

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE JOINT MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE –
REGIONAL TASK FORCE TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED
CONFLICT IN REGION IV-A**

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Kindly sit down. Salamat.

You know in all the other programs about ELCAC usually I do not read my prepared speech because I have a very special statement to make to the NPAs. Kaya lang wala sila dito so I would dispense with my usual practice kasi gusto ko talagang sabihin sa kanila na you are no longer relevant to the lives of the Filipino people. *[applause]*

It is interspersed with masasakit na salita only because they continue to perpetuate --- though in a very small scale this time --- the art of violence. More than 50, 52, 53 years of fighting, all that they had until now achieved was to slaughter the Filipinos. Kaya po talagang --- where it comes from the heart, it does not carry bitterness or vengeance but as a worker of government sometimes I cannot escape my role to play as the --- well, kailangan mong gawin.

Kaya --- all that I can remember here is we in this place, Lucena, we --- I and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano promised the return promptly *[applause]* nung levy to the farmers. At 'yung levy sa 5,000 sa irrigation I made that promise in front of the NPAs in Bulacan. Because at that time I thought that kung maibigay ko lang dahan-dahan --- maybe I could not be able to complete really to give the things that they want, I could temper the tempo of, I said, the violence.

But until now they continue to treat the barangay workers, barangay captains, who are sympathetic to the government or who are really pro-government pati 'yung mga sundalo ko, mga pulis ko, they continue to kill them. And to think that when they surrender, may --- well, 'yung...

In all of the --- from Mindanao up to Luzon, my order was really to accept them with an open arm and talk to them. At alam mo sa totoo lang sa Mindanao pagka nag --- they surrender, automatic may mga bahay na kaagad sila, we have built so many houses for them because I know that we have to accommodate the surrenderees at akala ko nga I could maybe change the severity of the moment.

Eh medyo matagal o ayaw 'yung iba. But there has been really a --- quite a reduction of the NPA activities. They are in Mindanao but limited to Northern Mindanao including Davao City. May mga dalawa na lang o almost isa --- pawala na. At sana naman ganoon ang mangyari sa ibang regions, I said, because 'yung violence is really despicable to me.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; RTF- ELCAC Cabinet Officer for Regional Development and Security and Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; NTF-ELCAC Vice Chairman and Director General of the National Security Council Hermogenes Esperon; Agriculture Secretary William Dar; Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles; Public Works and Highways Acting Secretary Roger Mercado, bago ito ang DPWH natin pumalit kay Villar and I am sure that he is a --- as a --- mahiyain lang kagaya rin ni Villar, ni ano, ni Secretary, soft-spoken na mahiyain. Ito ganoon rin eh si Roger. Okay lang 'yan. Pero 'pag kaharap mo 'yung mga NPA, p** --- huwag mong bigyan --- do not give them the moment of comfort.

Senator Bong Go; Senator Cynthia Villar; Quezon Province [2nd] District Representative David Suarez or "David" kung gusto mo; Taguig-Pateros 1st District Representative Alan Peter Cayetano; did I miss anyone? *[Mabuti nga itong...]* Quezon Provincial Governor Danny Suarez and other provincial governors and vice governors in attendance; Lucena City Mayor Roderick Alcala and other city and municipal mayors in attendance; PAGCOR President and Chief Operating Officer Alfredo Lim --- bakit nagsusugal ba dito ang mga ano, mga NPA?; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan.

A pleasant day to all!

Today, I stand before you to say with confidence that we are winning the war against communist insurgency in our country. *[applause]*

I would like to thank all the members of the Joint National Task Force to End Local Communist Conflict Region IV-A for consistently standing up against the communist armed conflict in the region.

Since your inception, you have brought significant improvements in the government's fight against communist insurgency through a whole-of-nation approach and in the delivery of basic services in conflict-affected areas and vulnerable communities.

In all these efforts, we recognize the importance of grassroots participation of our people, especially at the barangay level, in attainment of the peace and serenity that we crave for. Thus, it is imperative that the Barangay Development Program does not only focus [on] ending local communist armed conflict, but also in uplifting the living conditions of the citizens in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.

This can be done through the provision of much-needed services and public utilities such as improved farm-to-market roads --- maski saan, anywhere in the Philippines, iyan po talaga ang hinihingi ng Pilipino [*applause*] --- the next, school buildings, especially built in areas where there is a congregation of new settlements, 'yung mga bagong mga barangay na malaki na at 'yung mga anak nila nag-aaral. We have to build the schools as near as the barangay so to spare the children, wala naman masyadong transportation doon, that they can attend the schools comfortably nearer and well, malapit lang sa bahay nila.

I enjoin all local chief executives and community leaders to support the Administration's efforts to address crime --- well, crime is always there. But illegal drugs, itong p**... Itong Human Rights, do you know that until now we are arresting almost about 500 people individually for crimes connected with drugs? Hanggang ngayon 'pag tingnan ninyo 'yang 8888, their names are posted, and there are different people for different arrests. At ang nakukuha sa kanila, in terms of seizures of the contraband would amount weekly to a billion pesos. Iyan ang hindi nakalimutan nila eh. Hindi nila naka --- hindi nila nakalimutan, rather, iyong mga victims, 'yung mga nanay na pinuputulan ng ulo, children raped and killed, ang robbery with rape, robbery with homicide palagi na lang ganoon. Ang binibilang nila, what they show to the ICC is the death of criminals.

