

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO
WORKERS (OFW) CENTER**

[Delivered at Versailles Palace, Daang Hari in Las Piñas City
| 07 April 2022]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Migrants Workers Secretary Abdullah Mama-o, he is the first secretary of this department and it was created during my time. Medyo matagal nang kaunti dahil you know every time you create a new department or agency, you have to have the money to run it and since we were not able to save enough because of the pandemic, we had to put it off to some other time.

Eh medyo ngayon there is a — well, a new phase of COVID-19 medyo mababa na, at ano 'yung pera pumasok since then, 'yun ang gagamitin ni Secretary Abdullah Mama-o. He is my classmate sa law school and he is a very passionate worker of government. I am very sure of that.

Senator Bong Go; officials and members of the Global Filipino Movement Foundation Inc. led by President Dr. Allen Roxas; Chairman Bishop Efraim Tendero; Secretary Bishop Reuben Abante; and Board Member Bishop Emmanuel Carlos; Anti-Red Tape Authority Director General Jeremiah Belgica — *[Is he here?]* mabuti't ah — this is one aspect of the journey of a migrant worker starting in his — working on the papers. Ang ayaw ko kasi 'yung patagalan. So itong Red Tape it will really, well, call your attention that you are not serving the people. Alam mo ganoon 'yan sa gobyerno eh — may prepared speech ako but let me just — mag-unwind ako sa anong... Papaalis na kasi ako eh. Iyong masakit sa akin 'yung saan-saan ituro. You have to go to the NBI, then you have to go to the BIR, then you have to go to...

Alam mo dito sa Maynila, traffic alone, even with the advent of this elevated highways, it's not enough really to make a great impact on the lives of the people of Manila and of the Philippines kaya kulang pa rin. So itong noon kung saan-saan sila magpunta, if you want to get... May isa pa diyan itong sa Statistics. You have to go there to get your copy of your birth certificate to attest that you are a Filipino. And napakarami ho, matu — matulala 'yung workers kung saan siya papunta. It would take him one day to travel, especially if he is in the provinces pa isang araw lang.

Eh when the night comes, walang pera 'yan, uuwi 'yan doon, tapos gigising ng alas-kwatro, alas-tres to start the travel again to complete his papers. Iyan ang isang talagang nasasaktan ako. Kaya ito I don't know what would be the number of this facility. Sabi ko na na mayroon man tayong NBI. Akala ko ba maraming computer sabi ko. Ilang computer ang nabili ko para sa gobyerno? Then you should put up an office there, a satellite office. BIR, ilang equipment ang nabili ko para sa inyo? So where is the service that we want? Maglagay ka doon ng isa.

So lahat ng opisina na kailangan or who may have to intervene in the papers of the migrant workers, kailangan nandoon sila. Ang migrant workers hindi puwede mag-ano, walang pera 'yan. And it is very tiring because they have no private cars, they have to travel public conveyances, and then they cannot complete the papers pabalik-balik. Iyan ang ayaw ko, 'yang pabalik-balik.

"Come back tomorrow for this," pagdating doon, oh mayroon pa namang bago. Iyan ang — gusto kong magmura. *[laughter]* Kasi nandito lang tayo sa — I suppose that this is a religious gathering *[laughter]* to give our thanks to the Lord for giving us so much stupid people in government. Iyan ang ayaw ko.

At ginawa ko 'yan ewan ko kung nasunod pero sundin ninyo because I still have — maybe I will... I am on my way out. Dadalhin ko kayo paglabas ko sa gobyerno kayong mga p***** i** niyo. *[laughter]* Either you follow what I want. Hindi ninyo — it's not yours. It's mine, it's my call. It is the Executive department and I am the head of that department.

The other one is the judiciary which is really headed by the Supreme Court, and Congress headed by the Senate pati 'yung Speaker. Dito sa Executive department, isa lang ang tao, isa lang ang tigas dito, ako. P***, sundin ninyong gusto ko. L**** kayo.

So 'yan ang nangyari. Better do the things that I want to improve the service of government or else mayroon tayong away. I am sure I do not want to quarrel. Masama pa naman 'yung bunganga ko. But you know I have fired six Cabinet members hindi lang ninyo alam. Along the way in my journey for six years, six Cabinet members lost their jobs. I fired them.

