

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

**DURING THE INAUGURATION OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT
LINE 2 EAST EXTENSION PROJECT**

[Delivered at the LRT Line 2 Antipolo Station in Antipolo City, Rizal |
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Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Let me greet the personalities present. Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade; Public Works and Highways Secretary Mark Villar; Presidential Adviser for Southern Tagalog Casimiro Ynares Jr.; MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos Jr.; Senator Bong Go; Deputy House Speaker Roberto Puno; Embassy of Japan Chargé d'affaires Masahiro Nakata; Rizal Provincial Governor Rebecca Ynares; Antipolo City Mayor Andrea Ynares; LRT Administrator Reynaldo Berroya; PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago; PNR General Manager Junn Magno; Angono Municipal Mayor Jeri Mae Calderon; Taytay Municipal Mayor Ricardo Gacula II; former Governor Casimiro Ynares III; JICA Chief Representative Eigo Azukizawa; fellow workers in government; other invited guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to be part of today's inauguration of the Light Rail Transit Line 2 East Extension Project – one of the hallmarks of this administration's strong commitment to provide a better transportation system for all.

Allow me to thank the hardworking and visionary workers and engineers who took part in the planning and construction of this railway extension and the two new stations that we open today.

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa ating mga manggagawang Pilipino!

Let me also commend the Department of Transportation and all its private sector partners for the completion of this key project despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your efforts and determination show that our government stops at nothing to carry on with its mandate to serve the people's interests no matter the circumstances.

The opening of two additional LRT 2 stations – one in Marikina and another in Antipolo – will increase the line's daily capacity by 80,000 passengers.

The usual three-hour travel [time] from Recto [in] Manila to Masing in Antipolo will now be just 40 minutes.

Indeed, this project will improve mobility and ensure transportation connectivity, especially in the busy [eastern] part of Metro Manila.

Now, our commuters can travel faster, be more productive at work, and enjoy quality time with their loved ones, especially in the middle of this health crisis.

Now, our commuters can travel faster to be more productive and enjoy quality time in travel to and fro from their work.

Let me assure everyone that these developments will be responsive to the challenges of the 21st century and beyond so we can adapt and respond to the unexpected challenges of the times.

Let me assure you that we will fully reap the benefits of our Build, Build, Build Program as we continue to overcome the pandemic and gradually reopen our economy.

I encourage everyone to help the government in creating an environment that will allow the safe reopening of economic activities.

We can do this by getting vaccinated against COVID-19 and continuing to follow minimum health standards at work and in public places, especially in public transportation facilities like the LRT.

To my kababayans, I invite you to remain steadfast in this journey as we reach for our final destination of achieving a more comfortable and dignified life for every Filipino.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

And for those who are here and are known to me, my apologies, I cannot search you out in the crowd. It's the eyes. And, of course, I do not have the list. But even then, I would say thank you for everything. Salamat. *[applause]*

[President Duterte returns to the podium]

Binulungan ko si Art, sabi ko "Art, puwede bang isa, dalawa o kaya mo dalawang linggong libreng pasakay para naman maligayahan 'yong mga tao, lalo na 'yong mga estudyante?" Can I ask for a moratorium sa bayad? Libre for two or three weeks? *[applause]* Two weeks daw, kaya daw niya. Mabuhay si Art Tugade! *[applause]*

You know I do not --- I've been saying this all over again being redundant about it, but this guy was our valedictorian sa law school. Alam ko talaga na marunong kaya ito ang una kong pinakiusapan na samahan ako sa journey ko of my presidency, and, of course, si Secretary Villar. Sila 'yong nag-perform exceedingly well and I thank them. *[applause]* Halika.

Si Secretary Villar is responsible for the endless highway sa Luzon. If you travel Luzon, there are many shortcuts now and travel time is reduced by almost one half. I'm really, really grateful for their services. These are my idol sa gobyerno. Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

Q&A:

[Saan tayo?] Yes, what is your --- what is your problem?

