

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE PHILIPPINES-INDIA BUSINESS FORUM**

[Delivered at The Oberoi Hotel in New Delhi, India | 26 January 2018]

Good noon and kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

I have a prepared speech but I have plenty to tell you. About in excess of two hours maybe? *[laughter]*

Well, if you do business in the Philippines, I welcome you.

I know that in the past there were so many issues about doing business in the Philippines. One is that it has bruited around that the Philippines is noted for its non-compliance of contracts because that was the result of corruption.

Second is that law and order is not good. Well, in any country today, we face the same threat and that is terrorism. I just had a quarrel so many days ago in Marawi and we were able to control the situation.

I would not say that we won. Nobody wins in a civil war. Everybody loses. The problem is there is a new element everywhere and it is being adopted or they are there making some insertions and that is the ISIS.

And that is a threat that everybody should realize that would become a problem worldwide in the many years to come. It's an ideology that is totally bankrupt, totally empty and the only objectives there are to kill and destroy for nothing, for no reason at all.

And the come-on is that if you die a martyr, you go to heaven with 42 virgins waiting for you. *[laughter]* Well, if I could just make it a come-on also for those who would like to go to my country. But if really it is true...

You know, I'm half Muslim actually. My grandmother is a Maranao, my father comes from the Visayas. So I can talk really that they do not have the monopoly of discourse in this field.

And I said one of the most --- is promising virgins when you go to heaven. I'd like to have the virgins here, not in heaven. *[laughter]* God may not allow it. And so...

Well, anyway, we have improved many things in my country upon my assumption as President. First is that I am committed to stop graft and corruption and with it really is sometimes it is a practice in the Philippines.

It's actually a criminal syndicate going around, looking for bids and participate. And it's a... They go into a cabal, they go around the country playing golf and waiting for any news of any bidding in any local or national office.

And they would be there crowding and manipulating by offering the lowest bid as really... And you know, if it's the lowest bid, it is also the lowest in quality. And that is why I said, "Why is there an early breakage of this equipment?" Well, that is the result of the lowest bid.

I have a serious talk with Secretary Dominguez, NEDA, and Secretary Lopez and I said that, "we have to stop this nonsense," because the lowest bid is actually a product of corruption.

Almost all would dive into the price but then again, you know, used to or maybe still now, we have to give to the office, to the engineers who are working or supervising them and all of these things.

And I said, if you go to the Philippines and if it's a mega or a mega project that's --- you will have --- I will just go for not really a Swiss challenge but a turnkey basis.

You build me this thing and it's almost like Swiss challenge. Go over the plans and if you think you can build for me this, I will pay you in a matter of days.

That's why in applying for papers and everything, there are some offices but I have fired so many directors of government and even secretaries in the Cabinet. I said that they are only given once a month to process the papers. I would discourage you from doing there except maybe your lawyer.

And at the first whiff of corruption, let me know. And that is what happened to this present ruckus of --- the losing bidder of a frigate for the Navy.

That is the usual case, they file cases and the courts are very easy to issue a restraining order stopping you from proceeding with the project because they would allege corruption and all.

So I would like to assure you that no business papers or contracts *[reach]* my table. I allow the secretaries the widest of the elbow room and the papers stop there. They sign in behalf of the government.

I do not sign commercial or financial papers. Nobody reaches --- not that kind. It's only about maybe running the government and taking care also of the local government units being the Chief Executive of the country.

Do not go into this kind of thing. Either by you or by the government, official concerned because you will find your papers in the wastebasket if I come to know it.

Just go there, apply and if you are not familiar with the office or nobody would --- then you can always go to Ramon, go to Sonny Dominguez or give me a call, I'll give you my card. Just tell me who's f***** you and I will...

I do not give second chance. I said even a whiff of corruption, I will terminate you and if you give the bribe money and if I come to know about it, you'll find your applications in the wastebasket.

But if you will do it right, I will assure you of protection. I will inquire --- this is what I intend to do.

There's somebody in that office making unreasonable demands or making it hard for you to do business or nearing maybe a cancellation of previously agreed documents, let me know, or actually it is in the Constitution that no law and for that matter anybody in government can just go ahead and impair the obligations of contract.