Iyong napatay lang. Iyong magsabi na pinatay dito ng Army, pinatay dito ng pulis, hindi nga malaman kung sino and for what. Basta kung may patay diyan o walang suspect, walang tao, diretso na kaagad sa kanila and they would say extrajudicial killing.

Iyon ang naka --- hindi nila nakita 'yung the other side. Iyong mga Pilipinong namatay. At mind you, marami akong pulis pati military namatay sa itong droga na ito. Kaya mainit talaga ako, galit talaga ako.

And I will not --- you know, I will repeat my --- what I have said before, if you destroy my country and you destroy the young people by feeding them with drugs, you destroy the future, 'pag sinira mo ang bayan kong ganoon, talagang papatayin kita. Anak ng p**... [applause] Do not ever think na palusutin kita.

Iyan ang sinasabi ko sa ICC. Wala akong tinatago ano 'yung sinasabi ko. And I said I will protect...

Eh si Bato nanerbiyos kasi kasali siya doon sa tokhang niya. Sabi ko huwag kang mag-alala. If there is any person who is going to prison, it would be me. But it should be a Filipino court manned by a Filipino judge and me prosecuted by a Filipino prosecutor at magpakulong ako dito sa --- marami namang penal colony eh 'di doon na lang ako para hindi masyado...

Ako ang magpakulong sa lahat. I --- sinabi ko na noon eh --- I assume full responsibility. Kaya sabi ko kay Bato, "huwag ka mag-ano. Keep quiet there and just..." Ako, ituro mo ako, "si Duterte ang nag-utos." Kung ano man 'yang sa listahan mo, "utos ni Duterte 'yan" and I will answer for all. Iyan ang sinabi ko noon and it will continue until the end of my term. Talagang papatayin --- t*** i**** 'yan.

Sirain mo ang bayan ko, you think that I'll enjoy sitting there at the Malacañang on my ass while the Filipino people is suffering itong grave injustice na patayin na lang na para walang kaseremonya?

Mahirap niyan karamihan unsolved because we are not able or we are not successful to apprehend all. Iyan ang masakit. Eh sabihin nila na hindi nila alam kung sinong bumaril nitong p***** i**** drug addict na 'to. Eh hayaan mo 'yan, ginusto niya 'yan eh.

Eh itong bata? How about the innocent women? Bakit, kagustuhan ba nila 'yan? Eh itong mga drug lord na 'to na --- eh lalo na 'yung mga dru... Sabi walang --- bugok rin ito talagang media eh. Sabi ninyo walang big fish. Walang mayaman ngayon na Pilipino nasa droga. Mayaman na eh, eh kaya nga mayaman na eh.

Ang big fish na hinahabol ninyo hindi 'yung mga milyonaryo, hindi sila Ayala, hindi sila si --- sino 'yan, si... Nakalimutan ko tuloy batiin 'yung iba. T*** i** kasi itong mga durugista eh. Nagkaroon na ako ng dementia, bwisit.

Si Pangilinan, 'yun ang gusto ninyo? They are not there. Mayroong dumating na big time dito pero nahabol rin ng gobyerno, patay.

Ang bago talaga --- ang hindi ninyo naintindihan --- nandiyan pala 'yung media eh --- mabuti't nandito kayo. Ang hindi talaga ninyo mapasok sa utak ninyo 'yung mga big fish kakapatay lang ng apat na Chinese. Iyon ang mga big fish dito.

Huwag kayong maghanap ng mga big fish na mga mayayaman o anak ng mayayaman. Hindi na kailangan na magnegosyo ng shabu 'yan, mayaman na nga eh. At saka itong napapasahan dito, they are not the ones importing. It's now an importation thing. I cannot identify with certainty, maraming --- maraming lugar saan galing 'yung --- it's not only from one country.

So I do not have the full list of itong namamatay na... Ano bang big fish? Ano pala gusto mo? Big fish, bigyan kita ng tulingan pati ano *[Official: Danggit.]* danggit pati itong ano, 'yung malalaki talaga, *[Official: Tuna.]* tuna. Gusto ninyo? Bigyan ko kayo big fish, big fish. *[laughter]* Tagal na namin nagha-harvest ng big fish --- dead fish.

Before I end the ultimate --- the penultimate paragraph, allow me to extend my apologies sa hindi ko na... Ngayon man lang nila ito binigay --- itong nag-prepare ng speech nito. Sino ito sila? Navy man ito. Hindi. Oo alam ko. Pero kung sino ang nag-prepare nito kay patayin ko *[laughter]* for missing out the important persons. Kaya nga sabi ko nag-a-apologize nga ako.

Congressman Aleta Suarez; *[applause]* Saan ka na, ma'am? Ah; Congressman Angelina "Helen" Tan, *[applause]* ang tigas dito --- puro tigas man pala ito sila; Congressman Mark Enverga *[applause]*; Congressman Anna Suarez *[applause]*; Vice Governor Samuel Nantes *[applause]*.

With our unrelenting spirit, I am certain that we will overcome the challenges ahead. Rest assured that the collective strength of the Filipino people is behind you as we all work towards genuine and lasting progress for our motherland.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat. *[applause]*

Pati pala si Len Alonte, Len Alonte, nandito. Kaibigan kami niyan sa Laguna. Alam mo kung bakit nandiyan siya? Kasi nandiyan si --- ewan ko kung nandiyan si Trina. Nandiyan ba si Trina? Wow. Kayo ha, sikreto lang kayo diyan.

Salamat po at... *[applause]*

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