

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE OPENING OF
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR) LUCENA-SAN PABLO COMMUTER
LINE**

[Delivered in San Pablo City, Laguna | 25 June 2022]

Kindly sit down. Salamat po.

Indonesian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Agus Widjojo; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade; Senator Bong Go; Philippine National Railways officials and staff led by General Junn Magno; Laguna Vice Governor Katherine Agapay, who is celebrating her birthday today *[applause]* ma'am hindi ko alam ma'am magdala sana ako ng siopao kung nalaman ko *[laughter]*; San Pedro --- ah San Pablo rather City Mayor-elect Vicente Amante, sir; Sariaya Municipal Mayor Marcelo Gayeta --- ipagpaumanhin po ninyo 'yung eyesight ko is not good anymore. Ewan ko si Art, he can deliver spontaneous speeches. Ito ho 'yung valedictorian namin sa --- and he was the captain of the debating team of the San Beda College of Law. Eh ako binabasa ko pero 'yung mata ko po nagdo-doble na.

Light Rail Transit Authority Administrator Jeremy Regino; Metro Rail Transit Line 3 General Manager Michael Capati; fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; my countrymen.

I am pleased to join you today as we open the Philippine National Railways Lucena-San Pablo Commuter Line.

Now that we have only a few days left in the administration, I am truly honored to witness the result of our hard work over the past six years.

Eh kung ito lang sana ang project po para dito sa lugar na 'to, the region, matatapos namin siguro 'yung Bicol Express but 'yung pera ho ay pinaghati-hati ko. Right at the start of my administration, ito silang Cabinet members sinabi ko na divide the money equally among the regions. Kaya every region ho may kaunti kami so halos lahat nakatikim ng improvement sa buhay nila.

So kung ito lang ho ang makaya namin pagpasensiyahan na po ninyo. But anyway I have no doubt that the next administration would continue to build and build and his next

generation and our sons and daughters by that time would have a perfect mass transport system.

Mag-segue lang po ako as an administrator of a city. Hindi ko naman ho pinagyayabang sa inyo. But matter-of-factly is that I was mayor of Davao City for 23 years kaya alam ko po na gaano talaga kahirap mag-ayos ng bayan.

Eh sa Davao po wala kaming ganito simply because for reasons of delicadeza, even our airport pati 'yung mga infrastructure planned already. Noong umpisa ho sabi ko unahin na ninyo 'yung ibang lugar. And that contributed also to 'yung ano namin ni --- 'yung mayor noon na she was vice mayor, she wanted the airport expanded. Tapos sabi ko, *"Day, unahin na lang muna natin 'yung ibang lugar. Ipagbilin muna natin 'yung atin kasi hindi maganda tingnan na nauna tayo. As a matter of fact, we should be the last to benefit."*

So hanggang ngayon po 'yung daan namin sa subdivision --- so turned over to the government --- ang road ng aming bahay ay dirt road pa rin, sementado na lahat.

Iyan ang mahirap sa kung ikaw ang nandito, you have to think of so many things before you can really embark on something. Ganoon ho ang labanan ng governance. But anyway, no regrets ako.

Let me give you the people and the entities responsible for this. I would like to recognize the Department of Transportation headed by Art, the Philippine National Railways, and the local government units for making this happen.

We know that with effective mass transport systems, we make places more accessible and easier to manage, thereby strengthening trade between rural and urban areas. In addition, we can boost our tourism sector, given the attractions and landmarks stationed near the terminals of this railway.

Indeed, this project is proof of our commitment to enhance mobility and connectivity across the archipelago by improving our routes and bringing convenience to our fellow Filipinos. With this, we will make everyone feel the change we have promised at the beginning of our term.

For instance, this railroad shortens travel time between San Pablo, Laguna and Lucena, Quezon --- from one hour to thirty minutes.

This is also a vital step towards restoring the PNR Bicol Express that will connect Metro Manila to the provinces in Southern Luzon and Bicol.

In the previous years, we have championed programs that filled in the gaps in the transportation sector.

Now, I urge the DOTr --- especially those who will be left behind and those who will take over the mantle of leadership --- to continue leading the improvement of our railway systems.

It is my hope that you will never lose sight of this goal, as the enhancement of this vital transportation connection will be the key to unlocking even better opportunities for our countrymen.

Indeed, our collective accomplishments throughout my term usher us into a brighter future where we can experience and feel the progress we have built from our shared aspirations.

I am thus grateful for the trust and confidence you have given me for the entirety of government work.

With the sacrifices and efforts that you have poured into the betterment of our services, we have made our energies forceful enough to press our nation forward to a brighter tomorrow.

As my term in office draws to a conclusion, I am thankful that I spend my last days as President witnessing events like this and realizing that, even amidst the challenges around us, we will leave a legacy that brought meaningful and lasting changes to the lives that we have touched.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

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