

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING HIS VISIT TO TYPHOON AGATON VICTIMS IN LEYTE**

[Delivered at Baybay City Senior High School in Baybay City, Leyte | 15 April 2022]

Abi nako'g pahawaon na ko ngari. That ends... Mosulti ko gamay kay tagangari ra ba ko. Nahibaw-an ninyo nganong dali ra ta mag-ila basig sa gawas? Kahibaw ka, kahibaw mo ngano nahibaw ko nganong tagangari ka? Nahibaw mo? Kay ang tagangari kadaghanan pislal og ilong pareho nako. *[laughter]* Dagko ba. Sige'g hanggap anang y***** hangin sa Pacific Ocean.

(TRANSLATION: I thought they would make me leave this place already. That ends... I want to make a short speech because this is my hometown. Do you know the reason why we recognize each other easily even when we're outside this city? Do you know why I can tell that you are from here? Do you know? Because most of the residents here have flat and wide noses just like me. Our noses are big and keep on inhaling the air from the Pacific Ocean.)

Kaning... Ako nasubo. I am sorry that it had to happen now, it's Semana Santa pa gyud ni Hesus. Nihangyo ko sakong asawa nga kinahanglan muadto ko ngadto kay tagadidto ra ba ko. Kay ugma muadto napod ko sa Capiz, didto sa lugar ni Roxas haron wa pud silay masulti nga wala koy gipili sa akong pag-ila sa kapwa ko Pilipino.

(TRANSLATING: Actually, I'm devastated. I am sorry that it had to happen now during the Holy Week of Jesus. I pleaded with my wife, I told her I need to visit you here because this is my hometown. Tomorrow I will visit Capiz, the hometown of Roxas, so that they won't be able to say that I'm being selective in acknowledging the needs of my fellow Filipinos.)

Nia ko, naguol ko, nasakitan ko sa nahitabo. Pero giingnan ta mo, taga-Baybay man ko, wa ta gyud mahimo ana. Hibaw-an ninyo mo --- ang uban nga nawad-an og --- di nako masulti'g unsaon pag...

(TRANSLATION: I am here now because I, too, am worried and in pain because of what happened. But I told you --- I'm from Baybay --- and there is nothing we can do about it. You know, there are so many who lost a... I can't even bring myself to say it.)

Dili ko bag-o aning hitaboa ingon ani, 23 anyos kong mayor sa Davao. Tanang sunog, landslide, tanan. So hibaw ko'g unsay gibati sa mga tawo. Gusto man gani nako nga pakataw-on ta mo, mag-bugal-bugal ko, pero murag di man angay kay Semana Santa ra ba.

(TRANSLATION: I'm not new to disasters like this because I was the mayor of Davao City for 23 years. All the fires, landslides, everything. So I know what the people are going through. I actually want to joke around and make you laugh, but it would be inappropriate to do so during the Holy Week.)

Hinuon, istorya nalang ko, di pud kamingaw kondili nga ang gobyerno nia. Tanang ahensiya sa gobyerno nia. Tanang inyong problema sa pagkaon walay problema. Kutob nga gutmon mo, nga wa pa moy makuhaan, wa pa mo mapuwesto sa inyong lugar, naay pagkaon. Walay problema.

(TRANSLATION: But we can just simply talk instead, not about our sadness but to tell you that the government is here, all the agencies of government is here. All your worries about food, that won't be a problem at all. For as long as you are hungry and you don't have any resources or haven't been relocated, food will be provided. That won't be a problem.)

Karon, kaning sa balay nga nawad-an, dali ra man unta na og Presidente pa ko og pipila pa ka panahon. Galing musirahay na ang akong termino pagtrabaho nako in about two months' time, less.

(TRANSLATION: Now, to those whose houses were destroyed... It would have been easy if I were still President for some time, but I am about to step down in about two months' time or less.)

So nia unta tong hepe sa Housing, si General Del Rosario. Mao ni siya, mao ni tighimo og daghang balay. Pero basin kanang mga opisyal ninyo, makapangutana nalang mo'g unsaon pag kab-ot ngadto sa Manila aning hinabang kaning mga balay. Daghan ko'g gibuhat ana. Kadaghanan akong gitagaan ang mga NPA ug mga sundalo, 'yang duha.

(TRANSLATION: So the Housing Secretary is here, General Del Rosario. He is in charge of building housing units. But maybe you can ask your local officials on the process of applying for a housing unit, it will be processed in Manila. I've had many units built already, mostly for the soldiers and NPAs.)

