

Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE  
AWARDING OF THE 2019 MODEL OFW FAMILY OF THE YEAR AWARD (MOFYA)**  
[Delivered at Heroes Hall, Malacañan Palace | 28 November 2019]

Salamat po. Kindly take your seats.

Kind of a really a rare coincidence because upstairs from where I came from before going down here, I was talking to the child-friendly crowd.

It was also a contest all-over and prizes were given there. Nominal really in terms of today's cost of money. But significant in the sense that we agree that there are so many things that we have to do.

I have a speech here prepared by the staff and siguro naman out of respect for the effort I will just read it after I shall have given you my own... I do not --- I do not want to make a speech. I just want to talk to you. Okay?

Ang ano ko talaga dito... At think first that I am a Filipino. Hindi ako na sabihin mo na run of the mill lang diyang empleyado ng gobyerno, of which I really am. I am a worker of government and I serve the people, fine. But before that, I am a Filipino at marami rin akong paghinakit sa nangyayari sa buhay ng Pilipino.

Well, I pray to God, I thank them. Ilang Diyos ba 'yun? I mean the religion. It's the same God. But I thank the Lord for the positive --- positive track that you have achieved in your lives. Nagpapasalamat ako sa Panginoong Diyos.

But let me also... Just allow me to pour my heart out. Also for those Filipinos na hindi masyado maswerte. And it is them, sila ang medyo ano sa akin. Kaya sabi ko itong maririnig ninyo whatever you --- comes out from my mouth, take it is a Filipino not as a President.

Well maybe it would be taken against me if I say that I'm a --- I'm the President and I talk like this way. Well, I never achieved to be a decent speaker in public. I just want to say what I believe na hindi magandang pangyayari sa Pilipino.

I remember when I was still a mayor. I was a mayor of Davao for 23 years. And in those years maraming mga OFW. Sila mismo o pamilya nila nagpunta sa akin para maghingi ng tulong as mayor.

And there's just a particular incident na galit ako sa talaga sa mga recruiter o 'yung recruitment people na ginawa nilang g\*\*\* ang Pinoy. Diyang ako galit at pwede kita talagang patayin sa nangyayari sa Pilipino.

This was around 1990 --- at year... Oh well 19... Before the --- wala pang 2 --- wala pang 2000, 1995 --- 6. May dalawang --- tatlo --- tatlo. Dalawang babae, isang lalaki pumunta doon sa bahay ko one morning and I was still asleep.

And as it turned out they were there early morning. They were crying, wailing at ang nagsalubong sa kanila 'yung partner ko, si Honeylet. At she kind of heard their story kaya ginising niya ako. Tapos sabi ko...

'Yun pala ilang beses na sila pumupunta sa bahay, umiiyak at hindi lang kaagad na --- well, of course I'm sorry --- na-entertain kasi tulog ako sa umaga and my wife has to work. My wife is also a OFW, si Honeylet. She's a nurse.

So noong nag --- finally she was able to talk to the --- these three, she learned that 'yung mga anak nila na-recruit at for about three years wala ng balita. Ah 'yung lalaki minor so napeke lang 'yung birth certificate. That's the --- how the racket is that's being run.

So sige iyak 'yung mga --- 'yung tatlo. Sabi naman ng partner ko na, "Bakit hindi mo tulungan? Tulungan mo na lang. Ilang araw na 'yan diyan umiiyak." Because at that --- at that time when I was able to talk to them, I invited them into the house and had breakfast with them. So sabi ko na, "Tingnan ko kung anong magawa ko." So I talked to the Speaker tapos I was given the green light to go --- to go to the Middle East.

Ang nangyari, pumunta ako doon at I learned that they were --- they saw and these three migrant workers naghihintay ng trabaho. But suddenly, another recruiter of a different animal, na-recruit somewhere in --- they were in Yemen and then to Sudan. That's what I've learned.

