



SOJ VITALIANO N. AGUIRRE II SPEECH

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY @ DOJ

JULY 3, 2017, MONDAY

8:30 a.m.

My fellow public servants, good morning.

Isa pong masagana at pinagpalang umaga sa ating lahat.

Last Friday, June 30, 2017, marked my first year as the steward of our Department. I chose to commemorate the same with a medical mission for my impoverished townmates in our place in the Municipality of Mulanay, Quezon Province. It was my way of saying thanks to the Almighty for all the blessings that He has showered upon me and to give back to the community which nurtured me in my formative years.

Today, I take the opportunity to thank all you, my DOJ Family for helping me, helping us, survive and reach our first year here at our Department.

Foremost, thank you for the welcome you have extended to all of us from the days of the transition to our day of assumption and beyond.

Thank you also for the valuable support, the assistance and the cooperation extended by all involved in our pursuit of President Duterte's reform oriented mandates for our DOJ.

The past 365 days of my stewardship were indeed 365 days of constant challenges. It was a year of learning new things, a year of learning lessons and a year of learning more about ourselves. I must say, it was also a year of constant changes, a year of reforms.

We have made great strides in the direction we want to pursue for the DOJ. And for this, please accept my sincere appreciation for all your help and support.

We have made inroads in the path we want to pursue but I know we can do more, we can give more, we can be more.

More than a year ago, during my first flag ceremony with you, I asked everyone to walk beside me, not in front of me, not behind me, but beside me as we try to better the DOJ. That offer remains.

The offer is even extended to the stubborn few, to the incorrigible ones, to the oppositors of the reforms we have been trying to implement. You have tried to oppose me, you have even tried to depose me. This time around, for a change, try something new. Why don't you try to support me, try to support us. Support us, work with us.

You have tried opposition, let us try cooperation. Who knows, this time around, it might work.

We are in this together. The good results we are trying to achieve will benefit everyone, it will apply to all. Evidently we need the support of everyone. As they say, the rain shall fall on all, the sun shall shine on all. Will you be part of the wheel of change or will you be its roadblock? The choice is yours.

And now for some piece of sunshine.

Today, we officially launch our preparations for DOJ@120, the 120th Year Anniversary of the DOJ. There will be a series of activities that will culminate in our weeklong celebration of this once in a lifetime event. The highlight of our celebration will be our DOJ ball *cum* recognition night on September 29, 2017 with no less than President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

Likewise, we hope, with the Almighty's Providence, to come up with a DOJ Anniversary Bonus that will reflect the efforts and the sacrifices of all. *Magkano bang gusto nyo?*

Also, I am proud to report to all of you that the Philippines has maintained its Tier 1 ranking in the 2017 United States Trafficking in Persons report. This achievement is a proud moment for us because we are cognizant of how challenging it is to maintain such a ranking. However, amidst the challenges, our Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking or IACAT which I chair has persevered and its perserverance has been rewarded. As I told them last year when we first got our Tier 1 ranking after staying in Tier 2 for quite sometime, WE ARE NOW IN TIER 1, LET US STAY IN TIER 1! Congratulations IACAT.

In closing, I enjoin everyone to continue working for a better DOJ. If there is any project or collaboration which you feel can help us as a department, please know that my office is open to you, we are all ears.

Let us continue living honorable lives as public servants. Please live and work in such a way that years from now, when the Filipino people think of integrity, honesty and of exemplary public servants, they will always think of the good men and good women of the DOJ!

As Mark Twain used to say, ALWAYS DO RIGHT, IT WILL GRATIFY SOME PEOPLE AND IT WILL ASTONISH THE REST!

A blessed week ahead to all.

Maraming Salamat po!