

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE 11TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND 22ND
FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINESE-FILIPINO BUSINESS CLUB,
INC.**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, Manila | 10 February 2020]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

His Excellency Huang Xilian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines; Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles and other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go; Senator Imee Marcos; officers and members of the Chinese-Filipino Club led by Mr. Allan Wong But Loy; Mr. Alejandro Co; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

I would not want to belabor the point because it might sound really a redundancy to your ears. But as we continue with the governance towards the end of my term, there is --- if one thing I really want --- I cannot stop corruption, but you can help me minimize it.

Most of you are businessmen or gainfully employed and always the subject of the prowlers and that is the government. Men and women who work in the raising of funds for the country.

Let me just say one thing: Just be assertive. That's all. All that I ask of you is be assertive and do not surrender to the --- you know, the threats and the intimidations that you will encounter while they are examining your books.

Because if you are really a businessman of truth, you just can --- you just can --- you know, report everything that is legal and deductions that are legal. And wala kang sakit sa ulo.

So I'm asking you to --- I am not reading my prepared speech --- I am asking you to join me in my quest. Not I said to do away with corruption because that would be impossible, but to help me minimize it.

And the secret word there is be assertive. And when you, like us, ask you to do a thing, we always provide a sort of a refuge for you if they persist. You can always count on us. You can count my friends. You can count on my --- Jaime Cruz,

Sammy Uy, Senator Marcos, Bong Go, si Secretary Nograles. They are all prepared to help you.

Ang gusto ko lang na bigyan nang kaunti ninyong tapang ninyo. And do not be like a --- you know, meek and a humble... Basta na lang takutin kayo maski ano. And even if just a little of difference but it means a lot to you not to be corrupt, not to be threatened, that would go a long way to help the Philippines.

'Yung lahat ng mga BIR, lahat sa Customs, tandaan mo lang ang mga mukha nila. At 'pag humingi sa inyo, sabihin lang ninyo sa akin at pupunta ako sa paleng --- palengke --- [laughter] pupunta ako doon sa pantalan at ipapasok ko na 'yang kargada --- anong mga kargada ninyo, mga cargo, libre. Just report to me in one statement a stupid guy. 'Yan lang ang...

Huwag kayong matakot because I will never also allow you to be harmed na takutin, patayin o saktan. I will never allow that. I will not ask you to do something if I cannot provide also the relief.

Kaya malaman ko lang better still there is the [8888]. You name the corrupt official, the transaction. Huwag mo na ilagay ang pangalan mo. And I'll take it from there. O 'yung malalaki, sabihin niyo. Sabihin mo, leche ka. Ayan nga 'yung assessment eh. 'Yun 'yung babayaran namin according sa inyong ano. Kung pasobrahan mo, well let us raise this matter to the collector of Customs or to the commissioner of Customs.

Huwag kayong bu --- unahan na lang ninyo na sabihin ninyo ito 'yung assessment, ipakita mo, then I would know how much really is due government. Hindi naman ako ganon ka t*****. All of I have to do is to look at the...

I've been with government for 40 years now. And I've been running after corrupt officials. You know wala na si Marcos dito. But at that time, there was this TanodBayan in lieu of the Ombudsman. Wala pa 'yang Ombudsman --- TanodBayan and I was one of those prosecutors --- made special prosecutors for the TanodBayan also and to investigate drugs. Kaya alam ko.

'Yung cargo, mag-ano kayo diyan sabihin ko lang, "Ano 'yan? Anong karga niyan? Buksan mo." O kung totoo 'di magkano hiningi nito? Then I would know.

If there's threat --- threatening you, then tell me kung sino 'yan at paluluhurin ko 'yan sa harap ninyo, really. Huwag kayong matakot kasi kayo rin ang kawawa. Kayo 'yung parang whipping boy ng ito mga nasa gobyerno na corrupt.

