-sabi ko sa mga ano tao na be assertive, na if you are being milked or asked for something na tapos bayad ka na, sampalin mo. Sabihin mo, "p***** i** ka, bayad na ako niyan. Huwag mo akong bigyan uli ng problema kasi 'yan lang ang aking..."

Mga city engineer manghingi ng 20,000 assessment. Ganito sa Pilipinas ngayon. I have caused the passing of the Ease in Doing Business. I'm telling the guy to be very strict. At ako ang covenant nating tao is ganito: 'Pag hiningian kayo maski gaano ka na --- pulis, military, mayor, governor, o 'yang mga public sa taas, secretary, undersecretary, 'pag may negosyo kayo, sabihin ninyo sa akin kung hiningian kayo ng pera. Kasi ako I am a man in a hurry. I have only two years left.

Kaya maski anong reklamo mo kung agrabyado ka, kung pupunta ka sa akin sa Malacañang at mag-complain taga... Malacañang is open 24 hours a day. Sabihin mo lang doon sa guwardiya, "Gisingin mo si Duterte kasi ako niloko ako nitong --- hinihingian ako at ang negosyo ko." And I will call that official in your presence.

At sabihin ko sa iyo, nananampal talaga ako at nagsisipa ako ng tao. Ganun ang ginagawa ko. At huwag kayong matakot mag-report kasi 'yung tao ni-report ninyo, sabihin ko talaga sa kanya, p***** i** ka huwag mong saktan 'yung tao na sinaktan mo diyan sa negosyo niya or you harass them, you know what, maging extrajudicial killing ka. I will really kill you. 'Yan lang ang paraan eh. Walang iba. *[applause]*

It's hard to fight corruption. Hindi maniwala 'yang p*****... Kailan pa ba tayo dito nag --- kung hindi mo ginanun. In Davao, I said, when I won as mayor, I'm going to build a city. It might not really be a rich city but I will make it comfortable for everybody. And I told the police, you ask your wife and children, mga dalaga ninyo, ask them to walk the streets at night. At kung umuwi 'yan safe, unmolested, undisturbed, that is the standard that I want for Davao.

Now, tell me who is obstructing it? Sino 'yung ayaw na mangyari 'yan? Sabihin mo sa akin kay patayin na lang natin.

You know, the world is really turning in a very fast state. People want their lives in their lifetime improved. People have problems. Now, if the city remains poor, patay ang tao. Criminals, human rights... Hindi na lang ako magsalita kasi... *[laughter]* They know --- you know them.

Ako sinabi ko ano --- droga. Sinabi ko sa Davao noon bago ako: Go out of Davao. You go out of Davao. 'Pag wala kang pamasaha, if you want, an airplane ticket, I'll give you. Tapos noon may --- wala na kasi 'yung barko ngayon eh. I don't know. Sabi ni Tugade, pina-resume na 'yung ibang maliliit.

Gusto mo magsakay ng barko? Sige. Umalis ka. Huwag kang pumu --- mag-standby dito kasi papatayin talaga kitang p***** j*****... 'Yung umalis buhay, ewan ko kung saan na 'yon. 'Yung hindi umalis, patay. *[laughter]* Ano ba...

Ganun ang sinabi ko sa Maynila nung na-Presidente ako. Do not destroy my country. Do not do anything that will deteriorate --- cause the deterioration of my country because you will in the end destroy everybody. Kaya pagka nandiyan ka, talagang papatayin kita.

Ano bang mali magsabi ako na patayin kita kasi sinisira mo ang bayan ko? Am I not allowed to say that as President? Kaya ganun sabi ko. Ngayon, walang iba talaga. I'm on my last two years. Gusto kong sabihin ninyo kasi pagkatapos kong sampalin 'yan ang p***** j** pinapaalis ko talaga.

Mamili ka. Umalis ka o ipapatay kita? Simple lang. Eh di wala na masyado. 'Yung ibang nasa gobyerno na mga kurakot, well wala akong hold diyan. Pero hindi ko rin mapatawag kasi may separation of powers kami. Pero 'yang sa Executive department na nagtatrabaho sa mga --- under the departments of Finance, DILG, lahat --- lahat ng --- police, teachers, it's under me. 'Yung mga elected officials ang hindi. I only have supervisory powers over them.

