

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**MEETING OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE WITH THE
LOCAL LEADERS OF CEBU DURING HIS INSPECTION OF AREAS
AFFECTED BY TYPHOON "ODETTE"**

(Held in Argao, Cebu | 19 December 2021)

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Kailangan 'yung pagkain magdating without letup na walang magutom. Kaya rin natin 'yan. Anong -- anong problema ninyo? Mayor, unsay (what)...?

ARGAO MAYOR ALLAN SESALDO: Ang among problema kay kaning, Mr. President, usa gyud we need some --- kinahanglan mi'g mga generator para makapadagan sa among mga pumping station kay naa man guy mga barangay nga ilahang kaugalingon.

(TRANSLATION: Our problem, Mr. President, is we really need generators so that our pumping stations can operate because there are some barangays that have their own.)

Aside from that, Mr. President, dako kaayo'g devastation sa among mag-uuma kay kasagaran diri kalubinhon maoy negosyo ug kini ang panginabuhì ug kining mga utanon.

(TRANSLATION: Aside from that, Mr. President, our farmers are suffering from massive devastation because majority of the businesses and the sources of income here are coconut and vegetable farming.)

Unya sa mga kabalayan, Mr. President, kanang giingon can wait later katong mga long-term na mga repair nila. Pero katong mga pagkaon, salamat kaayo, Mr. President, sa imong tabang diha dapita, Mr. President.

(TRANSLATION: As for the houses, Mr. President, that can wait later, their long-term repairs. But thank you very much for the food, Mr. President, for the help that you've provided us in terms of food, Mr. President.)

Mao lang gyud katong giingon nimo, na-mention na nimo ganiha, katong tubig. Vital kaayo namo, Mr. President, ug ang mga pagkaon. Unya ang recovery, unya ang power sad, Mr. President.

(TRANSLATION: What we really need, Mr. President, you've already mentioned earlier, is water. It's very vital for us, Mr. President, as well as food. And then the recovery and power supply, too, Mr. President.)

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Si Cusi ang... I saw him. Iyan na. Ang atong Energy Secretary.

DOE SECRETARY ALFONSO CUSI: Maayong hapon (good afternoon), 'no. We are working ---

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Taga-Mindoro ni. (He's from Mindoro.)

SEC. CUSI: --- we are working double time, Mayor, mahal na Pangulo, to restore energy here in the Province of Cebu. Ang problema, daghan kaayo na poste ug tower ang naguba. Halos tanan na poste guba 'no. So karon, nagpatabang na ta sa iba na utilities.

(TRANSLATION: --- we are working double time, Mayor, mahal na Pangulo, to restore energy here in the Province of Cebu. Ang problema, a lot of electric posts and towers were toppled. Nearly all of the posts were toppled. So now, we are asking for help from other utilities.)

Meralco, magpadala ng 150 plus na personnel para mutabang pag-restore ng power 'no. Di lang --- dili lang tao ipadala nila, ipadala rin nila na equipment katong mga boom trucks 'no. So ginagawan natin ng paraan tanan (all) para mapadali ang pagtrabaho.

(TRANSLATION: Meralco will send 150 plus personnel to help restore the power. And not only that, they will also send equipment like boom trucks.)

Kanang sa Cebu --- sa siyudad sa Cebu, gabii naka-restore na mi ng suga gamay 'no para kanang sa mga utilities sa ospital, sa tubig ug kanang mga government offices 'no ug kanang mga some business areas.

(TRANSLATION: In Cebu City, we've restored the power in some areas last night for the utilities in hospitals, water, government offices, and some business areas.)

Hinay-hinay kay ang kuan, ang problema kanang transmission. Wala tang problema sa generation, kanang mga power plants. Wala ta problema. Ang problema nato kanang pag-transmit ng enerhiya to the distribution utilities ug kanang atong distribution lines.

(TRANSLATION: The restoration is slow because we have a problem with the transmission. We don't have a problem with the generation of the power plants. We have no problem with that. Our problem really is how to transmit energy to the distribution utilities and our distribution lines.)

So tanan na poste guba gyud ug tower. So we're working double time and hopefully sana bago mag-Pasko next week, daghan na tang matagaan ng suga.

(TRANSLATION: So all electric posts and towers were toppled. So we're working double time and hopefully before Christmas next week, we can restore the power supply in many areas.)

We are doing this in coordination with OPAV 'no, sila Secretary Dino para mapabilis ang trabaho. So we're giving this op --- we're giving priority to Region VII para sa --- Meralco will focus on Region VII sa pagtabang.

