

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH
OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY
"ALAB-TALA" CLASS 2018

[Delivered at Philippine Military Academy, Baguio City |
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Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

To the troop commander, could you give tikas pahinga order?

Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo, ma'am, *[applause]* magkaibigan man kami ni ma'am *[laughter]*; the National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet; AFP Chief of Staff General Rey Leonardo Guerrero and major service commanders, officials, faculty members and staff of the Philippine Military Academy; PMA Superintendent Lieutenant General Donato San Juan; Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines led by the "Alab-Tala" graduating class of 2018; Mayor Domogan of Baguio, nice to see you, sir; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Pangalawa ko siguro 'to na ano. Medyo mahaba, marami kasi kayo.

Next time I think that if the program would exceed two hours, after one hour may intermission muna tayo. *[laughter and applause]*

Ako na lang ang magdala ng mga singer 'yung... *[laughter]* Well, anyway I am really as proud as you to be there with you during this occasion.

You know, ayaw ko na lang rin magsalita but now --- at no other time except maybe one president that we have addressed the problem of the Armed Forces of the Philippines profoundly.

And because I would want that before I get out of the presidency, I would have left behind a strong Armed Forces and PNP simply because these troubles now that we are facing will not disappear within the next four to seven to 10 years. *[applause]* Kailangan ko talaga nang matatag na sundalo pati pulis.

I do not deliver speeches reading, hindi ako mahilig nito. Pero sa kahaba-haba nito, dito na lang ako sa three pages. *[laughter]* If I ramble on, I am prone to, you know, talk just about anything that enters my --- grey matters between the ears --- eh matatagalan tayo.

At hala ala-una na. *[laughter]* May pagkain dito o pagkatapos? You have boodle fight naman?

My heartfelt congratulations to the graduates of PMA "Alab-Tala" Class of 2018. *[applause]* I join your families and your friends in celebrating this important milestone in your young careers.

From your humble beginnings --- the epitome 'yung bar ninyo --- as applicants to your final days as cadets, every day in the academy has not been easy. Your courage and bravery have been tested numerous times but despite all of these trials, you have emerged victorious and ready to take on bigger challenges ahead.

As you leave the halls of PMA and enter your chosen branches of service, you will be faced with realities that are far more complex than what you have been prepared for. Mistakes will always be inevitable but have confidence in knowing that the rules of the academy have honed you for the responsibilities that await you as you assume leadership roles in the armed forces.

You have been equipped with the knowledge and skills to excel but how far can you go will depend greatly on the discipline and determination and faith.

Remember always the three words that have been ingrained deeply in your hearts—courage, integrity and loyalty. Embody these words and use them to guide your actions throughout your careers.

As you dedicate your life in the service of God, country and people, know that the Armed Forces of the Philippines has the government's full support. *[applause]*

With the approval of Joint Resolution (JR) No. 1, the increase in base pay of military and uniformed personnel has been authorized which will also result to an increase in bonuses and allowances.*[applause]*

The administration is also working to implement the Second Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization Program (RAFPMP) wherein priority projects are currently in several stages of completion to ensure that our men and women in uniform are provided the benefits and armed with the equipment to perform their duties effectively.

To the "Alab-Tala" Class of 2018, this achievement is only the beginning of the many future successes. May you continue to become a source of strength and inspiration to your fellow soldiers and instruments of meaningful change in our society.

The Filipino people look up to you as the protectors of our nation and the next leaders of tomorrow.

Again, congratulations to the graduates at mabuhay kayong lahat! *[applause]* Congratulations and I am happy.

It's the order for pardon. *[laughter]* Nandito, eh 'di tanungin ko muna ano ang kasalanan nila, pareho ba sa akin? Your sins are like me? Well...

This is the Republic of the Philippines pardon of punishment. In observance to the time-honored tradition of the Philippine Military Academy on the occasion of the graduation of PMA "Alab-Tala" Class 2018, I, Rodrigo R. Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines and Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of the Philippines, hereby pardon all outstanding punishments of the upperclass men.*[laughter]* 2CL, 3CL and 3CL of the Cadet Corps of --- karami naman nitong kasalanan nito --- *[laughter]* Armed Forces of the Philippines as recommended by the Superintendent PMA effective today.

