

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**MEDIA INTERVIEW OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
FOLLOWING THE OATH-TAKING CEREMONY OF THE NEWLY
APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

[Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila | 28 October 2019]

Q: Sir, what did you mean when you --- how serious are you anong sinasabi niyo po [inaudible] surrendering your law enforcement powers to the Vice President, what did you mean about that, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, I did not --- I do not surrender anything. I said if she wants, I can commission her to be the drug czar.

Marami man siyang reklamo doon sa labas, o sige sabi niya you have to redirect your --- or whatever parang...

Q: Okay.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ngayon mas marunong ka man sa akin, I'll hand in to you full powers sa drugs. I'll give you six months. Tignan natin kung kaya mo.

Q: That's an offer not yet a plan --- something that you really plan to do?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, sinabi ko sa kanya I'm ready to give you to concede to you powers that would cover all drug --- anti-drug activities by the government.

Sabihin niya at siya ang padalhin ko. I'll give her a clean slate para malaman niya kung gaano kadali mag-kontrol ng droga.

Q: Sir, how are you after po the Japan trip? How are you, sir, kamusta po kayo after the medical checkup?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sabi man ng doktor huwag daw akong magiingay.

Straight man ako maglakad basta may tao. Pero `pag wala ng tao, ayay.

Q: Masakit pa rin. Sir, do you still feel the back pain?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Masakit.

Q: Hindi kita, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Nakita o. Iyon sa kamay lang `yon ha. Pero malalim `yung sa paa.

Q: Opo. Ah ayun. Sir, that's because...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Dito sa paa.

Q: Kamusta sir `yung back pain?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ah it requires a lengthy explanation actually `yung muscle spasm must be precipitated with something.

A muscle spasm by itself is not really a nothing. There has to be something which... Ayoko munang sabihin sa inyo. But then again it's connected with the spinal ano.

Q: It's not that... Is it serious enough sir that perhaps will prompt regular medical bulletins?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No. Wala naman `yon sa ano. Hindi naman kailangan. Kung hindi na ako makatindig, sabihin ng asawa ko sa inyo.

Q: Sir, in case po na hindi tanggapin ni Vice President `yung ino-offer ninyo, would you ask her to shut up?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, because this a democracy. Nobody but nobody can order anybody to shut up.

Gusto ko lang malaman kung kaya niya. Marami kasing sinasalita, i-redirect o anong pinagsasabi niya sa labas. Do it here. Six months.

Q: And that's anytime, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Anytime. Gusto niya ngayon, tawagan mo siya. I can talk to her tonight and I will order tomorrow everybody should follow her in the matter of a drug issue. Siya na.

Q: Mr. President, sabi po ni Vice President Robredo na hindi daw po dapat matuloy `yung joint exploration hanggat hindi kinikilala ng China `yung sovereignty ng Pilipinas sa West Philippine Sea. Ano ang masasabi niyo doon?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You know, dreaming. That's a --- that's the problem with people, they dream. They do not indulge in reality.

Q: Sir, may napili na po ba kayong PNP chief?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ikaw muna.

Q: PNP chief.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Wala pa.

Q: Bakit sir wala pa po kayong napipili?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: It's kind of a --- hindi naman messy, but it's very hard to --- at this time to choose a candidate na who would really... The appropriate guy. Mahirap eh.

Q: Pero what will be your consideration in choosing the appropriate --- ?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Honesty. Eh kaya nga `yung iba o lahat halos eh may ano naman, may --- may but of the matter. Ganito, si ano ito, pwede, yeah but you know, the but of the matter is ganun...

Q: Sir, si Mayor Navarro, `yung narco list, `yung napatay, sabi niya nakausap mo daw siya. Si Mayor Navarro sir, `yung nasa narco list po ninyo, he said that he talked to you two weeks before na-ambush siya sa Cebu.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: He was my supporter. Mayor Navarro?

Q: Yes, sir. Nasa narco list po siya.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: `Yung namatay?

Q: Yes, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sumuporta sa akin `yun noong last election.

Q: Anong sinabi niya po sir noong nagkausap kayo two weeks ago?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Somebody is out to get him.

Q: Did he say who?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ewan ko kung sinong --- anong rason.

Q: Sir... Sir, namatay siya sir under the custody of the PNP. Si --- namatay po si Mayor Navarro na nasa custody ng PNP. How do you look at that po?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Namatay?

Q: Si Mayor Navarro po namatay po siya habang nasa kustodiya ng PNP. May security lapses po ba doon?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Eh `yan nga sinasabi ko. PNP. Anong ginawa ng PNP? Baka sila ang pumatay. Eh sila `yung malapit. Well, anyway, iniimbestigahan pa.

Q: Paiimbestigahan, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: It's being investigated by the NBI pati ano...

Q: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Mas gusto ko ang NBI na lang para walang... Kasi ang --- noong nangyari `yan kasama `yung pulis eh.

At to make it really fair, I'd like to order the police to terminate their investigations and hand it to the NBI whatever documents and all proof or evidence that they have in their hands.

