

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE CEREMONIAL SIGNING OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT  
AND PRESENTATION OF VARIOUS ENACTED LAWS**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila | 21 March 2022]

Senate President Vicente Sotto III; House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, *[Nasaan ka man, Bong? Ah naglipat ka ng kampo?]* *[laughter]*; Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III; Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra, sir; Education Secretary Leonor Briones, ma'am, good afternoon; Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Joselito Bautista; Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi; Presidential Communications and Acting Spokesperson Secretary Jose Ruperto Martin Andanar; Public Works and Highways Acting Secretary Roger [Mercado]; Acting Cabinet Secretary Melvin Matibag — naubos ang panahon ko, tatlong pages.

Information and Communications Technology Acting Secretary Emmanuel Rey Caintic; Presidential Assistant for the Visayas Michael Lloyd Dino; [Anti-Red] Tape Authority Secretary Jeremiah Belgica; PLLO Acting Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs Luzverfeda Pascual; Senator Maria Imelda Marcos; Senator Sherwin Gatchalian; Senator Bong Go; Senator Francis Tolentino; Leyte 1st District Representative and [House] Majority Floor Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez; Acting Las Piñas City Lone Representative Deputy Speaker Camille Villar, ma'am; San Jose del Monte City Lone District Representative Florida Robes; Manila 1st District Representative Manuel Luis Lopez, sir, good afternoon; National Telecommunications Commissioner Gamaliel Cordova, kumusta man ang frequency naubos mo nang ibigay sa iba? *[laughter]*; Philippine Commission on Women Chairperson Sandra Montano, ma'am, maganda ka, ma'am *[laughter]*; Philippine Commission on Women Chairperson Sandra — ah; Philippine Competition Commission Chairperson Arsenio Balisacan; our partner international non-government organizations; our partner Foreign Chambers Association; fellow workers in government; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I am pleased to join you today as we hold the Ceremonial Signing of the Amendments to the Public Service [Act] and Presentation of Various Enacted Laws.

Let me convey my appreciation to Congress for the timely ratification of the amendment to the Public Service Act as it will aid the country in leading the path towards economic recovery amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

I believe that through this law, the easing out of foreign equity restrictions will attract more global investors, modernize several sectors of public service and improve the delivery of essential services.

Indeed, the enactment of this amended law, as well as the amended Foreign Investments Act, shall help stimulate the economy, especially for local businesses.

It is also expected to generate more jobs for Filipinos, improve basic services for Filipino consumers, and allow for the exchange of skills and technology with the country's foreign partners.

Aside from these acts, the newly enacted law on services for learners — ito maganda ito — with disabilities also attests to the Administration's commitment to provide inclusive, accessible, and quality education in the country, especially for learners with disabilities.

The establishments of formal school systems, including the implementation of alternative delivery modes, and at least one Inclusive Learning Resource Center in all cities and municipalities will surely make learning fun and accessible to the differently-abled.

I also want to emphasize that the enactment of the policy increasing the age for statutory rape demonstrates the Administration's dedication in building safer communities for its people by providing [protection] for the children, among others. You know timely talaga ito. It's a — it's a law that can hardly

be implemented at once and alam mo naman you know the dynamics of boy, girl. Kailangan ito ng... Well, anyway, ano ng mga parents, usually ang makatulong lang talaga nito 'yung nanay pati tatay.

The establishments of formal school systems, including the implementation of alternative delivery modes, and at least one Inclusive Learning Resource Center in all cities and municipalities will surely make learning fun — inulit ko na pala 'yun.

I also want to emphasize that the enactment of the policy increasing the age for statutory — ito importante ito and I said it should be the family, the duty of the... Alam mo there's a law somewhere punishing itong parents na — I'm sure there's a law — na 'yung pabaya. You know it's good that we have raised 'yun to 16 biologically I think maybe but you know the — the dynamics would come in kung maaga ang premature sexuality sa mga bata. Kailangan talaga taasan mo.

But of course, it is not enough that we just amend and sign laws. It is important to ensure that these are fully and efficiently implemented by all concerned agencies.

