

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE PARTIDO DEMOKRATIKO PILIPINO-
LAKAS NG BAYAN (PDP LABAN)**

[Delivered at Laus Group Event Centre in San Fernando City, Pampanga | 08 September 2021]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Before anything, let me --- mag-segue lang ako. Itong --- itong, maybe the last page, "so as to bring honor and prestige to the party." Alam mo, it can be said that the PDP is in the leadership of government. So it behooves upon me at least to try to explain to you the current issues of the day. Importante kasi ito, nakikinig ang taong-bayan at mismo kayo.

Now, itong dalawang issues importante. Dalawa ito ngayong pinaglalaruan ng kalaban. I am not talking about politics but I'm talking about the ideals of the party because kung ang mga tao pati kayo hindi naniniwala na kami karapat-dapat ang nasa ngayong nasa itaas governing the country at may duda kayo, then there is really no point of me joining the party or running for vice president under this party.

Alam mo dalawang issues 'yan, one is the issue of itong opposition questioning the 62 billion na hindi pa nagamit ni Duque, Secretary. Alam mo sa totoo lang, that the primary, well, force fighting COVID would really be, ideally, the Department of Health. And I suppose that it is only right that Congress should give the money to government, to the executive department, and rightly so, to the Department of Health.

Ngayon, itong unspent, sabi ng COA wala namang corruption at walang nawala, and yet they tried to foist so many side issues, pangsisira lang. At ako sasabihin ko sa inyo, kung totoo man 'yan, I will resign. P***, I will resign. Kung si Duque kinorrupt (corrupt) niya or anybody in the executive department, particularly of course, maski malayo ako sa mga transactions diyan, being the President of the executive department and of the country, talagang mananagot ako. So kung hindi nila ako tawagin, then I have to look for a forum to explain to the people the issues, the real issues. Ganyan 'yan.

Ngayon, binigyan natin ng trabaho si Duque, binigyan natin ng pera. Anak ng pating, huwag mong pakialaman. Kung mayroon pang naiwan at hindi niya nagastos, por Diyos, Gordon and company should not be stupid really to be dwelling on how the department should be run and how the money given to it be spent. May programa si Duque, huwag mong pakialaman.

Now, natapos 'yan, dito na naman sila sa procurement. Again, sinasabi ko sa inyo mayroong bidding, ano --- may negotiated contract because namadalian. And to tell you frankly, it was I who gave the order in a Cabinet meeting to Secretary Duque. Sabi ko, "Buy the things that are necessary to fight this COVID pandemic. Do it fast."

Sabi ko, there's --- I'm sure --- don't go into contracts or bidding, lowest bidding, kasi mag-lowest bidder, kasi matagal 'yan, alam ko. I've been the mayor of Davao City for 23 years. In my life, I had about 10 elections including the presidency, hindi po ako natalo ni minsan.

Alam mo, alam ko 'yang bidding na bidding na 'yan, it could take forever. So considering the need of the moment, sabi ko sa kanya, "Do away with bidding because I'm sure there's a law somewhere." Iyan ang exact words ko. And the minutes of that meeting is available to everybody, tape recorded 'yan eh. Sabi ko, "Do it fast. I don't care how you do it but do it fast." So nag-negotiated contract sila. The negotiated contract was signed. Wala tayong binayad until there was a complete delivery of what we ordered for government.

Ngayon, ang current price noon, which was prepared by the DTI or the so many goods, Department of Trade --- the so many goods that can be bought by the buying public and including government, nandoon, at 'yung presyo ng mask, at nakalagay doon, and that was the basis of the price for which government paid for these things.

Ngayon, there was a bidding, there was delivery, we did not pay anything until after all was there. So ngayon ang iniingay nila, kinukuwestiyon nila itong taong si Yang. Si Yang is a businessman from Davao. He has been doing business there for 20 years.

When I was trying to negotiate for a --- just a tête-à-tête with some Chinese businessmen dito, I had already plans of going to China to talk to President Xi Jinping about the relations of China and the Philippines. Alam ko mas makatulong. Armas, marami. You want... Whatever you want to wage a war, America is the best source. Pero all others, itong mga bagay na ito na madalian, it was China. Wala pa 'yang pandemic.

So siya 'yung inutusan ko, at sinabi ko sa kanya, "You advise me, so you are my adviser." Walang problema 'yan because he was there for 20 years in Davao doing business and I knew him.

And to think that every time --- 'yung dating ambassador who is now assigned in Indonesia, I forgot his name --- every time that he'd go to Malacañan to see me, Yang was there because we were talking of how to connect to China.

