

**Presidential Communications Operations Office  
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF  
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE  
DURING THE 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE**

[Delivered at the Colonel Jesus Villamor Air Base in Pasay City | 02 July  
2019]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; the National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon and other members of the Cabinet; honorable members of the Senate; General Benjamin Madrigal Jr., Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines; Lieutenant General Rozzano Briguez and other major service commanders; the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines... Ang staff ko may nagkulang kayo --- to Senator Bong Go, sir, to Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, sir; the other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen

I am glad to join the men and women of the Philippine Air Force as we celebrate its 72<sup>nd</sup> Founding Anniversary. On behalf of the Filipino people, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to our military personnel and civilian employees for your selfless service to the nation.

I acknowledge your unwavering commitment to your sworn duty to protect our territorial lines of defense through aerial reconnaissance and maritime patrol missions in the West Philippine Sea and of course which is really ours --- the Philippine Rise. Also noteworthy are your efforts in securing [the] Malampaya Natural Gas Plant off the coast of Palawan, which is ours.

Our Air Force has been instrumental in the success of our government's efforts in providing rescue and relief operations to areas devastated by calamities, in the aerial observation of calamity-stricken in --- also in airlifting of the assisting personnel, victims and relief goods.

Let me take this opportunity to acknowledge your very crucial role in our military's internal security operations by providing air assets and close

personnel support to your ground troops during engagements with the Abu Sayyaf and other local terrorist groups.

I assure you that this administration will continue to pursue all efforts to enhance your capabilities against these threats through modernization and capacity building initiatives such as the Military Pilot Training and your conduct for all qualified student officers, thereby assuring a strong future for our Air Force. *[applause]*

On modernization, I am pleased to know that the acquisition of an Air Defense Radar System and an FA-50PH flight simulator earlier this year will be supplemented by the expected delivery of six A-29B Super Tucano Aircraft and another Air Defense Surveillance [Radar] System.

The Philippine Air Force will also receive substantial assets – 16 projects [worth] over 139 billion [pesos] – from the Second Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization [Program]. This includes the procurement of utility vehicles, drones and other command & control fixed-wing aircraft, among others.

If I may just go out of... I am hoping and praying that before my remaining three years will expire, that all of these things especially the labelled "Horizon Projects" of yours will be completed during my term. *[applause]*

I want to leave the office of the presidency with an assurance to myself that I leave the functions, pass it on to the next whoever he will be, na sana naman he will also take care of the requirements of the Armed Forces because it is a continuing one. And during my time, I have never said "no" to any of the commanders and to Delfin Lorenzana at kay Secretary Esperon. All the things that they wanted for our Armed Forces pati ang pulis. *[applause]*

Gusto ko lang kumpletuhin 'yan baka ang susunod sa akin would not be a fellow of like-minded. Kanya-kanya ang tao eh. He might have other priorities.

I am not saying that we have exceedingly plenty of money. But God has been kind to us. We have almost --- the thing --- ah the money or the things that we need that are immediate and urgent.

Alam ko na 'yung backlog sa back pay amounts to a trillion. You know I will leave you with a statement. Maybe you'll remember me when I'm no longer around: That unless we have law and order in this country, every corner of

it; at for as long as na wala tayong katapusan sa graft and corruption, walang mangyari sa bayan na `to.

I tell you even if you give me fives terms gratis, and the system remains and the practice of corruption which is already embedded in all of the government structures --- every table there --- basta dadaan ang papel, meron talagang kalokohan. Hindi naman lahat pero karamihan.

It's almost a plague already affecting our country for so many decades. From one administration to the other.

There was this meeting last night with the Cabinet members here present. Sinabi ko talaga sa kanila: "I do not want delay. Delay is what is eating, eroding this government."

Pagka pabalik-balikin mo `yung tao even the Register of Deeds or Civil Registrar sa birth certificate, nandoon talaga `yung little corruption. Ang malaki dito sa itaas.

As I have told you before pichi lang `yang sa baba. The corruption lies in the higher echelons of government. But I can say to you that the Cabinet members, most of them of late, are almost all military men retired. Why? Kasi gusto ko tingnan ninyo. Because I know that the Armed Forces and the Police will have to decide one day somehow. Do not do it please during my term.

I told you before all you have to do kung ayaw ninyo ako, do not bring your weapons and mechanized armors there. Just call me and we'll have coffee and I am ready to say, "It's yours for the taking."

Kasi `pag ganito palagi there has to be a point. Of what generation mauubos `yung pasensiya, I really cannot tell.

It behooves upon me to be prudent. I am not egging anyone to go violent or... But there must be some junction there sa --- in the life of a Filipino whether in this generation or in the next generation that you will have to decide because there is really a need for change.

I tried. Somehow, I succeed. Other things, I failed because of distraction. Nakatali tayong lahat. Pareho kayo. You can **only** do so much here. You cannot complain over that boundary.

