

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)**

[15 February 2021]

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE: Okay na, we can start. Magandang gabi po sa ating mga kababayan.

We are here in Davao and this is a program which I communicate with the people and convey to them what government is doing. Sa ngayon, I think it would be good to listen to the --- 'yong tao na magbigay ng clearance sa mga bakuna para magamit sa mga --- lahat, magamit ng mga doktor o medical people para sa injection.

Ang reklamo kasi ng mga tao --- lumipad siya dito sa Davao because I wanted him to explain to you tonight kung bakit natagalan and how long would the examination of the other vaccines would take. How long it would take your office to clear them? You have the floor, Atty. Domingo.

FDA DIRECTOR-GENERAL ERIC DOMINGO: Yes, sir. Sir, doktor po ako. *[laughs]* Ah mayroon po akong presentation na maikli, 10 slides. Can we have the PowerPoint on the updates po nung mga nag-apply po sa atin ng ano ng EUA?

Iyon po kasi ngayon up to now wala pa pong fully developed vaccine sa buong mundo. All vac --- *[Next slide, please.]* --- all vaccines po are still in Phase 3, doon po sa kulay pink. Usually 'pag na-complete po 'yong Phase 3 tsaka nagpapa-register. So 'yong registration po ng vaccines --- the full commercial marketing authorization baka po at the earliest would be late end of the year hanggang early next year.

So countries now are giving what we call Emergency Use Authorizations. Meaning, in the middle of the Phase 3 trials, if we have enough data, we allow it to be used in the public programs. *[Next slide, please.]*

Ito po 'yong binigyan niyo ng kapangyarihan ang FDA noong December 1 to issue what we call the Emergency Use Authorization for vaccines and drugs against COVID-19. *[Next slide, please.]*

So ang ginawa po namin pinaigsi po namin 'yong proseso. Dati po ang approval po ng vaccines sa Pilipinas, itong sa kaliwa, eh six months to one year. But now we've decreased it, especially kung mayroon na po siyang approval nung WHO or what we call stringent regulatory authorities like USFDA at saka UK, 'pag binigay po nila 'yong submissions doon at saka 'yong mga evaluation doon, we are able to do it in 21 days. *[Next slide, please.]*

So nag-start po ang application natin noong December 15, doon po nag-start. And we only give the EUA if we have the following conditions. Ito po'y nakalagay sa executive order natin. Number one, based on the data available at hand, it must show that it is reasonable to believe that the vaccine is effective --- may be effective against COVID-19. Second, the known and potential benefits must outweigh the risks. Ibig sabihin po 'yong una, efficacy; 'yong pangalawa, safety. Dapat wala pong any specific or significant safety issue. And third, there must be no approved alternative. Wala pang bakuna na registered at so far, wala pa naman po talaga. *[Next slide, please.]*

So what we --- it also --- in the EO, it says that the FDA must create an expert panel and we have experts po na mga immunologists, allergologist, virologist, epidemiologists, looking at the safety and efficacy data of the vaccine, and then they give the report to me with their recommendations. *[Next slide.]*

So ito po ang ginagawa natin 'no pagtanggap po natin ng application, hinahati po natin 'yan into two. The first one, for the safety and efficacy, the clinical trial data, we give it to the experts. Titingnan po nila. 'Pag mayroon po talagang safety issue na nakakatakot, wala na agad 'yan, stop na agad 'yan. Pero kung maganda naman 'yong safety, 'yong efficacy naman po ang titingnan if it's going to be useful.

And then the other half of the submission, 'yon pong regards the quality, the manufacturing, the stability, the labelling --- 'yon pong mga product information --- sa mga regulator po natin sa FDA 'yan. Kasi kailangang tingnan natin na 'yong pina-approve sa WHO, it's exactly the same product

that they will be supplying to us. Hindi po kasi puwede na ibang factory or iba `yong bote. Kailangan kung ano po `yong pina-approve sa USFDA, halimbawa, or doon sa country nila, `yon din ang dadalhin sa atin.

And then once the two groups have made their recommendations, they submit it to my office and we make a final decision within one to two days.

NTF COVID-19 CHIEF IMPLEMENTER AND VACCINE CZAR CARLITO GALVEZ JR.: *[Slide 7.]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, we continue. You continue with that. These are the things that we should understand, tayo dito, but not for the public.