Salamat, Pangulo. Mayor, salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Naa man tanang problema, naa man tanang department pud (For every problem, there's a corresponding department in charge.) For the varied problems sa governance, mayroon tayong departamento lahat. For every field of endeavor, whatever it be, health, ganoon.

Ang health ba wala kayong problema dito? Kasi alam mo 'yang tao 'pag mag-converge, they crowd together. Contamination and transmission is easy. Kaya magka --- so dapat talaga may mga taga... *[May provincial health officer, nandito? Wala?]*

Well anyway, yes, Secretary Dar? Si Secretary Dar sa Agriculture.

DA SECRETARY WILLIAM DAR: Mahal na Pangulo at saka sa lahat po dito sa Region VII, ang Regional Executive Director po natin, ito si Joel Elumba po.

Ang Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka, Mr. President, ay mayroon kaming allocation na nakahanda na ito. At any time, this will be given para maka-recover na, makapagtanim na agad ang mga apektadong mga farmers.

So dito po sa Province of Cebu --- mayroon tayong P300.3 million po for the whole Province of Cebu para --- rice, corn. At saka 'yung Quick

Response Fund ay para 'yung ibang mga commodities na kailangan ng probinsiya, 'yun po ang bibilhin.

Province of Bohol po, 104.8 million; so ang Siquijor ay P10 million; Negros Oriental po ay P30 million. So we have a total allocation for Region VII to enhance rehabilitation and recovery for agriculture po, P445.1 million po. Handa na po ito, larga na po ito.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Medyo okay na. So all we have to do is to listen to the different departments. Ang DPWH is also here. Siya ang congressman sa Maasin. *[Ah wala? Ah wala siya 'no? Kamukha lang pala kayo. Pareho kayong ano.]*

Well, anyway, kung ano, they were present during the previous meetings in the different local unit kahapon. Alam na nila 'yung gawin nila. But what is really important is sabi ko itong ganito, tubig pati pagkain. Under stress ang mga tao, kaya kailangan ng tubig 'yan, uhaw na uhaw. Sana mapadali ang tubig dito.

How many hours ba ang travel dito hanggang Cebu, Argao? *[Official: Normally two hours.]* Kalayo ba aning y***. *[Officials: Dahil sa kanang --- tungod na sa mga natumbang lubi.]*

MAYOR SESALDO: Kasagaran two hours ra gyud, Mr. President. (Usually it's two hours, Mr. President.)

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sa DPWH na na. Paspasan lang siguro. Pareho mo'g problema sa Energy.

(TRANSLATION: DPWH will take care of that, just speed things up. You have the same problem with the Energy department.)

MAYOR SESALDO: Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Daghang tumba (Many trees were toppled).

SEC. CUSI: *[inaudible]*

MAYOR SESALDO: Thank you, Secretary Cusi.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: May probinsiya na they badly need the --- *[Asa gani 'to, Bong? Was it in Maasin?]* --- kailangan nila ng krudo doon, Dinagat.

SEC. CUSI: Mayor, ang kuan, ang depot walang problema pagtanggap. We deliver the fu --- the oil --- I mean the petroleum, the companies are delivering. Ang problema lang 'yung pag-track, Mayor, ng kuwan ng delivery.

I will look into it sa 'yung sa Dinagat, Mayor, ito hong sa... Doon sa Siargao, I thought, I will go to Siargao this morning eh. Doon sana ang punta ko kaninang umaga.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Medyo may tama rin talaga ang Siargao.

SEC. CUSI: Oo, parehong Argao, Siargao. Parehong may tama eh. Masama.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I --- mabisitahan... Dinaanang ko lang kahapon pero wala kasing --- wala sa plano. Hindi man magpayag ang military na mag-ano ka, mag-change of sche --- kasi naka... Alam mo na, trabaho man nila 'yan. Nakapuwesto na 'yung mga sundalo, napadala na kasi aside from the --- my presidential --- PSG --- nandito nga, nandito sila ngayon, nauna 'yung ibang guwardiya ko.

Pero sabi ko sa kanila, mag --- ayaw ko kasi eh. One night or two days before, 'yung mga lugar na pinuntahan ko, nagpadala na sila ng sundalo.

So 'yan ang protocol ng Presidential Security Command so hindi ako makaano. Gusto ko mag --- kahapon kasi may panahon pa. Gusto kong mag-segue doon sa --- pero wala daw tropa naka... Kay nakaplano na dito, dito, dito ang landing.

Ano pa ang...?