Ang NPA di man ko gusto makig-away ninyo. Para nako, kalas la'g bala ug sa panahon. Wala gyuy... Nothing, 53 anyos na magsige mo'g away gobyerno, magsige'g patay, walay kapuslanan, for nothing.

(TRANSLATION: I don't want to fight with the NPA. For me, it's just a waste of bullets and a waste of time. It's all for nothing. You have been fighting the government for 53 years, killing people for nothing.)

Walay ideolohiya, wa na tanan. Wa na magsunod og relihiyon, nakapatay ka'g sundalo. Unsa may imong matila? Lima, unom ka sundalo? Naay daghang musulod sundalo pagkaugma... Maayo'g muabot ta ani'g 70 anyos sige'g away.

(TRANSLATION: You don't have an ideology, no nothing. You don't have a religion anymore and you've killed soldiers. What will you get out of that other than being able to kill five or six soldiers? Immediately the day after, more men will enlist to join the military. We might reach 70 years of fighting.)

O naay balay. Mahimuan ta pud unta mo og dugay-dugay pa ko. But kung di na ko maka --- wa na gyuy panahon sa ako, i --- tantiyahon nalang namo diri kay kung una ana, mangita ta'g yuta.

(TRANSLATION: There are housing units. I would be able to build more houses for you if only I had more time left. But if there's not enough time, we will just estimate how many we can build before I step down. We just need to find lands.)

Wala na may yuta kay daghan namang tag-iya ani. Mangita ta'g asang patag nga layo sa disgrasya sa mga bukid-bukid. Og dili, ang gobyerno will exercise its power of eminent domain.

(TRANSLATION: There are no lands left because these lands have owners already. But we'll find a flatland somewhere far away, safe from the dangers of the countryside. If not, the government will exercise its power of eminent domain.)

Og naay mga flatlands diri, di pud kanang duol kaayo sa dagat, og di nimo -- - di ka makigbahin, kuhaon sa gobyerno pero bayran nimo ang tag-iya sa yuta. And that's a long process actually.

(TRANSLATION: If there are flatlands here that's not too near the coastline but the owner refuses to share, then the government will take that property and pay the owner. And that's a long process actually.)

So kanang two months nabilin pagka-Presidente nako, di na gyud ko makatabang. Ang matabang nako nga mahapsay lang namo unsay inyong buhaton para makab-ot ninyo ang mga balay.

(TRANSLATION: There's only two months left of my presidency, so I won't be able to do much to help you. But what I can assure you is that I will help make sure that preparations will be in place to help give you new houses.)

Pero naa na sa programa sa gobyerno and I'm sure nga ang moilis, iya gihapong sundon kay wa may lain. Ang trabaho ana ni Del Rosario, si General, magbuhat ma'g mga balay. Daghan na all over the Philippines.

(TRANSLATION: But that's a program of the government and I'm sure that the next administration will follow through with the program because there's nothing else that they can do. General Del Rosario's job is to build new houses. It's all over the Philippines.)

So kamong naigo ug napinsala, nawad-a'g balay, matagaan gyud mo. Pero it would be a long, long process. Dili basta-basta nga diha --- diha dayon milagro. So mapuwesto gyud mo una og asa mo ibutang, makatabang ang gobyerno ma...

(TRANSLATION: So to all of you who lost their houses in the typhoon, you will be given a new house but it would be a long, long process. It's not like there's just a miracle. But government will help you resettle first.)

Usually pa gud ana ang eskuwelahan. Ang problema pud sa eskuwelahan kay ang desisyon sa Secretary of Education mubalik na man. Tama na. Para nako, kinahanglan mubalik na ta sa normal. Wala na man kaayo'y takod. Di lang nako gusto tangtangon ninyo ang maskara.

(TRANSLATION: Usually it's the schools. The problem is the Secretary of Education has decided to resume face-to-face classes. But that's right. For me, we need to go back to normal. Anyway, the infection rate has decreased. But I don't want you to stop wearing your masks.)

Habang Presidente ko, gamita. Nakahatag gyud na'g proteksyon. Kay og wala nako na gipugos nga magmaskara gyud mo, ang takod kusog kaayo. Pero tungod naa na, dili basta-basta makasulod ang kagaw. Maayo man ng y*** og --- unsa ning alimango nga mukut --- maghatag og proteksyon ninyo.

(TRANSLATION: While I'm President, continue to use your masks because this has given us protection. If I hadn't firmly imposed the usage of face masks, the infection rate would have been high. But because you are using masks, the virus can't easily penetrate through the material. It's not like a crab that... It gives you protection.)