It is not just a law, it is placed there in the Constitution. The problem is, corruption has always been a way of life. If I cannot stop, I just would like to maybe reduce it to the barest minimum.

But I can assure you that will be a hassle-free. It would be your fault actually if you do not speak out and stand for what you believe is wrong.

And I said I can guarantee you an audience with you and whoever is your protagonist in government service. I will protect you, I will make the guarantees, just do not give in to corruption.

You are not obliged to even spend 100 pesos for a thing that is legal and you go there upon our invitation. So we invite, we protect.

And I said I had a... He was bright but it's about the IT. And you know he was favoring and making it to everybody. It's supposed to be out in one month. And in the level of the local government for clearances and all, it's about 15 days. And for the directors maybe or whatever office, it is also 15 days.

And I fired people even if it's really a doubtful. Well, just to prove that --- there's a book which says that, I will maybe ask forgiveness if I fired you for the wrong reason. But I will not ask your permission.

Later maybe I said, I'm sorry but... But I do not ask permission to fire anybody. Maybe I'll send my regrets but that is how overzealous I am for Philippines has always been known to be a corrupt country.

And every administration that passed our way, had always had a component of corruption in running the government.

It will not happen during my time. Nobody I said is allowed to make money.

And so, if you go there, maybe you can go to whatever businesses, IT or an import of --- because you can always --- this, this IT.

And we will... Mon Lopez or for that matter, Joey here can refer you to the proper office.

I just want to make sure that there is no corruption and everything runs smoothly. And that would my only --- if that is the only contribution that I can give in my lifetime during our generation, to my country, then I'd be happy.

I remember that... You know, my place, Davao City, in Mindanao, it's on the lowest --- facing down south. On a clear day, you can see a beautiful lady in the beaches of Australia. *[laughter]*

That's about nine hours away actually. But towards that direction. So at the tip of that island is my city and we are also --- any...

Now you must understand the social, political and maybe the other dimensions of the Philippines in doing business. In 1521, Magellan landed somewhere in the Central Visayas. With it he brought along his cannons, his muskets, sword, and religion. I have nothing. I have no issue with my religion. I have so many issues about priests and --- and all.

My --- maybe my number one opponent during the last election was really the Catholic Church. And I said to the people, "If you want to follow your priest, your cardinals, and the other idiots of that religion, go to them and you know --- please vote against me."

"Now you guys who believe in cleaning the government, going after corruption, killing these idiots who are running drugs in my city as if it was just a merchandise like peanuts..." Well, we went there in the late 40s. And you know what? The millionaires there and their son, their boy maybe around.

The big business[es] were owned by the Indians. The Balchans, Big Chief Bazaar, Filidian, so they were owned --- most of them were owned by the big ones, the department stores.

So most of my --- our friends, until now, Balchan, Lila Store, it is beside, if you go to Davao, it's just beside the Mercury Drug. It's the oldest... It's still open. It is thriving but that was the --- a smaller version of the large department stores of the Indians.

We were immigrants then practically. We knew each other. And I remember --- Perbo is still there. And we get to be invited during my father's time to taste Indian food. So I'm not new to --- ah. *[laughter]*

So that is just my way of saying that I'd like to welcome you all and we will protect you both security and your economics.

And the most important thing is just tell us so we can institute, mitigating or remedial measures. But I said, if it's graft and corruption, it's --- he goes out immediately.

No --- and any Cabinet members during meetings, I fired one in the midst of a Cabinet meeting and I said, "Go out of this room I do not want to see you again".

So that is how I would like to insult people for being so stupid. Making money in government. You're not supposed to do that.

Avoid Mindanao. There's still martial law there. But it's a martial law that's not really a martial law. It is a martial law for the enemies of the state.

But if you are just an ordinary guy there with a business, you can hardly even notice, there are no soldiers around only policemen.

But in the implementation against the enemies of the state, ISIS, for example and the rebellious Abu Sayyaf, who are fond of decapitating foreigners, kidnap in front --- you know... There's something there in the south that is quite virulent.

So... But Visayas and... Well, if it's my city, Davao City, relatively safe. I can remember when I said I was a prosecutor for about... I was doing a trial work. And when I became mayor, I said I am not a policeman, I am not a soldier, I am just an ordinary guy here trying to build a city.