Granted in this 18th Day of March, in the year of our Lord 2018 at PMA General Gregorio Aguinaldo --- well, Del Pilar --- kasi napasok ako doon sa Aguinaldo kanina eh --- Baguio City. So I sign.*[applause]*

Well, the next time after this wala na akong pardon. *[laughter]* But let me just also add just a simple sentence.

I will never allow, ever allow anybody be it the police, military, armed forces or the uniformed policemen... You know, this modern trend of neo-libertarians, mas marunong pa sa atin.

But anyway, sabi ko nga huwag kayong matakot. Just do your duty in accordance with law, ako na ang bahala sa inyo. *[applause]*

Eh 'yang mga buang na 'yan noon pa 'yan when I was mayor. When I was investigated 'yung nasa... Ayaw ko namang... Babae, ayaw kong makipag-away. *[laughter]*

Basta I was invited by the one Alston --- Philip Alston, rapporteur, when I was... Walang findings then itong kaibigan ko, eh hindi ko namang kasalanan 'yang nandiyan siya sa loob, Secretary of Justice, Secretary of --- senator... Ilang beses na ako na-imbestiga wala naman.

Itong mga g*** itong puti sa EU, 'yan sila ang pumasa... You know why? Sabihin ko sa inyo, they are doing it in the atonement for their sins. Bale they are pardoned for the many years of brutality that they inflicted.

In the Middle East, they took so much of the oil, they increased their productivity and made the country rich. While leaving the poor Arabs to fight against one another. They divided the Middle East, sila-sila lang.

And look what happened. You go to Iraq on a pretext of mass destruction weapons, wala; and you destroyed the country. So with Gaddafi. Nandiyan naman kayo noon. And he was taken out - -- so it's a fractured country.

Itong mga miyembro ng ano --- tayo lang Cambodia pati Leste Timor. At sinabi ko it's my... Eh sabi ko sa kanila mas bright ako sa kanila, ayaw lang nila maniwala eh. *[laughter]* Eh totoo.

Noon pa 'yan kasi iniimbestigahan pa nila akong mayor, I already studied my lesson by way of defend... Ang sinabi ko, you will not have jurisdiction over my person not within one million years.

Kaya malakas ang loob ko sabi ko magtrabaho lang kayo, ako na ang bahala. Eh hindi naman nila ako. Eh walang jurisdiction eh.

Isyu lang diyan is publication. The rule in a democracy is ignorance of the law excuses no one. So how do you remedy the situation so that we will know everything to know --- so that we will not be considered ignorant of the law excuses no one?

Iyong treaty if you read it, it's all b***, 'di bale b*** na lang para walang... *[laughter]*

It is clearly a criminal law. If you read it there is the commissioning of ICC, the judges, then there is the ICC prosecutors; and the definition of the crimes and the penalty attached to the crimes.

Now our rule in this jurisdiction is i-publish mo talaga para hindi ma-ignorante 'yung tao. Because if it is not published, you cannot tell me now that ignorance of the law excuses no one. It has to be published in the Official Gazette. That is the publication of the government.

Ang mga g*** pinirmahan ng presidente, ni-ratify ng Senate, dumiretso sa Rome agreement at inattach na nila 'yung membership natin, without passing the critical publication.

It is there in the publication sa Official Gazette, when you are now put on constructive notice that there is a law as such. Hindi mo kasi mabigyan ng isang kopya ang Pilipino eh.

So ang ginawa by force of law, when it is published in the Official Gazette, it becomes a law. Now, if there is no publication in people kaso na --- Tuvera vs. Tañada --- Supreme Court, it is fatal especially a criminal law.

Iyong treaty na 'yan is purely a criminal --- it does not talk of anything else but of the court, the prosecution, pati 'yung definition ng crimes and the penalties. It must be published.