The Administration hopes that these laws will aid and contribute to the country's development, benefitting both the present and future generations. Just around the corner actually. Ako 'pag the six years na dumating ako dito parang I could see it in front na ngayon medyo matanda na ako. Ano lang 'yan saglit lang, just like that. But I'm very happy to step down. Timing na — timing talaga na the closing years of my dito ako as a worker of local — national government. Dumarami na rin 'yung mga — and the — tsk, 'yung the injuries that I suffered sa motor-motor, naglabasan na lahat. So I have this headache that — it is every day. I have pain almost every day dito sa itong biyak ko noon.

As my term will soon come to a close, I challenge all of you — our leaders both at the national and local levels as well as all civil servants who are involved in governance — to work together in ensuring that we strictly uphold the rule of law.

Let us all be vigilant and make sure that no one is above the law and that no Filipino will be left behind as we move forward to a much better Philippines.

Bago ako magsabi "*mabuhay*", you know there are... I'd like to announce na — sinabi ko kay Sonny, well also from the ground, 'yung feedback, 'yung ayuda niyo na 200. Sabi ko rin sa kanya talaga it's too small, too small sa isang buwan. Kaya sabi ko, "*Maghanap ka ng pera saan.*" Nagbubulungan kami. Masyadong mababa 'yan. Cannot sustain a family of three, even four, five, 'yung nasa baba, 'yung may pinakamaraming anak.

They are the productive Filipinos for tomorrow 'pag hindi ngayon. So sabi ko kay Sonny, "*It will be an uphill battle for the next generation kung gawain natin na 500.*" Sabi ko sa kanya, "*Bahala na ang presidente niyan saan siya magnakaw t\*\*\* i\*\* basta ibigay natin 'yung ano 500.*" [applause] So I hope that this would go a long way really to help. Huwag lang sayangin sa e-sabong pati...

Itong e-sabong ganito 'yan, matagal na nag-apply 'yan, almost two years noong wala pang pandemic. Noong pandemic na, lahat na 'pag makuwartahan ko, saan ko magnakaw, sabi ko e-sabong gives us about 640 million a month. Sabi ko at a year's end, it is billions.

Ako galing ako sa ground dito sa — lalo na sa crime and criminality. Tingin ko hindi kasalanan ng management or kung 'yung management at least identified sila. Pero kung tanggalin ko kasi 'yung ano nanghihinayang ako karami kong gasto.

Hindi — sabi ko sa kanila, "*Huwag ninyong galawin 'yang Bayanihan.*" So there are, well, of course, declarations that... Eh karami 'yang Bayanihan hindi magastos. Eh kung nabakunahan na lahat, nabigyan na ng ayuda, eh do not touch the Bayanihan fund. Iyan lang talagang ginagamit para sa bakuna, do not...

Alam mo kasi we would never know when the next variant of COVID-19 — as last reported, Israel is the birthplace of another mutant. Hindi natin masiguro. Hindi na bale 'pag after three months bahala na kayo. Then it would not be my problem anymore.

Pero huwag ninyo munang galawin because hindi natin nasisiguro kung kailan ulit at magkakandahanap na naman ako. Sana kung if it happens during my time. Of course I'd be happy to leave the problem to the next president. Bahala na siya. Basta ako dito, 'yan ang tingin ko, that is how I look at the present situation.

Iyong Bayanihan, hayaan niyo. Sabi ko huwag ninyong galawin 'yan for any other purpose except what was really intended by Congress. Huwag ninyong kunin 'yan kasi pagdating ng... Saan tayo maghanap ng pera na wala ng pera? Budgeted na lahat. The only way is mag-utang tayo. Mag-utang talaga, walang...

The next president will just have to borrow. Pero 'yung nandiyan na, huwag na lang galawin kasi kung may — madisgrasya tayo ulit, there's another contamination that could be widespread and kung ano 'yang nasa Israel ngayon, without being offensive, dadating talaga 'yan dito. As long as our tourism is active, magdating talaga dito 'yan.

So 'yun lang ang masabi ko. Huwag na lang galawin 'yan kasi mahirap eh. It's not because na you have the 200 billion there you are not — hindi pa na — hindi ninyo maubos. Eh kung nabakunahan na lahat, bakit ubusin ko 'yung pera? Sabi ko stop. Hindi kung ano continue, just a little — kaunti na lang kasi ang hindi nagpabakuna eh so hinahabol natin 'yan.

