

MEDIA INTERVIEW IN BGC, TAGUIG CITY

September 9, 2024

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REPORTER: Sir, good morning po.

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR: Good morning. Good morning.

REPORTER: Nasa kamay na po ng mga awtoridad si Pastor Quiboloy. Ano po ang next step ng administration given, sir, na mayroon tayong extradition treaty with the US?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR: Well, the extradition request is not yet there. Besides the judicial processes that Apollo Quiboloy is going to have to go through now locally still have to be done. Because we have — what has been done is that we have implemented and enforced an arrest warrant that was issued by the court. And therefore, it is now between — it is now in the court's hands, wala na sa Executive ito. Kami sa Executive ang ginawa lang namin in-implement lang namin, in-enforce lang namin ang order ng court. So that is the situation now. We will have to look at that. But for the moment, hindi extradition ang tinitingnan natin. Ang tinitingnan natin ay iyong mga kaso na mga complaint na pinila dito sa Pilipinas at iyon muna ang kailangan niyang harapin. Okay.

REPORTER: Sir, good morning. Sir, ano'ng participation ng Armed Forces of the Philippines? Bakit sila nandoon at bakit sa kanya nag-surrender si Pastor Quiboloy?

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR: Well, ganyan naman talaga. Madalas naman mangyari iyan na may augmentation sa AFP. But let's be very clear, this was a police-led operation. It was a police operation. Kung anuman ang involvement ng AFP diyan ay, as I said, augmentation.

As you can imagine all through these past months na, all the intelligence services were involved. Both in the police, both in the AFP, even our civilian intelligence services kasama lahat iyan para malaman natin ano iyong dapat nating gawin and what are the movements that can be attributed to Apollo Quiboloy, Mr. Quiboloy. At iyan ang — kaya naman may augmentation.

Kung maalala ninyo noong una silang pumasok after 24 hours, 36 hours, hapon-hapo na iyong mga pulis. So, ang ginawa namin para marelyebo naman sila nang kaunti ay nagpadala kami ng sundalo na AFP. That was what? About two and a half weeks ago. Nagpadala tayo ng AFP para mag-augment, makapagpahinga naman iyong mga pulis natin. But eventually when that was okay, noong pwede na naman iyong pulis natin, winidraw na naman natin iyong AFP at ang pulis na naman ang nag-frontline. So, that's a standard procedure dito sa Pilipinas. Madalas naman talaga nating ginagawa iyan.

Well, I think what you all want to know and let me take you through the timeline already what happened here. Over the last two, three weeks, we have been getting messages and feelers — alam niyo naman ito iyong sinasabi magsu-surrender si Mr. Quiboloy basta't mayroon siyang mga condition na kung ano-ano, na sinasabi na kailangan, may promise na hindi siya ipapadala sa Amerika, na hindi ano iyong — at kung ano-ano pa.

At alam naman ninyo hindi naman natuloy iyon dahil hindi naman maaari na iyong fugitive ang nagsasabi kung ano iyong mga kondisyon sa pag-aresto sa kanya. Kaya't walang nangyari doon. Ngunit patuloy, mayroon tayong mga feelers na nakukuha.

At we were very clear to his people, his lawyer specifically, na hindi maaari na may conditions na mayroon siyang ilalagay. At lagi namin sinasabi basta't patuloy lang ang aming gagawin. You have to decide what you want to do but we cannot... We will... We are ordered by the court to enforce this order and that's what we are going to do. And the putting of conditions is not an option for somebody who is actually a fugitive.

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So, this went on back and forth, back and forth for the last two, three weeks. Yesterday, about mga between eight and nine in the morning, we got another message from our contacts na sinasabi handa na raw siya mag-surrender. Sinabi namin, “very good.” Wala nang conditions, wala na iyong mga conditions na dati inilalagay. So, sabi namin, “fine, fine.”

Pero sabi niya sana may presence ng AFP dahil wala daw siyang tiwala sa pulis. So, fine iyon ang ginawa namin. So, that was around na-decide na namin sabi ko by nine o'clock — I cannot remember the precise time — but by nine o'clock yesterday in the morning, I was able to say, “Sige, ituloy niyo na. Agreed to those – agreed to those — to that scenario.” So, and that was it. So, tuloy-tuloy na ang pag-uusap. How do we do it, where it is, where...

At 3:40 in the afternoon of yesterday, lumipad na iyong C-130 papuntang Davao para susunduin na siya. And that is exactly what happened. Pagbaba ng C-130 sa Davao Airport, pinuntahan na nila ang compound at natuloy na iyong kanyang pag-exchange. Dinala siya, sinakay siya sa C-130 para dalhin dito sa Maynila dahil kailangan ang unang naging kaso niya ay Pasig. So, doon muna siya haharap.