Maricel Halili (TV-5): Sir, I don't have a problem, I just want to ask a question. Good afternoon po, I'm Maricel Halili from TV-5. Sir, medyo lilihis lang po ako ng topic because after your Talk to the People last Monday, Senator Manny Pacquiao released a list of government agencies na allegedly involved daw po sa corruption, including the DOH.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I cannot make out... Sorry, kasi may ano ka eh...

Ms. Halili: Hi, sir. Magandang hapon po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Tanggalin mo na lang 'yan. Sabay na tayo magka-COVID.

Ms. Halili: *[laughs]* Sir, magandang hapon po, Maricel Halili po from TV-5. Sir, last Monday after your Talk to the People, Senator Manny Pacquiao released a list of government agencies na allegedly involved daw po sa corruption, which includes the DOH. How do you plan to respond to that, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, I will tell everybody that kung minention (mention) sila ni Pacquiao na may corruption that they should cooperate 100 percent. Iyong mga...

Alam mo 'yong sa health, 'yong finorward nila, 'yon 'yong mga accounts na bayaran ng World Bank pati Asian Development Bank. Iyong papel no'n nandoon na finorward na yata ni ano.

So if Pacquiao does not know it, I have been telling people that itong gastos ng pandemic naghiram tayo ng pera sa World Bank and kung may obligasyon tayo, all they have to do, 'yong mga creditors, can go to Land Bank --- ah to the World Bank and claim their dues.

Wala hong hinawakang pera. So maghanap pa si Pacquiao ng iba. Siya 'yong may sabi may corruption so it is his burden to identify the office and failing to do it, failing to prove his case na may corruption, eh mahirap talaga itong...

You know, when you are a champion in boxing, it does not mean to say that you are a champion in politics. So he is blabbering his mouth, tapos na. I am

waiting for his word for the next department that he would choose to investigate.

Pero imbestigahan niya ito ha. Upuan niya ito. Upuan niya ito, mag-
imbestiga siya, huwag siyang padaloy-daloy, at kung mayroon man siya ---
may ibang kompromiso, at ayaw yata mag...

You know, he has a scheduled fight but suddenly nag-back out. Probably he
knows that he is too old for that. And failing in his boxing career, kung
matalo siya, he is a goner, actually. Kailangan manalo siya, `pag natalo
siya...

Ms. Halili: Sir, does it mean na Senator Manny Pacquiao is totally out of the
picture when it comes to the presidential and vice-presidential bet of PDP-
Laban? Does it mean that you will not support him in any way?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, actually, si Inday wala pa. We were holding
our --- nirendahan namin `yong kabayo namin because we had --- nandiyan
si Pimentel, siya, and others. But suddenly he could not maybe wait for the
announcement that PDP will go for him, ayon nagwala, nagsabi "corruption
dito, corruption doon".

He has been with government for so long a time as a senator. My question
to Pacquiao is: Bakit ngayon ka lang nagsalita? At bakit umatras ka doon sa
boxing? Kasi alam mo kung matalo ka, you are a goner. Wala ka na, wala ka
talaga.

Ms. Halili: Sir, for...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Those are your inconsistencies in --- in your career.
Pero hintay kami kung sino pa. Pero I expect him to sit in Congress, do not
go anywhere, finish and find out the corruption that you are talking about.

Eh kung mag-report ka lang, dalawa, isang buwan, then I would say that
you are a s***. A s*** is a s***. Magtrabaho ka, hiningi mo `yan, nandiyan
`yong mga papel, start investigating. Do not go elsewhere. Comply first with

your duty as a senator. Tapusin mo `yan, nandiyan `yong mga papeles. Huwag kang pa-absent-absent.

Ms. Halili: Okay. Salamat po, sir.

Joyce Balancio (ABS-CBN): Good afternoon, Mr. President. I'm Joyce Balancio from ABS-CBN. I just like to ask, sir, what's the final decision, do you have a final decision whether or not you will run for vice president? Because some are saying medyo confusing daw po `yong recent remarks ninyo on alok sa inyo ---

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You are from ABS-CBN?

Ms. Balancio: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So ABS-CBN is expecting me to --- to lose because they will campaign against me?