And pag-uwi ko, wala man ibang nangyari. I could not go there. I could not understand how they run their things there and you have to --- run into a gamut of so many things before you can actually get to be inside that territory.

Nung --- ngayon --- hanggang ngayon wala na. Hindi --- hindi na talaga nakita. But I remember, sabi ng --- 'yung tao na --- military man, sabi niya na, "You know, when they are sold as slaves, they are slaves forever. There is no way for them to get out unless they try to escape and be killed."

So ako naman nasaktan. Biro mo, Pilipino naging slave. And I was also told how they are being treated na they have to work almost so many hours sleeping only for three.

Kaya pala... I learned that --- he explained to me that itong isa, isang slave, maglinis ng bahay ng amo niya, then 'yung may-ari sa kanya, then she has to clean the house of the daughter-in-law and to the --- and so on and so forth how many houses there.

And that is why they kind of get to sleep three hours after cleaning all of those houses. And I learned that they eat leftovers. Practically garbage.

Masakit ‘yan para sa Pilipino. Sinabi ko sa inyo hindi ako Presidente. Pilipino ako eh. Sa kapwa tao ko...

Talagang nagningitngit ako. I am --- I’m --- I maybe not really acceptable to everybody. I know that. But ‘yung sense of justice ko, kaya ganun ang nakita ninyo nangyari. ‘Yung sense of justice ko talaga mataas and sometimes it can cross the border of what is being moral or immoral or lawful and not lawful.

Kaya ganito na lang ang galit ko diyan sa mga recruiters na ‘yan. Alam mo sabihin ko sa iyo, if there’s a chance patayin kita, papatayin talaga kita. P\*\*\*\*\* i\*\* talaga. Galit na galit talaga ako diyan. Hindi ko ma --- I cannot imagine a Filipina and a small boy there na hanggang ngayon slave for life and they are doing these things for a few families there.

Kaya ganun ang istorya ko sa inyo. Talagang... And if you know my character, ganun. Alam mo bakit? What are the ramifications there?

Unang-una, itong mga durugista mag-sige sila pabili and you ---- you will know if you’re Filipinos. You --- you watch TV tonight and you read today’s newspapers.

In so many, about five raids hindi pa lahat nagdating, araw-araw ‘yan droga. Anak ka ng... P\*\*\*\*\*... Kayong mga human rights hindi lang ninyo alam ang... We are being in a state of flagellation.

Talagang kalbaryo ang Pilipino diyan. If the husband, the breadwinner, babagsak ‘yan sa droga, the entire family collapses. It becomes dysfunctional. Ito mag-away to the extent na maghiwalay.

At ito naman, the shortest route to having a job kaagad, right away, maraming recruiter. Maraming mga vul --- vultures diyan. They pounce on them at i-recruit. Pagdating doon sa Middle East, ganon rin.

You know, I was told by that military that --- hindi naman lahat. Not all Arabs. But there are certain Arab tribes na ang culture... Huwag --- mag... You work like a slave even if you are paid. It does not really matter. There’s no difference between a worker and a slave. ‘Pag binabayaran ka, lahat ang trabahong ka-p\*\*\*\*\* ipapagawa sa iyo until you die and then --- I’m not saying it’s all --- there are certain tribes that allow sexual abuse. And they do it almost everyday.

‘Yan ang problema. Tapos kung mabuntis, padalhin lang sa doctor ipa-abort. Hindi... Kaya itong ano --- ‘Di... Itong sa droga ang galit ko... Itong mga ‘to... Itong pamilya mag-collapse. Itong bata wala na. Babae? At 15, 14 lalabas ‘yan wala na ‘yan. Mabuntis lang ‘yan. Kung sino-sino until she becomes a prostitute and with a child to support.

Itong mga ‘to, kung bata pa, lalo --- just... Labas-pasok sa bahay. With no food, they go out. And then the easiest way to go into business and earn money is itong shabu because it is available. It is flooding the country. My God, you... T\*\*\* i\*\* kayo mga human rights.

