

Presidential Communications Office

Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF**  
**PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**  
**DURING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)**  
**CHANGE OF COMMAND**  
**AND**  
**RETIREMENT CEREMONY FOR**  
**PDG RONALD M. DELA ROSA**

**[Delivered at Grandstand, PNP Transformation Oval, Camp Crame, Quezon City | 19 April 2018]**

Thank you. Kindly be seated.

And before I --- reminded by somebody. [unclear] Can you give the tikas pahinga to the troops?

Before acknowledging everybody and anybody, I'd like to just issue a warning, not give, but issue talaga. That kayong mga pulis nasa droga, nasa kidnap for ransom. Kung ano-anong krimen na pinapasok ninyo. Pagdating ninyo sa Bilibid, ang sasalubong sa inyo ay si Dela Rosa. [applause] Kuha niyo 'yan?

At sir, bago ko makalimutan kasi I'm reading a speech. I'd like to address myself to General Albayalde. Sir, you do not owe anybody anything for what you achieved in your life. It's your credentials.

At kung may papasalamatan ka, 'yung Diyos which gave you the life until now to survive the rigors of your occupation as a law enforcer at ang --- the most telling sir na recommendation or endorsement, maniwala ka o hindi, galing sa kapwa mo pulis.

'Yung sinabi ko sa kanila, tinatanong ko po, "sinong gusto ninyong pumalit kay Bato?" "I..." Sabi ko, "ito si Albayalde, anong istilo nito?" "Sir, sir, huwag 'yan sir. Masyadong mahigpit at istrikto. Mahihirapan kami."

Sabi ko, "ah ganun." Balik ako kay Bong, "Bong, tawagan mo si Medialdea. Siya ang magiging bagong director general sa police. [applause]

O ayan. Wala na kayong masabi sa akin. Pinagbigyan ko kayo. Sabi niyo, huwag 'yan kasi istrikto pahirapan kayo at nagb\*-b\*\*\*\*\* na tao. Tama 'yan. Trabaho lang, pati sundalo kayo.

There's a --- [your?] different, [your?] different status from the other. Iba ang sundalo. Sundalo 'yang trabaho niya 'yan actually.

So it says that the Constitution, civilian in nature. But that does not remove from you from --- the commands, the layer of commands and everything that a soldier should follow. So 'yun 'yun.

So I'd like to recognize the presence of the President Fidel V. Ramos; Excellencies of the diplomatic corps; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Interior and Local Government Secretary Año; the AFP members of --- the general staff Carlito Galvez and the major commanders; the others members of the Cabinet; former Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa, now director of prisons [applause].

Marami akong problema actually sa prison, even today. In 1988, I was prosecuting drug cases as an ordinary prosecutor. It was in the headlines then, drugs.

It's now 2018 and to this... the broadsheets, mga newspaper natin and the crawlers ng mga TV stations, nandiyan lahat. May pinatay ng durugista and even now, I can bet my life na ang newspaper ngayon is all about drugs.

It is everyday and it is eroding the country. If we do not strive to put a stop to it, destroy and neutralize the infrastructure of drugs and the men and women behind it, we would have failed the nation.

At wala po akong masabi if I retire to complete my term, paano ko harapin ang mga tao? Kung saan-saan na lang ang droga na binebenta dito sa mga sari-sari store.

It cannot happen. I said, I will put a stake my life, honor, and the presidency itself. This fight of destroying drugs and the organized crime will continue until my last day in office.

The officers and enlisted personnel and civil employees of the Philippine National Police; fellow workers in government; mga kababayan ko.

It gives me great pleasure to join you today as we pay tribute to Director General Ronald Dela Rosa's exemplary career as a police officer and his successful tour of duty as Chief of the [Philippine] National Police.

Through his visionary leadership, General Dela Rosa was able to steer our police force to great heights in the past 21 months.

The unprecedented accomplishments of the PNP in this period attest to his determination to implement reforms and bring the organization closer to the people.

During his tenure as Chief PNP, he oversaw an impressive 22 percent decrease in the total crime volume nationwide and a 10 percent improvement in the crime solution efficiency rate compared to the preceding [21]-month period.

This is highlighted by the PNP's notable contributions to the anti-illegal drug operations which led to the arrest of more than 130[,000] suspects, the voluntary surrender of more than 1.2 million drug personalities, and the confiscation of 23 billion pesos worth of illegal drugs.

I also note General Dela Rosa's crusade [of] cleaning the ranks of the PNP from within. Through his internal cleansing efforts, we're able to weed out scallwags who have been hampered --- who have long hampered the efficiency of our police force.

I am happy, we were able to --- that more than 85 percent of the police officers who were also tested positive [for illegal drugs] have been dismissed from the service.

We also salute the gallantry of our elite SAF troopers who joined our military offensives in Marawi last year.

Their display of extraordinary bravery and heroism against extremist groups who sought to sow fear and violence in Mindanao is truly laudable.

Alam mo, let me just cut myself for a moment to announce to you that the other day, I placed the honor of the 24... 44 rather of the SAF troopers who died in Mamasapano. I granted them the Medal of Valor. All of them. [applause]

I take this moment to emphasize that this administration will never allow the sacrifice of our police officers to be taken for granted.

This government will give its full support to our uniformed personnel by enhancing their capabilities, modernizing their equipment, promoting their welfare and take care of their families.

Ito sasabihin ko sa'yo uli: You listen very carefully. Every word of it. You just do your duty, in the performance of your duty, wala kayong problema sa akin and I will take care of you. And I will protect you and defend you. Lahat.

Mag-trabaho ka lang in accordance with the requirements of the law in destroying and perhaps killing the criminals, I will be there for you.

I will never, never allow any military man or police to go to jail unjustly for performing his duties. [applause] That you have my commitment.

In return, I ask the brave men and women of the PNP to continue performing their duties well, especially as we further intensify our war against criminality, illegal drugs, terrorism, and other threats to the security of our nation, our communities, our homes and our families.

As we bid farewell to General Dela Rosa, I enjoin the entire police force to stand behind --- he is a good choice, I assure you, the chief of --- the new PNP Chief, Director Oscar Albayalde.

I am confident that through his leadership, we can further build [on] our gains and create a more peaceful, just and [harmonious]... harmonious rather society.

Congratulations to General Dela Rosa and good luck and welcome to your office General Albayalde! [applause]

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