But itong sa mga Cabinet, I have the control and supervision which means I can overturn, I can modify, I can change, amend your decision. Ganun 'yan.

Ang importante sabihin mo sa akin kasi limang --- limang Cabinet members na who were with me during the time --- during the 1988 elections for the mayorship, they --- they were my campaign... Kaya nung nanalo ako binigyan ko sila ng trabaho. Utang na loob 'yan eh. Pero sabi ko, you know the rule. If you break the rule, ayan. Kilala ninyo kung sino, mga abogado...

I simply --- my style is, I accepted the resignation of... Hindi ko na sinasabi mag-resign ka. In public, I would just say --- sabihin ano 'yan... When I --- you know when you are fired, it means to say it's only one thing there, puro bright man kayo mga p*****, you are a corrupt official. Ganun 'yan. So 'yan ang gusto kong maging mindset ninyo lahat.

Do not --- do not allow government to --- to... Ano... Government is there to serve you. Hindi --- hindi kayo alipin ng gobyerno. Ang gobyerno ang alipin ninyo. We are paid to do our duty. *[applause]*

Kaya naman --- narinig ba ninyo ako nagsasabi ng Malacañan Palace? Did you ever hear me say, "President ako," o "Malacañan Palace." I just say, "My office in Pasig." I would only say, "I am a worker of government and I am here to serve you because you have paid me." Bayad na ako. At hindi ako kailangan maghingì.

Alam mo sa gobyerno, mahirap --- pagka gusto mong income malaki, umalis ka. Maliit talaga ang sweldo sa gobyerno. I know that. I've been a prosecutor. The pay really is that low. Ngayong Presidente ako, 200,000. Wala akong ibang allowance maski tingnan niyo sa COA, wala. And I do not allow transactions of government involving money, reclamation, MRT. I do not sign it. It begins and ends with a Cabinet member.

Kaya wala kang makuha 'pag --- 'pag 'yung alas ko i-ganun mo ako, ni sinsilyo wala kang makuha sa akin. And that is why ma-ano ako, ma --- I am overbearing sometimes in... Pagka mag --- pagka p***** j** kita in public, talagang --- I do not mince words. Talagang --- so I'm fond of...

Eh ganun ako eh. Nagmumura talaga ako. Problem with me is 'yung paradigm ko as mayor dinala ko pagka-Presidente. Hindi ba ang sabi nila ako statesman. Hindi naman talaga ako statesman. Eh tatlong eskwelahan nag --- expelled ako. 7 years akong nag-graduate sa high school. *[laughter]*

'Yan sila Sonny Dominguez, mga classmate ko man 'yan. Naging --- nung umalis na 'yan ng America, that Sonny Dominguez is a brilliant guy. He was our valedictorian. Kapit-bahay ko 'yan. We were together. He's my childhood friend. Valedictorian ng kindergarten hanggang matapos.

Ako, well, third year palipat-lipat na ng eskwelahan and it took me seven years really to get the diploma. But come to think of it, puro bright 'yan sila diyan, Mon Lopez, galing 'yan sa, I think in... Basta nag --- 'yung mga military, puro valedictorian 'yan, 'yung sa Department of Defense valedictorian 'yan. Taga-Cotabato 'yan, classmate ni Quiboloy.

'Yun. Wala lang akong power kasi kung may power lang ako kay... *[laughter and applause]* Well, I believe in Pastor Quiboloy. When he says that --- the man, he said that, "Stop." *[laughter]* Eh kung nag-stop eh 'di --- what's the, what's the trouble? So stop it. Eh kung nagkataon talagang nag-stop, 'yung --- eh 'di...

If I can only have that power doon sa mga kurakot na "stop." Kasi alam mo dito ang Pilipino hindi mo talaga madala sa pakiusap. The Filipino paradigm about his --- a lot of them go to politics to make money, that's the only thing that they do.

They get elected. Make money. Kaya ngayon 'yan ang ano diyan. Kaya ako I've been very careful about... Tsaka ako 'pag bumira ako, bira ako diretso. Kasi alam ko.

Now, 'yan ang gusto kong mangyari sa inyo kasi I am just continuing the story of Lucio Co. Ang Davao gumanito kasi nagmatigas ako. 'Pag sabi ko, "no parking diyan." Walang diag --- karon may diagonal parking na eh. But that's about Inday's worry.