SEC. GALVEZ: Yes, sir. Opo, sir, mamaya, sir, ie-explain ko po sir sa slide number 7. Sir, kung titingnan po natin --- *[pakibalik, pakibalik, pakibalik]*

Kung titingnan po natin, sir, more or less 180 million na po `yong --- kasi ang data pong ito is February 12 --- more than 180 million doses na po ang na-administer, as of this date, with 6 million doses administered daily worldwide po, sir.

Kung sa makikita po natin sir ang ano natin talaga `yong US at saka China po ang nangunguna na mayroon silang average na 1.7 million doses daily. At nakikita po natin `yong ating ano `yong ating mga ibang countries, more than 20 countries, nakikita natin medyo mababa pa rin po `yong kanilang uptake ng mga doses. *[Next slide.]*

Sir, ang magandang balita sir, based on the global data, `yong ano `yong anim na ano na approved na vaccine ay mayroon na po silang kapasidad na more or less 10 --- mayroon na po silang more or less na 10 billion na ano na vaccine. At the same time, `yong mayroon ano pre-trial data ng Phase 3, Novavax at saka po `yong J&J, may additional capacity na another 3.2 billion. So more or less mayroon po tayong total na 13.2 billion na capacity for 2021.

Pero sinasabi nga po natin sa quarter --- first quarter or second quarter magkakahirapan pa po rin tayo dahil kasi `yong karamihan ng mga Western vaccine ay ginagamit po ng mga taga-Europe at saka sa Amerika po.

So kung titingnan po natin 7.8 billion ano po tayo world population. Ang sa population po niyan is 5.5 ang adult and then willing adult is more or less 4.0. So kung titingnan po natin `yong supply and demand sa 2021, may possibility po natin na talaga `yong ating vaccination program ay makakaya po natin sa 2021. *[Next slide, please]*

Iyong ating ano `yong preparation natin nagkaroon na po tayo ng meeting sa 16 cities ng LGU at bukas nga po sa Davao City po tayo magmi-meeting para ma-check po natin ang preparation ng Davao City. Just in case `yong COVAX darating, magkakaroon po tayo ng tinatawag na vaccination po dito. *[Next slide, please]*

Nagkaroon po tayo ng simulation sa darating na 104 --- 117,000 na vaccine ng COVAX at `yong Bureau of Customs po sir sumunod po sa inyong directive na zero minutes po sila. Actually from ano from the aircraft, direktso po kaagad doon sa refrigerated van. So ang ginawa lang po ng ano ng ano ichinek (check) lang kung ilan ang bilang but they never intervened doon sa ano po sa packaging. So sumunod po nandoon kasama po namin si General Guerrero, nandoon din po si Secretary Tugade, si Secretary Lorenzana at saka si Secretary Duque, nagkaroon po kami ng simulation.

Maganda po `yong ano naging result ng simulation at we have lesser minutes sa mga ginawa po natin na simulation.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So as far as we are concerned, tayo dito sa gobyerno, itong flow ng how the vaccines would be imported and doon finally sa storage, wala ng monkey wrench?

SEC. GALVEZ: Wala na po, sir. Medyo ano po tayo sir okay po tayo sir. Lalo na po `yong from ano from the airport going to the storage. Nakuha po natin `yong ano `yong timing na napakababa po. At saka ang kagandahan nga po `yong sa clearance sa Customs, pre-clearing na po ang ginawa po at

sumunod po sa utos niyo po na talagang wala pong time na makokonsumo doon sa Customs clearing, so zero minutes po sila. So tiningnan lang nila ang boxes, binilang po nila and then ano po kaagad, naikarga po kaagad sa refrigerated van. So maganda po lahat ang ano ang execution.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Actually, if I may say to --- say something about the Customs, alam naman nila kung alam `yan eh. That's why we are there because nandiyan na `yong bakuna.

And there's really no need to tarry a minute longer in releasing the cargoes kasi alam naman nila bakuna `yan and, you know, it is very important that they should be stored immediately upon ma-deplane `yong mga bakuna.

Wala na --- wala ka nang nakitang problema diyan sa ano?

SEC. GALVEZ: Mayroon pa po kaming nakikita po sa internal ano po natin, lalo na po `yong sa storage. Gagawan po natin ng paraan. So we are ano, we are having another rehearsal internally. So iyon po ang gagawin po namin, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: But...

SEC. GALVEZ: But all of the ano, all of the process ng simulation from the airport going to the warehouse, okay na po siya.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Matanong kita, itong ano, ang problema na lang is nandito sa atin? Is there a problem within us that we have to surmount?