So ang kanang maskara ni, tangtangan nako kay di ko kaistorya'g maayo og ma-fold ang akong... Ako, I feel that I cannot talk properly if there's a --- naay mask ang akoang nawong, ba-ba.

(TRANSLATION: But I remove my mask when I talk because I can't talk properly if there's something folded over my... Ako, I feel that I cannot talk properly if there's a mask covering my mouth.)

So mao ra na ang akong gianhi nga naay gobyerno nga wa man gyud mo malimti. Usbon nako, and I repeat, pagkaon walay problema. Hantod sa hantod, og gusto mong di nalang mu magpalit og bugas, naa na moy balay, adtoa lang si --- the DSW[D], general pud ni, Rolly. Na-assign ni sila sa Mindanao. Puro ni general inyong kaatbang. So usa ra ka sugo nako nga, "*Mao ning sunda, mao ning buhata.*"

(TRANSLATION: So this is what I came here for, to let you know that the government has not forgotten you. I will say this again, and I repeat, food won't be a problem. You will be given food to eat until the end of time, even after you've rebuilt your houses, you can even stop buying your own rice if you want. Just approach the DWSD. General Rolly is here, he's a general too. He was assigned in Mindanao. Everyone you see in front of you are military generals. They just need one command from me, "*Follow this, do this.*")

Karon og naa na moy balay, di mo gusto mo --- makagasto, ingna siya nga, "*Tagai lang mi'g kuan lugar nga magkaon mi libre kada adlaw, pamahaw, paniudto, panihapon.*" Muhi --- muadto ni'g Manila muhilak ni nga, "*Unsa man, Mayor, kutob kanus-a man ning akong kuan?*" Ah kutob... Muingon ang taga-Leyte nga, "*Bahugi mi hangtod sa hangtod,*" di ko pud ko kabalibad og muingon mo kay taga-ngari gud ko, diri ko natawo.

(TRANSLATION: Now if your houses are still intact but you don't want to spend money, tell him, "*Give us a place where we can go to eat for free everyday – breakfast, lunch, and dinner.*" He'll probably go to Manila, crying, "*Mayor, until when do I have to do this?*" Ah until... If the Leyteños say, "*Feed us until the end of time,*" I can't say no because this is my hometown. I was born here.)

Mao na akong giingon makaila ko ninyo basig asa kay inig tan-aw nako, pareho pud nako pislát og ilong. *[laughter]* Kasabot mo? Ana man gyud. Pilipino man ta. Wa man ta makig-contest og Amerikano ilong nila.

(TRANSLATION: That's why I said I can recognize your faces easily wherever I am because we have the same kind of nose, it's flat. Do you understand? Well, that's really how it is because we are Filipinos. We're not competing with the Americans' noses.)

So mao ra na. Hain man mo mangatulog? Sa eskuwelahan, naa mo sa evacuation centers? Hain mo nagpuyo ron? Wa may maningog ninyo. Dad-on ta nalang mo sa Davao. *[laughter]* Mag-arkila ko'g barko. Kinsa to nga di na mungisi, di na gyud mu-smile sa kaguol, ah ilabay ta mo sa dagat. Tapuson ta nalang nato atong...

(TRANSLATION: So that's all. Where will you sleep? Are you staying in the evacuation centers in the schools? Where do you live now? Will no one answer? I'll bring you to Davao instead. I'll rent a ship. Those who are so immersed in their own problems that they refuse to smile anymore, ah I'll throw you in the ocean. Let's just finish our...)

Mao bitaw to ingon nako. Gusto lang ko kita nga basig mu-smile mo. Kahibaw ko og unsay inyong giagian labi na gyud tong samdunon ug... Masakitan ko. Nagtan-aw ko sa bukid ganina, muingon si Jalad nga naa pay daghang... Mao na di ko kaistorya'g tarong. Ang inyo ng mayor, inyong mga opisyal diri og unsaon pagpaabot sa tao nga naa gyud nay kaguol, kasakit ug kanang problema karon nga wa makit-i.

(TRANSLATION: This is why I said that this is what I really came for, I just want to make you smile. I know what you're going through especially those

who are wounded. It pains me, too. While I was conducting an aerial inspection earlier, Jalad told me that there's a lot more... That's why I can't speak properly. It is up to your mayors and officials to see to it that the needs of everybody suffering right now are addressed, as well as the problems that are yet to be identified.)

Adto ko sa hospital, usa ra kabuok bata, amahan niya ug inahan, tibuok igsuon nangawa. Makahilak ko. Sumaa ra gud og nahitabo nimo, sa imo na. Lami itiyabaw. Pero ana man gyud ang kinabuhi.