Iyon 'yung red tape. Hindi mo na masabi you know sabi ko if there is an application or if there is a paper that would need a clearance or anything that would require the intervention of government, do it in the most — pinaka... So ang sabi ko pagpunta doon you get a paper, give him a slip of a piece of paper, then ilagay mo doon kailan siya babalik. And on that day na babalik siya, kailangan nandoon na huwag mo na — do not add or take away the requirements that would need a follow-up. So paglagay ng papel doon sa whatever a desk or a window, iyon na 'yun. Huwag mong dagdagan at huwag ka nang maghingi ng kung ano-anumang papel. Either you go over it and then sabihin niya may kailangan ka, I think the BIR should tingnan. "*Saan ho ang BIR?*" Iyong desk na 'yan, 'yan doon ka pumunta. Pagdating doon ang BIR naman may computer.

Kung hindi ninyo masunod 'yan, ipukpok ko na lang 'yung computer sa ulo ninyo. Sige ako bili nang bili nang bili araw-araw, eh wala naman palang nangyayari. Hindi niyo nagagamit. Eh sabi ko na iyon ang gobyerno na aalis ako. Still paglabas ko, ganoon pa rin.

I hope it — they would just come out with the most minimal effort na para sa... But I don't want lahat hindi lang ano — the transacting public whatever the office it is, the transacting public must not be... Para na tuloy siya na ang government worker, nabaligtad na.

Eh 'yung mga tamad kung ayaw ninyong magtrabaho, anak ka ng... Kagaya ng mga pulis, you know ang problema ko hindi masyado 'yung army but kayong mga pulis. Wala na kayong ginawa kung — hindi lahat, a few scalawags. But marami kayo diyan na puro kat***** ang gustong gawin. O either mag-away tayo o gusto mo magbarilan tayo.

But you know, you behave kasi sa siyudad ko talagang behave ang pulis. Walang checkpoint, walang sita-sita. Dito karaming kalokohan kaya sabi ko don't f*** with me kasi marami diyan sa labas. Dito sa Alabang lang, diyan sa unahan, maraming Pilipino na walang trabaho na may grado. P** — 'pag hindi mo kaya 'yang trabaho mo, marami akong ilagay na mga pulis na papalit sa inyo. I do not have to endure your — o whatever. Iyan ang isang...

Maya-maya may ano dito, may sariling — doon sa sabong, e-sabong. You know in e-sabong — baka nagduda kayo, I don't know anybody there. It's a transaction by PAGCOR. Pinayagan ko lang 'yan — I have the ultimate word on it because it gives us 340 million a month. Kailangan ko ang pera for those expenses na wala sa budget, hindi mo makuha sa budget so you need money from the outside sources. Kung nasa budget 'yung kailangan well and good. But if not, then there is nothing that the

secretary can do. Eh ito lang ang budget binigay, ito 'yung the purposes for which the money will be spent... O ayan.

Ngayon, at the end of the year, if I have the billions at 640 million a month, 'yun na ang maitulong ko kaagad. Iyong pandemic naubos ang contingency plan ko pati 'yung intelligence fund. Binigyan ko lang 'yang pulis pati military ng... Sabi ko you will just have to work on it. Eh kung kailangan kayo maggawa-gawa ng intelligence, maglakad ka kasi wala tayong pera. Iyon ang nangyari doon.

So saan ka maghanap ng 640 million? So I allowed it. Now it's working still. Ang problema ganito, I have heard that itong — kailangan sabihin ko ito eh. Alam mo let me — give me the patience, mga about 10 minutes. Itong mga ito nagpupusta lahat, nagsasangla na para magpusta. Iyon ang sabi ng tagalabas. Now if it is true, then hihintuin ko 'yan. Masigurado ninyo before I go, I will stop it kung totoo. But I have to sacrifice, I said, the billions that we would have earned kung nandiyan 'yan.

So it's a police work. Magtrabaho kayo, solve the crime. Kahit sino man diyan, you have mentioned so many personalities there and all are capable of doing it because they have the criminal mind. Malaman mo ang tao eh. Makausap ko lang, I would know kung saan ang diskarte mo.

And another thing — five minutes na 'yun — I asked for... Kasi basahin ko lang itong three pages na speech. Kawawa naman kasi ang gumawa nito. *[laughter]* Nag-overtime ito para habulin lang tapos ibalewala mo. Ayaw ko man magbaba dito may magsakit ang loob.

Ngayon ang hiningi ko 'yung extension para malaman ninyo ano ang — ano ang kalbaryo ng Pilipino, 'yung worker. Karamihan dito hindi magkaintindihan or nag-aaway. But kung gusto mong sirain ang isang pamilya, lagyan mo lang ng isang drug addict diyan, the family becomes dysfunctional already. So away-away. Most of our migrant workers...

Iyong may lumabas rin kusa na — with the blessings of all in the family. Ang ayaw ko kasi sabi ng DSWD sa akin ang karamihan 'yung remittances, 'yung nandoon sa labas enduring the hardships, 'yung talagang kinakain na lang nila ang hiya nila.