You just keep... You --- you count the number of criminals. What's... To me, it's a piece of carcass there. At ang kababayan ko, my countrymen are suffering. Kaya ako ang Pilipino, ganun na lang ang galit ko. Kaya sabi ko noon, mayor ako sa Davao, for those of you taga-Davao, kung hindi ko ginanun, hindi 'yan gaganda ang Davao. It would not be as progressive. It would not be as clean. It could not be as beautiful if I did not do something.

Eh Pilipino ako eh. And it happened naging mayor ako, nag-Presidente ako. Itapon mo na 'yan sa aking paradigm.

I am for my countrymen and fellow human beings. Do not f\*\*\* with them because hihiritan talaga kita. That's why I said... Human rights? Tama 'yan. If you destroy my country, I will kill you. If you are dead, then you destroy my country. I said I don't mind. Ganun 'yan eh.

Pero sa siyudad ko, umalis kayo. Give us a breather. Sabi ko sa taga-Davao, you can walk the streets again. You can rest assured that itong mga anak ninyo, itong mga salesgirl na uuwi ng alas onse, alas dose, that they could --- they come home safe and sound, unmolested, undisturbed.

Sabi ko sa pulis sa Davao, "Ask your son, your daughter, and wife, and let them walk in Davao at anytime especially at night." If they come home safe, sound, physically walang nangyari, then that is the standard that I am imposing on you in the city.

Kaya sabi ko those who want to destroy the city, patayin mo. P\*\*\*\*\*... Wala akong pa... Talagang hihiritan kita because you are destroying my city. What is the meaning of this? Now, look.

I am the President now. The next generation is just in the corner --- in the wings waiting. Do you think I would die with the thought na I did not some --- I did not do something that is really... Wala 'yang mga presidente. Walang ginawa eh. Even and now 'yung mayor. Kaya nagkaganun.

Eh kung sana [dahan-dahan?] lang nila 'yun, hindi... It would not be as huge a problem as it is now. Hinayaan eh. Kita mo nung nag-surrender sa TV by the thousands? Payat, walang kain, mga criminal. Ang p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\* nila. Tsk.

Tapos takot lang kasi 'yung pulis bakit naka...? Kasi 'yung pulis noon, 'pag kinasuhan... You know, a policeman, when he is charged, that day he is automatically suspended and the pay is gone. So there is no more food on the table for the family, at pareho rin siya ng adik na wala --- ma-diskaril. Derailed ang pamilya niya.

So it kind of... You know, it creates so many problems because of drugs. Kaya sabi ko I ordered government to publish all drug cases in the entire country. Every morning sa 8888, PTV-4. Nandiyan 'yan nakalista. Tingnan ninyo kung ilan ang patay.

Mabuti't na lang may isa, dalawa. Because that is the --- crimes related to drugs. Droga lang ang pina-publish ko diyan. Hindi na 'yung iba.

Hindi nila alam, akala nila lahat ng pinapa... Alam mo ito pagka nahuli, he will rot on his --- sinong nagsu-supply sa kanya.

Ito, madali ito matakot. Sabihin mo "Ihulog kita ngayon diyan sa Pasig." Then ito, magkahulihan na, in the --- tapos in the end, papatayin talaga 'to. Or ito namang agawan sa droga, hindi mag-remit ng kanyang kita sa droga 'yung peddlers --- 'yung tawag nilang basurero.

There is the drug lord, then there's lieutenants who distribute then there are the basurero. Akala nila lahat ng kaso ng drugs, gobyerno na. Ito, tarantado ito mga human rights na... Maniwala ka sa mga buang na ito. Pati 'yung --- pati na 'yang mga abogado na walang alam. Maniwala ka.

