

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LIBERATION OF MARAWI CITY**

[Delivered at the Rizal Park in the Islamic City of Marawi, Lanao del Sur | 16
October 2021]

Kindly sit down. Salamat. *[applause]* *[Ano man itong lectern ikaw pa ang maghawak. I am just joking.]*

Task Force Bangon Marawi Chairman and Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Eduardo del Rosario; Task Force Bangon Marawi Vice Chairman and Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Bautista; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; National Commission on Muslim Filipinos Secretary Saidamen Pangarungan; Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Secretary Carlito Galvez Jr.; Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers [and Muslim] Concerns Secretary --- my classmate --- Secretary Abdullah Mama-o; Senator Bong Go *[applause]*; Senator Ronald Dela Rosa *[applause]* who is now a member of the disabled Philippines *[laughter]*; Lanao del Sur 1st District Representative Ansaruddin Abdul Adiong; Lanao del Sur 2nd [District] Representative Yasser Balindong; fellow workers in government; 'di ko man ma... *[Aide: Sir, naa pay second page.]* *[Mayroon --- marami pa pala.]* *[laughter]* *[Baka lahat sila ito.]* *[laughter]*

Ang bagong... *[Sino ba'ng pinalitan niya?]* *[Senator Go: Public Works and Highways.]* Ah, oo mabigat 'to. Public Works Secretary si Oging Mercado, congressman Oging Mercado. *[applause]* Nag-resign na si Villar. So Public Works ito, nandito pala eh. Former Agrarian Reform Secretary John Castriciones *[applause]*; PNP Chief Police General Guillermo Eleazar *[applause]*; Cooperative Development Authority Chairman Joseph Encabo *[applause]*; *[May isa pang page, wala na?]* Iyan na lang. *[Aide: Yes, sir.]* Kay kung hindi magbaba na ako. *[laughter]*

National Housing Authority General Manager Marcelino Escalada *[applause]*; Lanao del Sur Provincial Governor Mamintal Adiong

Jr. *[applause]*; Marawi City Mayor Gandamra and other municipal mayors in attendance --- okay na 'yun kilala naman ninyo 'yan siya; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan. Ay salamat. *[laughter]*

It is my pleasure to join you today as we mark this historic occasion by allowing the rays of hope to light up the darkness that once enveloped the City of Marawi.

I congratulate and commend the Task Force Bangon Marawi *[applause]* as well as the local officials and other partners for working together to rehabilitate the city. I especially commend the efforts and sacrifices you have poured out for the complete rehabilitation of the Grand Mosque of Marawi.

This place holds a historical and cultural significance in the lives of the Maranaws. *[applause]* We rejoice as a nation as the Grand Mosque of Marawi brings hope anew for our Muslim brothers and sisters. *[applause]*

The continued hard work of Task Force Bangon Marawi to accomplish the programs, projects, and activities under the Bangon Marawi Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Recovery Program is truly commendable. *[applause]* By rebuilding the lives of the displaced --- iyon ang pinakaimportante --- families, restoring damaged properties, and revitalizing disrupted socio-economic activities, you have stayed true to your commitment as agents of progress and catalysts for real change.

Let me take this opportunity to reassure the people of Marawi that the government is doing its best to expedite the completion of rehabilitation projects at the soonest possible time. We, in government, are strongly committed to bring back the city's glory. And we will continue to foster cooperation among concerned stakeholders so that Marawi will be able to build back better and stronger.

Let me again give recognition to our soldiers and police personnel, and local constituency for their bravery, sacrifice, and determination in defending and liberating Marawi City after five months of battle. *[applause]* How sad it is. I pray to God that it will never happen ever, ever again.

To the people of Marawi and to our kababayans, rest assured that this government, this Administration remains steadfast in securing our nation against terrorism, violent extremism, and other lawless elements.

With your support, I am confident that we will overcome any challenge that may test our strength and unity as a nation. Let us therefore continue working as one to secure a better, safer, and more prosperous future for all of Marawi. *[applause]*

Mabuhay kayong lahat! [applause]

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