SEC. GALVEZ: Iyon na lang, limited na lang po sa logistics. Nag-usap na po kami ni Secretary Duque and then may ginagawa na po kami ng emergency procurement po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I'll ask you again, I asked this the last time, are we sure that we have the storage?

SEC. GALVEZ: Sir, 'yon nga po sir ang ano natin na just in case na magkaroon po tayo ng influx, malaki po ang storage natin sa ating mga third ano, third party provider. Iyong sa atin sa RITM may mga limitation hanggang ano po 'yon, more or less one million lang po ang kaya sa ano, sa Pfizer and then sa Moderna, very limited.

And marami po siyang vaccine na 228 dahil pa po mayroon po tayong ongoing vaccination po ngayon. So ang ano po namin magkaroon po ng third party storage. Mamaya po i-ano po ni Secretary Duque. So ang ina-ano po natin at least magkaroon po tayo ng mga third party provider na kaya po hanggang ano, hanggang Davao at saka hanggang ano, hanggang Cebu.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay.

SEC. GALVEZ: Mayroon po tayo, mayroon po tayo sir na third party. At saka po nag-usap na po kami ng ano ng World Bank na icha-charge po nila 'yong third party provider kasama po ng vaccine.

For example, kung ang Pfizer is kunwari po 10 dollars at ang service provider is more or less one dollar, isasama na po 'yon, i-a-approve na po 'yong loan kasama na po 'yong service provider, end-to-end para wala na po tayong problema.

So pagka nagbili tayo ng vaccine, 'yong ano po, 'yong mga vaccine maker mayroon po silang third party provider. For example Novavax, Unilab po ang kanilang napili. So end-to-end po ang service po nun.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: It would be safe to say that for the month of January wala pa tayong --- we cannot start vaccinating people, not yet?

SEC. GALVEZ: Sir, hindi po tayo nagsimula noong January dahil ang ano po natin talaga na darating po 'yong more or less mga 1 million to 3 million po na ano po natin sa March, March at saka po 'yong February ay 'yon pong COVAX at saka po 'yong Sinovac.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Mayroong dadating?

SEC. GALVEZ: Mayroon po. Iyon po ang hinihintay po natin. Kasi po ngayon na-i-accomplish na po natin `yong ating tinatawag na documentation. Ang kailangan na lang po nila is mapirmahan po nila `yong tinatawag na indemnification agreement.

Kung magkasundo na po sa indemnification agreement, wala na po tayong hadlang kasi mayroon na po tayong preparation. Okay na po ang preparation natin. May EUA na po tayo sa Pfizer for the COVAX ano po, COVAX donation, at nakapag-comply na rin po tayo sa mga documentation po na hinihingi po ng WHO at saka Gavi.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: So the ball is in the Congress?

SEC. GALVEZ: Nasa kanila po, nandoon po sa Congress ang ball at saka po nandoon po sa ano, nandoon po sa WHO.

So nasa Senado po ang ball po ngayon kaya po nakiusap po kami kay Senator Tito Sotto at saka po kay SBG na talagang mauuna po talaga `yong ano, `yong indemnification clause at saka po `yong LGU approval po ng ano ng advance market commitment, `yong dalawa po na `yon.

Kaya po mayroon po kaming communication, Mr. President, na this bill should be ano certified as urgent. Iyon po ang recommendation po namin sa last na magkaroon po ng ano ng tinatawag nating certification of urgent itong dalawang bill po na ginagawa po ng Senado at saka ng Kongreso po ngayon.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Saan na ang --- saan na `yong papel ngayon?

SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" GO: Nasa committee pa po sa Senado, Mr. President. Nag-usap na kami ni Secretary Galvez para ma-certify mo as urgent po ngayong Linggo na `to.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Sige kung okay. Secretary Duque?

DOH SECRETARY FRANCISCO DUQUE III: The usual report that I will make, Mr. President and fellow members of the Cabinet, and to Senator Bong Go, chair of the Committee on Health and Demography, will be on the updates, usual updates po natin. With your permission, it will take a bit of time, mga 10 to 12 minutes.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Go ahead.

SEC. DUQUE: Okay, sir, thank you. Magandang gabi po muli.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: We should --- we should have the time to discuss what affects the interest of the people.

SEC. DUQUE: Yes, sir, maraming salamat po. Magandang gabi po muli, mahal na Pangulo at sa akin pong mga kapwa kalihim.

