Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE INSPECTION OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS HOSPITAL

[Delivered in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga | 01 May 2022]

Kindly sit down. Salamat po.

[Former] President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III --- ito ma'am si Bebot magkaharap kami ng kuwarto sa dormitoryo at kilala ko talaga ito, mabait na tao at mabahit --- *[tsk ano ba 'yan] [laughter]* malupit sa… *[laughter]*; Health Secretary Francisco Duque III; Senator Bong Go, Chairperson Senate Committee on Health and Demography; Senator Joel Villanueva; Antique Lone District Congresswoman Deputy Speaker Loren Legarda; One Patriotic Coalition of Marginalized National[s] Party-list Congressman Enrico Pineda, sir; Pampanga Vice [Governor] Lilia "Nanay" Pineda, ma'am; Bloomberry Cultural Foundation Vice Chairman for Construction and Regulatory Affairs Donato Almeda; Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Andrea Domingo --- mayroon lang ako, mag-segue lang ako.

Marami pa pala hindi --- sorry. Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chairperson Anselmo Simeon Pinili; fellow workers in government; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Balikan ko lang itong --- you know 'yung e-sabong. It's up for my signature. Ipasok ko lang ito kasi ganito, pumunta 'yung mga doktor sa PGH sa opisina ko. Nanghingi ng tulong para sa medisina. Sabi ko how much is your appropriation for a year? At sabi nila something like in the vicinity of 6 million. Sabi ko for a month? Sabi niya hindi, for the whole year. So sabi ko na sige maghanap ako ng pera at tinawagan ko si Chairperson Andrea Domingo. Sabi ko, *"Ma'am, may 100 million ka ba?"* Sabi niya, *"Wala ngayon*

pero tingnan ko sa libro kung… Bakit?" Sabi ko ang PGH naghingi ng tulong at 'yung appropriation nila 'yung sa budget for the whole year is something just like I said 60 or something para medisina lang. Sabi niya, *"Sige, tingnan ko."*

Tumawag siya sa akin at sinabi niya *"mayroon tayong makuha."* Sabi ko, *"Ma'am, ibigay mo sa PGH 100 million."* Sabi nila *"a month?"* Sabi ko, *"yes".* So ang PGH mayroong 100 million a month galing sa PAGCOR *[applause]* para sa operating you know ang medisina kasi naaawa raw sila at every time na 'yung mga pasyente mayroong mga tawag sa atin is 'yung reseta galing sa doktor sabi nila na sila na mismo nga nagbibigay from their own pocket sa mga tao.

O sabi ko well, that's 100 million a month, hindi na ninyo maubos 'yan. Nandito pala si Atty. Gierran sa PhilHealth. Mukhang inaantok ka. Matulog ka na lang gisingin ka lang namin maya pagkatapos. *[laughter]*

Kaya ikonekta ko ito sa e-sabong. About the only reason, the sole and only reason why I, we in the Executive department, allowed it kasi ang estimate ni Ms. Domingo is that it would help us something like 640 million a month. That would give us at the end of the year billions. Iyon lang ano kasi walang pera kaagad. Nag-ano ako hanap ako at mayroon tayong nakuha.

Iyong e-sabong sabi ko sa kanila it must be under PAGCOR. Lahat ng sugal dito sa Pilipinas PAGCOR kasi may control ako isang opisina lang tawagan ko kung mayroon ba ito o wala at anong nangyari dito. So I can have an answer without going to different offices to ask if we have the money or if the money is not there, what happened.

Kaya ho 'yun lang. Marami ho tayong gastusin na outright --- 'yan mga doktor magpunta doon maghingi ng tulong. Eh obligado naman tayong tumulong dahil trabaho natin 'yan. Eh kung mayroon, may pera, eh ilarga mo. Huwag tayong humawak ng pera na walang kahulugan. Gastuhin mo, ubusin mo, sabi ko. Lahat ng pera basta tao ang may kailangan, ubusin mo.

And my orders to the Department of Agrarian Reform, basta lahat ng lupa ng sa gobyerno ‘pag may squatters na, ibigay mo na. Do not give me about --- that a certain land or lot will be utilized by this department, blah, blah, blah. At magdaan na lang ang mga ilang administrasyon hindi naman ninyo nagamit, eh ibigay mo na sa tao.