OFFICIAL: This is regarding sa fuel as mentioned by our dear Secretary na okay 'yung supply. However po, 'yung situation po in the --- in the city and even in the Province of Cebu, makikita niyo po na most of our gasoline stations are naka-line 'yung mga motorists.

Ang haba-haba ng linya and it's really causing traffic kasi most of the gasoline stations na malalaki hindi nago-open but 'yung maliliit 'yun ang nago-open at 'yun ang pinipilahan. Ang daming pumipila, kadlawon pa 'no nagpila na sila para makakuha og kuan 'no pero mao lagi, maabtan sila og kanang wa na'y stocks 'no? (They've been waiting in line since early morning just to get gasoline but then the stations ran out of stocks.)

So hopefully ma-encourage pud nato ang other stations nga mu-open napud sila para dili --- murag feeling nako nag-panic buying na ang mga

tawo ana nga... Taas gud kayo ang --- I think, Mr. President, mga pila ka kilometers ang queue sa pagkuha pa lang og anang gasolina.

(TRANSLATION: So hopefully we can encourage other stations to reopen as well because I feel like people are panic buying. The queue is very long. I think, Mr. President, the queue to get gas is a few kilometers long.)

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Nganong ang gagmay, ma'am? Ang dagko nganong wa man sila mag-operate?

(TRANSLATION: Why are the small stations open and not the big ones, ma'am? Why are the big stations not operating?)

OFFICIAL: Mao na'y dili namo matubag sad kay makita gyud namo mga Shell sirado, pero katong mga dili kayo ilhan nga gasoline stations, mao hinoo'y nag-open.

(TRANSLATION: That's something we can't answer because only the lesser known gasoline stations are operating, but the big gasoline stations like Shell are really closed.)

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" GO: Kakita ko kanina, ma'am, sa taas siguro, diyan papunta dito. Maliit nga na gasoline station tapos nakapaikot sila ang dami, wala ng social distancing.

OFFICIAL: Yeah, iyon po ang ano isang very urgent sa amin.

SEC. CUSI: That's true. Dili tanan na (not all) gas stations --- the retails stations are open. They are affected, some of their... We made an inventory. The initial report I got, something like 80 in the province are still closed and for various reasons.

Una, kanang nasira ang ilang equipment. Ikadula --- ikaduha, kanang mga tao nila nga affected ng typhoon also na were not able to --- or not able, di makasulod sa trabaho 'no.

(TRANSLATION: First, their equipment have been damaged. Second, their employees are affected by the typhoon and are unable to return to work.)

But I think later today or tomorrow they will be already open 'no. So naa gyud na'y problema so nag-imbentaryo tayo. Una, sa supply walay problema sa supply. Ang kuan lang na, kanang opening, mga

naapektuhan. Naa na'y --- naay gas station natumbahan sad ng poste 'no, kana.

(TRANSLATION: But I think later today or tomorrow they will be already open 'no. So they really have a problem so we made an inventory. First, there's no problem with the supply. It's just the reopening that's been affected. There is a gasoline station that was damaged by a toppled electric post.)

OFFICIAL: Naay existing, Secretary, ha nga namaligya black market, they are selling by the road already (*Sec. Cusi: Bote-bote, bote-bote.*) in liters of gasoline or one gallon.

(TRANSLATION: There are some, Secretary, who are selling gasoline through black market, they are selling by the road, already in liters of gasoline or one gallon.)

SEC. CUSI: Oo. Ah patan-awan nato na mga nagakuan. Ang bote-bote even before nag kuan talaga 'no, mga motorsik --- kanang mga ta --- kanang mga habal-habal, parang mga habal-habal, naga-supply, bote-bote. So siguro they are becoming more rampant sa roadside na talaga.

(TRANSLATION: Yes. Ah we'll look into that. Ang bote-bote even before has been operating already 'no especially for motorcycle riders, the "habal-habal." It's being supplied in bottles. So maybe they are really becoming more rampant along roadside.)

We'll look into it. We'll look into it, ma'am. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Hangyuon na lang nato og --- [*unsay tawag ana?*] --- ingna sila nga... [*Sec. Cusi: inaudible*] Sige, eh 'di tawagan natin. Mare-restore na man siguro sa Maynila ang service sa cellphone. Okay na ba?

(TRANSLATION: Let's just request them to --- what's that called? --- tell them to...)

SEN. GO: Manila okay na. Ang dito lang ang problema. Ang dako (big companies) kaya siguro 'di sila nago-operate kasi walang kuryente 'no? That is the reason kay walang kuryente.

