

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
News and Information Bureau**

**INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS OFFICE
SECRETARY MARTIN ANDANAR BY ATTY. BRUCE RIVERA, ATTY. JESS FALCIS
AND MAEANNE LOS BAÑOS – BOLJAK/RADYO SINGKO
January 22, 2020**

ATTY. RIVERA: Ako, sir, ang tanong, of course I was asked in the ‘The Chiefs’ about the legacy thing. Ang una kong impression, ‘Teka, papalitan na ba si PRRD at bakit may legacy na?’ Kasi under law parlance, parang if you talk of legacy, it’s under with a succession. So parang patay na or tapos na. So parang sinabi ko na baka ito iyong sinasabi nilang legacy building na ito iyong mga legacy ni President Duterte that is supposed to be the purpose of a legacy. Pero iyon nga lang, Secretary, nakita ko may dalawang ano ... na-explain naman sa akin ni Usec. Badoy, iyong 64 airports na alam natin na hindi naman 64 iyong airports parang ano; and moreover, iyong five percent na families na hindi napapasukan ng common crimes na kapag PR wise, dapat 94 point something percent ang pamilya na safe from crimes – So ano po talaga ang totoo?

SEC. ANDANAR: Iyong doon sa infrastructure, halimbawa, mayroong mga nag-comment negatively about 2,700 bridges, for example. Unang-una, lahat ng mga datos na ito ay galing mismo sa mga ahensiya tulad ng DPWH, tulad ng DOTr, na kung ano ang sinasabi nila sa amin, niri-report namin.

Now, ito, hindi naman nakalagay na 2,700 brand new bridges – hindi naman. Two thousand seven hundred bridges project – ibig sabihin, it could be brand new; it could be retrofitted; it could be rehabilitated; widened, iyon iyon. And all of these projects are part of the Build, Build, Build. Kasama ito doon sa walong trilyong piso na ipinangako ng gobyerno. At kasama rin ito sa mga proyekto na naglikha ng more than four million jobs na magiging sanhi ng pag-asenso ng ating ekonomiya.

ATTY. RIVERA: Ang sinasabi dito ng IBON Foundation, Sec. Martin, ay iyong four million jobs, iyong iba daw doon parang isang tao, dalawang jobs. So parang does it matter na—

SEC. ANDANAR: Ito namang IBON Foundation, alam mo namang makakaliwa itong mga ito, ang gusto nila ay i-take over iyong gobyerno. Ganito lang kasimple iyan: The bottomline is ... ito, may lumabas na survey kahapon, eh di ho ba tumaas na naman – 82% -- at least sa SWS, pinakamataas—

ATTY. FALCIS: Record high approval rating.

ATTY. RIVERA: Ito, Sec. Martin, ito iyong parang sinasabi ngayon ng mga critics na sinasabi nila na the reason daw na mataas ang survey ni President Duterte because we – kasama na

ako, kasi isa ako sa mga sinasabing may kasalanan – ang nagpi-feed ng wrong information, wrong statistics to the public. Which is sabi ko ay it's not that the people believed the statics, I don't think they even read them. Ang sa akin is, they feel it. Iba naman iyong feeling doon sa... oh 'di ba? – So ano po ang masasabi ninyo diyan?

SEC. ANDANAR: Ito namang IBON Foundation iniinsulto naman ang intelligence ng Pilipino. Ang Pilipino ho ay marunong mag-analyze, sumuri ng kung anumang impormasyon. Hindi naman basta-basta ... parang iyong mainit na kanin na isinubo sa iyo tapos iluluwa mo lang. Ang Pilipino naman ay matalino, eh para namang iniinsulto nila.

Siguro ang tingnan natin ay kung ano iyong mga na-deliver. Halimbawa, Universal Health Care Law, free tertiary education at mayroon tayong mga testimonials na nagsasabi na talagang nakinabang na sila.

ATTY. RIVERA: Ako, iyong TRAIN. I think in the long run, the TRAIN will be beneficial, para sa akin.