You know space is a very serious problem in the Philippines --- ‘yang squatter. Nobody but nobody can solve it except the Filipino and ‘yung workers sa government nakatutok talaga. Iyon ang ano doon. Do not hang on to a property that’s idle or talagang hindi talaga magamit. Kung magamit man, it could be about two administrations from now. So pagka ganoon sabi ko ibigay mo na at magbili ang gobyerno ng ano bagong lupa tutal hindi naman nawawalaan ng pera ang gobyerno sa totoo lang.

So iyon ang ano doon. Makita ninyo ngayon kung bakit ‘yan. You know there is a department si DILG, I tasked him to make a serious study of the e-sabong. The recommendation is on my table now. So pagdating doon, babasahin ko and maybe by Monday, malaman natin kung ituloy natin o hindi.

Ako kung mayroon lang ganoon, susugal ako. But there is apparently a social problem evolving sa pagpatakbo nitong e-sabong. So we have a problem there and we want to, well, be fair to everybody. But then again, we must study seriously or take into consideration ‘yung social issues.

Marami kasi eh, e-sabong, ang mga tao lahat nagsusugal na pati mga bata, ‘yung iba nagsasangla na ng propiedad. Sabi ko, I do not know if this is true. So sabi ko kay Secretary Año, pag-aralan mo na or you conduct a survey because you have a far-reaching powers in the provinces ‘yung mga DILG pati city and province. Kaya mong kunin ‘yung feedback.

So nandiyan na ngayon at by Monday I --- we would know. Eh pag-aralan ko ‘yan ngayong gabi, I will read it all over again and I would like to see the dimension of ito. Iyong --- itong aking Tagalog, this is the informal part of my speech. Ang formal, itong ginawa ng --- dalawang pages lang. Kung ito ang inuna ko, uwi na tayong lahat. *[laughter]* Nakakahiya nandiyan si Presidente Arroyo.

So basahin ko na ‘yung trabaho nila, nandiyan lang ‘yan ‘yung mga babae, baka --- ‘yung lumilikod diyan na --- kanila ito eh. So in fairness also to their --- nagtrabaho, babasahin ko na ang --- ‘yung speech na kunwari akin, pero hindi akin talaga. *[laughter]*

It is my pleasure to be with you here today as we witness the developments in the construction of the Overseas Filipino Workers Hospital — the first ever medical hospital dedicated to the OFWs and their qualified dependents.

I recognize the efforts of the Department of Labor and Employment, the Department of Health, and all government and private sectors, in completing this facility.

Now, I would be bereft of sa --- ng ating --- itong --- kung hindi ko pangalanan ‘yung mga tao, the Bloomberry Foundation *[applause]*; PAGCOR; Governor Pineda who gave us the lot; and of course, the Department of Health. So para malaman natin na lahat-lahat nagtutulungan dito.

Your commitment to translate the blueprint of this project into a tangible reality is truly noteworthy.

Please know that this is the government’s way of thanking our OFWs for their valuable contributions to our country’s socio-economic progress and for their critical role in upholding the Filipino identity in the global community.

This is why I express my full support to initiatives that promote the welfare and development of OFWs who are among our reliable partners in nation-building, especially during challenges, calamities and events such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Their unwavering dedication and perseverance as well as their sacrifices to provide for their families make them worthy to be called “Mga Bagong [Bayani].”

Hintuin ko muna dito at isingit ko ito. Kasi ma’am paalis na po ako and I want also to share with you or to unburden myself all these years of being the punching bag of the OF --- ah the human rights pati itong sa

International Criminal Court. Gusto ata nila na magsabay kami ni Putin doon sa presuhan. *[laughter]* Anak ka ng…

May --- eh alam mo naman siguro, narinig mo na ito. Alam mo itong pinakamasakit sa akin, you know, na ang isang pamilya kung gusto mong sirain, just plant isa sa anak o sa asawa, gawain mo lang adik sa shabu.

At everybody from the NBI, si Gierran and all, CIDG, at lahat ng mga gobyerno nagtatrabaho, especially the health workers, they would tell you, if you want to create a problem para makalaban mo diyan sa ano, lagyan mo lang ng isang adik, one child or the husband, the family becomes dysfunctional.