Ngayon alam ko 'yan nasa Davao pa ako, pinag-aralan ko na. You know... Pabilibin natin sila. Kayo hindi ko na kayo pinapabilib, magkakampi tayo.

Nandito tayo sa gobyerno. I'm not asking for any nurturing of loyalties, wala ako niyan. Trabaho lang.

Alam mo kasi 'pag hindi ko ginawa 'yan damay lahat. Kaya sinabi ko sa inyo it was not really intended to... Sabi ko, "all of you, shut up". Kasi kung mag-ganun maraming...

Pagdating ng mga imbestigador, may magkamali talaga diyan na commander sa base or... Sabi ko, "tumahimik kayo para ako lang mag-isa 'yan, hindi ako magkamali." Kasi alam ko ang depensa ko.

Sabi ko ganun, a few days before, "you will never have jurisdiction over my person, not in a million years."

Sabi naman nitong isang mga ugok, mga senador pa, that it would take about one year bago ma-effective 'yang withdrawal. Sus nako, ewan ko kung saan tayo aabot nito.

You know, if it is not a published, there is no law. So there is no reason to withdraw something which is not existing. Walang batas eh. If you cannot prosecute me kasi walang batas, with more reason mag...

Ang sinabi ko lang "withdraw" simply because to announce to the world and I will convince everybody now who are under the treaty sa IC --- get out, get out, bastos 'yan.

It is not a document that was prepared by anybody, it's an EU-sponsored. Itong mga 'to 'nung pumunta sila Africa, pinagpapatay nila 'yung mga Arabs, lahat na, dito 'yung massacre sa Marawi, it is really an atonement for their sins sa...

Tapos ang hinahabol nila either itim pati sa lahat marami namang problema, nakikialam pa. My orders are and to you until now, we have been swallowed with drugs. Ang ating mga anak are in jeopardy. If I renege now, mag-atras ako, I would have compromised and placed them in jeopardy itong generation na ito pati 'yung mga anak natin.

Kailangan tapusin ko 'to para mawala na. Hindi ko naman sinasabi ako lang ang may kaya. Pero well, my experience is Davao. Bakit sa Davao wala? Walang snatcher, wala maglakad ka doon. Kasi...

Kasi 'yung media kung sabihin mo ang totoo, sabihin man niya 'yan doon sa... Eh 'di magsabi lang tayo ng bakak, mag-lie tayo. Ewan ko kung nasaan na 'yung mga criminals sa Davao.

Sinabi ko sa kanila, "do not destroy my city, do not destroy the youth of the land." When I became President I told them, I and the criminals, "do not destroy my country, do not destroy the youth of the land. Ang sabi ko sa pulis pati sa inyo because sa --- 'yung declaration of national security threat sa drugs is not mine.

Pirmado ni Arroyo 'yon. Hindi akin 'yan. Binigyan ko ng platform. Wala pang nahuli noon. Kung hindi ako nag-Presidente hindi maglabasan 'yung mga p*.

Kita mo doon by the hundreds of thousands, hindi ka na naawa sa bayan mo? And you have destroyed a segment of a society and made them slaves to a chemical drug that everyday when it rides on their back, 'pag magkati na, they have to look for it --- they have to have a fix.

Kaya 'pag walang pera because commodity sa shabu is for the poor. Malakas na ang pasok ngayon ng cocaine. 'Yan ang problema nating bago.

So we are trying to connect if the cartel of Mexico is involved in this. Patayan 'yan sigurado. Na itong sabihin mo, "bakit si Duterte mga..." No.

It's a... It does not work na... Lahat ng drug operation is always organized crime. May magluto, may mga distributors, then lieutenants, pati 'yung basurero --- the basurero is the street peddlers.

Now if they are there playing shabu and you get killed at mahirap ka, sorry, wala akong magawa sa iyo.

Because the law... My oath of office says that "I, Rodrigo Duterte, should enforce the law against all who are liable."

Hindi naman sinabi, "I, Rodrigo Duterte would only kill the rich and make the poor live because they are poor." That's not a good law. It is not a good law. It is not...