Mayroon pong dalawang bahagi ang akin pong pag-uulat ngayong gabi. Unang-una po, 'yong ating COVID-19 situationer at ang pangalawa po ay ang updates on the whole genomic sequencing na ginawa po ng ating Philippine Genome Center ng UP, ang atin pong National Institutes of Health, and also the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine.

Ito po --- *[next slide]* --- 'yan, okay. Ito po ang ating mga pangunahing mensahe patungkol po sa ating COVID situationer. Una, sa pangkalahatan po, nakakakita pa rin po tayo ng pagbaba sa dami ng mga naitatalang kaso sa buong bansa ngunit may mga rehiyon tulad ng Region VII at CARAGA na nagpapakita ng patuloy na pagtaas. Walong lungsod naman sa NCR ang nagpapakita rin ng pagtaas ng mga kaso.

Ikalawang mensahe po para sa ating healthcare utilization rate, lahat ng rehiyon ay nasa safe zone. Ngunit kung bababa sa panlalawigan o

panlungsod na lebel, may mga iilang lalawigan at lungsod ang nananatiling nasa moderate hanggang critical risk level.

At ang ikatlo po, kinakailangan ang agresibong pagpapatupad ng ating response strategies upang masugpo ang pagkalat ng mga tinututukang variants sa mga areas of concern. *[Next slide, please.]*

Ngayon pong ika-labing anim ng Pebrero, may nadagdag na 1,685 na bagong kaso so ang pangkalahatan na kaso po ngayong araw ay umabot na ng 550,860 confirmed cases. At out of this, mayroon pong 27, 588 currently admitted or isolated at sila po ang may mga sakit at ang katumbas po nito ay 4.72 percent.

Doon naman sa recoveries, sa bandang kanan po, Mr. President, ay mayroon tayong 511,755 who have recovered --- cases that have recovered and accounts for 93 percent, more or less.

Sa mga pumanaw naman, ang atin pong case fatality rate nasa 2.09 percent, 11, 517 po ang ating pangkalahatang bilang sa ngayon. Ang mga nakakalungkot po na mga pumanaw as a percentage po of the total confirmed cases ay siya po ay 2.09 percent.

Doon naman sa mga active cases, 'yong asymptomatic, mild, or moderate ay 26, 043. Ang mga kaso equivalent to about 94.4 percent; at ang severe or critical cases ay nasa 1,545, equivalent to 5.6 percent.

Patuloy po ang pakikipag-ugnayan natin sa iba't ibang rehiyon upang magkaroon tayo ng sapat na representasyon ng mga samples sa buong bansa at maging malinaw sa atin kung ito bang mga dumadaming kaso bunsod ba ng mga bagong variants na ito. Pero sa ngayon, hindi pa po conclusive ang findings.

So ito na lang po ang akin pong pinakahuling ulat, Mr. President, patungkol po sa ating COVID-19 situationer at handa po akong sumagot na po sa mga katanungan. Maraming salamat po, Ginoong Pangulo.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Salamat, sir, sa report ninyo. Anybody else? Kung wala na, let's proceed to...

Ito this is not really a part of the program about COVID, but since we have started the practice of naming government officials who were or are --- or were terminated sa gobyerno, 'yong mga malalaking opisyal.

So we begin with:

1.) Editha Abdon – Division Manager, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) siya ng Bukidnon. Gross Neglect of Duty. Dismissal ang ibinigay sa kanya ng Ombudsman;

2.) Adelina Calonge – Administrative --- Administrative Head, Finance Head ng Bukidnon-NIA;

3.) Leonila Tenestrante – Principal Engineer ng NIA-Bukidnon. Dismissal sa serbisyo;

4.) Ito si Steve Dicdican – General Manager, Mactan Cebu International Airport Authority, Department of Transportation.

Grave Misconduct, gross neglect of duty at conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service. Eight --- suspension for six months. Dapat ito dismissal eh, pero we bow down to the --- what the Ombudsman would meet the...

5.) Jesus Dato-on - Division Manager, Antique Provincial Office, NIA-Region [VI]. Itong technical malversation of public funds.

Sabagay, ito 'yong mga malalaking official na na-terminate at na-suspended.

Ngayon dito tayo mga kababayan ko sa ating short talk. We are trying our best. Narinig naman ninyo si Secretary Galvez that we are in the process of really working towards the --- ay, sorry --- towards the realization of our vaccine program.

Alam mo sa --- you can only have about a good knowledge or at least an understanding of our COVID program once you hear us, me, ngayon sa gabinito, but it does not come to you every day.

