

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INAUGURATION AND UNVEILING OF MARKER OF THE
NEW SULTAN KUDARAT PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL**

[Delivered in the Municipality of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat | 24 September 2021]

Kindly sit down. Thank you. Salamat po.

You know, madam, you ask the permission to remove your --- actually it was... Before I left Manila, I already ordered that the use of the face mask is [*Officials: Face shield*] sa 'yung mga enclosed places, mga os --- lalo na ospital. Pero itong mga ganito siguro wala na. I... [*Official: Sir, face shield. Face mask imong nasulti. Face shield. Face mask imong nasulti.*] Ang... I'm sorry, matanda na talaga ako. It's the face shield that you can do away with. Face mask... But if you are in an enclosed place and there is a crowd --- meaning to say, a sufficient number of persons that would you know fight for a space or a party --- you have to wear a face mask. That's the advice of the medical experts. It is not my discretion. Sabi nila, okay na lang itong face mask, ang face shield optional.

You know, the reason why I was really vacillating noong whether or not to do entirely with the face shield is because of the COVID V. So it has really changed our way of life pati the way we greet people. You know it is not a discourteous act or it is not an obnoxious practice to after shaking a hand, you wash yourself with an alcohol. It is an accepted norm natin ngayon kasi alam mo na for the protection. It does not mean that you find the other guy not so hygienic. It has nothing to do with that. It is really the protection of the individual if he washes his hands with a --- well, whatever that --- antiseptic or --- hindi discourteous 'yan.

And when you go out in the open, hindi na kailangan 'yung mask. Ako nga eh tinatangal because I hardly --- because of my voice I have to --- it's muffled and I cannot express myself clearly.

Senator Bong Go; Sultan Kudarat 1st District Representative Bai Rihan Sakaluran-Abdurajak; Health Undersecretary Abdullah Dumama Jr. Si Undersecretary kilala ko 'to --- during even my mayorship days sa Davao

City. He was there all the time and he can --- you know, call him anytime and he would do what is needed for the moment.

Sultan Kudarat Governor Suharto Teng Mangudadatu; Mindanao Governor --
- Maguindanao Governor Bai Mariam Mangudadatu; Sultan Kudarat Vice Mayor Jose Segura; Maguindanao Vice [Governor] Lester Sinsuat; BARMM Parliament Member Datu Tucao Mastura; BARMM Parliament Member Datu Ali Sangki; Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao municipal mayors and vice mayors in attendance; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan.

You know there --- may speech ako but actually this is not mine. It's just prepared by an office tapos babasahin ko na lang. Pati kung anong mali diyan, nababasa ko rin kasi... But I'd like to just express my sentiments this moment.

Alam mo pagpasok ko sa compound, nakita ko 'yung even --- hindi naman stupendous but really a remarkable edifice na ospital na hindi mo makita labas dito sa Sultan Kudarat. *[applause]* Wala --- wala kang makita. You go to Davao, well of course, dok --- galing man doon 'yan si doktor. 'Pag Maynila, wala akong nakita.

Kaya minsan ang sabi nila 'yung Cotabato is a [laid-back] community because ganito, ganyan, magulo. Sabagay, there is always trouble. But the thing is you have built something. Hindi ko talaga maano. Napakaganda. Gusto kong ipagyabang eh. Nakita mo. *[applause]*

Sabihin ninyo a laid-back province or community. Nakita ninyo gaano kaganda ang kanilang ginawa. It is not... It is not wrong to say that the Muslim of the island of Mindanao has already gone to its flowering of civilization. Maganda talaga *[applause]* at mahusay.

Eh kung itong away-away, iyan ang problema. You know, I'd like to call all of you in --- sa opisina ko, wala man tayong ibang common ground. All leaders, political leaders, and those participating in the elections, I plead for peace. Gusto ko sana na makita ang Maguindanao, ang Sultan Kudarat, and every province, Cotabato City, na walang gulo.

You know, I am hesitant really to say this. In the elec --- in the forthcoming election, I am still the President. And just like in the last elections that we have had during my term, sinabi ko there will be a peaceful election. So hindi puwede 'yang terrorism, lahat na.

You know, I do not want 'yung puwersahan. Ayaw ko 'yan, hindi tayo sanay. Hindi tayo sanay sa ganoon na every generation ipasa natin 'yung violence. This is the second or third generation.

During the time na ang tatay ko governor ng Davao, isa lang 'yang malaking probinsiya noon at itong Cotabato, isa lang ring probinsiya. I think the governor was Matalam. Dalawang probinsiya ito magkadikit. Since then, we have you know progressed into --- in urban city. Cotabato has, I said, come to --- come to the age of development.