No person shall be denied of the equal protection clause of the Constitution. Kung mayaman ka, mayor ka, eh bakit? Maliit ba 'yang mayor? Noon, "where's the big fish? Where's the big fish?"

Tapos 'yung big fish --- hanapan ako, "bakit sinalvage si ano, mayor?" Walang katapusan 'to.

So tayo trabaho lang. Trabaho lang kayo lahat. In war, we are facing ISIS. It will never end in about five years from... Meron pang drugs, then the... You have to worry. You know you have plenty of work to do.

Hindi ako naawa sa inyo but I can see that the sacrifice in the coming days that you have to bear for the country. Kaya kinakausap ko kayo isa-isa. Can you do this for me? Ba't naman ako magsasabi?

Stay with the Constitution, stay in the chain of command, love the Filipino people that you serve. I never mentioned my name. I do not want to nurture 'yung mga loyalty, loyalty. Nako-kornihan ako diyan. After my time I will go.

If there is a perfect --- perfected constitution by 2020, I'm announcing it to you now, aalis na ako. I will not wait for 2022. Sibat na ako kung may federal government.

Pero kailangan kong tapusin ito kasi nga nakita ko dumami itong ganito at ganito lumabo ang problema because walang ginawa. Alam ninyo 'yan. Every Filipino knows na walang ginawa. Hinayaan ninyo 'yung problema lumaki.

Remember 'yung mga service commanders we had a Command Conference, I was the first one who told them, "there is a darkening clouds there." And sabi ko 'yung ISIS on the dot.

You do not address anybody here by any other name, Mautes noon. They are all ISIS Philippines now; and they are very brutal.

We, we are bound by the rules of government but I will not allow this country to go down. Maski na sabihin nila 'yang extrajudicial, extra... What's extrajudicial? Wala namang crime na extrajudicial. Not in our books anyway.

Maybe 'yung definition nila but the problem is they forgot to... Ngayon sabi nila i... O sige i-publish natin. Na nabuang na. T**** j**, ako nga dito na ginagawa ko na lahat ang what is legal and right, ako pa ang binababoy ngayon.

Sabi ko some people here cannot accept defeat. Ako I'm not into... Huwag kayong maniwala niyang ano... If I overstay for one minute you arrest me and...

Saan ba 'yung firing range ninyo? Doon ninyo ako tatapusin. Pero gusto ko i-reenact natin 'yung kay Rizal. *[laughter]* Iyong superintendent dito mag parang pari, chaplain, i-bless niya ako bago ako mag...

What's the problem? We all die. It's only once. Mabuti sana it does... It is not like a sore thumb that sticks out painfully every night. Isang beses lang 'yan. So we enjoy it when it comes.

Huwag ninyo akong takutin ng... Sus... Basta trabahao lang kayo, akong bahala, akong bahala. *[applause]*

Kung illegal, alam naman ninyo kung anong illegal. Illegal 'yung mag-asawa tapos hiwalayan. *[laughter]* Tapos mag-asawa ulit. Tapos tatakbo pa ng Presidente. Pag-abot --- pagdating doon sa Malacañan, dalawang asawa ang nandoon.

Ayaw mo pa 'yan? May reser... 'Yung sakyanan mismo may reserba. Bakal lang 'yan pati tao pa? *[laughter]* Maryosep uy. Karaming... Pilipino pa. Hindi, no really, kay baka nakikinig 'yung nanununtok.

You will also have a chance to meet Inday. Class... Ewan ko sino ang nag-adopt niyan. Ah kayo? Nanununtok 'yan. Kay Lactao? May bagong anak 'yan sabi ni Lactao, "Ma'am, pumayat ka na ah." Eh 'di ba tambok 'yan. Sinuntok si Lactao. Hmm.

But she's also an adopted class. Ako '67. Wala na ang mistah ko. *[laughter]* Is there anybody from Class '67, I just like to... *[Sir!]* Ah, ayos tayo. Okay tayo.

Then I will say it's about time that we leave the grounds. Thank you for inviting me and good luck. *[applause]*

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