Karamihan diyan mga puti, mga bugok 'yan. Totoo lang. Kaya sabi ko, one day, I'd love to debate with you in public, international and I'd show to the world how stupid you are. Forgetting that it is a sacred duty of a president to preserve his country and protect the people.

I am a government worker [applause] and that is my job. Huwag na 'yang presidente-presidente. Aalis rin ako dito balang araw. Two years from now. Pero huwag mo akong bigyan ng ganung problema at ganung injustice.

Hindi ko matanggap-tanggap 'yan. Maski noong maliit pa ako. I never really wanted 'yung magkaya-kaya, bullying, mag-bully-bully ka diyan. Kaya ako, marami ako dinaanan sa buhay na hindi maganda.

I never bullied anybody. But I do not want to see anybody bully somebody. Kaya ako, diyan sa law school, may binaril ako diyan dahil bullying. Ayon.

Sa classroom binaril ko. College of law. Hindi na sana ako maka-graduate. Mabuti't na lang ang g\*\*\*, 'yung kanya walang lisensya 'yung baril.

Martial law kami eh. '72. [Anong year ka ba?] '95? '85? Ah very late ka. Class '72 ako. Martial law kami. Puro kami nagdadala ng baril noon eh, nung wala pang martial law. That is why 'yung October na drug ano, naging November or December na.

Kaya ayaw ko talaga 'yung... Ayaw ko 'yang api-api. That --- maybe that's one reason why naging mayor ako for the longest time.

I only had one --- about one election. Kay Nograles. After that, wala na ako. That's why I stayed for 23 years. Wala akong kalaban. Ang kalaban ko 'yung mga durugista pati mga kriminal. If you... Alam mo 'yung mga durugista, if the monkey rides on the back and they crave for the... Mag-hold up, magpunta...

Una ka --- una ngayon, bahay mo, 'yung sarili. Tapos pagkaubos na, 'yung... 'Pag nakahirit na, mag-inom 'yan. Basta makahirit 'yan ng ano, mag-inom 'yan. Pag-inom niyan, diyan na ang...

That's why 'yung isang teller, there was a heavy downpour and he was --- she was knocking at the door because she could not be heard by the father or mother. Tinabihan lang ng mga construction workers 'yung teller ng bangko.

Kinuha, binitbit, at diyan lang din sa other building na ano. Pinatay. Meron naman diyan nag... Construction workers nag-shabu. It's everywhere. Akala mo 'yung matatanda diyan sa boulevard nag-upo? Nag-shabu 'yan. Lahat 'yan. Maniwala ka.

'Yung naka-upo lang, naka-ganun diyan mga babae na vendors? Naka-shabu lahat 'yan, may tama 'yan. Hindi lang masyado bayolente kay hanggang diyan lang rin sila eh.

'Yung sa Bulacan, ni-rape 'yung blind mother, ni-rape 'yung asawa, 'yung 14 years old, tapos 'yung one year old pinakialaman pa, sinaksak. You know, mayor ako. Ayaw ko ng... I would... I do not want to revisit...

Kung bata patayin mo, rapein (rape) mo, mabubuhay ka kaya? Eh swerte ka. 'Yung sa Makati, one year old tinali sa ano [door?] --- tapos ni-rape sa anal ang bata. Patay. Three months ago.

Mabubuhay ka kaya kung abutin kita? Kasi sabagay namatay man lahat. Kay kung hindi, ang pulis ko man ang patayin. P\*\*\*\*\* i\*\* ka bakit buhay 'yan? Y\*\*\* ka. Kung hindi 'yan --- mabuhay ang ano, ang pulis ang patayin ko. L\*\*\*\*\*.

Alam mo, pagka hindi mo kinasahan ito, puro talaw na lang. Takot tayo diyan sa human rights. Kaya 'yung mga pulis noon, "Bakit wala? Sa panahon ni Duterte, maraming nahuli." Kasi they were sweeping the drug --- the drug problem under the carpet.