As President, I can go hard but there's always the injunction. Itong mga korte minsan. I hope you would stop the practice of issuing injunctions, lalo na sa mga kasong criminal.

Do not --- do not as a matter of course. There has to be a --- not only a semblance, a clear and convincing evidence before you issue left and right, stopping this --- a government... Do not do that. Do not hurry up things because I know it is always, pera-pera 'yan.

Injunctions are really for free. Either stopping or prohibiting a government entity or persons from doing it or a mandamus compelling us to do something which we think are really, really very wrong.

I'm on my last three years and I would just like to --- two things. We'll have to destroy the enemy. There is war. And I said, over and over again for the nth time before so many crowds: Do not destroy my country because I will kill you. Do not destroy the youth of this land for bec --- we need them for the tomorrow of the Republic of the Philippines.

Do not reduce the society of ours to a level of inutility that most of the Filipinos are contaminated and cannot do anything because once their brains are blasted out of reality, they become criminals in their craving. And when the monkey rides on their back, we compound the problem of an addict which has to be taken care of, of a criminal which we have to decide whether to kill or not and the family left behind.

So the human rights must be able to understand beyond the life of a carcass there lying, of a criminal. And me --- you want me to worry about the psychological, social, political, economic impact of what's happening?

There are plenty of dysfunctional families. If the head of the family goes and most of them are poor, the family collapses. It becomes dysfunctional. And if they are studying, they no longer go to school and the children are forced to marry at a young age because they have to survive.

Thereby, not only compounding but multiplying what would be --- what ails this country. It's not all human rights for a criminal. It's the human rights of the living persons behind of one who is alive but is dead to the world; and the misery, the miseducation, the hunger, and all of these things. And you worry a son of a b\*\*\*\* who is there because he's a criminal.

Telling you, I said before do not destroy this country, you will end up in a cemetery. That I can assure you. Not during my watch. Not during my time. Just wait for three years. I'm addressing myself not only the audience now, but I'm addressing myself to the nation because the guys there at the back are streaming this event maybe live.

Time and again I said: Do not force my hand into it. I'm warning you. I can take personal insults. The taxi drivers and all of those guys there outside, they can always say, "P\*\*\*\* i\*\* Duterte, he's a good for nothing President." I will accept that.

But when it comes to the welfare of my country. You know my oath of office, I will just summarize it into two sentences. I took my oath of office before God and the people of the Republic of the Philippines. Simple. One, I have to protect the people. It's a sacred duty. Two, I have to preserve the integrity of the nation.

Kaya kayong mga Abu Sayyaf, kayong mga --- the Abu Sayyaf are --- you are a bunch of criminals. You do not have an ideology and you have corrupted your religion. Do not give me that s\*\*\* because like you I am far more.

That is not the way the teachings of Islam and Allah wants it to be. Kayong mga drug addicts, do not destroy my country, I said. Do not destroy the youth. Kasi karamihan dito sa atin, you know?

How much do you receive when you retire? Ako wala, sa GSIS lang. I do not have any retire --- presidents have no retirement. Pero kayo, the disadvantage for you is that you have to retire at 56. I know from... Alam ko because I'm almost a part of a...

My father was governor for two terms and I had a close rapport with the soldier, PC, 'yung mga security niya and the army in Mindanao. Alam ko, nakikita ko 'yung ano, provincial guards.

You know, at 56... You marry late then because of your duties you try to limit the number of your children which is also very commendable. But sometimes when you retire, ang anak ninyo nandiyan pa minsan sa high school or in the early years of college.

You think that the salary, the pension that you receive will last you until kingdom come? How do you long --- do you expect to live in this world when you retire at the age of 56?

If God looks with you with favor, "Okay, I'll give you 90 years old." Where do you get the money to feed yourself? You'll have to ask your children, now is your duty to what --- the very same things I did for my mother. In her dying days, I took care of her.

And 'yung iba, we cannot be assured really of a good life with me coming in, flowing. We have to borrow money for the mortuary expenses, you have to borrow money to buy --- sometimes it is --- if it is unexpected and 'yang style na pre-need plans only if you have the extra money to pay the installments until mamatay ka.

Those are the social impact na hindi nakikita nitong mga t\*\*\* j\*\*\*\* 'to. Kaya galit ako. By what universal right, by what right --- even if you don't believe in God --- what right do you have to cook shabu and destroy the life of my children?

And sometimes they bring out the worst of them by committing crimes because they have to have the money if they need the fix that moment. At pagka wala, magnanakaw, magpapatay. Tapos you worry a criminal who is responsible for...?

Do you think that if I go in a warehouse and you are cooking shabu, what the hell do you still need? I need --- what needs to be done.