(TRANSLATION: I visited the hospital and I saw this child who was all alone. His dad, mom, and siblings are all dead. It made me cry. Can you just imagine if it had happened to you? It makes me want to cry. But that is just how life is.)

Di na ko magdugay. Nangayo lang ko'g panahon makig-istorya ninyo kay seremonya unta to, paghuman mulakaw na ko. Ingon ko, "*Dili ko ana kay maikog ko sa tawo.*" Magbilin man lang ko'g istorya, basig unsang istoryaha basta maistoryahan ta mo.

(TRANSLATION: So I can't stay long. I just asked for a little time that I can spend talking with you. I was supposed to grace the ceremonial distribution and leave right after, but I said, "*I won't do that because I will worry about what the people might feel.*" I just want to be able to talk to you, I don't care what we'll talk about as long as I get to talk to you.)

So maghinay-hinay na ko'g paningkamot og ba-bye kay layo pa akong biyaheon. Unya ugma mumata napud ko'g sayo kay muadto ko sa Capiz. Mao nang akong... Bisitahon pud nako atong mga Ilonggo labi na gyud kay...

(TRANSLATION: So I'll have to start saying my goodbyes because I have a long flight ahead of me. And tomorrow I will have to wake up early to go to Capiz. That will be my... I want to visit the Ilonggos especially because...)

Di lang tong election naagi, di man ko namulitika. Ipasulti nako nga Roxas man gyud sila pero ipakita nako sa ila nga ang akong gobyerno dili --- ang gobyerno, kami, trabaho lang para sa inyo. Wa na ng pulitika labi na gud nako di na ko kadagan, tapos na ko.

(TRANSLATION: Regardless of how the previous election turned out, this isn't about politics. I will say that they voted for Roxas but I will show them that my government has done nothing but work for your welfare. I don't care about politics anymore especially because I can't run for a position anymore, tapos na ako.)

So ang amo nalang nga way masulti ang tao nga way --- wa mulihok ang gobyerno unya wa gyuy tabang nga niabot. Mao ra nay akong gianhi ug gusto lang ko kita nga maka-smile mo. Tangtanga daw ninyo inyong maskara be.

(TRANSLATION: So what we just want is for the people to be unable to say that the government didn't do anything or didn't give any form of help. That's what I came here for and to see you smile. Please remove your masks.)

[President Duterte points to the audience] Mare, kani titser ko man ni sa high school niadto. *[laughter]* Ay di ra ba muangkong. Katong kuan, kanang printed, mao man ni atong principal. Nahinumdom pa mo? *[laughter]* Kani, classmate ko ni sa first year. *[laughter]* Mao gyud ni iyang kuan, taas ang iyang buhok. *[laughter]* Wa gyud ni pagupit, iya lang na ipaputol.

(TRANSLATION: Mare, she was my teacher in high school. Ah she won't admit it. That person wearing a printed top is our principal. Can you still remember? And she's my classmate in first year. She's always had long hair. She never gets it cut, she just trims it every now and then.)

Malipay ko makakita ko'g mga classmate nako. *[laughter]* Naa koy classmate nako ngari sa high school. Hain na ba to? Mura'g nakit-an man nako ganina. Nawala man, naulaw siguro.

(TRANSLATION: It makes me happy to see my classmates. I saw another high school classmate of mine. Where is she? I think I saw her earlier. I can't see her anymore, maybe she's shy.)

So di nalang ko magdugay kay layo-layo pa pa akong biyahe, mouli pa ko'g Davao unya mubiyahe napod ko. Ako nia lang ko nga... Tangtanga na na inyong maskara kay wa ko magmaskara. O kita ko, 'di mga guwapo.

(TRANSLATION: So I won't stay long because I still have a long flight ahead of me and I have to travel home to Davao. I'm just here to... Kindly remove your masks because I've removed mine as well. Now I can see your faces, o 'di mga guwapo.)

Giingnan ta mo pislal ta'g ilong pero --- ah pareho man ta, lapad ba nga... Okay na man na. Makita lang ko mongisi mo, okay na kaayo sakoa na. Malipay na ko. Mouli ko kuntento na ko sa akong kasing-kasing nga nakatabang ko sa isig-katawo nako.

(TRANSLATION: I said we have the same flat and wide noses but that's okay because just seeing you smile already made my day and I can go home with a contented heart knowing I've helped my fellowmen.)

Daghang salamat kaninyo. *[applause]*

(TRANSLATION: Thank you very much to all of you.)

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