Alam mo, pagka-Presidente ko, 'yan ang sina --- pagka-mayor ko, sinabi ko, "Hihiritan ko kayo." Kayong taga-Davao, narinig ninyo 'yan. "Umalis kayo dito sa Davao. 'Pag hindi, patay kayo."

Kung hindi ka umalis, namatay ka, hindi ko na problema 'yan. G\*\*\*. Kung sinong nag-patay. Ewan ko. [laughter] Sabihin nila ako? Istorya lang man 'yun. [laughter] Wala man bayad 'yang istorya.

Ay ganun. Pagka pasalubong mo ako ng mga klaseng ganun, tawagan mo ako. Hindi ako papayag ng --- to evil. I know, for evil to triumph. Ang problema nito, itong mga p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*\*\*\* ito, kasi akala nila sila lang ang evil.

Hindi nila alam na evil 'yung presidente. 'Di pareho ta, mag-bangga tayo. Evil to evil na. Kaya kung --- kaya kung mag-barong ako tapos mag... Magsama pa ako diyan sa pari 'pag ostya. Sus, huwag kayong magkumpiyansa diyan. Pati nga sa pari.

Huwag kayong mag-kumpiyansa. Kung anong pinaggagawa ng kamay na 'yan. P\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*, sabihin mo "Nag-hugas ka ba, father?" [laughter] P\*\*\*\*\* i\*\*. Kaya totoo. I know. I know because we were molested when we were young sa Ateneo.

Father Falvey, Mark Falvey. Tingnan mo sa internet. Lumalabas. His crimes in Los Angeles. The Jesuits --- order of --- the order of Jesuits. Jesuits. They lost 25 million. Multiple ang kaso eh. He was assigned in Davao.

Kaya alam mo... Sino... Lahat man siguro tayo nag... Graduate ka ng Ateneo. 'Di ba Friday there is always the confession, all of us. Lalaki pala kami lahat noon. Then we go to mass to take communion.

Habang --- habang nagko-confess kami, "Bless me father for I have sinned. Stop f\*\*\*\*\* with my p\*\*\*\*\*." Eh doon sa... Mina-masturbate ka eh. Eh papaano 'yan? Kaya sabi ko noon, 'yung ano.

The Pope himself he went to Dubai, admitted. [unclear] Tatahimik ang pari. Sabi ko mga g\*\*\* kayo eh. I was there to correct you because you are the only one who can correct yourself. I was talking about it even when I was mayor because I was a victim.

Sinong kasama ko? Diyan sa Cabinet, meron diyan. Ayaw ko lang i-mention kasi nagagalit eh. Pero noon, sinasabi ko. May mga kababata kasi ako diyan na bright --- the brightest actually.

Alam mo na kung sino. Who's the brightest there? Kasali 'yan. Hindi lang umiimik kasi nahihiya. Takot. Eh ako, walang hiya, wala man rin akong takot. Bakit ako matakot sa p\*\*\*\*\* i\*\* mo? 'Yan ang ano.

Tapos itong mga OFW, they work until they are bone-weary, dead tired, beat para lang makapakita tapos they earn money and send it to the family dito. Pagdating dito, magbili ng shabu imbes na mag-aral.

By the time her sacrifice --- pupunta siya dito, pag-uwi, she finds out that she was ano --- in perdition for nothing. Kaya ako galit sa mga recruiter pati sa 'yang mga shabu.

Kayong mga recruiter, I am putting you on the level na parang shabu rin.

Kaya sabi ko na, "Ano?" Ngayon, magsabi ko, they will [rot?] eh. Dalhin mo sa helicopter. Secretary Paras. Ganun. Tatlong suspect, kidnap. I'm sure sila eh. Sabi ng mga tao sila nag-kidnap. Eh 'di sakay sa helicopter.

