

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE JOINT NATIONAL TASK FORCE (NTF) – REGIONAL TASK FORCE
TO END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT (RTF-ELCAC) IV-B MEETING**

**[Delivered at the Western Command Gymnasium in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan | 04
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Kindly sit down. Salamat po.

There has been a profuse adulation for me on the projects in this province. May reminder lang ako sa lahat ng mga tao. I said it also in the other program this afternoon.

Ang pasalamatan natin po ay ‘yung mga trabahante na Pilipino at taxpayers at the same time ‘yung nagpagod talaga. [applause] At ‘yung mga motivators natin dito sa ELCAC is really doing a fantastic job, si Secretary Esperon. [applause] And, of course, your action officer here also a very industrious person, si Secretary Cusi. [applause]

Huwag na ho ninyo akong palakpakan kasi wala talaga akong ginawa kung hindi mag-upo lang sa opisina at maghintay ng resulta. Of course, these were all discussed in the Cabinet. But how much job really of implementing the projects, napakamarami ho, and it’s just unfortunate that Tugade is not around. He was my classmate sa law school. He’s already a billionaire. Pero at the time, working student siya, he was already occupying a top position sa Delgado Brothers. At nakita ko talaga kay Art ‘yung matalino, malikot ‘yung utak, malikot, gusto palagi may gawin.

So sila ‘yung inaasahan ko na magbigay ngayon sa lahat ng projects all over the country. Just to also let you know that when I became President, the first thing during a Cabinet meeting I reminded everybody that we are now here faced with do --- to do what we can for the country. At ang sinabi ko naman sa kanila eh pera ito ng tao, so you --- pati si Art, pati si Villar, sabi ko distribute the money all over the country na may isang region may isang at least magandang project worth remembering.

At ‘yun ang inutos ko sa kanila kasi pera nila ito, equitably distributed. Kaya makita ninyo lahat, Pampanga has a --- maganda ang airport nila. Lahat ng airports ngayon sa Pilipinas maganda na. Puwede na talagang ipagyabang. At lahat ng mga --- basta under sa Department of Transportation, and of course, Secretary Villar. He made a fantastic progress about our road networks. Talagang maganda na ang Pilipinas ngayon.

Nagtrabaho lahat eh. At sinabi ko walang pulitika. Kasi kung hindi, ‘yung ibang sabihin natalo ka dito, ‘wag bigyan. No, no. That’s not our money. We learned that matagal na na hindi natin pera ‘yan. That was also my mantra or my paradigm when I was mayor of Davao City for almost 23 years. Then, naging congressman ako for four years, four years ako naging vice mayor ng

anak ko, si Inday. Then, won towards the presidency. Without meaning to really crow about it, I never lost an election.

So ganoon na lang ang pasalamat ko sa Pilipino. But tatal two pages lang naman 'to, I will read it if you are still in the mood of listening. After my talk, if not, we just go home. But before that, naisabi naman ng lahat dito, dalawang pages para --- they were all already acknowledged so hindi ko na basahin 'yung mga personalities dito. Tatal ganito 'yan eh, ako, ordinaryo na tao lang, just like 'yung mga tao sa labas. Huwag dito kasi puro star-studded itong mga tao dito eh, may credentials ika nga.

When I became mayor --- ah Presidente, mayor kasi tawag ko eh. Hindi ako nagpapatawag Presidente, mayor lang. Noong nanalo ako, kinuha ko talaga 'yung alam kong makatulong. Tugade, pinakiusapan ko si Villar, tapos si --- kinuha ko sa National Security Adviser si Secretary Esperon, lahat 'yan. Nalaman ko na lang nga na si Lorenzana pala ay valedictorian. Alam mo kung saan ko na nalaman 'yan? Pikit, Cotabato 'yan eh. Ilocano 'yan pero Mindanao. Si Pastor Quiboloy who is also from Cotabato or lived there for some time. And he said that during their, I think, early years nila sa college pati sa high school, si Secretary Lorenzana pala ang kanilang valedictorian.