Q: Pero sir na-validate niyo po ba `yung pagiging narco-politician niya? Was it vetted and confirmed?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I am sure. `Yung una siguro, sabi nila. But in subsequent list... I have --- I had only one list, `yung inilabas ko noon.

Pero `yung kung listahan sa... I'm not --- I'm not saying na ano ha. I'm not trying to imply anything. But `yung second list wala `yun eh. There was only one singular --- singular list na naibigay ko. `Yun na `yung una. Wala na akong ibinibigay na sunod.

Q: President, sorry. One month away magpapalit na naman po ng taon. Itutuloy niyo pa rin po ba `yung balak niyong i-totally ban ang firecrackers sa buong bansa?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Alam mo ma'am, it would really depend on the muni --- the local government concerned kasi hindi pwedeng ano. I mean the firecracker itself is not illegal per se. So just because you are holding a firecracker, it doesn't mean that you are guilty of a crime.

But may mga local governments that --- kagaya ng Davao, I started way back in 20 years. When I --- when I came back as mayor, `yun ang inimpose (impose) ko. Smoking, drinking, pati `yung... Depende `yan sa...

Pero if I can utilize a national law to stop the selling... Ang gusto ko kasi wala nang putukan para wala nang maputulan ng ulo, wala nang mabulag.

I'm --- I'm more concerned not sa ano, not in the stopping of the manufacture of --- pero `yung madisgrasya na mga bata. A lot of children every year would lose an eyesight, two fingers blown away. `Yang mga ganun. Sunog.

Q: Sir, may looming water crisis po sa Metro Manila and right now meron ng mga interruptions na nangyayari. May fresh directives po ba kayo?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I have appointed enough men of equal talent to deal with the problem. I don't know kung saan sila magkuha. Basta sa akin, you produce water.

Q: Pero sir, the problem is the source `yung Angat daw. So do you need --- do you see the need na i-fast track na `yung Kaliwa Dam?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, you know, there are a lot of... Let me be very clear to the citizens and all. You have every right to protest if it really --- it's a --- would place your place in jeopardy.

But if the safeguards are there, tapos between your --- between your concerns and the crisis that we are trying to avoid, I will use the extraordinary powers of the presidency to... And I could not just allow people go out without water even for drinking.

So kung `yung concern ninyo, local governments na ganun it will pollute, it will destroy, then I will just say to the --- sa kung sinong mag-ano, you just place the safeguards.

It might create some danger or damage but that is not my concern. My concern is the welfare. Ganito 'yan: The greatest good for the greatest number. That is democracy.

Q: So how do you intend to use that extraordinary power to address this looming water crisis?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I'm taking stock of my options.

Q: Such as?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Expropriation or outright police power. Wala, just ganun diretso.

You just go to court and file a case if you want. I am there and I will start to find a way how to connect the water to the people.

Q: Sir, specifically using the police power, ano 'yung specific...

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Police power of the state.

Q: Ano 'yung specific action under that police power?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Well, of course it has to be confiscatory. Talagang agawin mo. Ayaw mong...

Huwag mong sabihin papayagan ko na walang mainom. Tapos just because you're a what? Your environment will be spoiled.

That would not be --- that would not be a good answer to me.

Q: Pero sir there's an ongoing probe doon sa Kaliwa Dam kasi dinaya daw 'yung bidding process. So paano po 'yun, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Then I will go there and operate it myself. I will take over and I will direct what to do.

Ganun lang 'yan. Hindi niyo kaya? O sige, ako. Umalis kayo diyan. Where is the remaining water? Okay. There's the remaining water there? Redirect it to...

MEDIA: Thank you, sir.

Q: Sir, hawak niyo na 'yung Senate results nung probe. Ano po 'yung initial impressions po ninyo sa findings?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Wala. Wala dito sa akin 'yan ngayon. Actually, I have not... Ayaw kong magkaroon ng preconceived notions of what I would -- what I should do. Sabi ko, I'll wait for the recommendation.

But then again I --- you can be very sure that I will go back to the meat, to the substance and what started. How did it start? What started the whole thing? Who were responsible?

Q: So you will wait for the DILG recommendation also?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: That is due process. Hindi pa tapos eh.

Q: Do you plan to talk again to General Albayalde, sir?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Let the --- the Ombudsman. Ang administrative is wala na kasi mag-retire na siya if there's a criminal liability, kung meron.

Q: Sir, pwede po ba... What will happen to General Albayalde? I mean, will he still be covered by the DILG probe since he is already retired?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: He's retiring... Ano na... Kasi ito namang administrative, ang pinakamabigat, the heaviest penalty there is you are separated from service. Wala na. It becomes a fait accompli because he's resigned --- ah he's retired. So...

Q: Possible criminal na lang po siya?

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Criminal na lang. Nandiyan kay Año --- ah kay Ombudsman.

MEDIA: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Nice meeting you.

MEDIA: Nice to meet you.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No more? No more question? Can we not talk about what some mundane matters of ano? Wala na?

Q: Okay na, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No more?

MEDIA: Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Ikaw, ma'am?

Q: Okay na.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay na? Okay ka na?

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