So talaga very important kaayo ang generator? Baka puwede nang maglagay sila ng generator, 'yung mga malalaking gas station para makabukas 'yung... Nakita ko kanina nakapila, Mayor, habang papunta

tayo rito. Punong-puno talaga, nakapaikot sila. Kulang 'yang mga genset daw, sir, eh.

OFFICIAL: *[inaudible]* ang ila pud, ang ila pud signal, ang telco pud nila murag dili stable. Naay --- especially sa mga teachers kay naay daghang teachers nga nanginahanglan og cash pero 'di sila ka-withdraw kay DBP ug Land Bank man ang ilang servicing banks. Basin matabangan nga ma -- oo.

(TRANSCRIPT: ...the signal, the telcos don't have stable signal. There are those who --- especially teachers who need cash but can't withdraw money from the ATM because DBP and Land Bank are their servicing banks. Maybe we can help them, yes.)

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Most of the banks are run by electronics tanan (all).

OFFICIAL: Opo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Without power, ah so wala gyuy mahitabo (nothing can operate). Power so...

OFFICIAL: Kana lang po (That's all po).

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Diri na gikan kang kuwan Secretary Al Cusi. Ug kanang --- katong gisulti ni kuwan para sa mga tanom, ang dagha'g kuwarta ang --- actually dagha'g kwarta, maayo si Secretary Cusi mutipig og kwarta ug kamao muhatag, asa ihatag. Ug mao na lang una na'y among makuan. Ang tubig ug kuan, naa si Rolly.

(TRANSLATION: That will be taken care of by Secretary Al Cusi. And for the crops... There's plenty of money for that. It's a good thing that Secretary Cusi knows how to spend money wisely. He knows how much to spend and who to pay. And these are the primary things that we can provide. For the water and other essentials, Rolly will take care of it.)

OFFICIAL: Last na siguro, Mr. President, Cebu Province daw is not very much passable because there are three bridges and roads that are broken.

So Dalaguete area, in Malabuyoc area, broken talaga siya, Mr. President. So we are going to travel from Cebu and then we go to *[inaudible]*.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Naa man si DPWH, iuna na ninyo (fix that first). That's a vital artery sa duha ka --- dalawang probinsiya. Kung sira 'yun, hati economic impact niyan eh. Commerce and trade is closed down.

OFFICIAL: We'll do the immediate repair, sir. Ito po 'yung regional director ho natin, Director Tabacon.

DPWH REGION VII REGIONAL DIRECTOR EDGAR TABACON: Sir, maayong hapon, Mr. President; maayong hapon sa tanan. Sir, ang atong Dalaguete, ma'am, passable 'no. Ang --- na-wash out ang kanang pipe culvert, sir, na-wash out, flashflood pero di man gyud kaayo siya kuan ang tubig, during heavy rains lang gyud. Karon na-restore, passable siya, ma'am. But then eventually ato nang i-restore gyud kanang permanently.

(TRANSLATION: Sir, good afternoon, Mr. President; good afternoon to everyone. Sir, our Dalaguete, ma'am, is now passable 'no. The pipe culverts have been washed out by the flashflood, sir, but the situation is not that severe. It's only during the heavy rains. Now, we've restored it and it's passable now, ma'am. But then eventually we will restore it permanently.)

Now, ang atong Dalaguete tua na, ato nang gi-mobilize atoang team nga magdala sila og kining --- kining steel component sa bridge. Temporary pud for the meantime and then eventually ato pung i-restore to concrete, sir, permanently.

(TRANSLATION: Now, our Dalaguete is restored, we've mobilized our team and they brought steel components for the bridge. It's only temporary for the meantime and then eventually we will restore it to concrete, sir, permanently.)

So we are doing it, ma'am, nga ano, whole of ano. Mao na lang ni ang area, sir, ang medyo kuwan, ang western side. But then ang the rest passable nato, sir, oo.

(TRANSLATION: So we are doing it, ma'am, nga ano, whole of ano. This is just the area, sir, that's a bit problematic, the western side. But then all the rest are now passable, sir, yes.)

OFFICIAL: Salamat, sir.

DIRECTOR TABACON: Thank you, ma'am.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Gratifying statement. So mudiretso pa ta sa...? [*Sen. Go: Bohol pa, sir.*] Bohol pa unya Cebu. Taga-Maribojoc raba na akong lola sa... Unya manamilit na ko.

(TRANSLATION: So I'll head now to...? [*Sen. Go: Bohol pa, sir.*] I'll go to Bohol after Cebu. My grandmother is from Maribojoc... I'll bid my farewell now.)

OFFICIAL: Thank you so much, Mr. President. [*applause*]

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