Alam mo meron akong kwento sa inyo. In Davao, I eradicated them. To me they are pests. You eradicate insects. Davao is quite fair. But mabuti ang Davao kay ganon.

You have been to Davao. It's --- at 12 o'clock, everything closes. It's a quiet life there. You do not see any person walking on the street. If you have been to America, most of you are --- napunta doon, ganon.

It's because I do not have the patience for criminal. I've been a prosecutor for nine years. I was doing trial work. I saw the agony of a guilty person going scot-free, buying government fiscal, judges and all.

And how would you...? And when they look at you and they would measure you as if everything is perfect for government and it has everything it needs to fight for its preservation. Meron tayo niyan?

Ngayon meron ang collection natin malaki. But the backlog sa inyong back -- - pension, is trillions. I have to produce that money and I will reveal to you for the first time. Ayaw ko kasing magyabang. I do not want you to nurture any gratitude to me. I do not need it. I do not want you to nurture loyalty to me. I do not need it.

People are saying I'm doing it because I want to ingratiate my... No, the people of the Philippines elected me. There is no need for me to be closer than what is really normal in your hearts. I just love my country and I do my duty kasi hindi lahat nagiging presidente. Not every man is lucky enough to reach the presidency.

Alam ninyo 'yan. Wala akong pera. As a matter of fact, minsan sinabi ko, at totoo ito, I regret running for the presidency and winning it. Lately, ganon na ang salita ko. Because I have fired so many of my friends who supported me in 1988 to become mayor and who were there in the hustings during the campaign to help me be president.

And yet when I --- as payback time I gave them positions. Ang masakit --- what is painful is that they were the ones urging me to run. I did not want to run. I do not need it. I have been mayor for 23 years. I have been a congressman, a vice mayor. I am finished with that accolades and clapping of the hands. It does not mean to me anything at all at this time.

If I do something, you do not have to congratulate me. I do not accept, as a matter of personal and official policy, I do not accept awards. Why? Because I am paid to do exactly what I did or what am I doing. 'Yan lang po.

I'm an ordinary guy. I do not have an outstanding... As a matter of fact, all these years, hindi ako --- I'm not trying to be funny. The highest that I've got, it was about 78. It's always 75, 76, 75, 76 from kindergarten to high school. Eh wala ko nga... I'm just an ordinary guy. I finished law. I studied. Maybe God --- God was or is kind to me.

Pero come to think of it, your Defense Secretary is a valedictorian when he was studying. He's an Ilocano but he comes from Ilocano ng Mindanao, from Pikit. You have Secretary Esperon and all of you guys graduating with honors. Most of you there are magna cum laude or cum laude. Me, 75.

But you know what? Sometimes God can be sarcastic. It makes you an ordinary person or presidente ka. You are surrounded by brilliant people. Mga valedictorian, mga kung ano-ano na diyan.

And when you sit down, "O sige, tell me. Okay, I have a problem." "Yes, sir?" "Okay, General Cimat, General Año --- Secretary Año, go to Boracay and clean the place."

And God would say, "That is what I like. A guy who is merely a 75 there giving orders to valedictorians." Eh 'di okay. So that could be the irony of life. But ano, maliit lang.

What I'm trying to really say is just a paradox. I am not... I am not... I'm not into something na ano. I'm just an ordinary person. Ang ka-level ko lang 'yung ordinaryong tao. But if there is one thing that I believe is of course I am not saying this because nandiyan si...

I believe in God but that God must not be the one that the other people would like to picture it. My God is compassionate, understanding and all.

And my God, the one who created me, just said: "You just stay simple whether you are born of... You are lucky that your father became one governor. But this does nothing really to be --- to be extra in everything. Just stay there."



And so if there is anybody who understands the soldier, ako 'yon. Sa totoo lang. And you can ask Bato. He was... He arrived Davao who was a second lieutenant. When he got married, I was his ninong.

He knows me and everybody of you who passed by Davao, Delfin Lorenzana, General --- kilala na ako by the tips of my --- by the tips of their fingers. They know me in and out.

So that I now say that as we pursue these initiatives that will modernize our Air Force, I call on our valiant PAF personnel to continue performing your duties to the best of your abilities, especially as we address the current challenges of terrorism, extreme --- extremism and other [external] threats.

Let us work together as one team so we may effectively uphold our sovereignty and protect the safety of our people at all times and at all cost.

As you fly and soar to great heights through the skies, bring with you the aspirations of our people for a better and brighter future, especially --- especially for our children.

Nandito na tayo sa gitna. You are in the --- maybe a few chapters away. Pero ako, nandiyan na ako sa prologue or in the last pages where we sometimes in our thoughts 'yung extra blank diyan.

When I was in the law school, and I would say that you know, love of country brings us to beauty. It brings us closer to God.

Congratulations at mabuhay kayong lahat. *[applause]*

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