Ms. Balancio: No, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: What --- ah what... Hindi ko naku ---

Ms. Balancio: Sir, I'm just following up a story regarding a possible vice presidency that you might seek since you've mentioned some of, you know, your sentiments in your previous public speeches.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Pang-ano lang `yon sa politika, leverage ang... You -- you would know what is a lame duck. Kaya ikaw, hindi ka talaga papayag na maging s*** ka rin, so nandito ka. You try to... Posturing `yan eh. Political posturing so that they would not treat you badly kasi paalis na ako eh.

Ngayon, kung tatakbo ako ng vice president, manalo ako, kung hindi ko kaalyado `yang presidente, all I have to do is to join the military and the police in the fight against crime, drugs, especially criminality and all, and

also maybe go around the ASEAN countries for a more cohesive relation between them kasi wala na ako eh.

Ms. Balancio: Sir, you are down to your last year as President, where do you plan to focus on?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Again, I'm down last to the last --- ?

Ms. Balancio: Your last year as President, where do you plan to focus on?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: What?

Ms. Balancio: Saan niyo po balak, sir, na mag-focus po in your last year as President? Opo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah iyon nasabi ko sa iyo. Maybe at this time you can say that --- maybe para to maintain the equilibrium sa lahat, consider me a candidate for the vice presidency at this time. Pero sabi ko naman space kasi si Romualdez --- kasi I promised him.

Ganito ang nangyari niyan ulitin ko. Noong bagong eleksyon, pagkatapos, nagpunta si Lord Velasco, si Speaker, pati si Cayetano. Eh nag-aano sila kung sino talaga. Pumasok itong latecomer na si Romualdez. Sinabi ko kay Romualdez, "Huwag ka..." I --- I pulled him aside in one corner and I whispered to him, "Huwag mo na lang guluhin because if you run for may --- vice president, I will support you."

So if Romualdez would hang on to that commitment --- sabi ko nga, if there is space lang, kung wala, eh `di wala.

Ms. Balancio: Opo. Last na lang po from me, Mr. President. Why didn't we call for the extension of Bayanihan II funds? I believe, sir, 'yong Bayanihan II Law has already expired and some are saying sayang daw po na hindi po na-extend. There are many projects of the government, especially our COVID-19 response that are not yet funded as of this time.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Hindi ko --- hindi ko nakuha ito but the... Ang atin kasing problema --- the real problem can be answered in one statement: iyong supply.

Right at the beginning of the COVID, when everybody was scrambling to get hold of vaccines, were it not for China who donated, that was our first grab, and subsequently, in trickles. Paliit-liit lang, 50,000, ganoon, then another 1 million, I think from [COVAX].

Iyan ang problema natin. Walang... I do not see any problem kay Galvez. I do not see any problem kay Health Secretary. Gusto nga nila paalisin. Ang sabi ko bigyan mo ako ng rason na paalisin ko itong si DOH.

Wala akong nakitang kasalanan. Bakit ko tanggalin? Against the advice of the many, even Cabinet members, sabi ko, I will stick with the man na walang kasalanan and working only doing his job.

There is no coherent reason why Duque should be out. Pero kung gusto niyang umalis, ibang istorya 'yan. Pero really, nahihya ako. Mahiya akong mag-ano ng tao na walang kasalanan. After all, ako 'yong nagsabi sa kanya na "join me here."

Iyong sa sinasabi nimo (mo) sa vaccines, as they come. But remember that we have iyong nag --- dumating ngayon should be intended for the second dose. Kailangan i-una muna sila. So when you say that there is 1 million and if there is already 1 million vaccinated for the first time, that 1 million will go to them for the second shot.

Ms. Balancio: Thank you so much, Mr. President.

Mela Lesmoras (PTV-4): Hi, good afternoon, Mr. President. I'm Mela Lesmoras from PTV-4. Sir, ilang araw na lang --- ilang linggo na lang ay huling State of the Nation Address niyo na po. Ano ang dapat abangan ng ating mga kababayan? At ano po 'yong mga maipagmamalaki niyong legacy ng Duterte administration?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Nothing. All I want the people is to just look around. Ito, 'yong ganito. Hindi ko ipagyabang. Unang-una, hindi ko ito pera. That's not my money. All I would just say is that we built the --- and that's all.

