

Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE OATH-TAKING OF NEWLY PROMOTED GENERALS AND FLAG
OFFICERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND STAR RANK
OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace, Manila | 11 March 2020]

Kindly sit down as I deliver a short speech.

I've been told to --- masyado naman takot itong corona na ito. They are discouraging long meetings and large congregation. Naniwala pala kayo. Sus.

You know if I heard correctly, the health minister of Japan and Abe tested positive for...

Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año and other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go; our newly promoted officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

It is an honor to stand here today as I speak before the most valiant men and women in uniform in our country.

First, I congratulate all of you for adding another accolade in your achievements as officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

With the many challenges that the world is facing today, we need soldiers like you who are always ready to fight for our motherland's sovereignty, defend the honor of our country, and secure the liberties of our people that we enjoy.

May this significant milestone in your respective careers serve [not just] as a celebration of your personal and professional achievements, but also [as] a reminder of your sworn duty to serve this country and its people.

As [you take on a] more challenging role in public service, I am confident that you will remain dedicated and committed in the performance of your respective duties.

Let me assure you that this administration stands behind you and will fully support and provide you with the tools and resources that you and your men will need to be able to fulfill your mandate.

Indeed, fighting the ills that plague our country is a daunting task that we must continue to do if we are able to realize our shared vision of a safer and stronger Philippines for every Filipino.

With your patriotism and bravery --- may I repeat --- with your patriotism and your bravery, I am optimistic that we will be able to achieve our goals and truly serve our people. In solidarity, let us take further strides towards securing a more inclusive and progressive tomorrow for the Republic of the Philippines.

Once again, congratulations at mabuhay kayong lahat! [applause]

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