Just tell us who they are, sabihin mo sa akin kung sino 'yung pangalan niya and as my practice, I will call him to my office with you at pakinggan ko sa kanya kung ano, bakit nagkaganon, sagot. At kung makita ko may kasalanan, p***** j** mo maasahan mo talaga sasampalin ko 'yan sa harap mo.

I have not --- I have done that many times already. I have done that to a --- undersecretary. May sinipa na rin ako noon na director. All you have to do is to tell me, what ails your system. 'Yung malaki masyadong hiningi...

Alam mo... May pagkain kami pagkatapos? [laughter] Gutom ako. Maski nung maliit pa kami sa subdivision namin. Sa mga subdivisions sa Davao, sino 'yung magagandang mga bahay? Sino ang nakakabili ng kotse, modelo? It's either the collector or the BIR. At hindi na lang sila nahiya magtira ng bahay na 'yan with their meager income and they have these big houses.

And for all of the... I do not want to insult the... Not all --- not all BIR or Customs personnel are corrupt. Pero let me... I'm groping for the words: prolific. The prolific corruption sa... Kayo ang kawawa diyan eh.

Kaya gusto kong pumunta dito para sabihin sa inyo whether... I do not ask you if you voted for me or if you helped me. Huwag kayong matakot even if you are --- we are enemies.

I will still entertain you pero pagkatapos pakainin mo naman ako kagaya ng ganun diyan kay gutom na. 'Yan lang ang mensahe ko. [applause] 'Yan lang ang mensahe ko talaga. Basahin ko na lang itong... Eh nandiyan 'yung gumawa nito eh. [laughter] Hindi naman akin 'to. But it carries the same --- conveys the same message.

Be assured of our sincerest appreciation of these initiatives that help boost our government efforts and strengthen local sectors.

The government, in turn, remains committed in our pursuit of peace and the ongoing war on drugs, crimes and corruption. We remain hard at work in fostering lasting economic growth and sustainable development.

On this note, I advise you to further invest in the country because we are ready to uphold a level playing field while we foster an enabling, nurturing and global competitive business environment.

Guided by the values of integrity and excellence, let us forge a brighter and better future for all and leave a legacy of fruitful cooperation and for the next generation.

Mind you before I close. I am not zeroing really at the Customs or the BIR. Marami dito. Magkuha ka ng permit, ah magkuha ka ng clearance, pabalikin ka, pabalikin.

If you are... You know, if you are asked to go back and forth four times, three times, the corruption is there. Para na lang ma-release, bayad ka na lang. Ganun 'yan eh.

So if you have a business transaction and it is with a director o sa office ng assistant niya or anybody in that office who has the discretion to approve or disapprove it, let me know. Let me know. Ako ang pupunta sa opisina at kukunin ko 'yung papel, kukumutin (crumple) ko sa harap niya.

Kay kung hindi mo ganunin, wala talagang mangyari sa Pilipinas. Kung hindi mo takutin itong mga --- o patayin, hindi talaga. Mas... Corruption is... They would rather die --- kung nag-commit corruption rather than remain poor. Hindi nila kaya eh.

So that's what I've been saying. If you are not ready to be at least honest fundamentally, huwag kang pumasok sa gobyerno. Kaya ako lahat dito, magprangka ako, lahat, lahat ng nandito sa gobyerno, sa Cabinete ko, 'yung naghinggi ng trabaho kay gusto niya 'yan, denied 'yan.

'Pag magsabi "Ilagay mo ako sa Customs, BIR." Sabi ko, "Adre, that job is not for you." "Why?" "Because you are already planning how to corrupt yourself." Ganun 'yan.

Hindi ako nag-a-ano pero 'yan ang totoo. Hindi lang diyan sa cit --- 'yung City Hall. Maski na 'yung local governments. Pwede Caloocan, pwede Manila, pwede Mandaluyong, pwede lahat. Pwede...

Hindi lang man sinasabi ko ito lang sila. O sa probinsya. Sabihin mo sa akin. Tell me and I will prove to you that we are ready to stand by our promise to stop corruption.

Maraming salamat po. [applause]

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