"Magsabi kayo. Hindi kayo magsabi? Walang imik? Ihulog mo 'yung isa." T\*\*\* i\*\*, ikaw. Dala-dalawang-isip ka pa. Ah tulak, hulog. Sabi ko, "Ngayon isa ka na lang. Bubuhayin kita 'pag magsabi ka ng totoo. Saan 'yung biktima ngayon?" "Sir, nasa ano."

Tatawagan ko ang piloto. Sabihin mo nandoon banda sa Panacan, diyan sa likod ng warehouse. In 30 minutes, "Yes sir, nandiyan, positive." "Ah okay." Ah ihulog ko rin. [laughter] You know, when you are evil, I am more evil than you.

Kaya na-Presidente ako, either malas ang Pilipinas or in a way swerte kayo. Talagang magsabi, -- maski magsabi ka ng totoo, go. What is the purpose of your existence? What right do you have? What do you --- what do you...? Let me put it is this way, to make it more...

By what universal right do you have to destroy my child? 'Yan ang ano diyan eh. Anong --- bakit mo sirain? You know, a child to me is primal. That is what I have come up. It is a primal thing. Kaya tayong mga lalaki, in our stupidity sometimes, 'pag buntis 'yung asawa mo --- 'pag nanganak na, "Lalaki ba? Lalaki ba?" What...

Basta anak. Lalaki-lalaki. Pero gusto natin --- but what is... Because primal 'yan eh. Ang problema niyan ang nanay lang talaga ang naka --- nakaalam kung ikaw ba talaga ang tatay. [laughter] Buti pa 'yung babaeng anak mo, paglabas sa ospital, eh anak mo talaga.

Ang lalaki kasi gusto ng lala --- I'm not saying the --- I'm trying to just you know, figure out with you. What's a g\*\*\*\*\* reason really to insisting lalaki? 'Yung mga ibang --- lahat, lahat tribes. Eh ayaw ko na lang mag-ano but 'yung iba...

There's a country that the wife walks behind the husband. She cannot be at par with her. At 'yung husband --- sa likod. 'Yung iba wala. Ang babae relegated 'yan doon sa ano. Pero p\*\*\* sabihin mo, "Ba't sino? Ba't mo sigurado iyo 'yan?" O sige ka. Pero primal 'yan.

You know, 1,000 years from now kung buhay pa itong planeta na ito, kung hindi sirain ng America pati ng China. [laughter] Sila man --- sila naman magsira talaga ng... Russia. Pero itong dalawa, sisirain talaga tayo. But anyway, if we are still --- 1,000 years from now, you --- you will meet me somewhere hindi mo lang alam.

Somewhere in this planet we will meet again. But you do not know me and maybe I cannot also remember meeting you. That's too far away, 1,000 years. But the thing is a child is primal. You know why? Because everybody wants to live forever.

Alam mo 'yan? So pagsabi --- paglabas ng anak ko 'yang si Pulong, tsk akala ko... Alam mo 'yang bata mabuti lang talaga 'yang anak mo maliit pa, 'pag malaki na, aysusmaryo... [laughter] Kaya naalala ko pati 'yung nanay ko. Alam mo ba every --- almost three times a week nasa altar ako nakadupa. Tapos magbaba lang nang konti, pak.

Kaharap ko naman nakaganun rin, nakataas. Si Hesus. Kaya magsabi talaga ako, "T\*\*\* i\*\* Hesus pareho talaga ang swerte natin." [laughter] Totoo man. Hanggang ngayon family crucifix namin niyan. 'Pag --- noong naanak ako nandiyan na 'yan hanggang ngayon.

Pero ngayon nakaganun na. Kasi --- hindi --- hindi ko na... Sige siya ampo. Ano bang ampo sa Tagalog? Dasal. "Tulongan mo ang Pilipinas na ano, sa droga." Dumating itong human rights, takot na tuloy 'yung pulis.

Kaya sabi ko, you do your duty. If you do your duty in accordance with law, huwag mong patayin 'yan nakatali, naka --- nag-surrender. Wala kami niyan and I will not allow it. Hindi lalaki 'yan magpatay ka ng tao na...