SEC. ANDANAR: The TRAIN Law wherein more than—

LOS BAÑOS: Secretary Lodi, may tanong lang ako. Kasi ang isyu dito ng iba is, of course, kaniya-kaniyang diskarte iyong bawat administrasyon. Sabi itong Duterte legacy, PR or branding thing, there's nothing wrong about it, sir. But iyon daw timing ng launching, right in the middle of Taal eruption – ano ang kumento mo lang diyan?

SEC. ANDANAR: Ah hindi, actually, Maeanne, kung babalikan natin, kahit i-Google ninyo pa, i-type mo iyong Duterte legacy, October pa ng last year ay ina-announce ko na ito. And in fact, it was supposed to be launched November, na-cancel; December na-cancel na naman, so kaya January talaga iyong kaniyang ano, iyong final.

The Duterte Legacy in itself, it's a communication campaign to inform the people of the legacies of the President for the last three years. Now, kung natandaan ninyo, Atty. Bruce, mayroon tayong Dutertenomics noong 2017. Noong Dutertenomics 2017, puro pangako pa lang iyon, puro pangako. Sa Bisaya, puro saad.

Pero ngayon, hindi na ho pangako. Iyong mga sinaad natin noong 2017, iyong pinangako natin noong 2017 ay nai-deliver na. Ito mayroong pang mga testimonies, may mga testimonials ito ng mga tao na nakinabang doon sa mga polisiya, doon sa mga dineliber natin – ito iyong buod ng Duterte Legacy.

ATTY. RIVERA: Sir, of course, alam natin na iyong mga panaad, iyong saad iyong sa Dutertenomics, alam natin na karamihan ng mga naging presidente, hanggang doon lang naman eh. Hindi naman sila umabot doon sa point na talagang binigay nila, or nandoon sila, kalahati o nangangalahati or something like that. Of course, iyong sasabihin ng ibang tao na

parang eh hindi pa naman tapos iyan, bakit niri-report na. Ang sagot ko naman doon sa ‘The Chief’ sabi ko, siguro midterm report ito.

Ibig sabihin, ito iyong mga ginawa, natapos na and I think, ang legacy by itself is what will happen after Duterte becomes, you know, after somebody takes over and his policies or what he has done remains, stand the test of time. So ano po ang maku-comment ninyo diyan sir – is this technically a PR thing or this is a report by itself that is meant to educate individuals?

SEC. ANDANAR: It is really a report to educate every citizen of this country. Sabi nga noong isang mataas na opisyal, isang executive ng isang malaking network na kalaban ninyo, sabi niya, “You know, ito iyong failure ng mga nakaraang administrasyon. They forgot to instill, they forgot to immortalize the legacies of their presidents.” So kumbaga, mayroong... kaniya-kaniyang opinyon naman iyan, Atty. Bruce, Atty. Jess at Maeanne, di ba ang sabi ng iba, “too early”; Iyong iba naman sasabihin, “Hindi tama iyan.” Marami ang magsasabi na tama lang iyan.

ATTY. RIVERA: Tama iyan.

SEC. ANDANAR: Para sa amin ay tama lamang na i-inform ang public kung ano iyong mga nagawa ng ating mahal na Pangulo. Tell them that this is the legacy kasi nga in the future, in less than three years we’ll have an election – a presidential election. Now, this could serve as a barometer or the goal standard para iyong mga pipili ng kanilang mga kandidato sa pagkapangulo, they would think na, ‘Ano ba, gusto ko bang continuity nitong mga ginawa ni Presidente Duterte or gusto nating pumili ng isang Presidente na hihigitan pa ito.’

LOS BAÑOS: It think, Secretary, hindi lang sa Pangulo ito ‘no. Galing kang media kaya gets mo ito. Hindi lang ito sa Pangulo, sa lahat ng mga pulitiko, it really matters na sinasabi mo ano iyong nagawa mo. Not necessarily binibida mo pero gets ko iyong punto na iyan, kailangan ninyong i-report sa mga tao anong nagawa ninyo. But to say it is a legacy, Sec. Martin, isn’t too early kasi baka ... ‘di ba parang magiging bala din ito laban sa’yo. Ayan na nga, tinitira na nga kayo ng iba’t-iba like IBON Foundation. Naisip ninyo ba iyon na baka kapag inilabas natin nang ganito kaaga ito, yari tayo sa mga oposisyon. May ganoon ba kayong—

SEC. ANDANAR: Hindi naman. Understood naman na may opposition. And oposisyon naman kahit anong gawin namin, mali lahat eh. Kahit na 82 porsiyento iyong satisfied, sasabihin mali pa rin; pati iyong nag-survey – mali, pero kapag mababa, tama iyong survey. So walang tama eh! Para que? Sabi ko nga eh, mayroong mga sabi-sabi na too early, mayroong magsasabing hindi tama, may mga magsasabi na tama.