Matagal ko nang kilala si Delfin, long time ago when I was mayor, he was assigned there sa isang battalion and we became close friends. So, kinuha ko siya, lahat ng mga bright, si Secretary Cusi, lahat ng --- halos lahat ng Cabinet members ko ngayon, 'yung magkabila ng mesa, iyong isa dito puro civilian, sa harap namin puro retired military men. At nakita ko na ngayon 'yung ano ko na 'pag may inutos talaga ako, ginagawa. Ginagawa at na walang corruption, wala lahat at mabilis. 'Pag sinabi kong gawin mo, ginagawa.

They were all lahat --- some, well, PMAer, puro may credentials nga, either valedictorian or whatever. Ako lang ang medyo ultimo doon sa Cabinet table. Kaya lang minsan I was in a very pensive mood. They were discussing, it was already 2 o'clock in the morning at pinag-aralan ko 'yung mga bright boys ng Pilipinas at sinabi ko, "Masuwerte pa rin ako kasi lahat ng mga bright, mga valedictorian, utusan ko lang dito sa Gabinete." [applause]

Eh ako 75 lang, totoo 'yan. Hindi ako nagbobola. When I say na hanggang 75 lang ako, hindi naman talagang 75 all the way but more or less on the average hindi ako, 75 lang.

Kaya sa kampanya, hindi --- wala akong ika nga titulo, I graduated valedictorian, wala, o 'yung mag-introduce sa akin, "During his days..." Walang ganoon. Ordinaryo ako.

Kaya naman in a crowd, hindi kayo, dito puro mauutak ang tao dito eh. Pero doon sa kampanya sinasabi ko talaga prangka, sinasabi ko, "Ilan dito ang valedictorian?" In a crowd na malaki, may tatlo, sa Iloilo tatlo. Good sabi ko, "I'll congrats --- I wanna shake your hands after the program." "Sino ditong salutatorian?" Mayroon, dalawa, tatlo. "Sino ditong pumasa na 'yang tamang-tama lang, 75, 76, pinakamataas 80? Sino sa inyo?" Lahat nagtaas ng kamay. Kaya sabi ko, "Brod, magkasama tayo. Marami tayo dito."

So ordinaryo lang talaga ako. Ang pakilala --- eh bakit? Totoo naman talaga eh. That's by the stroke of --- well, I would say that the presidency is a gift from God. Why I was gifted with such? I really do not know. I cannot explain it until now. So much for that.

My fellow Filipinos, we welcome this day with high hopes as we continue to work together for peace and security in our country.

I commend the National Task Force and Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict for collectively realizing the government's policy of holistic and whole-of-nation approach to ending communist insurgency.

Mag-segue ako dito ha. Kaya 'yan bumagsak 'yung peace talks eh. Lahat nang binigay na mga proposals, binigay ko rin sa military, sabi ko, "you study." Pero ako talaga pagtanggap ko, hindi na. And there was this one missing ingredient to arrive really at a peaceful resolution of the conflict --- 'yung accountability wala.

Eh alam mo kaya hindi ako pumayag, eh kung papasa mo 'yan sa panahon --- hindi ko panahon, eh okay lang. Pero ako, I have to have something in my hand na a provision or the sanctions na lahat nang nangamatay dito sa Pilipinas, mga barangay captains almost every day, innocent people suspected of being informants of the military, marami 'yang pinapatay na pati itong human rights wala nang ginawa tinuturo sa akin. Ganoon 'yan eh.

Pero walang --- the accountability, whatever, if they have any against us or against them, wala, at ayaw nilang i-discuss 'yan. Sabi ko, walang --- no peace talks. We will fight forever if ako ang masunod. Paano na lang --- paano 'yung nangama --- namatay? Paano 'yung biktima nila na sabihin mo lang na peace talks na maglamano tayo? Ano ito, laro ng bata?

