Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE TURNOVER CEREMONY OF FIRE TRUCKS

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City | 11 February 2020]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; Senator Bong Go; officers and personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection led by Fire Chief Jose Segundo Embang Jr.; fellow workers in government; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

Nakakahiya naman ito, two pages. I will read the prepared speech. It's a run-of-the-mill, out of the grid, automatic 'yan mahusay kayo, alagaan niyo blah, blah, blah. But I would like to talk to you. I will not deliver a speech because it could not contribute to anything fruitful this afternoon.

I am not inordinately proud of talking about it but I feel that there is a compelling need for me just to remind you. Kasi po sa Davao for the many years that --- two terms or third term, bago kami nakakuha ng bagong bumbero, around that line. Nandito si General Quinsay, he's the undersecretary supervising the fire.

Alam mo kailangan maniwala kayo kasi may testigos ako. Do you know in Davao meron kaming firetruck na Studebaker at gumagana pa. That --- that's the long thirst of really a public function not properly attended to. I don't know but some ayaw nila kasi in the city well… Alam mo hindi lang sa city ang maraming wakwak eh. Not --- it's a national, pati local ano. Takot ako na magpa-bid at ayaw ko namang makialam kasi baka sabihin pati ako kasali.

But all these years it was just put on the backburner and well we waited for some time and we got it. I think we bought it. Nine eleven is existing in Davao at marami at least a credible fire department for a city. I created the 'yung city na mismo.

Well, hindi naman sa pang --- but this time I hope that the paradigm was changed na ang tingin nila sa bumbero sa panahon ko at least sa panahon ko walang corruption. Pati ito nasisiguro ako na malinis na transaksyon. Ang masabi ko lang nandiyan naman si Quinsay sa pulis tatlo.

Ang pulis merong fire department sa likod ng GSIS Village, Davao. Doon 'yan sila. At makita mo 'yung maliliit na truck nila na hindi na tumatakbo. Isa na lang ang gulong pero maraming manok. [laughter] P*****.

Minsan may sunog, pababa ako ng GSIS sabi ko, "Saan ang bumbero dito?" Wala. Walang bumbero, naghintay ako. Tapos sabi ko doon sa --- ewan ko kung nandiyan sa serbisyo pa. Hindi ko naman iano because he was not under my jurisdiction. Sabi ko, you know what, the earlier

you retire, the better, para sa akin. I don't want to mess up your life but this is certainly an event which would call for your head. Dapat putulin talaga.

So 'yon lang ang bilin ko kasi ang lahat ng mga g***, nahawa nang nahawa nasa sabungan. Una isang bumbero lang may manok, tapos sunod na. So that was the norm.

Pangalawa, 'yung the --- 'yung uhaw ng… So it behooves upon really the --- kung sino ang susunod na presidente to, you know, continuous spruce up the assets so that in fighting fire.

Ang pangatlo --- at pang-apat 'yung maintenance. Iyong pangatlo… Ah let me --- let me stress this point empathically or better still huwag ninyong kalimutan not just the police but itong mga 911 ko. Noong una, when it was organized tapos it was placed under the --- Colonel Monsanto was retired at that time. Siya ang ipinadala ko.

Ang --- itong mga ulol bantayan ninyo kay 'pag sa likod na ng manubela tapos naka-switch on na 'yung siren, blaring sounds, it is as if they are already the owner of the streets. Kaya kung maabutan ka, pasensiya ka.

May nangyari sa Davao sa UM na estudyante. Tapos itong bumbero akala --- an emergency is an emergency. Even if it would kill your fellowmen, emergency 'yan. So 'yan ang nasa utak eh. Basta pahirit na lang nang pahirit. Nasagasaan nag --- hindi niya nakita sa ano. Eh paano nag-overtake sa right.

So talagang nagalit ako. It was a waste of… Walang ka --- karason-rason mamatay 'yung tao. So ang ginawa ko pina-lecture ko sila lahat, that when you are behind a wheel and there is assistance for well an emergency and you put on the blinker, it is not a license for you to just drive whatever the space in the streets may be.