So I have requested Secretary Galvez and si Secretary Roque sa --- sila ang magdala sa public information and it should be given twice a day --- twice a week rather --- twice a week para you will be better informed of what government is doing.

Iyan siguro ang paraan diyan. But I leave it to Secretary sa --- press --- the Press Secretary to do the arrangements.

Nandito si Karl? [*Nasa online po.*]

NEDA ACTING SECRETARY KARL KENDRICK CHUA: Mr. President, I'm here po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Okay. Okay, Karl. Thank you. Sige. I-introduce lang kita sa tao. Ngayong gabi nandito si Karl Chua to give us the update on, ito 'yong acting NEDA, general director ng --- director-general ng NEDA. He is the guy who is in charge of at least giving the --- giving the effort to mag-ano ang ating ekonomiya. Mga --- maabot natin ang mga --- ating objectives sa ating governance.

He will continue --- he will continue to --- he has been giving us the update but he will con --- still continue now para malaman mo. Karl, are you articulate sa Tagalog vernacular?

ACTING SEC. CHUA: Yes po, opo. Ita-Tagalog ko po 'yong aking presentation.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Paki --- i-Tagalog mo lang 'yong presentation mo. Sige, you go ahead. You have the floor.

ACTING SEC. CHUA: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Mag-share lang po ako ng slides sandali po.

Mr. President, magandang gabi po, kay Senator Bong Go, sa aking mga kapwa Gabinete at sa mga nanonood sa atin.

Iyong aking ibabahagi 'yong kailangan po natin mag-shift sana sa lalong madaling panahon to MGCQ for the entire Philippines. Sana starting March 1, 2021 para i-address po 'yong hunger or 'yong mataas na antas ng mga Pilipino po na nagugutom.

Iyong ating quarantine restriction na ginawa since March of 2020, ang nadulot po nito na total income loss na 1.04 trillion pesos in 2020. So on average po araw-araw, 2.8 billion pesos po ng mga sahod, ng mga kita ang nawawala.

On average po ang annual income loss ng isang manggagawa ay 23,000 per worker. However, alam po natin 'yong ibang sector po hindi po pinapayagan na mag-operate under 'yong ating community quarantine at 'yong iba po nawalan na ng trabaho. Kaya 'yong ibang workers po mas malaki po ang tama sa kanilang sahod, sa kanilang kita at sa kanilang mga kabuhayan.

So ang recommendation po namin ay dapat ibalanse po natin. Mayroon pong nakitang kaming survey na ginawa po ng Pulse Asia. Iyong September, sabi po ng taong-bayan, 39 percent need --- say that we should balance both the economy and the control of the virus. Pero 'yong November, 'yong tumaas po 'yong hunger rate, 73 percent na ang nagsasabi na we have to balance the opening of the economy and the control of the virus.

So hindi po naman natin sinasabi na ibukas lang natin 'yong ekonomiya at huwag na nating pakialaman 'yong COVID cases kailangan po natin both. At nakita po natin na nagbukas po tayo last October at 'yong dumaan po 'yong Christmas vacation, hindi po naman umakyat 'yong COVID cases.

In my concluding slide po, sa IATF meeting last Thursday, we presented the following recommendations, which was approved by the IATF and we hope for your approval also on the following. So given progress on the health side and no spike in COVID-19 cases from the reopening of the economy last October and the year-end holiday, ang recommendation po namin:

Number one, we further open the economy to MGCQ for the entire Philippines, especially NCR starting March 21. And the main reason is gusto na po natin ma-mitigate or mabawasan 'yong sickness, hunger, poverty, job and income loss that are arising from non-COVID cases.

At kung kailangan mag --- gumamit po tayo ng localized lockdown sa barangay or municipal level to address the local spread of the virus.

Iyong pangatlo po naman, nakita po namin na kulang po 'yong public transport natin. So we propose with proper safeguards, i-further expand po natin 'yong public transport from 50 percent towards 75 percent para mas marami po 'yong makabalik sa kanilang trabaho.

Pangalawa po, to complement public transport with active transport support. Ito po 'yong tulad ng bike lanes kasi marami na pong Pilipino 'yong nag-shift

to biking to work or to avail of their basic commodities 'no when they buy goods.

And finally, nakita po namin na kulang po 'yong inter-province bus operation natin. Marami pong mga manggagawa iyong nag- ECQ, bumalik po sila sa probinsiya. Ngayon po, hindi po sila makabalik na ganap sa kanilang trabaho.