Kaya ako hindi talaga, sabi ko may kulang dito. One ingredient is really the sanctions sa mga ano iyong mga insurgents. Hindi tayo. Tayo ang gobyerno eh. Hindi naman tayo papatay kung walang rason. So iyon ang isa doon. The one ingredient, the factor that was missing which I was discussing and insisting on as part of the talks. Ayaw nila, eh 'di ayaw ko. Eh 'di wala.

Hindi puwede 'yang ganoon. Eh kailangan may magsagot eh. Paano na 'yan? Eh mabuti't na lang namatay si... Hindi ko naman --- I do not really wish it upon my fellow human being. But we all deserve in this life what we aspire for.

Your important work in peace-building and fighting extremism has also paved the way for the improved well-being of our people.

I am certain that you will champion the security of our fellow Filipinos, despite the forces that try to prevent us from becoming a stronger and more progressive nation.

I laud you for extending much needed social services to conflict-affected areas with a strong sense of urgency and concern. Your quick response to the needs of our kababayans speaks well of your faithfulness to duty and love of country.

The good that you have done is significant in building and restoring the people's trust and confidence in government.

On this note, I want to emphasize that local chief executives and community leaders bear the task of addressing crime and illegal drug situations in their respective localities.

Also remember that local [action], if done consistently and [dependably], advances our collective goal of securing and safeguarding the nation.

As leaders of your communities, you bear the responsibility again to help those who strayed away from the law so that they may find hope in the promise of reintegration [and] new beginnings.

Wala akong problema doon sa rank and file lalo na 'yung mga farmers nadala either because they were coerced or intimidated. Wala silang choice in the rural areas. Of course, common sense, walang ano 'yan. I'm talking of the leaders, iyong Politburo. Kailangan may managot dito. Hindi puwede 'yan ha.

We have to assess your... Because the act of one is the act of all. If it is a conspiracy just like the communist, which has been already declared terrorist --- iyong farmer doon na nagdadala lang ng shotgun pati ito ditong lider nagdadala ng Barrett --- it's a gun which can hit an enemy two kilometers away --- pareho 'yan sila. So but I said we can have a sense of understanding dito sa ano. Pero 'yung mga lider...

That is why, in our fight against lawlessness and insurgency, I strongly encourage our local chief executives to synergize their efforts with the National and Regional Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict.

Let us continue to uphold the highest standards of public service as we do our tasks conscientiously and support the administration's key programs in achieving peace and security.

Just bear with me para malaman lang ninyo ang utak ko kasi probably some of you naririnig lang ninyo eh. During the campaign, wala akong ano, I had no idea of the economic picture of the country. I am a lawyer. Ang economics ko 'yung economics sa college. Well, that was my working economics but I had really no idea kung ano so I stuck to just...

During the campaign, 'yung mga --- you might have noticed --- and during the Presidential debate, ano ko lang, sabi ko, "I will try to minimize crime. I will go after crime, criminality, drugs, tapos corruption." Tapos I will --- whatever is left or I --- is left, money kung may maabutan ako.

At mabuti naman 'yung mga loans natin until now, the international financial world continues to have a --- suportado sa atin. Despite of our convoluted economic problems now, mayroon pa rin silang tiwala. So maganda 'yan at doon ako nakakuha ng...

So peace and order, ayaw ko magyabang pero talagang humina. Ngayon, droga, criminality. Alam mo, ganito ‘yan, itong ICC gusto akong ikulong ng mga --- nila. Ako, kung may kasalanan, kung talagang may kasalanan at tapos sabihin mo sa akin, “Ito ang nagawa mo masama,” eh abugado ako, tignan natin.

And if I am prosecuted, you prosecute me in a Philippine court with a Filipino judge and governed by the rules of our rules of court and evidence. Bakit mo ako dalhin sa ibang lugar to face itong mga puti tapos husgahan ako ng mga p*...? Ituloy ko na lang para malabas ko rin ‘yung galit ko. Itong mga p***** i***** ‘to, mga anong g***. Pilipino ako tapos dalhin mo ako doon, mga puti ‘yung...? Naloko na. Magrebelde na lang ako, magpatayan tayo. Bakit ako...?