Now, ang election gusto ko sa lahat ng buong Pilipinas na peaceful and people can vote freely for their candidates and that the votes --- there will be the votes and it will be counted correctly. Iyon lang naman ang gusto nating lahat eh.

Nobody wants trouble, nobody wants cheating. But minsan --- hindi kayo --- but pass this on, this message to everybody outside here na sabi ko nakikiusap na ako, I am pleading, almost praying that people will really stick to the rule of law and avoid violence kasi 'pag hindi, unahan ko na kayo. Then I will be forced to use the might of the military not for any purpose but to see to it that the election is peaceful and violence-free. Iyan ang hiling ko, not only here but all places on --- in the Philippines, lahat, ganoon ang message ko.

Either we have an election that is free or I will use the military to see that the election is free. The military is the guardian of our country and I could call them anytime to see to it that people are protected and election's freely, orderly exercised.

Now, let me read to you the prepared speech kasi... Ewan ko kung sinong gumawa nito.

I am honored to join you today on the inauguration of the new Sultan Kudarat Provincial Hospital.

Foremost, I would like to congratulate the provincial government and its partners for working hard to make this facility a reality.

But before we forget, we have to honor the man who toiled tirelessly to --- just to work hard during his time to see that the hospital is now there sa pagod nila and all the others who worked for it.

Certainly, this new hospital will boost the healthcare capacity of the province, allowing it to serve beyond its borders and care for patients from the neighboring localities.

Therefore, I urge all of you to maximize the services and the state-of-the-art equipment that have been made available and accessible to you through this new hospital.

So when --- tinanong ko si Governor, dalawa, mayroon ba kayong CT scan? Mayroon na. Then the most important really na para --- magastos diyan sa Maynila, pero 'pag magkaroon kayo dito ng MRI, hahanapin ko 'yung pera within my --- hindi ba mag --- ito, ito, 'yung naiwan ko na mga buwan, I will see to it that you will have an MRI. *[applause]*

Iyon na lang kailangan ninyo to complete it really as a parang a good facility. Hindi na kailangan punta ng Maynila. Iyong MRI is makikita niya even the slightest aberration in your body. Iyan ang kulang na lang ninyo. 'Pag nandiyan 'yang MRI, ah mabuhay talaga ang inyong community.

More importantly, have confidence and trust in our competent and compassionate healthcare workers and medical staff who always give their best to take care of our well-being.

Doktor, nandito ka na? Why don't you transfer here? You know you should get this guy. He is good. We've been working together for many years in Davao City. Would you like that I ask the Health department to transfer you here? Kung papayag sila. I'd be happy to do that for you.

I assure you that this administration remains committed in supporting local governments, including in effectively implementing the provisions of the Universal Health Care.

Alam mo ang pinangako ko lahat --- I remember coming here, I really don't know, I cannot remember the place anymore. But I just made about five promises, natupad ko po lahat 'yan. *[applause]* I said, free education, nandiyan. Noong sa --- kausap ko 'yung mga NPA sa Nueva Ecija, sabi ko I will do away with the irrigation, 'yung 5,000. Sinabi ko free o hindi --- walang pahirapan sa ospital, 'yung Malasakit. Edukasyon, irrigation --- 'yung --- ah pag-aaral, education. Lahat naibigay ko, naibigay ko sa Pilipino, naibigay ko sa inyo.

I do not --- hindi ako naniningil. Ibig sabihin dito, sinali ko lang sa provisions of Universal Health Care, then 'yung free education, tapos 'yung farmers 'yung irrigation tinanggal ko 'yung bayad. So kung ano pang maitulong ko --

- but I think if I can deliver the MRI, medyo tapos na ang kailangan ninyo dito sa inyong lugar sa ospital. *[applause]*

Let us continue working together to overcome the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic and build a stronger and healthier --- for our future.

Ako, you can --- para personally, but it was also upon the advice of the experts, sabi nila puwede nang tanggalin 'yung ano basta sa enclosed places na ganito --- pero maluwang eh, this is not a crowded place. So sa labas, wala na, hindi na kailangan. Makita na ang mga magagandang babae sa Sultan Kudarat at Maguindanao. *[applause]* Marami 'yan ha. Marami 'yan, iyang visual observation. The Moro people has --- have a share of beautiful people.

So congratulations to everyone on this remarkable achievement. Mabuhay tayong lahat! Salamat. *[applause]*

Security... Iyong security, pagkatapos ng speech bago na. Magastos. Totoo. Pagsakay ko maya, iba-iba na naman. But anyway, thumbs up ako sa inyo. Mabuhay ang Moro! *[applause]*

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