And that's essentially the timeline of what happened yesterday. The events after... Things that were not really moving kung hindi doon sa atin na iyon na nga pinasok nga ng pulis iyong compound. Naghuhukay nga tayo dahil ang intelligence natin ay sinasabi talagang nandoon siya. At patuloy iyong aming operation.

So, that is... That was... I think what convinced Mr. Quiboloy na wala na, useless na iyong magtago siya, na dapat lumabas na siya. And so... Well, I'm happy that — I'm glad that this is over. We can now resolve and look at the allegations that have been made against him.

We have to — I have to commend our PNP. This is police work at its best. This is what the PNP can do 'pag led well at maganda ang ating pagkakaunawa at pag-coordinate sa iba't ibang ahensya. But this is what policemen do. They go after and enforce court orders and go after those who have been — those who have had cases filed against them.

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At nakita natin desidido ang ating mga pulis at ang instruction ko sa kanila itong last time, sinabi ko “pagpasok natin, huwag na kayong aalis diyan

hangga't makuha na ninyo siya." And that's exactly what they did. Nakita niyo naman.

You know this is... We had to engage so many parts of the agencies, mga technical, iyong mga intelligence services, lahat ay kasama lahat iyan. But it was in the end a — it was a police action that brought Apollo Quiboloy to the arms of the law.

The question that is being asked kagabi pa hanggang ngayon, "Nag-surrender ba o nahuli?" I think that is a legal question. Pero ganito ang iniisip ko, hindi siya lilitaw kung hindi namin hinabol ng husto.

Ang pagkaintindi ko ang pag-surrender, 'pag sinabing surrender, I don't know maybe the legalist can explain this, ngunit ang pagkaintindi ko, ang surrender kapag wanted ka, ang surrender pupunta ka sa police station o sa ewan ko, sa prosecutor, I don't know kung saan. To an official authority, sasabihin "nagsu-surrender na ako, alam ko may court order, may arrest order na ako kaya't magsu-surrender na ako." Hindi ganyan iyong nangyari. Ang nangyari napilitan siyang lumabas dahil malapit na ang pulis sa kanya.

To his credit, ang sabi niya iyong mga follower niya magpapakamatay para sa kanya at ayaw niyang mangyari iyon. So to his credit, that — he was still displaying a modicum of leadership to his followers.

Kaya naman, again, I will stress it was a very — how do we say — involved police action, augmented of course by the AFP, augmented by the civilian arms of government. But it was, once again, it was really through the efforts of what our policemen did. And once again, I stressed that walang — kung mayroon mang nasaktan ay may galos lamang, may sugat lamang. No major injuries. Siguro sa tulakan, sa girian. Ngunit wala namang nasaktan, wala namang namatay, walang nabaril dahil walang... Uulitin ko, lahat ng pumasok sa KOJC compound, lahat ng tao natin ni isa doon ay may dalang baril. Wala sa kanilang may dalang baril. Dahil hindi mo na malaman eh, kung may dalang baril iba iyong nagiging usapan. Ang instruction ko sa kanila, wala akong gustong masaktan. Hindi ko namang gustong saktan iyong mga member ng KOJC dahil tinutulungan lang nila iyong kanilang sinusundan na leader. Kaya ba't natin sila sasaktan? Ba't pa tayo magdadala ng baril? So, ganoon na lang.

And so, again, this is how it should be done. You can do this without hurting anyone. You can do this without shooting anyone. That is what police work is meant to be. And this is police work at its best.

Kaya congratulations sa lahat ng ating mga kapulisan, iyong na-involve, iyong behind the scenes na na-involve. Ang ating Chief PNP ay talagang all the time ay araw-araw nagre-report sa akin. Sometimes two, three times a day, kung ano iyong na — ano iyong mga pangyayari doon sa Davao.

So, it is really with some relief that I can say that at least this part, this phase of that operation is now over. And we now leave Mr. Quiboloy to the judiciary, to the judicial system. And siyempre babantayan natin na tama naman ang mangyayari na lahat ng kanyang karapatan, walang nasasagasaan doon sa karapatan niya. Wala namang ibabalewala sa kanyang kahilingan kung anuman iyon. But again, there is no special treatment.

Although he is a very prominent person. Actually, hindi na kung— kahit na may magsabi na gawin natin special treatment, hindi namin alam gawin iyon eh. We don't know how, what special treatment is.

So, we will treat him like any other arrested person and we'll respect his rights, and we will go through the process. The process will be transparent. Everyone who is involved will be accountable. And we will demonstrate, once again to the world, that our judicial system in the Philippines is active, is vibrant, and is working well.

All right? Thank you.

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BAGONG PILIPINAS