So 'yun. He --- he was the one who parlayed everything. And so nagpunta ako sa China ganoon, siya 'yung nag-invest. Ngayon, 'yung sloganeering, "let us invite everybody to go into business." Akala ko ba we are inviting everybody, including the Chinese? Kaya pumunta nga ako doon eh.

This guy, 'yung sa bidding na, sumali. Eh negosyante eh. Well, kung negosyo ka, g*** ka kung wala kang kikitain. Of course, you are do --- you do business because you want to make money. And so he participated in one of the two biddings. Pinaghati-hati nila 'yan mga... Alam mo na the Chinese style.

At saka 'yung korporasyon, foreign corporation was doing business already. It's based in Singapore. Iyon ang nagbigay ng parang trade... You know, China is a trading country. Eh wala, wala 'yang agriculture, wala lahat except trading lang 'yan. And mi --- minor iyong ano niya, 'yung --- ang manufacturing niya. Almost wala, it's a very small country. Trading lang.

And lahat naman tayo nagpunta ng Singapore. Tingnan mo 'yung pantalan nila doon. I mean the quay, the wharf, puno ng barko because alam mo Singapore was able to manage na lahat ng anong bilhin mo magdaan muna ng Singapore. Mag-order ka ng ano, nasa Singapore pa ang shipment. I don't know how they did it, but wala tayong magawa. So ang korporasyon sa Singapore. And it provided the goods according to the specification.

Ngayong na-deliver na, umiingay na naman ito si Gordon, at sabihin ko sa'yo, magpupustahan tayo, walang mangyari niyan. Eh wala naman talagang nilabag sa batas 'yang except the existence of the corporation ng Singapore who provided the goods.

Itong si Michael Yang, middleman lang 'yan. A Chinese doing business because we were encouraging everybody in the world to come to the Philippines and do business.

Kaya sabi ko nga akala ko ba p*... Akala ko ba we were trying to invite everybody to do business in the Philippines? Lyon ang nangyari. Ang key diyan si Yang. Yang is known to me, I admit it. And it was Yang whom I requested to do to lay --- to do the --- lay the ground or do the legwork of my going to China and getting into a new deal and a new relations because of --- iyong foreign policy ko nag-neutral ako para makagalaw ako sa ibang... Kasi had I, you know, you stick with America, then limitado ka because they would not enjoy you doing business.

So Ji --- si President Xi Jinping, he's a very good man. Soft-spoken, so nag-uusap kami. Lyon ang nangyari. That is all there is to it. And all other businesses na hindi nila ano.

Ito basta procurement, they see something --- something to make noise about. Ito 'yung opposition, ito 'yung kalaban. Ito 'yung kalaban natin.

But sabi ko nga sa Pilipino nakikinig ngayon, itong Gordon and company matagal na itong mga senador. Anong --- anong...? Look at the reputation, the name behind the persona. Ano ang record nila in the past? I can enumerate a hundred pero hindi --- wala tayong panahon. Now, may panahon na darating ang election, then there is also a time for everything, ah 'di bibitawan na natin. Iyan ang nangyari diyan.

Kaya sabi ko kasi binabasa ko, it says here, "advancing the interest of the community." How can we --- how can I in good conscience administer your oath tapos ako may ginawang kalokohan? Iyan ang guarantee ko sa inyo. Wala 'yan silang makita. There was a bidding...

You know, 'yung personality, the juridical personality ng kompanya is actually of no moment to us. If it's a foreign corporation, it's a foreign corporation doing business through a middleman here, eh 'di wala --- iyan ang paraan eh.

Wala naman si Michael Yang. He has no manufacturing factory in Davao. Ganoon 'yan. Walang record 'yan. Hindi kriminal 'yan. Iyan ang gusto kong malaman ninyo na...

At least ako kaharap ninyo, dapat you must believe in me [*applause*] because in the hindsight -- - hindi ko naman kayo --- I'm not trying to belittle your --- our party now or the membership. I won this presidency almost dito sa Luzon, it was only Abet Garcia and 'yun lang ako. Well, of course, kayo, Atty. Lambino, lahat, mga... Pero kung sabihin mo 'yung malalaking partido, wala ako.

Alam ninyo 'yan. Ni wala akong isang barangay captain dito sa Luzon. In the Visayas, in Cebu where my father was a native, doon mismo wala, walang maski isang kagawad. And yet, you know, I won. I really do not know why I made it. Tell me if you know. Pero 'yung akin, it was a --- you know, the presidency is a gift from God. Tandaan ninyo 'yan. *[applause]*

For those who would aspire for it, you should face the Lord first and ask, "Ibibigay mo ba ito sa akin?" And after that, if you are chosen by the people through God's intervention, then you ask, "God, what do you want me to do?" Kasi itong akin ambisyon lang at naging totoo. Wala naman talaga ako --- deep, deep in my heart, down in my heart --- hindi ko talaga masabi noon na manalo ako.

