

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE CEREMONIAL RE-ENACTMENT OF THE SIGNING OF
BILLS

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall in Malacañan Palace | 16 June 2021]

Kindly sit down. Thank you.

Aside from this prepared speech, babasahin ko kasi in fairness to those who prepared this nag-overtime. I'd like to acknowledge the presence today here the Senate President Vicente Sotto III; House Speaker Lord Allan Velasco; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque; Senate Majority Floor Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri; Senator Bong Go; Senator Emmanuel Joel Villanueva; Senator Ramon Revilla Jr.; Senator Ronald dela Rosa; Senator Francis Tolentino.

I am pleased to join you today as we hold the ceremonial signing of several laws that attest to the fruitful collaboration between the legislative and executive branches of government.

Let me thank the members of Congress for their steadfast efforts in ensuring that my administration's legislative agenda will be translated into relevant policies and programs that will improve the life of every Filipino.

These laws – which open more opportunities for our people to serve in government and enable some of our LGUs to render more efficient and inclusive service – are part of our vision of bringing government closer to the people.

I hope that when both houses of Congress resume sessions this year, priority will be given to the remaining flagship programs of my administration.

And this will include the Comprehensive Tax Reform Program, the Retail Trade Liberalization Act, the Foreign Investments Act, and the Public Service Act.

I ask Congress to act on these legislative measures so that they may be sent back to my desk for signature at the earliest possible time.

As we take more concrete steps to revive our economy and help our people recover from the effects of the pandemic, I hope that more government agencies will foster greater cooperation with each other.

Now, more than ever, we need to follow the whole-of-nation approach in ensuring an inclusive and seamless response to the current challenges facing the nation.

To the Filipino people, let me assure you that your government will continue to pursue measures that will improve and enhance your way of life.

With the help of Congress, I am confident that we can pursue our legislative agenda and create an environment conducive for our people's growth and our nation's progress.

Together, let us remain partners in securing a more promising future for our beloved country and for the next generation.

Magandang araw po sa inyong lahat. *[applause]*

I... Mayroon akong --- let's just loosen up a bit, pulitika ito. There are a lot of people pushing me to run for vice president. It's a good idea I think, particularly if we talk about the drug problem. Until now bilyon --- araw-araw bilyon ang --- hindi na milyon, bilyon na ang nahuhuli. I'm scared, I am not worried, I'm scared for the next generation.

Pero alam... Vice president wala 'yan eh. It's just a flower there until the other wilt. Ngayon, mayroon din akong isang ano hinahabol ko itong pandemic pero that would be taken care of by the next president.

Marami akong --- marami pang iba na hindi ko nagawa. I promised about four things: corruption, I'm doing it. I'm firing people left and right sa gobyerno. Then, I promised criminality. I think that medyo bumaba na ang crimes against the people. Ang isa pa 'yong droga at 'yong, well, the others itong to pursue other infrastructure projects. Iyon ang naiwanan ko na, hindi ko magawa at hindi ko na kontrolado.

But maybe being a vice president would be good except that noong they were jockeying the positions for the so many contenders, si Lord pati si --- ito totohanan, that's a public confession --- si Lord pati si Alan Peter

Cayetano sinabi ko hatiin na lang ninyo. But the problem was there was a serious contender also for the speakership si Congressman Romualdez. Kaya ang deal ko sa kanya ganito: "Huwag ka na lang maghabol diyan and next election, which is just around the corner, if you run for vice president, I will support you." And I will hold on that commitment.

'Pag tumakbo si Romualdez, wala ako. 'Pag hindi tumakbo si Romualdez, wala rin ako siguro. *[laughter]* Everybody wants to --- a good rest after a grueling --- Insha'Allah, makaabot ako sa finish line.

So 'yan ang totoo diyan. So useless itong talking about vice president running. Eh may na limita --- at 'yong kaming dalawa lang 'yon. There were only two of us there at I whispered to him, "Huwag mo na lang galawin tatal ikaw, coming in late ka, coming in from the cold."

Mayroon pa palang greetings na hindi ko --- akala ko isang page lang 'to. Sorry ha, tapusin ko lang ito tapos we go back to the serious business of... Iyon ang ano ko. 'Pag tumakbo si Romualdez, I will support him. Iyan ang pangako --- ipinangako ko. So walang problema. I said, I will honor my word.

Now let me continue the acknowledgments. Bulacan 3rd District Representative Lorna Silverio --- ma'am, I am really sorry na... Tarlac 3rd District Representative Noel Villanueva --- sir, my apologies. Caloocan 1st District Representative Dale Malapitan --- again, sir, mabuti't kilala kita. Nakilala na kita eh. San Jose del Monte City Lone District Representative Florida Robes, ma'am; Masbate District Representative Narciso Bravo; Patrol Partylist Representative Jorge Bustos, sir; Bulacan 4th District Representative Henry Villarica; PNP Chief Police General Guillermo Eleazar, sir; Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando, sir, again, my apologies; BuCor Director General Gerald Bantag, yes, sir; BFP Chief Fire Director Jose Embang Jr.; BJMP Chief Director Allan Iral, yes, sir; Calaca City Mayor Sofronio Leonardo Ona Jr., pleased to meet you, sir; Caloocan City Mayor Oscar Malapitan. At 'yon tapos... Wala na. Tatlong pages pala talaga.

Iyon ang... Balik tayo sa --- we go back to... At nagpapasalamat ako sa tulong ninyo talaga. I am... Ang --- ang politics ko is just a small window, whether I run for president or not. But it is dependent on the word of honor that I gave to Romualdez. Kapag tumakbo siya, count me out. But I will support him because I promised him, para lang ma-break 'yong impasse noon.

So 'yon ang formula namin. Hindi ninyo alam 'yan, hindi ko rin sinasabi sa --
- a few, maybe Bong, because we were talking, we were in the room and I
was talking to him in whisper, sabi ko na, "Atras ka lang muna."

So that is how it is. So maraming salamat po sa inyo again and I hope that
you would have a very productive sessions in the coming days.

Thank you. *[applause]*

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