Iyong nag-surrender dito kay Bato which was televised all over, nakita ng Pilipino, pero 'yun hanggang Manila, Greater Manila Area lang. Hindi kasali doon sa bilang ng mga --- na sa adik --- ah mga adik sa shabu 'yung sa probinsiya. Marami 'yun at maraming mayor pumasok diyan. Sabagay patay na sila.

Pero pati barangay captains pumasok pati pulis. You know, I came from --- coming from Davao dito dala-dala ko si Bato, sabi ko, *"Bato,"* senator ngayon, *"buksan mo ang records diyan at sabihin mo sa akin ang totoo."* Because I promised in the campaign sorties that I would solve the shabu problem dito sabi ko in six months. Ah tutal patayin mo lang naman lahat eh 'di tapos na. *[laughter]*

Pero noong nagpunta na ako dito, ma'am, I was informed by --- sila Bato, sila lahat, na the situation is serious and that even six police generals kasali doon, pati Customs, lahat na. So noong naka --- ako sinabi ko little did I realize na ang kalaban ko dito ang gobyerno ko mismo. Mahirap 'yun. And we have to do something na mapaalis sila or retire early, or get out of the service because you are part of the problem, and maybe, just maybe, you will be a part of the solution.

Sabi ko hindi ako naga-ano, I am not threatening you but tatapusin ko talaga kayong mga… Sabi ko magpatayan tayo dito. Mamili kayo: you kill me or I kill you. That's the deal na ibinigay ko sa kanila. Sabi ko, kayong mga pulis, not so --- not so much of the military --- kasi ang mga pulis kasi have the law enforcement power. They go out every day to enforce the law. So

makita mo maraming violations not only maghuli ng mga operators ng shabu but lahat ng mga anong --- basta law enforcement, parking, one way.

So mas sanay itong pulis sa corruption. Ganoon talaga. Military, wala. Kasi hindi ka makalabas ng kampo unless you are authorized or you have the consent of the camp commander. 'Pag sinabi ng camp commander, diyan lang kayo and we will just wait for anything that we have to respond to, diyan lang kayo. So wala masyadong ano.

But 'yang pulis, hindi naman lahat, hindi ko nilalahat, kakaunti lang 'yan sila, pero 'pag ang pulis na ang pumasok… Ayan sa e-sabong ngayon may mga pulis na sabit kasi identified sila. Why? Bakit pulis? Eh sila lang man 'yung law enforcement, sila lang ang makapasok ng mga ganoon. Mga ganoon na istilo, may pulis talaga 'yan. Iyang magpasok ng bahay, mag-kidnap harap-harapan, tapos wala na. Saan na 'yung nawala? Well, hindi na nakita. What is my suspicion? Sinunog 'yung mga katawan nu'n.

So 'yan ang ano --- and ngayon billions na ang pumapasok. Pero it's a tight group na… Pero 'pag binitawan itong billions worth of shabu all throughout the country, kung hindi na-interdict, gagamitin ito… And sabi ko, you create --- bigyan lang ninyo ako ng panahon, para makuha ninyo, I'll give you the picture of the situation.

Ang masakit sa akin itong mga OFW. Because once the husband becomes an addict, wala ng gawa 'yan kung hindi maghanap ng pera. Iyong suweldo niya, kalahati o nawala na kasi napunta sa shabu. It's a --- the going rate now is about 300. Noon 200 kasi nandiyan. It's a supply and demand play. Kung maraming supply, medyo mura. Pero kung nag-ano ang shabu, maliit ang --- nagkahulihan o walang importation, 'yan medyo mahal ang bentahan.

Iyan ang ayaw ko. You create… Marami 'yan, by the thousands. Nakita mo 'yung million? May pamilya 'yan. Ang nakikita ng human rights ay ang listahan sa namatay at 'yung mga taong, well… Hindi nila tinignan kung anong ginawa ng mga p***** i**. Ilang pamilya naging dysfunctional, nasira.

And some wives would, you know, choose just to get out from it all kasi walang income, pupunta sa Middle East. Pagdating sa Middle East,

magtrabaho. Now, tingnan ninyo kung anong nangyayari. Pumunta ako ng… May naano doon na mga babae, nagkakaso, 'yung isa pinatay niya 'yung ano. Taga-Digos, hindi sa siyudad, Digos City, it's kapitbahay namin na siyudad, part of the original Davao when it was only one. Well, to make the story short, pati 'yung mga ano tinulungan ko.