Ako, sigurado ako wala silang jurisdiction sa akin. Pero if there is one thing --- gusto talaga ninyo malaman, ito ganito, the law says --- the Constitution says that all laws, particularly penal laws, must be published in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of wide circulation, but primarily sa Official Gazette.

Ang mga buang, pinirmahan ni Estrada, dinala nila doon sa Congress for the ratification. Dapat binalik nila dito sa Executive Department. The Executive Department, kung ako, I will now order the publication of the law.

Iyong ICC law rin naman o crime against... Whatever crime is there, you have to publish it because that would put everybody, every Filipino and all on constructive notice na may batas.

Kung hindi mo i-publish ‘yan and if you fail --- Tuvera v., I think, Enrile --- there is no law at all. Kasi pagkatapos ng Congress dinala kaagad nila and appended it sa Rome agreement without the publication because the publication parang ‘yun ang constructive notice na, “Hoy, mga Pilipino, may batas tayo.”

Ako mismo, abugado, hindi ko man alam. Maski alam ko but hindi nila... You have to comply with the law. Now, if you insist on prosecuting me, itong mga ICC, itong local, makinig kayo for your education, ‘pag hindi ninyo nagawa ‘yan, walang mangyari.

You cannot bring me within the jurisdiction of your ICC because dito sa Pilipinas pa lang, you have deprived me of my constitutional right. What is that? That no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. What is the due process? The publication. So ngayon, manigas na kayo. Talagang...

Pero I would love to go to where that Hague court is without necessarily submitting to its jurisdiction. I would like to give a speech there. And worse comes to worst, kung talagang may trial, then my first witness will be De Lima. Siya kay siya man ang sige daldal. I’m not trying to pick a fight with any of you here. Iyon ang...

So punta na tayo sa second page na lang. Puro motherhood man dito ‘yung statement eh. Well, of course, always kasi ako man ‘yung nasa itaas. What I --- what have I to do with the technical?

The good that you have done is significant in building and restoring our people's trust and confidence in the government.

On this note, I want to emphasize that local chief executives and community leaders bear --- tapos na pala ito eh. That is why in our... [Aide: Second page ka na, sir.] [Ah oo, siyempre.] Itong ano ko, may kopya rin siguro 'yan siya.

I urge all concerned government agencies to take all necessary steps to address...

Itong power shortage situation in the region, Secretary Cusi, matagal na kasi itong ginareklamo ng mga tao. What is the best solution dito? [Sec. Cusi: inaudible] Kaawa naman itong... Iloilo, ganoon rin.

[Sec. Cusi: We have to kuwan, Mayor, 'yung sa kooperatiba. (inaudible)]

[President Duterte: Kaya ng kooperatiba?]

[Sec. Cusi: Iyong isa kasing transmission line natapos na ng NPC. Tapos na po.]

[President Duterte: May gustong pumasok sila 'yung mga...]

[Sec. Cusi: Dapat ikuwan na natin 'yan, that's why we need to --- 'yung mga cooperative 'yung -- we need to change that even the NEA... (inaudible) We privatize 'yung...]

Alam mo kasi itong cooperatives, you take Palawan, noong maliit pa ito, walang entrepreneurs na papasok. Just like any other community in the Republic of the Philippines, mayroon 'yan silang kooperatiba. They contribute so that they can have energy.

Pero 'yung lumaki na kagaya ng Iloilo, the cooperatives cannot keep up with the progress. You have to, you know, itong energy you have to expand, and energy must eternally expand. Otherwise, babagsak ang ekonomiya. Pagka pinigilan mo 'yang ano, ibigay mo talaga sa may kaya.

Iyong cooperatives eh kung may pera kayo, bitawan na ninyo. Huwag na tayong mag-istorya ng ano. But if you cannot keep up and there are people with --- may pera --- I will not mention their names because galit rin ako sa kanila, you have to expand.