And after some time I said, when I noticed that it was still in topsy-turvy, I said, "Do not destroy my city because I will kill you. Do not destroy the young of this country because they are only --- we are a poor country. Our pensions, benefits and all will not even last for five years. And if we retire and our children are unproductive because you made them insane and crazy, I will kill you."

That was my warning. And I think you cannot find anything wrong there. Destroying ones country will really entitle you... You know there are two... It could give him the entitlement to eat you alive.

When I became President, that was the same issue. Four million addicts. With four million addicts, I told everybody, "Do not destroy the Philippines". We are still poor and we're about in the last in the list. Kindly give us a respite of corruption and this thing about law and order.

Do not destroy my country because I will kill you. And do not mess up with me. Do not f**** dare because I will kill you. And so I'm sure that everybody realizes that I am popular because not for anything.

I've appeared in so many articles and covers of Time Magazine and branding me as a "killer". So be it. What's wrong with a leader protecting his country and killing you? You're an enemy of the state. My dream is just to make my people comfortable and if there is money... It's not actually really the business or taxes, it's actually jobs.

I'm not so interested about taxes. We can manage on what we have now and we have -- what we have programmed for this year. It's really job.

We are 110 million Filipinos. And if you continue to impose upon the people evil and things --- and if I allow graft and corruption, this 110 million would face a very grim tomorrow.

I have to do it because I do not want my grandchildren to be addicts or pass the problem to them to solve. And that includes the enemies of the state, the communists, and the terrorists who know nothing but destruction of lives and people.

So if you get to be popular, well, these Human Rights people, you know... Aung San Suu Kyi was with us. I pity her because she seems to be caught in the middle being a Nobel Prize winner for peace and this is the ruckus now she is heavily criticized.

You know, she has been complaining that ---- this is --- "we are talking about our country, the interest of our country, our own country". And I said, "Do not mind the Human Rights. They're just a noisy bunch actually."

Imperialism never stopped. It has started in my country 500 years ago. And the Spaniards stayed in my country for 400 years. That's why what you see now, the fragmentation of the islands from --- is just the same in the Middle East.

The imperialists went there, got hold of the oil, built their industries so big using the raw materials of other people's property.

And when the time came, they divided arbitrarily, the Middle East and divided it into so many nations. And one got a prize, one country was identified with Italy, one with French, and so on and so forth.

And until now, America wants to --- acting like the conscience of the people and --- trying to police everybody.

That's the problem. You impose your values, you are very strong and at --- the United Nations has no purpose at all actually for mankind.

We might, as far as I'm concerned, with all its inutility. It has not prevented any war, it has not prevented any massacre. And here I am, trying to protect my country and saying that "I have killed 10,000."

Assuming it to be true, what am I supposed to do? Sit on my a** and allow my country to self-destruct? And they go into a very influential exercise all over the country.

Now, we have a guy there also playing with his atomic toys and putting a...

Our schedule to fly out. *[laughter]* You don't make me to stop talking here. *[laughter]* It would be an insult really to them.

The Philippine Airlines plane can go ahead. I'll just take the commercial flight via Hong Kong. *[laughter and applause]*

So they should limit... Well, look at what the country is facing today. There are so many contending values even in the state department.

And, you know, six of my countrymen --- it's always a problem, domestic helpers in the Philippines being raped and served food with the leftovers. And it's universal complaint, they are only allowed to sleep three to four hours.

And my God these human rights idiotic people in the Philippines never bothered. They harp on the criminals that are killed. Much of us is they don't really see. They said, "Duterte, 7000." But they don't bother to turn the page.

Why? Assuming it to be true. How did it happen? How did it evolve in this country? Where were they? And what is government doing about it?

They stick on this "700" and they just brand it around. Give the EU copies and "7,000 killed." That alone is justice for them.

And they want to hail before the international... I'm 72. I'll be retiring in just four years. But if you want it early and provide me a room and the books that I want to read, I have plenty now, I don't have the time. And maybe a conjugal visit once in a while with different friends. *[laughter]* It does not say it has to be your wife. *[laughter]*

So just give me the minimal demands of a human body and it's pure biology. I hope everybody understands it. *[laughter]*

So that is how I propose to do it for you. You're all welcome, I thank you. We need the investments. But more than that, I said, it's really the work that you provide for the Filipino people.