Tapos King Fahd was ano na, may dementia na or so I think. Pero may nagbubulong sa kanya, 'pag nakuha niya parang gumanoon. So I got the pardon for the Filipina and others na may mga kaso at inuwi ko. Pero sabi nila, you talk to your counterpart. So member ako ng law and order sa Congress noon. So sinabihan ko --- we had a talk, sabi niya, sabihan mo doon sa mga kababayan mo that there is really the real danger of being sexually abused. Kasi sa practice sa Arab, if you are a slave bought from the slave markets of Africa or nagtatrabaho ka sa kanila, you are just treated as a property and rape is part of the territory.

Kaya makikita mo 'yang mga Pilipina wala kang nakita na lumabas at nag-suicide doon tumalon. You know why? Kita mo lahat, marinig mo sa --- mabasa mo, tumatalon sa bintana? Alam mo kung bakit? Sarado 'yang main gate sa ano, sarado talaga 'yan, locked. They cannot go out even to commit suicide. Kaya diyan na lang, takbo tapos tatalon.

Iyong iba naman endure the indignity, 'yung violation nila sa pagkatao nila, sinisikmura na lang nila. But after four or three years magtrabaho, minsan five years talagang ginagalaw.

Kaya sabi ko, 'yan ang ano. Pagdating dito, pag-uwi, ito ang masakit sa akin. Sige siya padala ng pera para sa kanyang anak, edukasyon. Ang respond naman dito --- ang response is magre-respond sila na everything is okay, even though the family is already in shambles.

Kasi pag-alis niya, iiwan niya 'yung anak niya sa kapatid niya, iiwan niya sa kapitbahay niya, o iwan niya doon sa husband na drug addict na. So akala niya padala, mage-enroll 'yung mga babae, 'yung ano sa kanya na maganda ang nangyari sa pera niya.

Pag-uwi dito, makita niya ang anak niya, adik, 'yung isa naging prostitute na… Iyan ang --- 'yan ang hindi ko matanggap, masakit sa akin 'yan. Masakit sa akin 'yan. They work overtime. Alam mo maglinis sila --- maglinis

sila ng bahay sa amo nila, pagkatapos ‘yung bahay ng son-in-law niya doon sa anak niya, she has to clean about two houses every day.

Kaya sabi nila --- nakita mo ang standard na tulog, three to four hours. Ang hirap nang dinanas nila na ni-rape pa and they are punished sa --- alam mo na, kung ano ang kasalanan… Pagdating dito, wala pala, napurnada ‘yung pagod niya. Kaya galit talaga ako sa mga p***** i**. Maski hindi na ako Presidente, papatayin ko talaga kayo. L**** kayo.

Kaya itong mga --- diyan sa law enforcement, Gierran used to be the NBI chief. Balik ka na doon, walang… Sigurado palitan ka. Iyong Health mo, hanggang ngayon hindi pa --- may intramurals pa. If I were you, I’d go back to the NBI and work like hell to fight COVID --- ah, sorry --- kasali na ang COVID pati droga*. [applause]*

I am confident that the construction of this hospital shall be completed on time so that our OFWs and their dependents can fully enjoy the services and privileges offered by this facility.

Let me also take this opportunity to encourage the management, staff and various healthcare professionals who will work in the facility to perform your duty with utmost excellence, responsibility and compassion.

Always keep in mind that the care and services that you provide to your [patients] will ultimately redound to the overall well-being of our citizenry.

I therefore look forward to the successful operations of this facility in the months and years ahead.

Maraming salamat po.

Maupo muna kayo. *[laughter]* Iyon ‘yung chapter one, may chapter ako dito. *[laughter]* Baka ma-chapter tayo…

Of course, I already acknowledged the valuable presence of Pampanga Vice Governor Lilia “Nanay” Pineda; former Presidential Spokesperson Salvador “Sal” Panelo. Nakita ko nandiyan. May kasama kang babae, wala? Eh ‘yung

may mga asawa, ‘yung dalaga. Anak --- buang. Former DOH undersecretary Astravel “Astra” Pimentel-Naik. This is not a forum really to campaign, so I’ll do it some other time.

So maraming salamat sa inyo and this is really a work of --- for your fellow human beings. *[applause]*

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