But the next catastrophe to visit us, connected with COVID-19, whatever mutant there is then we'll have to work again and look for money to meet the exigency of the moment. That's my take.

Iyon namang sa e-sabong, eh kayo, you can legislate, nasa inyo 'yan pero kailangan ko ng pera. Huwag kang maniwala na we are awash with money. We have none.

Ito ngayon inipit ko na si Carlos Dominguez III. Sabi ko na, *"Iyong 200 medyo kulang 'yun. So how much can you stretch?"* Sabi ko, *"500 kaya?"* Sabi niya, *"Oo pero magkaproblema tayo six months after."* Sabi ko sa kanya kanina, *"Buang, wala na tayo diyan, bahala na sila."* [laughter] Hindi ah, ang sulbarin natin itong... *"Ubusin mo na 'yang pera, ibigay mo pero huwag lang 'yun galawin 'yung the..."*

Kaya 'yang e-sabong, criminality 'yan eh, it's a crime to be solved by the police and it will not be corrected now if you just close it. Ang gusto ko lang i-legislate ninyo kasi 'yung lahat ng mga may-ari ng franchise, you know them, alam ninyo. Diyan ako medyo ano. Ang misgivings ko are the people behind e-sabong. Iyan ang... Then you can pass a law making it transparent. Gusto ko nga tawagin eh, gusto ko tawagin lahat ng operators.

Sabi ko you are into this kind of business at ano lang ng gobyerno, it's a privilege actually which can be taken. Gusto ko tawagin lahat. Ang ano ko,

sabi ko na walang representative so maglabas sila lahat. Alam naman natin — natin lahat kung sino 'yang people behind e-sabong.

You can legislate but make it more transparent. And the public should know who they are and you can come up with itong ano. It's actually the fixing, 'yun lang naman ang dahilan doon eh. 'Pag paliguan mo ng madaling araw 'yang manok, ibabad mo sa tubig o kaya 'yung tari — there's a certain ano, wala na 'pag... Ito Sonny sabungero rin 'yan. Maraming manok 'yan. Iyan ang ano diyan.

Pero sabagay, two years ako nagpigil niyan, even iyong lotto. Ako sabihin ko ayaw ko ng sugal kasi diyan kami nag-away ng tatay ko bago siya namatay.

Kaya noong sa harap ng kabaong niya sinabi ko, *"I will stop."* Kasi after that, I was scolded. I was trying to avoid him para walang ano. When he died, we never had a chance to talk man to man. Noong last time galit na galit siya. Kaya ayaw ko rin at saka mga anak ko, walang sugarol.

Ayaw ko. Tanungin mo ako, ayaw ko. Ang problema kailangan ko ng pera. Marami pang pitchi-pitchi na maidagdag ko. Ngayon, may 640 million ka coming in about a month plus. 'Pag sara ko, another billion 'yan sa... Hindi na ako makinabang niyan, ang bagong presidente.

Iyon lang ang... That's my drift. But I would... If Congress would like to legislate, go ahead. But just remember iyong pera sayang. But kung sabihin mo who are the people behind this e-sabong? Kasi sindikato talaga 'yan, iyong mga financier ng jueteng iyan. Nandiyan 'yan sila lahat. And you can make laws actually for known gamblers to — pati 'yung financiers, puwede mo silang itabi. Depende na 'yan sa pulis. It's a police matter pero huwag ninyong iano kasi sayang.

Not at this time na hiram tayo. Kasi kung hindi lang tayo nag-COVID, maganda na ang takbo ng ano natin and lahat — lahat ng nation ngayon. And it would be worthwhile also if you have time to discuss the repercussions of what's happening in Europe. Talaga at sinabi...

There's a statement on TV, nakita ko, I think it's *"Duterte said it six years ago."* I was interviewed about Russia and the Philippines — ah United States. Ang sabi ko itong dalawa hindi talaga ito ma... And one of these days, itong quarrel nila would come to a fore for whatever the cause is.