You know, all the time I was the fourth. Fourth, hanggang two weeks before the election, nag-shoot ako, 32. Doon na ako nagdikit. Then Poe was 27. Lyon na 'yun and the rest... And that was the rating noong election time.

So naging Presidente ninyo ako. Ginawa ko naman ang lahat. I made only five simple messages. You know why? During the debate, I knew that --- I do not think I'm ready to participate in debates sponsored by itong mga network. Pera-pera lang 'yan. Kumikita 'yan sila.

Nakita ba niyo, we were only given two minutes then one hour 30 to rebut the... Anong masasabi mo? Kaya pag-umpisa pa lang, noong we were briefed of how long could we talk, bullet na lang ako.

Sabi ko una, droga. Hanggang ngayon galit talaga ako sa droga. *[applause]* I've been mayor for... You know why? Before that, I was a prosecutor for eight years. Iyan, sila Bebot, sila Medialdea, alam nila 'yan kasi mga abugado sa Davao.

Nakita ko noon na pagdating sa trial, ang hawak ko instead of shabu, tawas na. That was how corrupt the situation was. Kaya ako talaga galit na galit. Kaya naging mayor ako, I said --- wala akong sinabi na patayin mo si Mr. Wang, patayin mo si Serrano, patayin mo si Tan, patayin mo si Galicia. Wala akong sinabing ganoon. Ang sinabi ko lang noong na-mayor ako, "I will try to build a city just a comfortable for everybody. I will return to you the streets of Davao City so that your children can go around safe and sound." And my order to the police was, "You ask your wife and daughter to walk around Davao in the wee hours of the morning --- 'yang alas dose hanggang ano... And if they come home safe and sound, 'yun ang gusto kong mangyari sa Davao. Kung hindi mo kaya, umalis ka." So...

At sinabi ko kayong mga durugista --- this is my only crime --- do not destroy my city nor our children kasi pagtanda namin 'yan ang inaasahan namin na magbantay sa amin. Hindi tayo bilyonaryo, milyonaryo na may mga yaya, may mga caregiver. Sa ating... Sino ba ditong...? I don't know, but sino ba dito...? Can you sustain?

Kaming mga presidente wala kami ni singko sentimos. Nothing, nada. Mag-retire kami --- well, ang akin GSIS, of course, 'yung government service ko, but sa presidency wala.

Tayo mahirap lang. Pinap --- pinapa-aral natin 'yang mga anak natin hoping that na 'pag matanda na tayo may magsubo ng lugaw mo pati medisina mo. And when the time comes, and it will come, na magbayad sa punerarya at magbayad sa kabaong mo at saan ka ililibing. Ganoon kahirap. So do not destroy our children because I will kill you. Akin na 'yun. Kaya sabi

ko sa mga pulis, lahat, security, army just do your duty in accordance with law, at kung may mga issues na puputok diyan, I will assume full responsibility for everything.

Huwag 'yang mga --- eh magpatay ka ng tao na nakaluhod. Anong klase 'yan? Iyang mga pulis nag-aaral 'yan sa Academy. For the officers sa PNPA, that's four years. Itong mga patrolman na ano, mga lateral entry guys nag-aral din 'yan, about siguro mga six months.

I know because when I was a prosecutor and I --- nag --- well, nag-asawa kaagad ako, then I was forced to --- nag-prosecutor ako, kulang nga. So I was teaching criminal law, criminal evidence, criminal procedure doon sa Police Academy sa Southern Philippines which is located in Davao City. Iyon ang extra income ko para mabuhay ko ang pamilya ko.

Iyan ang... Kaya alam ko ang laro. Hindi ako magtanong. Kagaya nung kahapon, sinabi nila, "Sir, successful 'yung operation namin. Iyong follow-up, tatlo ang patay." I do not go beyond, sabihin ko na, "Ano ba, did you follow...?" Hindi ako magtanong. Basta sinabi patay, oo --- pero hindi na ako magtanong kung anong labanan. Alam na nila may trabaho sila. 'Pag magsab --- nasabit sila sa trabaho nila, akin 'yun. Lahat ng pulis dito nakikinig, akin 'yan. Magtrabaho ka lang, akin 'yan. Ako ang magpademanda at kung kukulungin ako nitong mga puti...