You know, there are places in the Arab countries sabi ng ambassador natin noon noong nagpunta kami congressman ako, sabi niya, "Congressman, sabihin mo sa ating mga kababayan before they embark on a trip or journey here na in some, lalo na 'yung malalayo na lugar, malalayo sa siyudad, you know abuse — lalo na if you are a slave bought

in the slave markets of Africa or you are a paid worker, kasali sa territory ang rape or abuse.”

Diyan ako galit. Kaya ako brutal kasi itong mga `to naghihintay lang diyan para — for example Pandacan, Tondo where maghintay lang sila kung sinong pamilya may steady income `yung bata at `yun ang didikitan nila. So the young man or the young boy becomes a slave of drugs. Slave ka na talaga eh. We would be a nation of slaves kung hindi mo hintuin `to, a slave to a drug called shabu. Ngayon, ito `yung didikitan nila.

Sila mismo hindi kumakain `yung pinapasa nila. Ang masakit sa akin ganito, `yung nanay nagsakripisyo, maybe walang nangyari, okay. Ang problema `yung doon sa labas at `yung nire-rape at ina-abuse. Pagdating nila sa Pilipinas, `yung sakripisyo nila only to find out na `yung anak nila droga, durugista walang natapos, pati `yung anak na babae nagkalat because of drugs.

You know, I said do not destroy my country. Let the International Criminal Court understand that. Kayong mga human rights dito sa Pilipinas, intindihin ninyo `yan kay `pag hindi, talagang bobo kayo, mga p***** i** niyo. Kaya ako nasasaktan at marami `yan. Where’s justice there?

Alam mo, there has to be somebody who will be outraged and who is that person? Ako when I was mayor and then President. Kaya ako brutal sa kanila. Now kung marami pa kayong satsat diyan, sabihin ko sa inyo you destroy my country, you destroy the young of the youth, I will kill you, period. Buti’t na lang hindi ito naging memorial park, maluwang pa oh. *[laughter]*

I’d like to read my speech.

Mga kababayan, I am pleased to join my fellow workers in government, members of the private sector and, of course, our overseas Filipinos and their families as we hold the groundbreaking ceremony of the OFW Center — a hub dedicated to serving our OFWs.

Sana malagay ito sa mga major cities para hindi na magbiyahe ang mga ano natin. I hope that my classmate, si Dabs, would be able to improve on all aspects of whatever concerns there are in the life of a migrant worker.

Allow me also to express my utmost gratitude to the Global Filipino Movement Foundation for their initiative in supporting OFWs through the construction of this facility, which is envisioned to be a one-stop center for

government services, ministry counseling, and legal assistance for Overseas Filipino Workers.

The productive collaboration of the government and its partners is key to achieving concrete results for our fellow countrymen, especially our hardworking kababayans abroad.

I fully support projects and other activities that promote the welfare and the holistic development of our unsung heroes who will always play a crucial part in our country's development, especially during times of recovery after tumultuous events such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

I am profoundly moved by their unwavering dedication, perseverance and their day-to-day sacrifices — all to provide a better way of life for their loved ones. Kaya iyan.

Indeed, they are worthy to be called "mga Bagong Bayani."

In recognition of their service and heroism, this administration has remained steadfast in providing the best service it could give to our OFWs.

Among the milestones we pursued are the construction of the OFW hospital in Pampanga and the institutionalization of the Department of Migrant Workers — iyang kay Secretary Mama-o — that aims to ease government transactions for the benefit of our OFWs and their families.

I repeat, I want government — all who would have had to do something about the migrant workers' life, their office or a satellite, even a desk with a computer so that he can get hold of the things that is needed in front of him. Eh nakukuha naman sa computer 'yan eh.

We also continue to support our OFWs who are now facing unfathomable — fathom is — difficulties in areas such as the Ukraine, the Middle East and Afghanistan, among others.

Wala masyado ako sa Ukraine. Wala naman tayong nababalitaan. Iyong Middle East pati Afghanistan, among others, medyo — sabi ko kay Dabs, "*Take a closer look diyan sa...*" Wala hindi naman, it has nothing to do with religion, it has nothing to do with... It's the culture of brutality in these areas.

And even outside times of crisis, your government remains hard at work to protect the interest of our kababayans abroad.

It is my hope that, in the near future, my fellow Filipinos with adopted cultures and communities will genuinely find great promise and satisfaction upon their return to their homeland.

Let us therefore continue to revitalize our sense of duty and patriotism as we collectively endeavor to uphold and protect the welfare of all Filipinos, wherever they are in this planet.

Join me in this important task as, together, we realize our dream of a strong, resilient and progressive Philippines.

Salamat po. *[applause]*

— END —