Just like Davao City, it has to expand and add and add yearly. Until what? Up to the time of the grandchildren of our grandchildren. Assuming that nandito pa ang...

Unless, of course, there's a nuclear war. Eh itong Taiwan ngayon ang flashpoint eh. Eh lahat nakakasa na, kung baril pa naka-cock na eh, which is really bad. I hope China can... Siya 'yan eh. Gusto niyang kunin 'yung Taiwan because it has [garbled] Taiwan a province. Eh magkagulo 'yan, ayaw ng mga Taiwanese eh. Eh 'yung Amerikano, isa pa.

If you go to the national channels, for the first time in history, the military rebuked Xi Jinping. Iyong isang high military ano nila doon, talagang sinabi niya, "Share your wealth with the others. Do not pick a fight. We will not survive, all of us."

Sabagay itong --- balik ako itong energy. Kung hindi na ninyo kaya, bitawan na ninyo. Ipagbili na lang ninyo. Maraming pumapasok eh. Talagang may pera at saka may track record. For example, I think si ano, I don't know about you Governor, si ano ba sir, si Davao Light interesado ba? Si ano, magpamilya --- Aboitiz. May track record 'yan.

So kung kayong 'yung mga maliliit na ano, bitawan na ninyo because you cannot keep up. Iyong cooperative, 'yung konti-konti lang kapital tapos bawi. You cannot progress with that kind of setup. Bigay talaga ninyo sa may pera. And then, so that the community can flourish with energy. Lahat, makinarya nila, kotse, whatever. May mga factory sila, they need power, energy.

Iyon ang gusto kong sabihin dito sa gulo ng electricity 'yang... Bitawan na ninyo. Do not be so -- na kaya pa ninyo. Hindi ninyo kaya because the place... Tingnan mo itong Palawan, it will continue until kingdom come. It will flourish for all time at 'yung mga anak natin ang makinabang diyen. Eh I don't know, I need to talk to these guys who are there.

No force can defeat us from giving the best for our affected constituents. Nothing can stop us from doing good to conquer the perpetrators of chaos and division.

With a strong vision and intention, I am certain that we can reach greater heights together.

Let me assure that all our national and local partners that this administration is one with you in pushing the initiatives and programs that will secure a lasting peace for the country.

Guided by the strong sense of nationalism and commitment to serve the Filipino people, I am certain that we will be able to attain a more peaceful and progressive future for all.

Maraming salamat po. [applause]

[President Duterte returns to the podium.]

Extension, extension. Ito bang ano, I was shown a letter, itong operator ng ano, the last time I was here, I confronted them. Iyong sulat pinakita ni Bong, three year hence, walang nangyari.

So I will be discussing with Secretary Cusi, we will take over and i-distribute namin sa inyo 'yan. [applause] Wala. You cannot claim ano, you cannot claim exclusivity, you cannot claim private interest because itong ilaw is impressed with public good.

So 'pag ayaw ninyo, either you come to agree with us sa matter of compensation ninyo or I will order its expropriation. [applause] And I will do it --- I will do it next week, I will issue the order. [applause] And if you clap again five times, it will be realized. So... [applause]

Humina man. [applause] Hindi, hindi, hindi, biro lang. I'm just joking. So ganoon na lang ang gawain ko. Wala, wala, hindi ko na kasalanan ha. I was here three years ago. I confronted them about the sorry state of the energy situation. They wrote me a letter promising action that it will be improved. Until now, para tayong buang di...

So kunin ko na lang. It is not a right. [applause] It is not a privilege. It's a thing granted to you and government can take it any time.

So baka magalit sa akin, mag-uwi na ako, butasan 'yung gulong ng eroplano ko hindi na ako makauwi.

I'm sorry. [Sec. Cusi: Salamat, Pangulo.] I'm --- I'm sorry. Just tell the owners. It --- it's --- huwag ninyong i... Gusto kong magmura, 'wag na lang. [Sec. Cusi: Salamat, Pangulo.] [applause]

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