I am a Filipino. I am a citizen of this country. And if I'm --- kung gusto nila akong idemanda, do it before a Philippine Court of Justice. At kung sabihin ng judge kung magkulong ako, I will gladly go inside Muntinlupa at magpa-miyembro na ako ng sa Sige-Sige or Bahala Gang, *[laughter]* problema ko na 'yan, akin na 'yan.

Pero 'wag mong sabihin na dalhin nila ako doon sa... Hindi lang ako makamura dito pero loko-loko itong mga g***. Bakit --- why would I...? Ako, Pilipino, kaharap ko 'yung mga puti? Ana... Turuan ko sila ng... Iyan ang... Ito preliminary lang ito, wala pa 'yung main speech. *[laughter and applause]*

Hindi, mabuti 'yang ano na makilala ninyo ako. I said there's really no point in being together running a government with such a very --- a high degree of honesty, ideally. Tapos 'yung Presidente mismo ng Pilipinas, 'yung Presidente ng PDP-Laban, sabihin ninyo corrupt. Kung nag-corrupt ako... I've been in politics for 40 years. Bakit ngayon pa? Why would I --- makisawsaw ako ng mga procurement diyan? Eh 'di noon pa sana inumpisahan ko na.

I've been mayor for 10 elections, I think. One election lang, after that --- one contested election, after that wala na akong kalaban. So every election, sitting pretty na ako. Iyan ang history ko. Hindi ako nagyayabang, I'm just telling you. Kailangan makilala ninyo ako. Hindi niyo ako kilala. Ako may --- ako, naniniwala sa Diyos. Ako ay maybe a good father. Ako ay may dalawang asawa. At marami naman kami dito, *[laughter]* sa hall na ito, hindi lang alam ng iba. Iyong iba naman harap-harapan. Pare-pareho lang tayo. You were --- you know, men are feet of clay. Lahat tayo may ano, may --- this man is good but this man is an --- basta 'wag lang 'yan this man is a crook, this man is...

Kung sabihin ninyo 'yung salvage --- ah 'di kung totoo, sige totoo. Eh 'yung babaero, ah dalawa nga ang asawa eh. Mismo ang sakyan --- sasakyan ninyo, may sasakyan kayo --- mismo ang sasakyan ninyo may reserba. Iyan, sasakyan 'yan, tao pa kaya? Anak ng... *[applause]*

Eh kung ma-flat ka o iwanan ka ng asawa mo kasi hindi kayo magkaintindihan? Pagkatapos niyan, wala. Mayroon maghiwalay na walang --- walang babae, basta maghiwalay lang. Ngayon, kung wala kang reserba, papaano 'yan? Iyang kaharap ko, pareho kaming istorya may

reserba rin siya --- Bebot Bello. *[laughter]* Taga-Davao man 'yan, 'di alam ko. Hindi, mag-umpisa na tayo.

Let me call out the persons 'yung... Sabi ng army, at nung sinabi na sa akin tinawagan ako na coming here, there's a virtual audience, members, and friends of PDP-Laban. I greet you --- it's not really a pleasant day, it's a rainy day --- but as good as any other time to be together.

House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco --- Zoom 'yan siya --- and the honorable members of the House of Representatives; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; PDP-Laban Executive Vice President and Cabinet Secretary Karlo Alexei Nograles and the honorable members of the Cabinet; PDP-Laban President and Energy Secretary Alfonso Cusi, by Zoom. Bakit gi-Zoom-Zoom lang tayo ng Presidente? Senator Francis Tolentino, Zoom; Senator Ronald dela Rosa, Zoom; Senator Bong Go, Zoom --- ah 'di Zoom lang rin kayo sa amin. *[laughter]*

PDP-Laban Regional Council President and 3rd District of Pampanga Representative Aurelio Gonzales Jr. *[applause]* Ah, yes, sir. Akala ko Zoom tayo. PDP-Laban Secretary General Melvin Matibag. *[applause]* Pampanga Vice Governor Lilia Pineda. *[applause]* Nasaan na si ma'am? PDP-Laban Regional Council President and Vice President for NCR and Parañaque City Mayor Edwin Olivarez. *[applause]* governors and city municipal mayors and vice mayors who are here with us; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan ko. Before I forget, we have here also the MMDA Chairman Benjamin Abalos. *[applause]* Yes, sir?

Ito na 'yung prepared speech ng PMS, Presidential Staff. Kanila man ito, hindi ito akin, kung anong pinagsasabi. Basahin ko lang pero about 30 pages. *[laughter]*

Thank you, my dear partymates, for gathering here today for the National Convention of the PDP-Laban. Your presence is a testament to our undeniable unity as standard-bearers of the Party.