Ang pinakahulugan ng siren is tumabi kayo kay may emergency. You do not have to destroy properties or to kill. Tutal 'yang siren na 'yan would put on notice publicly na may emergency. And that goes for the… Kaya sa… I don't know if it --- the mayor now is still enforcing the law. I have enforced the law and… Sabi ko, 'yung pasiyente mo kung mamatay 'yan, mamatay talaga 'yan. Hindi nadadala 'yan sa bilis ng ospital. Lalo na 'yung may mga sakit, nabaril. Lalo 'yung mga kalaban pa, huwag mong lagyan… Magkuha ka ng PU. Huwag mong ilagay sa bumbero ko. It's a waste of… Tapos mabubuhay pa 'yan balik na naman sa trabaho.

Ayaw ng human rights 'yan, salita ko na 'yan. Ah hindi 'yung human rights, that is what I believe. Kalaban ka ng gobyerno, pumapatay ka ng tao, tapos ikarga ng ambulansiya. Sinuswerte ka. That is your end.

Meaning to say really actually, you do not have to hurry up. All you do is drive normally and switch on the siren or siren para may malaman nagmamadali ka at nag --- paraanin niyo sila.

'Yung nasa gitna, medyo tatabi dahan-dahan. That is the rule in America. Not because the Americans are good pero imbento ng Pilipino 'yan, ninakaw lang nila. Ang totoo niyan.

So just stop wherever you are, then slowly you edge to a corner so that the assisting whatever ambulance --- marami ‘yan ambulansiya pati bumbero. ‘Yun ang naalaala ko sa --- in the years of my…

Pero mahal ko naman ang mga bumbero ko. ‘Yung mga lasing na… [applause] Ay nauuna kasi kayo. Alam mo nasa utok ko, sabi ko mahal ko ang mga bumbero ko, ‘yung unang mag-drive na malasing, ‘yun ang gusto kong buhusan ng gasolina tapos… [laughter]

Hindi, biro lang ‘yun. You know, the public demand so much of us actually and to incur or to be involved or while there’s an incident where another accident on top of the one that you are managing. Hindi maganda. Iyon ang recollection ko.

I am --- I am proud to narrate to you these things because I was a mayor for 21 years and I’ve been the longest. So in a small way, itinatago ko. Hindi ko pinagyayabang ‘yan. Itinatago ko lang na from the mayor, 1988, to the years far and between the --- between those wide, wide years, I was a mayor, a congressman, a mayor, a vice mayor and back to mayor and to the presidency. Wala akong talo.

Hindi --- hindi sabihin na ano tigas ako. Baka ‘yung mga kalaban ko lang noon wala na rin talagang ano ikabuga o ibubuga. That is what I… I’m very strict. I’m no longer in the position to be --- but sa mga tao mo ‘yan, hindi sa inyo. You are not supposed to be…

At isa pa, ito ‘yung pinakaimportante. Alam mo ba na ang Davao, ang aming pulis doon pati sa maraming ano. Itong mga responding agencies. Binibigyan ko sila ng --- ‘yung Isuzu pickup.

Kung nasa bukid, Isuzu pickup na… I’m not trying to give a boost for… Tutal nandiyan na rin ‘yan pangalan na ‘yan o, Isuzu. Isuzu lahat ang binibili ko kasi para sa akin, in the mountains, in the plains, mag-akyat ako sa bukid, ang pinaka --- the most durable. I’m sorry to say it. There are so many friends of mine who are on the other side. Pero sabihin ko sa inyo, I do not even know the Isuzu people there.

Pero ako, ang ginagamit ko Isuzu. Hanggang ngayon, ‘pag mag-uwi ako sa Davao, ‘yung pickup ko na Isuzu ang hinahanap ko. ‘Yun ang maisabi ko sa’yo na --- well, extemporaneous. But I would read the speech. Ito pampagana sa loob.