Noon makikita mo sa Davao straight talaga 'yan, walang diagonal parking. 'Pag sinabi kong "no smoking", wala pang batas wala --- walang sigarilyo. 'Pag sabi ko, "no firecrackers," walang firecrackers.

Well, first year. Eventually, Davaoeños gusto na nila. The way of life at seven --- at 12 o'clock dito sa Davao, Davao is a desolate place. Kasi 'yung inuman stops at, well, one but 12. Noon, two binaba ko ng one. Binaba ni boksingera ng alas- dose. *[laughter]* O 'di wala na. Wala ang Davao.

If you want to enjoy about dancing, drinking, it's not the place. Nagpupunta sila sa Samal. Samal is a very noisy place. That island in front of this pathway sa city. Doon kayo.

Davao is a place for --- to rest. Gusto mong matulog, dito. Tsaka 'yang broom-broom na --- na ano, 'yang... Because they tinker with the --- 'yung

exhaust, maingay. Wala dito 'yan, huli 'yan. Because people want to sleep. Do not...

Pati 'yang mga --- 'yang mga anak ng mayaman na mag-drag race. Alam mo ang sinabi ko, hinuli ko sila, sabi ko, "P***** i** ninyo, mga anak kayo ng mayaman and you think that you have the right to use the public streets as your racing circuit? Hubaran ko kayo sa telebisyon. The next time you do it, hubaran ko kayo. Tawagin ko ang media, hubaran ko kayo in public. Kayo. Ayaw niyong maniwala? Subukan ninyo." Ayon, tapos na ang istorya. Walang drag race-drag race dito.

Ayon ang... It's not --- it's not being a dictator eh. 'Yung --- it's not being a dictator but you have to put the --- your level sa --- 'yung psychology ng tao who penchant to abuse, to use power.

We have the best police here. Noon dito maghingi-hingi. I banned checkpoints. Pati pulis binubugbog ko 'yan, tignan --- tanungin mo 'yan sila. 'Pag ang pulis mag-ano dito, tinatawag ko sa kwarto, sinasara ko 'yung kwarto.

Hindi ako naga-ano ng bodyguard. Sabihin ko, "P***** i**..." Either bugbugin ko or hamunin ko ng barilan. "Ayan, bumunot ka." Lahat 'yan. Mata... "Tapusin mo ako o tapusin kita?"

And the one time, during the last election, I said, "Do not terrorize the people." I gave the assurance. "Let them vote freely," sabi ko, "and let democracy work. If you do something, if you..." Sabi ko, "I will go to your place. I will pay you a visit."

'Pag may nangyari talaga sa Plipinas, kayo na lang --- sabi ko, I do not want to --- kasi baka sabihin nagyayabang ako. Although may isang ano inambush (ambush), namatay 'yung kapatid ng kandidato na babae.

Eh sige iyak sa TV, "Mayor, tulungan mo kami dito sa ano..." Sabi ko sa pulis, "Anong nangyari?" "Sir, inambush tapos namatay 'yung..." Sabi ko kay Bong two days before the election, "Bong, maghanap ka ng eroplano, lipad tayo."

Pagdating doon sabi ko, "Maghanap kayo ng helicopter, maglipad tayo gabi." Gabi, naglipad ako. I'm the only one who flies a helicopter at night. Sabi ko doon sa ano del --- nag-landing kami doon sa I think barangay hall.

Tapos sabi ko, "Tawagin mo `yung agrabyado. Kinausap ko. Sige iyak, "Mayor..." "Sige lang. I will..." Tapos sabi ko, "tawagin mo `yang p***** j***** `yan." So, long table `yun --- narrow table but long. Dinala siya ng PSG sa harap.

Sabi ko, "Huwag, ayaw ko `yan. Doon ka." So kasi doon ka --- pero for the first time nagbaba ako nagdala ako ng --- `di naman ako nagdadala ng baril, nasa bag lang. First time pagbaba ko nagdala ako ng... Sabi ko sa mga security, "Wag ninyong sitahin. `wag ninyong kapkapan." Kasi may baril itong g***** ito, maldito eh.