I will not crow about it in public because sabihin ng mga tao, "Hindi mo pera 'yan. Bakit ka sige payabang diyan?" Of course, the industry of those who were really on the ground sila Tugade, sila Villar, ayan, Berroya, General Berroya. Iyan talaga ang nagtatrabaho.

Pero ako, I will not --- I will just mention what were the projects completed without necessarily attributing the miracle to me. Worker ako ng government. Nagtrabaho lang ako. So wala akong dapat ipagyabang.

Nandito lang ako to say that it is completed. But after that, I will shut up. It's not my style to banner. Iniisip ko muna, ito ba akin personal? Puwede ko bang ipagyabang? Ah kung akin, okay.

Pero kung mga ganito, ito ba'y pera ko? Ako ba'y nagpagod dito? Ako ba 'yong nasa ground? Sila. So sila ang dapat. The workers of government, especially those who are appointed and who have worked so well, iyon ang dapat. The credit should go to them.

Ms. Lesmoras: Opo. And panghuling katanungan na lamang po, Mr. President. Ngayong araw lang kasi actually kanina lamang itinaas ng Phivolcs sa Alert Level III ang status ng Bulkang Taal. Ano pong masasabi niyo rito? Ano pong paalala niyo sa ating mga kababayan at lokal na pamahalaan doon? Magkakaroon po ba tayo ng command conference ukol dito?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Not necessarily. Hindi ko malaman kung... Dumaan man kami kanina. Kaunti man lang ang [*garbled*] ko siguro lagyan ko lang ng cap iyong butas. Taal na 'yan.

Ms. Lesmoras: May paalala po ba tayo, Mr. President, sa mga kababayan natin doon?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, there is always an exigency measure of government. Anong... Anong pangyayari? Nandiyan sina Atty. Abalos. Kanila 'yan. Si... Iyong ibang trabahante ko hindi ko nakita baka nahulog na doon sa butas. I was expecting to see them there --- here rather.

We will raise the alert on the level that it should. Now is just --- it's just a rumbling and it's spewing --- I don't know if it's really the ashes. Apektado daw tayo but it's not really a grave concern for us at this time.

Maybe it will degenerate into something bad. By that time, you will know. Nandiyan na lahat, nakaposisyon na 'yong ano. Iyang mga line ng DSWD, si General Bautista, si Rolly, nilagay ko 'yan diyan because methodical 'yong ano niya.

Mayroon na siyang advance sa mga warehouse for mga sa tulong. Pagka pumutok 'yang Taal, mayroon na doon. Naka-station na 'yong mga tulong nila. It could get worse but I said there will be instant gratification because there are workers on the ground ready.

Iyan ang gusto ko sa military. May --- methodical ang ano nila, and the rest are also good.

Ms. Lesmoras: Okay. Maraming salamat po, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Mag-ano kami... Art, okay ba 'yon? Magpasyal tayo doon sa ano? Magpasyal tayo doon sa... Ha? Sinong gusto magsakay? Punta tayo ng...

DOTR SECRETARY ARTHUR TUGADE: *[off mic]* Iyong libreng sakay sa Santolan to Antipolo ho 'yong libreng sakay ng dalawang linggo, Santolan to Antipolo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah, let me clarify, iyong libre for two weeks would be Santolan to Antipolo stations and vice versa.

Now, I'm going to ask for a favor. Gusto ko... Hindi kasi ako nakakasakay ng train sa totoo lang. Walang train sa amin eh, sa totoo. Karumata marami. Kaya gusto kong magsakay para mamasyal. Wala na? Okay, Art.

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" GO: *[off mic]* 'Di puwede --- di musugot (hindi papayag) ang PSG, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah, I am sorry but the ---

SEC. TUGADE: *[off mic]* Walang pilot. Walang driver.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: --- Presidential Security Command will not allow anybody else to ride.

SEC. TUGADE: At saka walang driver.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah, sige.

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