At iyong pang-apat po, iyong expand the age group allowed to go out. Of course, with safeguards din po. Iyong Letter A po, iyong na-approve niyo na po dati na to conduct pilot face-to-face schooling in the low-risk areas. We are proposing, Mr. President, i-resume natin because nakita po natin na 'yong COVID cases at 'yong UK variant ay nako-control po natin.

Iyong pangalawa, and this is subject po to our discussion with the NCR mayors is to gradually expand the age group allowed to go out. Ngayon po kasi 15 to 65 lang 'yong puwedeng lumabas. Ang proposal po namin, i-gradual natin 'yong pag-expand to aged five to 70. At puwede nating gawing dahan-dahan in increments of five years, also with appropriate safeguard.

Iyong safeguard naman, puwede lang lumabas 'yong kabataan with their parents only, or initially, they can go out to more open areas at hindi naman ibig sabihin na pupunta sila sa malls. Pero kung puwede pong lumabas 'yong kabataan with safeguards, it will allow also their parents to work and get a job.

So ito po 'yong aking presentation, Mr. President. At iyong conclusion po nito ay kailangan po nating i-balanse 'yong pagtulong natin sa mga na-i-infect ng COVID compared also to those who are experiencing hunger na mataas na talaga sa NCR kaya po natin kailangan i-further open 'yong ating economy.

So maraming salamat po.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Salamat, Secretary Chua.

Now, I think we have reached the final phase of the program. May tanong ako sa iyo. Paano ko... Alam ko na alam mo at alam ko ang sagot. Pero tatanungin lang kita nito kay ikaw 'yong Press Secretary eh. Ikaw 'yong sasagot.

Pero kung masagot natin ngayon, anong masabi mo sa statement ni Robredo pati ni Lacson regarding the --- itong VFA na sinabi ko, "If they want the VFA to continue, they pay?"

Itong dalawa, in short, si Robredo said that I was extorting money from --- it's like extorting money from a friendly country. And so with Lacson, sinabi niya na ganito. But I think that he --- iyong... Anong tawag nito? Hindi ko kasi alam. Iyong text nito o ano ba ang tawag ng isa? Iyong mag-issue ka ng statement diyan. Wala akong alam diyan eh kasi hindi ako marunong.

It was deleted. Anong masasabi mo sa ano?

PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON HARRY ROQUE JR.: Well, Mayor, sinagot ko po sila kanina sa aking press briefing. Ang sinabi ko sa larangan ng international law, mayroon po tayong prinsipyo na a state can incur state responsibility kapag pinayagan niyang gamitin 'yong teritoryo niya sa isang pamamaraan na makakasira sa ibang estado.

So ngayon po, in-explain ko po ang polisiya natin, independent foreign policy: lahat kaibigan, wala tayong kalaban. Pero dahil sa presensya po ng mga tropang Amerikano sa Pilipinas at nagkaroon ng hidwaan sa panig ng Tsina at ng Pilipinas, sigurado po tatargetin (target) ng Amerika ang teritoryo natin --- ng Tsina ang teritoryo natin dahil pinayagan natin ang presensya ng mga Amerikano at kanilang sandata dito sa Pilipinas.

At dahil nga po sa danyos na pupuwede nating pagbayaran sa presensya ng mga Amerikano sa ating Pilipinas, dapat lamang na mayroon pong kabayaran ang mga Amerikano para manatili dito sila sa Pilipinas.

At pinakita ko po, mayroon pong isang pag-aaral na pinakita at ang conclusion, napakaliit po talaga nang nakukuha ng Pilipinas historically bagamat tayo po talaga ang kanilang unsinkable warship sa Asya.

At ang comparison po ay between the Philippines and Pakistan. Ang Pilipinas panahon pa po ng Death March ay kaalyado na tayo ng mga Amerikano. And yet, doon po sa datos na pinakita ko kanina, \$3 billion lang po ang nakukuha natin in terms of counter-terrorism support from the United States.

Ikukumpara po natin 'to sa bansa na gaya ng Pakistan. Ang Pakistan po, \$13.6 billion ang naibigay ng mga Amerikano. Ikumpara po natin sa Turkey, ganoon din po. Halos limang beses ang binibigay nila para manatili 'yong kanilang mga sundalo at ang mga militar sa kanilang bansa.