Let me congratulate the Party's official candidates for the 2022 National and Local Elections. I trust that you will duly prepare for your future responsibilities as elected public officials. Regardless of the election results and even beyond the election period, I expect you to uphold the Party's principles and aspirations.

I cannot thank you enough for your strong support for the Administration's priorities, especially our fight against illegal drugs, terrorism, corruption, and poverty.

No words can express my gratitude for your continued trust and confidence in my leadership and for nominating me as the Party's official Vice-Presidential candidate in the 19 --- in the 2022 [National] Elections. *[applause]*

Na-19 pa rin ako. I am hopeful that this will allow me to continue serving the Filipino people and help lead the entire nation towards greater progress.

Alam mo kung bakit? Sandali, napapayak ako eh. *[applause]* Hindi, naglagay kasi ako ng eye drops *[laughter]* just before I --- it's blurry, it's a --- ano kasi 'yan it's a... How would you call it? Lubricant.

Alam mo kung bakit ako tatakbo ng vice presidency? Is it ambition? Maybe. But is it really a sense of love of country? Yes. *[applause]* Is it really... Because I want to see the continuity of

my efforts even though I may not be the one giving the direction. Baka makatulong lang ako. Alam mo, alam ninyo na --- alam man natin na ang problema droga pa rin, terorismo, nandiyan 'yung NPA. Well, of course, it's quite in Sulu now. Iyang NPA, hindi pa rin hanggang ngayon it is really the one factor that's pulling us down.

Sa Mindanao, iyang mga farming corporations, sinusunog 'yung mga tractors, 'yung ganoon. It's still terrorism in Mindanao kaya gusto ko nandiyan lang ako makatingin at makapagsabi. Iba na 'yung kasing ano ka. And of course, kung ano kailangan may somebody just to tell them na, "Alam mo, adre..." just a nudge, kung hindi mo kapartido 'yung presidente na, "...alam mo dito nagkulang tayo dito, dapat ito ang gawain natin."

Iyan lang ang ano ko --- sense of fulfillment tapos na ako eh. Naabot ko na lahat eh. Walang talo sa eleksyon, sa presidente. Magtanong, "Ano pa ba ang gusto mo?" Well, una, ayaw ko na nang... Nakita mo naman 'yung... Well, except for Bong Go. Si Bong Go, bright 'yan. He can calculate kung may hingiin ka percentage or ano, dito lang 'yan sa ano, hindi maggamit ng comput --- ng ano 'yan. He's a La Salle graduate. At talagang, kayong mga taga-Davao alam man ninyo 'yan, talagang mayaman 'yan sila. Hindi ako nag... They own almost half a block and they own the biggest printing press. Mga Tesoro ng Zamboanga. Bong is a Tesoro sa Zamboanga sa mother's side. Ayan ang totoo.

To the newly proclaimed candidates, my fellow Party officials, and members, let us remain united and focused in achieving our mission to improve the quality of life of every Filipino, especially as we continue to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alam mo ang Pilipinas in my, in my --- sa paningin ko, we have been --- sa runway tayo, pa-take off na pero hindi pa talaga tayo umangat. Mayroon sana tayong golden opportunity because of the leadership of our economic advisers, sila Dominguez, medyo umangat na tayo and we were improving pati 'yung rating natin sa ano, credit rating natin is BBB+ na sana tayo. Ngayon, nag-minus kasi nag-pandemic. Sayang lang.

Ewan ko kung it's part of God's plan but itong tumama sa atin, this will remain with us for the longest time. Huwag ninyong isipin na kung matapos 'yan. Learn to live with it --- with COVID kasi matagal pa itong --- pati itong maraming patay. Maraming tinamaan ng COVID. In Mindanao, nagpatong na naman. Eh microbe eh. What can we do?

Ang opposition, they think that we invented COVID. Tayo... Pinapalabas nila tayo ang may kasalanan nitong COVID na 'to. So iyon ang ano nila, iyan ang pinapalabas nila. Well, anyway, it's really an issue sa election whether valid or not. But we will remain true sa ating buhay.

Let us not be hindered by those who only seek personal political gain and, instead, realign ourselves with the Party's objectives.

I am confident that with our strong resolve and solidarity, we will once again claim victory in the upcoming elections *[applause]* and together achieve genuine and lasting prosperity for our country.

And mataas man masyado 'to. Hanggang dito na lang tayo. Ang sabi man... Ten pages pa.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat at ang PDP. *[applause]*

Anong gawain natin? Mayroon bang closing remarks? *[applause]*

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