Ngayon, ang Ukraine. Ang problema iyong oil natin, tataas talaga nang tataas. Iyan ang problema, iyan pang isa. Tataas nang tataas hanggang hindi ma-

resolve 'yang ano niyan. Pipigilan din ng Russia 'yan kasi pang-ano niya pang-bargain niya. Papaluhurin niya 'yung mundo.

Eh ang sabi niya, *"Sabihin mo sa Amerika huminto siya."* Iyang — the name of the game is pressure. So hindi natin alam. Every day mag-akyat 'yan na mag-akyat and it will end only if Putin wants it or he is taken out. Iyan lang ang ano... Otherwise, I would have to be frank to the people na huwag ninyong anuhin ang gobyerno. Ang presyo sa gobyerno it's nakatali doon sa production ng oil. So iyon isa.

And if by unfortunate chance, per chance, talagang maipit si Putin at tusukin niya 'yung pula na butones, ah wala na. Then my thinking is 'pag mag ganoon 'yan, ang China will invade. Pero sa intelligence briefing, tatamaan talaga tayo. Tatamaan talaga. Now, what was my reason na bakit unrestricted? Kasi 'pag ayaw mo't sa hindi, talagang pipilitin ng Amerikano. Brusko 'yang Amerikano eh.

So mag-landing nang mag-landing 'yan ng... Hindi lang natin makita 'yung nuclear. If the long-range bombers are... So baka pinindot na kanina eh dito sa South China Sea, it will reach us — our jurisdiction in seven minutes iyong hypersonic ano nila.

So kasali tayo diyan kasi ano. Let us not kid each other. Nandito 'yung Amerika. The reason I said why I gave the orders to our military is to allow them unrestricted para matapos na. Huwag lang sana 'yung China.

Pero may... I think it was Secretary Lorenzana and Bong Go. We... Si Putin at the time na iyong pagputok sa Marawi ako, so I declared the Martial Law noon. Pero hindi na kami nagkita because we were scheduled to talk for three days, kasali pa siya.

Ang problema, tatlo lang kami: Bong Go, Lorenzana, ako. Sinabi talaga ni Putin, *"You know, there is that ruckus. We will try to help you dito sa ano. We will talk to the Chinese para walang gulo lang."*

Apparently, China never listened also to the advice of anybody. So iyon, tatamaan talaga tayo, sigurado ako. But I will not send my soldiers upon the request of anybody to join the cause against Russia.

So iyon lang po and I know that I was boring you. I could tell because everybody was holding the cellphone. 'Pag nag-ano ng cellphone, tumahimik ka na. Environment and [Natural] Resources — Secretary — Acting Secretary Jim Sampulna; Valenzuela City 1st District Representative, nandiyan sa harap ko, Deputy Speaker Weslie Gatchalian; Pangasinan 2nd District

Representative Jumel Anthony Espino, ang tatay kaibigan ko; Police General Dionardo Carlos. Are you here? Thank you for your presence. And mayroon pa pala so continue next page, ah siguro 'yun nagitna ito.

Ilocos Sur District Representative and Deputy Speaker Kristine Singson-Meehan, ma'am, I'm sorry hindi naman ako ang nag — tsk, kayo ang nag-prepare diyan; Party-list Representative and Deputy Speaker Bernadette Herrera-Dy, ma'am, salamat po for coming; Pasig City Lone District Representative Roman Romulo, yes sir, nice to see you again; Pangasinan 5th District Representative Ramon Guico III, sir, magandang hapon sa iyo; Bulacan 4th District Representative Henry Villarica, mukhang pinsan mo yata 'yung bayaw ko; Bulacan 4th District Representative Henry Villarica, iyon ang husband ng sister ko pero namatay na; Kabayan Party-list Representative Ron Salo, sir, nice to meet you; Navotas Lone District Representative John Reynald Tiangco; AAMBIS-OWA Party-list Representative Sharon Garin, ma'am, nice to see you; Zamboanga del Sur 2nd District Representative Leonardo Babasa.

Salamat at salamat at salamat sa imbitasyon ko na pumunta kayo dito. Thank you. *[applause]*

**— END —**