I am pleased to be here today to formally turn over these fire trucks to the Bureau of Fire Protection.

These new equipment are testament to the government’s full support for the BFP’s mandate to promote public safety by saving lives and protecting property from destruction during natural and man-made disasters and other emergencies.

I hope that with these fire trucks, the BFP will become more capable and effective in ensuring the safety of our communities and industries. I am confident that with your help, we can further boost our people’s confidence in their government and create an environment where our people can live and work in peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on the brave men and women of the BFP, led by Fire Director Jose Embang Jr., to further step up our anti-corruption efforts by ensuring the corrupt-free conduct of fire safety inspections and the issuance of the fire safety [inspection] certifications pursuant to the Ease of Doing Business [Law].

Dito 'yan sa requirement ng --- to have a clearance from the police. Diyan nagkakaroon ng ano eh. Bibigyang natin diin ang nasabi ko na dati: Lahat ng mga tauhan ng gobyerno na nasasangkot sa ilegal na droga, korupsyon at iba pang mga katiwalian ay matatanggal sa kanyang --- sa kanilang trabaho.

With these additional firetrucks and the recent increase in the salaries of uniformed personnel, the Filipino people expect you to become more dedicated, efficient and reliable in the performance of duties.

May you [be] further inspired to work even harder in the building of the bedrock of a safer and more prosperous society for the present and future generations.

Tinitiyak ko po ang buong suporta ng sambayanang Pilipino sa inyong mga gawain upang isulong ang kabutihan ng lahat at tunay na reporma para sa ating inang bayan.

I forget one --- I was reading the speech, meron pa akong isa sana. Nakalimutan ko. I-text ko na lang sa inyo isa-isa. [laughter] Totoo.

Ah… I don't believe it. Kung meron, it's really nil to nothing. 'Yung sinasabi nila na binabayaran 'yung bumbero na para mauna 'yung bahay nila. If --- if there is… If there are, then it is --- natural instinct ng tao 'yan eh, 'yang bibirahin ka na unahin mo na muna.

It's mine first before yours. Hindi ako naniniwala nang… Kung meron man, bihira. I cannot believe a fireman busy putting a fire and transacting a business of how much he will be paid. Hindi ako maniwala niyan. Maniwala ako sa mga bumbero ko.

Kasali ba kayo sa… [applause] Kasali kayo sa increase 'no? Alam mo 'yang increase, ayan si Bong, 'yang increase na 'yan, during the critical hours, matagal na sana akong nawala na at ikaliligaya ng lahat.

'Yung campaign promise ko na I will double the salary, noon 'yon 'yung sa kampanya. So ayaw ko mag --- na lalabas na hindi ako tumutupad sa pangako ko. 'Yung mga bumbero baka sunugin 'yung bahay mo tapos hindi pa puntahan. Merece ka.

So hindi ako naniwala nang ganun. Trabaho lang kayo. I think everybody is satisfied by and large. Mukhang mapipilitan ako dahil kailangan. Sumasa --- sumasaludo ako.

I salute you, the men and women of the BFP. [applause]

[President Duterte returns to the podium.]

Hindi, ganun lang ito, dagdag na lang. May isa pa, ‘yung spare parts. Kailangan you would have --- kung wala kayong ma --- you must have at least in every budget, in every year for any government, you must make some provisions for maintenance and repair. Pagka wala ‘yan, nasira ‘yung carburetor, hayaan lang ‘yan then… Ganun eh. Ganun sa gobyerno. Kaya kung ganun man ‘yan, hindi, ayaw ko.

I must be sure that there is a continuance or a continuous supply of materials: gulong, lahat. And you can easily go to your mayor. If your mayor has no money, you --- the mayor will call me.

So si Quinsay… Ito ‘yung… Kaya walang sunog sa Davao dahil sa kanya. [applause]

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Source: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)