Doon po sa issue ng extortion, ang sabi ko hindi po masama na dahil marami po tayong mga pangangailangan sa COVID para mabigyan ng implementasyon ang Universal Health Care, ang libreng patubig, ang libreng tuition, hindi po masama na humanap tayo ng alternatibong mga pagkukunan ng pondo para po gastusin sa pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan. At hindi po 'yan extortion. That is advancing the national interest.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: To add to your statement, actually --- ito naman si Robredo abogado, I can forgive Lacson because he is not --- na they should look at the Constitution. The Constitution of the Philippines provides that the foreign relations or foreign policy is vested in the president alone.

Siya 'yong kaisa-isang --- well, I happened to be there --- kaisa-isang... Kung ano ang policy gusto niyang ipalabas for the Philippines is vested in the president and not with the senators or the vice president.

So at least 'yong sabi nila na extortion, well, I can forgive Robredo. Every time she opens her mouth, talagang she forgets that she's a lawyer, and being a lawyer, she should know that the Constitution says that that is my function. It is not their function.

At kung anong gusto kong sabihin para sa aking bayan, may purpose 'yan. Hindi kasi nila alam na alam ko noon na mayroon tayong binili na armas sa Amerika, it took them years to deliver practically using the money, our money for so many years then delivering the --- bago lang --- itong mga armas na dumadating.

And second, itong Congress ng United States, magbili tayo ng helicopter, they denied because they say that we cannot use it against... Well, anyway, ayaw nila tayong pabigyan. Iyan ang hindi alam kasi ng itong...

I don't know if it's a pretended ignorance kay Lacson. But itong kay Robredo, sabi ko nga, ma'am, kung ikaw ang presidente, hindi mo alam ang trabaho mo, huwag ka na lang mag --- eh dapat alam mo 'yan, abogado ka --- that you should not be opening your mouth while we are negotiating because maraming kasalanan ang Amerika sa atin.

Ang pagka-alam mo lang kasi, napunta ka ng Amerika, nagsalita ka doon, you were treated with almost as a royalty, tapos ito ang nangyari ngayon. Kakampi ka ng walang rason. Eh wala hong... Lahat dito sa mundong ito may ano. Hindi pera ang gusto kong hingiin sa kanila.

Ganito 'yan eh, ma'am, pati Senator Lacson, tayo malapit sa China. The theater of war kung mag-umpisa man, is dito sa China Sea. Ngayon, gusto nga natin, pinipilit natin na Amerikano tayo, we should be provided with the arms and armaments that's capable of at least --- that would place us on equal footing with the other countries at war with us kasi titirahin talaga tayo ng China.

Ngayon wala naman ang Amerikano, walang binibigay. You know, I have talked to so many military guys. Sabi nila, iyong war games, it's coming I think on May. Ang Amerikano magdala dito ng mga armas, mag-display sila ng mga equipment and everything, tapos nag-war games, dinadala nila doon sa... Tinuturuan nila ang Pilipino paano gumamit during the war games and then after that, they go home and bring back their equipment. Nandiyan si -- alam ni General Lorenzana 'yan.

Iyan ang lamentations ng Pilipino. Iyan ang hindi alam ni Robredo. Ang pagkaalam kasi ni Robredo, parang we are nothing's --- nothing is wrong with America and the Philippines. Hindi niya alam na ano eh... Kaya ikaw, ma'am, I'm sorry to say, you are not really qualified to run for president. You do not know your role in this government.

Iyang foreign relations with other countries is vested on the president alone. Kaya hindi mo alam kung mga pangyayari noong una, antecedent or precedent, na may ginagawa itong mga Amerikano, parang --- parang ano tingin yata outpost eh.

Ma'am, alam mo ba, ma'am, as a President, do you know that there are so many depots --- depot --- depots --- maraming mga armas dito na nakalagay sa Pilipinas ang Amerika?

And do you know that they are slowly converting Subic into an American base? Iyan ang hindi mo alam at hindi... Wala ka sigurong alam kaya huwag ka mag-alam, huwag kang magsalita. These are the things that are known to us because I have the reports and I have also the assessments given to me by the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ang sinasabi nila kung ano talaga, what ---- what's the --- what's the deal. Anong --- anong binigay ng Amerikano? Gawain lang tayong outpost tapos mag-pro American ka. Pagputok, ang unang tinamaan... Siguro, tanungin kita, kung magsagot ka ngayon: Ang unang matamaan ano kung magkagiyera ang Amerikano pati Philippines? Alam mo? Kung hindi mo alam, sabihin ko sa iyo.

