



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*On the Occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking*

29 July 2015

8:00 am

Quezon Memorial Circle

Quezon City

## **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

by

**LEILA M. DE LIMA**

*Secretary*

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Friends, ladies and gentlemen:

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Salamat po sa pagsama ninyo sa paglakad.

Merong nagsabi sa akin nang ganito: ang tao daw na lakad nang lakad ... merong ... pinagdadaanan.

Sa tingin ko, wala naman kayong pinagdadaanan. At isang bagay ang sigurado ako: wala kayong pinagdadaanan ... pero meron kayong ... pupuntahan.

We may have walked around the Circle ... but we are definitely not walking around in circles.

As far as our campaign against human trafficking is concerned, we know our goal; we are clear about our destination ... and we intend to get there.

A person who merely walks around in circles, walang nararating. Pero tayo, malayo na ang narating. And, precisely, that is one of the reasons why we

are gathered here today – to celebrate the many triumphs; the many victories which you and I have garnered in the fulfillment of our mission.

Our gains have not been unnoticed. Our many wins have been recognized not just by the US State Department, but by the international community as a whole.

But, I guess, such recognition is not as important as the fact that more victims have been rescued; more victims have been given back their lives; more perpetrators of this evil have been arrested, charged and convicted.

What matters is that you have made our country safer ... and our countrymen more free to pursue their dreams without being exploited and victimized by the forces of evil.

For this, they have you to thank for.

On their behalf, let me, therefore, say ... maraming, maraming salamat sa inyo.

Sa atin daw paglalakad, dalawang klaseng tao ang nakakasama natin.

Una, ‘yung mga taong “kasabay”.

Pangalawa, ‘yung mga taong “kaagapay” o “katulong sa paglalakbay”.

First, the mere passers-by. Second are those who journeyed with us and who are part of our journeys.

My friends, in the campaign against human trafficking, we had not been mere passers-by. We chose to embark on this journey. We chose with whom we shall journey. We chose one another, clear in the knowledge that we can rely on each other for strength, for resources, and for the wisdom that comes with experience and the sense of commitment tested by time and conflict.

When I saw the results of the most recent Global Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department wherein Philippines has maintained its Tier 2 ranking, I told myself this: Wow, it has indeed been a powerful and fruitful journey!

The credit belongs to all those who have been part of that journey. I mean ... you. So, to all of you, my most heartfelt congratulations.

Hindi pa tapos ang paglalakbay. Malayo pa ang kailangan nating lakarin.

Tanong ko: meron pa ba kayong energy para ipagpatuloy ang laban?

I don't know about you. But, as for me, I'd walk a thousand miles more ... for the cause we fight for.

Marami pang ibang paglalakbay tayong kailangang gawin. There are many more journeys we have to make ... we have to embark on.

Isang bagay ang malinaw sa akin.

In the journey we shared, you gave me much inspiration. Such inspiration is enough fuel for me for whatever other journeys I still have to make.

Anuman ang susunod kong paglalakbay na gagawin, hindi ko makakalimutan na minsan kong nakasama ang mga matatapang at tapat na kaagapay.

The memory of the journey we shared is the very source of confidence that we can reach our goal no matter what other journeys in public service we are asked by our countrymen to embark on.

Dahil sa inspirasyong 'yan, taos-puso akong nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat.

God bless our beloved nation.

Magandang umaga muli sa inyong lahat.

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