LOS BAÑOS: Ang sinasabi nila, dapat daw ginawa ninyo during the time na medyo mababa na iyong ... kumbaga pansalo ninyo ba, o pang safety net ninyo kapag medyo bumaba na

ang survey ng Pangulo. Bakit daw ngayon ninyo nilabas kung kailan ang taas-taas pa ng survey?

SEC. ANDANAR: Hindi naman kasi kami tumitingin kung iyong survey ay mababa o mataas. Sa amin, magtatrabaho kami kung ano ang mandato ng PCOO. Ang mandato ng PCOO is to inform, so we will continue to inform the public.

Now, this Duterte Legacy will run until 2022 kasi marami pang mga gagawin ang ating mahal na Pangulo, marami pang tatapusin.

ATTY. RIVERA: Ah, continuing.

SEC. ANDANAR: Continuing ito, oo.

ATTY. RIVERA: Sir, na-gets ko na. So ang punto nito is that, number one, it is to encourage people, a politician, and the President included, that you have to report to the people; tell them what you have done because karamihan kasi sa ating mga pulitiko ay ang mga issues na lang na ano tapos hindi naman nila sinasabi kung ano ang nagawa nila kaya patuloy na nai-elect sila sa posisyon kahit wala silang ginagawa. So at least kahit papaano there is something that the President is doing at this point in time. Of course, I know that business as usual ito to tell the people that even with the Taal Volcano eruption ay the government is still working, that's the reason why you have to continue that.

SEC. ANDANAR: Tama, tama po kayo diyan.

ATTY. RIVERA: And it's a continuing thing. Siguro, sir, ang tinatanong ng iba: Was there something in the campaign na masasabi mo na, 'Teka, baka ito ay may konting semplang tayo dito,' or mayroon bang mga bagay na maybe the wordologist for example, kasi iyon ang cause ng iba na na-misunderstood or na-misconstrue nila itong mga bagay-bagay na ito dahil nga iyong the term legacy by itself is a little bit ano, parang naging high-falutin at naging very general na puwede mong i-ano, ang dami mong puwedeng sabihin or madami puwedeng i-understand.

SEC. ANDANAR: Hindi ho, this is just merely a communications campaign and we are just being truthful na, halimbawa, itong Universal Health Care, it's a legacy of the President. Siya na ang pumirma. Bangsamoro Organic Law, it's a legacy. And to say otherwise would be defeating the purpose of having this great, noble policy like the Bangsamoro Organic Law. Lahat naman nagsasabi, left and right, kahit saan ka, kausap ko iyong whether a private individual or an official from the government would say, "Ah legasiya ni Presidente iyan." Kahit saan ka magpunta, legasiya! Ngayon, so ginagamit natin iyong legacy na word because totoo naman talagang legacy.

Ngayon, of course, maraming approve dito. Si Malou de Guia, sabi niya, "This is great, that they listen." May mga ganoon na talagang kailangan ilabas mo iyong baraha mo. May

magsasabi na, kapag iyong oposisyon, ‘Naku, masyadong maaga,’ kasi minus pogi points sa kanila iyon dahil kita nila na maraming ginagawa si Presidente Duterte. Now, 82 porsiyento ang satisfied kay Presidente, but what is important here really is to remind the people that the President is working tirelessly, relentlessly; working so hard.

Now, if you inform every Filipino, not only in Metro Manila but hanggang doon sa high land and low lands, then you will be inspiring Filipinos. When you inspire people, then they will rally behind the government. When they rally behind the government, they do their civic responsibility, mas aasenso ang bansa natin, mas aangat.