At this time, I said, a lot of jobless. But things are improving. Our GDP is --- growth is, well, 6.9 last year.

One of the highest, they say I was competing with China and India and Cambodia. Well, maybe I am in good company minus the money that you have. *[laughter]*

So if you want to share it with us, we are all Asians. We have just a thriving educational guys there. In the Philippines, it's about 4,000. In my city, there are about 1,000 Indian students taking up medicine.

And I would like to assure you and your --- maybe your Ambassador would tell you that we have been very protective also of them, the young people. It's not because I ask something from you, it's a standard practice of any democratic country to protect innocent people.

But if you are a drug pusher, a drug lord, I'm sorry. I said, I never hid it that I said, "Do not do it there. I will destroy you."

So my orders to the police and the military and to the National Bureau of Investigation, "Destroy our enemies. Destroy the NPAs." I could not be more than emphatic in saying, "destroy". Destroy the drug apparatus and the organization.

I could not be more clear when I'm saying those things. Destroy because if not, then we lose our country.

Too much emphasis or importance for the libertarians about human rights here and there. If you put human rights ahead in premium of values, then one day just like the four million Filipinos and the Philippines, you would lose the dignity --- you erode, derogate the dignity of your fellowmen.

You want it raise to the level and dignity of international demand about human rights. Really? So if you will just allow them sulk, treat them with kid gloves, in the process, you are derogating and maybe eventual destruction of your own society.

We are not the strong men. Nobody is strong in a democratic country. We do it by the rules.

But I said my duty says, "I, Rodrigo Duterte, swear before God and the Filipino people that I will enforce the law against all."

Meth is a merchandise for the poor. They were grossly misappropriated. The rich guys there use cannabis. They use heroin, marijuana, but you know, they are made of

poppies, naturally grown, they're plants. Methamphetamine is a concoction of chemicals.

So that if you are there, you do not go out. Over the years, it would shrink your brain and rehab is no longer possible.

And I said 'yung --- I am angry because they have reduced a number in millions of my people as slaves. Slaves to a drug which cannot be remedied. Slaves to a chemical that will crave for everyday of their lives. They are slaves of shabu.

And if you are the President, what will you do? *[garbled]* Place a premium on human rights and criminals, then you derogate the dignity of your own people.

So with that, I would like to --- if there's any question, I'd be glad to answer. I hope that you'll come sooner. Let me know, I can participate in the building of that structure if you want. Let me hammer the first nail.

I said I await your business with great expectations because of the promise also which correspondingly also increases for jobs for my people. If there's any question, I'd be happy to respond.

Yes, sir?

Q: *[off mic]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Are you talking about business or women? *[laughter]* Our women are also wonderful.

Okay, I'd like to thank you for having the trust in us. You know --- kindly sit down please if you don't have any more question.

Any country has a problem. You've been to America. What do you think?

You know, you have been to the south side of Los Angeles. What do you think? But in my city, you can walk around. When I gave that warning, it's the only city in Mindanao where you can walk around. Walk about every night. And that was what I ordered the police.

Ask your wife and daughter, your beautiful daughter to take a walk all over the city tonight. And if she comes home and your wife unmolested, undisturbed, no disturbance at all, then that is the standard I want for every woman and child in a city.

Those who violate that, I'm sorry. And also, in the movie houses, allow your daughter and wife to use it for anything. And if they go out of that washroom satisfied with the hygiene and the sanitation, that is the standard I want to impose upon you.

You're doing business? You have the money. So I try to make it... I am not trying to pretend or draw emotions here, but it is always to have good leaders who are from --- or at least who tried the life...

I can smell your sentiment and *[garbled]* by just looking at you. You come to the office teary-eyed, then I know the problem. So maybe because of my interaction with different kinds of characters in the years of my entire work.

I could sense it. You are there, you ask question to the witness, and he has all itches around the body. Well, I know that you are concocting in your brain. A lie that you're about to give me.

