

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF

PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

**DURING THE METRO RAIL TRANSIT LINE 3 (MRT-3)
REHABILITATION COMPLETION CEREMONY**

[Delivered at MRT-3 Shaw Boulevard Station in Mandaluyong City | 22 March
2022]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

We have no sufficient ventilation. I was informed that the Presidential Security Command placed those mosquito net so we do not have any wind to enjoy.

Japan Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Kazuhiko Koshikawa; Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade; Senator Bong Go; Bagong Henerasyon Party-list Congresswoman and Deputy Speaker Bernadette Herrera-Dy; Samar 1st District Congressman and House Committee on Transportation Chairperson Mr. Edgar Mary Sarmiento; Quezon City 4th District Congressman Jesus Suntay; *[ingay ning y***]* Makati City District Representative Romulo Peña Jr., sir; Quezon City 4th District Congressman Jesus Suntay; Mandaluyong City Mayor Carmelita Abalos, ma'am; Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Artemio Abu; Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board Chairman Martin Delgra III; Philippine National Railways Manager Junn Magno; Light Rail Transit Authority Administrator Jeremy Regino; Japan International Cooperation Agency led by Chief Representative Takema Sakamoto, good afternoon, sir; fellow workers in government; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to join you today for the timely rehabilitation completion ceremony of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3.

The MRT 3 is proof that we are keeping our momentum in improving our [railroad] systems, which aims to deliver quality service to the Filipino people and respond to the emergence of the new normal.

I congratulate the Department of Transportation for being one of my administrations — realizing its commitment to improve service delivery to all, especially now that you have completed the comprehensive rehabilitation of MRT-3 with the help of your private partners.

Our train system would not have returned to its original, high-grade design condition without the technical competencies and professional aid of our service providers from Sumitomo Corporation, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, and TES Philippines, Inc.

With the joint efforts of these companies and the DOTr, we have increased our train speed from 25 kilometers per hour to 60 kilometers per hour while the time interval between train arrivals has improved [from eight to 10 minutes to four minutes].

Also, before, we only had 12 to 15 operating units. Now, there are already 18 to 22 trains to serve the people. This progress will decrease — if not altogether stop — the number of unloading incidents in our stations.

In addition to this, we made the MRT-3 more accessible for everyone since all the elevators and escalators are now fully operational.

Having mentioned these accomplishments, I extend my sincerest appreciation to the Government of Japan [*applause*] for your assistance in the project. Your country has always been a friend and an active partner of the Philippines in our development projects.

Secured in our vision to provide the best for the Filipino people, I would like to emphasize that this project is part of the administration's efforts to improve connectivity and mobility, which is critical in sustaining economic growth and development despite these challenging times.

While we are steadfast in addressing the setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government still strived to finish crucial projects like this to meet our standard time, deadlines, and to serve our people at the soonest possible time.

As President, I recognize the deep need for urgent response to challenges that confront us daily. Hence, I am determined to help you selflessly and give myself unreservedly to champion the best interests of everyone.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to promote the rehabilitated MRT-3 to the commuting public and assure our kababayans that service disruptions are a thing in the past.

As my tenure in office approaches to an end, I assure the Filipino people that I will give no room for laxity and complacency in public service, even amidst the global challenges that test our strength as catalysts of change.

Your trust in my capacity to lead our beloved country, and your confidence in my fellow workers in the government, [are] priceless gifts that will forever be kept in my heart. I am always thankful for the Filipino people for letting me serve you in the best possible way.

Bago ako magsara, I'd like to announce that Secretary Tugade and I decided that the MRT-3 rides will be free — hindi naman forever — from March 28 to April 30, 2022. *[applause]*

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

— END —