ATTY. FALCIS: Sec. Martin, Atty. Jess po, alam ninyo naman ako, reasonable critic ‘no? Of course, gusto ko po iyong sinasabi ninyo na lahat naman ng politicians, I think, tama kayo, they should communicate what they have achieved or ano iyong ginagawa po nila. Pero ako ang concern ko lang po, for improvement ng PCOO and of course ng communication, ang tanong ko, sir, saan po ba nanggaling iyong ano—sa long form, napanood ko iyong presscon, iyong launching, mas maganda I think iyong long form. Nasasabi nang maayos achievement, naku-contextualize. Pero iyong short form like iyong flyers o iyong condensed form ng mga statistics, parang madami doon ay misleading or parang mali iyong slant. Like iyong five percent of Filipinos report being victimized by crime, baka nga dapat ginawa ‘di ba 95% felt safer, ganoon. So paano po i-improve ng PCOO iyong ganoong mga statistics?

SEC. ANDANAR: Iyong 5.4%, if I’m not mistaken, that is from a survey. We got it from a survey, even the wording is from the survey. Now, it’s really an infographics—

ATTY. FALCIS: Yeah, but the way it’s phrased, hindi siya achievement, sir, eh. Five point four percent of Filipino families report being victimized by crime, baka dapat baliktad. Ako, I’m just here to help you communicate the achievements properly. Kapag ako binasa ko iyon sa a critic, and pinagpiyestahan iyon ng mga ibang critics, sinabi, “Oh, bakit achievements ito?”

ATTY. RIVERA: That’s still million of Filipinos.

ATTY. FALCIS: That’s still five percent.

ATTY. RIVERA: Oo, that’s still millions of Filipinos so parang ...

ATTY. FALCIS: ‘Di ba, sir, I mean, ako ang punto ko lang, sir, I agree you should communicate your achievements pero parang mayroong kulang doon sa pag—

ATTY. RIVERA: Hindi naman kulang. I don’t think it’s kulang.

ATTY. FALCIS: Room for improvement sa pag-communicate.

ATTY. RIVERA: It's a factual thing eh. It's just a matter of parang framing it. Kasi puwede naman kasi ang PCOO ay naging honest sila na 5% may krimen kasi ...puwedeng ganoon, I get that point.

LOS BAÑOS: Sige, Sec. Martin, go ahead.

SEC. ANDANAR: Well, the previous quarter was seven percent. So it went down to 5.4%. So siguro ang sinasabi ni Atty. Jess ay iyong lagyan na lang ng comparison.

ATTY. FALCIS: Something like that.

SEC. ANDANAR: Okay, that's well taken and I will forward that to our public affairs.

ATTY. RIVERA: Congratulations, sir.

ATTY. FALCIS: Good job, sir.

ATTY. RIVERA: Of course, at least naintindihan na rin ng tao kasi iyong iba kasi talagang alam naman natin iyong mga kalaban po at ang mga kritiko ay talagang magaling maghanap ng butas. Kung may butas, papasukan iyan. Alam na alam natin iyan. Pero siyempre po, I'm commending the PCOO for a good job. Alam naman po natin na kahit sabihin natin na hindi naman perfect ang isang mundo pero at least, sir, with that in mind and with your explanation, I think it's still a good job and it is still something that we should let the people know. Iyon lang ang masasabi ko diyan

SEC. ANDANAR: Salamat po – salamat, Atty. Jess, Atty. Bruce and idol Maeanne. Basta kami naman ay we will continue to do what is right. We will continue to listen also to critics. Also, before we put the phone down, I would like to thank the Filipino people for continuing to support the President – Eighty-two percent is no joke. Pinakamataas ito sa lahat ng mga president from Tita Cory all the way to President Duterte on the third year of their presidency – pinakamataas po iyong kay Presidente, kita naman natin, 70 plus percent in terms of net satisfaction.

ATTY. FALCIS: I love how you call President Cory as Tita Cory.

ATTY. RIVERA: Baka naman tita niya talaga.

LOS BAÑOS: Sec. Lodi, maraming salamat sa oras mo ha. As always, lagi mong tinatanggap iyong tawag namin. Thank you.

SEC. ANDANAR: Maraming salamat. Mabuhay po kayong tatlo!

##

--

News and Information Bureau-Data Processing Center