The meltdown will start in Palawan. It's the province that's facing the Spratly and everything there. Kaya hindi mo lang alam, in a worst-case scenario, kung may isang g*** diyana na magpaputok ng isang rocket, gulo na iyan. And the Philippines invariably would be drawn into the vortex of a conflict that is called war.

Ngayon, ang mga stations ng Amerikano --- tinanggal na nga natin 'yong Bases Agreement. I would like to read sa necrological services ni Ziga. Ang statement niya why he voted to oust America from the bases. Dapat ito --- Bicolano 'yon si Ziga eh.

I would address this to the Vice President. Excerpt from the speech of the late Senator Vic Ziga during the Senate voting on the US Bases Treaty on September 16, 1991. He said and I quote: *"I refuse to ride the crest of this fleeting popularity. I refuse to be deceived by fancy rhetoric and cheap propaganda. I refuse to sacrifice our national interest in exchange for a bundle of vague promises. Rather, Mr. President, I choose to continue to work for what I believe is right and just for our country. I therefore submit my action to the lasting judgement of history with my conscience and firm conviction as my cause. I vote to the non-concurrence and, 'no', a conscientious no to the treaty."*

Taga Bicol 'yon, ma'am, at baka may na... It says... [garbled] Wala kang alam. Sabihin mo lang na extortion. How can you say extortion? Na karaming utang ng Amerikano sa atin, hindi pa rin tayo nabayaran, tapos sabihin mo extortion. My...

Kinakabahan ako if by chance ma-presidente ka. Medyo... Ako, basta pagka retired na ako diyan kung ma-presidente ka.

I said if by unfortune --- unfortunate chance you become the president, please study more. I think that you --- you need a refresher course sa law.

That is my advice to you. You do not use this word mga "extortion", "extortion". When we say you pay, dapat talagang magbayad. Anong tingin mo sa --- ano ito? Tingin mo sa Pilipinas colony ng Amerika? Basta libre na lang lahat. Lahat ba --- tayo kung may ano, bayad tayo.

And we are at the mercy of the, you know, the Americans whatever they say. That Visiting Forces Agreement may or may not continue depending on how the Americans will behave towards us.

Hindi sabihin na `pag sinabi nila, "O, sige ano na," iyon na kaagad. I think you should... If I were you --- you... Kung hindi ka manalo, you migrate to America and become an American citizen and you can freely use the word "extortion".

How can that be an extortion when you're asking for a payment? Extortion? Maningil ka para sa bayan mo, extortion?

The statement of Senator Ziga during at that time. Ito maganda ito, *"I therefore submit my action to the lasting judgement of history with my conscience and firm conviction as my cause. I vote 'yes' to the non-concurrence and, 'no', a conscientious no to the treaty."*

May isa tayong --- who was a great senator sa Bicol. Mabuti't na lang... Ewan ko. Pero 'yon na lang po, salamat sa...

Ito namang kay Lacson, nag --- nag-ano siya, nag --- anong tawag nito? Sa Twitter. Hindi --- hindi ko magamit ang akin ngayon Nokia pa rin eh. Twitter.

May sinabi rin siya na --- na parang ganito rin. In the same fashion, in the same ano ni Robredo. Kaya lang dinelete (delete) niya, tinanggal, probably he realized that the senators have no function at all in the matter of agreements dito sa kuwan. It's vested with the president and it does not need any concurrence from Congress.

So the power to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement nandito sa akin. I -- - I don't know, I don't know. Well I... Kasi kung --- kung magka-giyera tapos mag-nuclear war, tapos nandito `yong armas, nandito diyan sa Subic iyong mga barko ng Amerikano, what do you think will happen to Bicol?

It's too far away, but you know, it will also melt just like what would happen to the rest of the Philippines. It would reduce us into a barren land where you cannot plant anything except way to die --- the way to die rather.

Wala na --- na-ano siguro si Lacson na --- alam niya na --- tinanggal niya eh. Pero ito ang sabihin ko kay Ping, you have been a very cunning and ano sa mga statement mo, iyong pa-slide mo sa mga kuwan. Well, sabihin ko sa iyo --- and so many other things in the past where you were wrong --- sabihin ko sa iyo na you have nothing to do with this.

I may accept your comments, but please use it in a way --- tutal hindi naman ito ano --- use your --- use a language that will promote your person, human being. Hindi `yang basta-basta ka na lang mag-post-post diyan tapos without really finding out whether you are --- you are a part of it or not. I'm telling you, you are not. So next time, consult a lawyer in your office.

And to the Filipino people, maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

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