Pagdating doon sinabi ko. Sabi niya, "O mayor. O panalo ka dito sa dalawang bayan ko, ako lang nag-Duterte dito." Sabi ko, "Alam ko. Ganun na lang ang pasalamat ko, pero p***** j** ka bakit mo ako pinahiya? Sinabi ko sa iyo `wag ninyong I --- do not f*** with the people."

Sa galit ko talaga, pinaalis ko --- `yan sila lahat `yung security ko. "Alis kayong lahat." Kwarto. Sabi nung security, "Sir, mag-iwan lang ako ng isa sa banyo." Sabi ko, "Ah hindi. Palabasin mo `yan. Kaming dalawa lang."

O sabi ko, "Ngayon kung matapang ka, sige daw bumunot ka. Sige daw." Sabi ko, "Mahusay ka man kaya sa barilan? Sige daw. O tayong dalawa lang, tapusin natin ito. P***** j** ka." Tapos sabi niya, "Hindi, hindi ako kaka..." Istorya. "Mayor, sorry kasi..."

Sabi ko, "Pag ang election dito matuloy --- hindi matuloy because dahil ikaw... Babalikan kita dito papatayin kita, maniwala ka." Kinabukasan election, landslide `yung kalaban.

Kaya nga ito sabi ko ngayon, itong --- itong election na dadating hindi na ako Presidente. Pero --- I mean Presidente pa ako during the election. Then

I will assure you everybody it will be a clean and honest election. Gagamitin ko 'yang army, pulis pati all the uniformed. *[applause]*

Pagka mag-terorismo --- malinis man last year ba. Iyong election na dumaan, malinis man, wala masyadong ano... Except 'yung may mga vendetta, 'yung sa kay Batocabe. Pumunta ako doon. I had the ma --- I had the woman, the --- the wife protected by the police and tinanggal ko 'yung pulis sa mayor. Talagang inano ko siya --- dinesarmahan ko siya. Ako --- ako hindi ako mag-ano, trabaho ko 'yan. So, my oath of office is...

Kayo negosyo lang. Kung may maghingi sa inyo, I've given you the formula, that's the fastest and most effective. Go about your business. I want my country to succeed. You are the entrepreneurs and you... Kami, wala kami. After this, we retire. Wala kaming nalaman na negosyo. So we protect you so that you can... Alam mo 'pag nagsara isang --- may tama lahat na.

Tama na 'yung mga negosyante. Kaya ngayon sabi pagdating dito --- papunta kami dito ni Lucio, sabi niya "hirap ako kasi wala na akong trabahante na skilled workers." Kay sabi ko nga may --- wala mang --- maraming trabaho, ang problema walang skill.

Kaya 'yang TESDA sana pinabilis ko talaga kay General Lapeña. Sabi ko delayed ang trabaho ninyo because walang... Hindi ka pwede 'yung magkuha ka lang ng plumber diyan na --- te haw magkuha ka ng plumber --- paglagay mo diyan, pag-flush mo sa toilet p*** imbes na papunta sa loob, p***** i** papunta 'yan sa... *[laughter]*

'Yang electricity. You just cannot call anybody there, "O gawain mo yang..." He has to be a master electrician, master car --- master sa carpentry. May trabaho ang Pilipinas all over. Kaya medyo nag --- gumagaan na ang buhay.

So all we have to do is to work together and let me know what's bothering you. Because I --- I have always --- I have the time, I will always have the time to attend to you especially 'yung graft and corruption.

Maski gaano kaliit. And if your permit there because may bago ako, the Cabinet members, one month. The directors, three months. Beyond that pabalikin mo 'yung tao, that's corruption. Gusto mo lang pera eh.

Kaya ngayon pag-ano kayo, magtanong ng requirements ilista ninyo. Sabihin ko sa kanila, "Wag mo na ninyong palitan 'yan." Do not add or take away something there. Tapos kumpletuhin mo 'yan, sabihin sa inyo kung kailan kayo.

'Pag pinapabalik-balik kayo, let me know because that is corruption. Simple lang 'yan. Masaya ang ganun.

Ang paraan para gumana naman ang Pilipinas at magkaroon tayo ng hotel na maganda at maraming trabahante. At sa inauguration, kakain tayo ng masarap na pagkain. Ayaw mo pa 'yan?

With that, I say thank you. *[applause]*

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