Aba'y labanan mo. Encourage him to fight you para mapatay mo 'yang mga y\*\*\* na 'yan. Pero hindi kami nagpapatay ng sabihin mo nakaupo ng ganun. Nakakahiya 'yan sa ilang lalaki gawain mo na ganun. Para ka namang hindi lalaki kung ganun.

So 'yun ang... Sabi ko, do your duty, and if you do your duty tapos nademanda kayo, akin 'yan. Kaya ako ang binibira ng human rights. Akin 'yan. For all of the killings that were done in the course of their duties by the police and the military, akin 'yan.

'Yang 6,000 na namatay sabi ng pulis, 'yung iba diyan lumaban, akin 'yan. I answer for it. Ako na ang... I assume full legal responsibility. Sabi ko sa pulis trabaho lang kayo. Huwag kayong matakot. Kasi nga sabi ko ang pulis, the day ma-suspend 'yan wala na 'yan pagkain. Wala na ang mga anak at wala ng pamasaha.

Tapos takutin ka pa. Piktyuran 'yang asawa mo, ipakita sa iyo. P\*\*\* ka. "'Yung asawa mo nasa mall, nasa ano ngayon, nasa --- this mall, naglalakad. Ang sanina niya --- ang..." Anong sanina sa Tagalog? Nagta-Tagalog, ang hirap. "Ang damit niya --- ang damit niya dotted..."

Eh kung ikaw na pulis tawagan ka nang ganun, maligayahan ka? Magsabi ka nga, "Sir, papaano 'to?" Kaya ganun. You fight dirty. Sabi ko nga do not ever, ever think that you are the only evil thing in this planet.

'Yan ang --- those are my lamentations actually. At kung sabihin ninyo na I pretend to be --- no. If you think that I am bad, bastos, o ano, a killer, okay lang. Kasi puro lahat man ng presidente nagdaan mabait man. 'Di may killer kayo ng isa, okay na. [laughter] Pero tingnan mo naman, sino naman pinapatay ko?

Tapos 'yung sali-sali 'yung mga pari kasi patayin ko raw sila. Hayaan ko kayo sa racket ninyo. Patay... You... I will not waste my bullet with you guys.

So tapos na tayong then I have to be prim and proper. I now read the speech which is... [laughter]

I am... Eh sabi ko usap lang man 'yon, ito ano na ito.

I am pleased to join you tonight as we hold the National Awarding of the Model OFW Family of the Year 2019.

I thank the Department of Labor and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the entire organizing committee of the Model OFW [Family] of the Year Awards for giving due recognition to our OFWs and their families.

The annual search is a showcase of the best practices on how to nurture OFW family despite the distance and challenges, on how their success resonates with the rest of society.

It is truly admirable that despite the absence of the important family member because he or she has to work in another country, the family remains solid and intact.

I therefore join the entire nation in recognizing the OFWs and their families around the globe for their hard work.

I know that being apart [from] your loved ones demands great emotional endurance on your part and the families you momentarily leave behind.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge your impact on our country's progress not only in terms of your invaluable contribution to the economy, but also [in showcasing] the skills and talents of the Filipino [to the international [community]].

Let me assure you that in return, we, in government, will continue to ensure that your efforts to uplift the lives of your families shall not be put in vain.

The government's ultimate goal [for] OFWs is to [provide] them sustainable work and livelihood opportunities in our country so someday, somehow. This will remain as one of the top priorities of my government.

Now, more than ever, we need you, the OFWs and your families, to take part in our nation-building efforts. I thus call on you to carry [on] with [your] pursuits and aspirations as you continue to make our country proud.

Congratulations to the recipients of these awards for your accomplishments and for being an inspiration to all Filipinos, wherever you are.

Daghang salamat sa inyo. [applause]

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