I know when also to be --- be professional holduppers, professional gun-for-hire, they would now allow the policemen to maul them or even kick them alive.

I know it when you're saying --- when they were caught and they would say they're on the edge, "Did you commit a crime?" "Yes, sir, I did it." What else? "The other crime yesterday and the other day? I was responsible for it. Just do not touch me." Because it's the way of escaping the --- sometimes you get information not really torture but fear.

So they are the professionals, when they answer straightforward. "Are you the one?" "Yes, sir." "What else?" "Many, sir. I can ---" So these are the different kinds of character which I have encountered along the way.

Hopefully, I was able to use it in --- put it to good use. Anything else? Yes, sir?

Q: [off mic] ...projects worth \$800 million in the Philippines.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yeah.

Q: And we're also happy that we won the recent concession contract for the Clark Airport and I'm very happy to tell you that one of the finest countries to work is yours. We've been into multiple countries worth billions of dollar investment, but I should say our local partner Megawide and with your own support from the government side we are very happy and we are looking forward for some more investments in the future. *[applause]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. I thank you for the statement.

You know, I said I'm not so much about --- really keen on the kind of business as long as it's not illegal.

Mine is more of in anticipation of the jobs that are --- so I said I must... I must know of your problems whether it could be the connectivity of the islands there and we will try to do something about it.

The important thing is that you trust and that you return on investment is assured and you can go out with your profits.

I am not interested in that. I'm only interested in my countrymen having work and productive. That is all that is to it actually.

And I thank you for visiting us. Yes, sir?

Q: *[off mic]* I'm the owner of The Farm in San Benito and I've been there now 10 years. It has grown into one of the finest facilities of the world today. It is recognized as the best destination of the world. And it is all thanks to the people of the Philippines. You see, there are such an exceptional *[inaudible]*. The level of service which we can offer from the Philippines is incomparable. And all my staff is my local village staff and they are outperforming anybody, anywhere in the world. I really thank you that you have given me this opportunity. I would invite you to come and see you at The Farm --- is all about. A lot of your friends do come there and please come and spend a few days at The Farm and come and see what The Farm and what a pride in the Philippines is The Farm in San Benito.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Thank you. Just as might as well I feel not so well lately. *[laughter]* But is there life there actually in your --- ? *[laughter]*

Q: *[off mic]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: No, no, you guys. First thing that you should be... I'm sure that you're worried with the Customs and BIR. I have appointed a military man, an ex-military man who used to be chief of police of my city. No problem.

You can just call. We're just a call away. Why do we have to argue with them? Just say it. Okay. Bill me right. You bill me the right amount. I'll pay and that's it. BIR --- look at the books and asking why... And I'll just say, "I'll tell the President about this. Maybe we can have coffee in his office. You, me, and the President."

But be careful. I would be ordering boiling hot water for the coffee and do you know the face that will.. Where the cup of coffee would go.

Anything else? I do not... I am a secret leader. I'm a... They say that I am narcissistic, egoist, whatever. But you cannot do anything, if I am that, then that is me. But at least I do it for my country.

I said any business, any business, just avoid, for foreigners, drugs. Just anything but drugs. And if you smuggle about 5 ships, I might just listen to you and forgive you.

But, again, we're going home.

SEC. LOPEZ: Mister President, maraming maraming salamat po sa inyo.*[applause]*

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: I have to go. I'd like to invite everybody, all of you to Malacañan. You might want an Indian community group of businessmen.

Yes, sir.

Q: [off mic] ...We would be very honored if you could invite our Indian community for our oath-taking in Malacañang anytime in February, sir? Please.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: Yes, I'll take care of the snacks. Yeah. *[laughter]*

Q: Sir, we would also take this opportunity to thank you for coming to India and for your amazing and continued support for the entire Indian community in the Philippines. Maraming maraming salamat po, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: It's my duty. But in Malacañan, we do not serve steaks. It's been my policy, just one viand, one soup, and one cup of rice. *[laughter]*

You cannot order another. It's for --- you overload carbo and then something goes wrong. *[laughter]*

The problem is *[garbled]* the medicines are very cheap. That is also one of the things that I came here for.

Actually I am interested in the pharmaceuticals. So may I have your permission to leave now? *[applause]*

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