

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE 12TH ACTIVATION ANNIVERSARY OF MECHANIZED INFANTRY DIVISION
CAMP O'DONELL**

[Delivered in Capas, Tarlac | 20 September 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy ladies and gentlemen.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.; Presidential Adviser for Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero; AFP Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez Jr. and the major service commanders; Tarlac Heritage Foundation co-founder Dr. Isa Cojuangco-Suntay; Mayor Catacutan; Governor Susan Yap; the officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; my countrymen.

I congratulate the Mechanized Infantry Division as it celebrates its 12th Activation Anniversary. This occasion does not only embody the service and compassion of our men and women in uniform, but also highlights the achievements of our troops in various military campaigns that promote peace and development in our communities.

The Filipino people will never forget the unwavering commitment and dedication of the MID. It was only last year, during the five-month battle in Marawi City, when our troops from this division bravely and selflessly --- brave, the forefronts and our troops --- provided support and assistance which greatly contributed to the city's liberation.

I offer my special salute to our fallen comrades who have gone beyond the call of duty and the courageous troopers who continue to make their sacrifices to defend our land, uphold peace and secure the freedom that we enjoy today. *Saludo ako sa inyo. [applause]*

We recognize your accomplishments in combat operations which led to the neutralization of 44 BIFF members, which led to the neutra --- which led to the victory that resulted... Your support to our law enforcement operations has likewise resulted in the apprehension of drug personalities and the confiscation of loose firearms.

These noble endeavors, including your assistance in facilitating the surrender of numerous members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and the BIFF during the implementation of martial law in Mindanao, have definitely made our kababayans feel safer in these challenging times.

As I have said before, as long as you perform your mandate in accordance with the law, this administration will remain steadfast in supporting your organization and will provide you with the necessary tools and resources that will enable you to effectively fulfill your duties as defenders of this nation.

I am glad to inform you that under the 2nd Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization Program, five projects worth over 13 billion pesos will directly benefit the MID. I am certain that these projects, which are already in the pipeline, will address the gaps in our defenses as we further strengthen our Armed Forces. *[applause]*

Medyo konting pasensiya lang po and again you will have the number of your mechanized vehicles in about two years. Kasi 'pag inorder ho natin 'yan hindi naman talaga sabihin na ready-made. Not just like a department store which it's already there. When we order, they manufacture. There's a lag time.

Kaya if you delay one project, another, it goes way beyond the target limits because we'd never know what happens kagaya ng trade world aberration ngayon and then the rising of prices nang lahat. But this will take time and it is always dependent on the economy.

But I said itong aabot sa inyo, it's quite a number of armored vehicles and I'm sure it would help you a lot.

It is our shared responsibility to ensure that our nation we hand over to our children is one that is stronger and more progressive. Together with the AFP and other law enforcement agencies, I ask each of you to continue doing your part so that we may soon realize our aspiration for lasting peace and stability across the nation.

And may I also just drop a few statements about the problems that we are having. We are facing a drug front, which is quite virulent. We suspect now that there are few laboratories being established inside the Philippines. Kasi alam nila papatayin ko talaga sila.

So they have resorted to importation and I think 'yung mga containers and all of these things give us time, we are investigating, galing ito sa labas. It's cheaper, they are manufactured even under the trawlers and all they have to do is to pack them up in plastic bins, place a GPS and throw them overboard, jettison them and you know somewhere along our coastal shores within our jurisdiction napipickup ito ng mga kanilang bata, ang mga sindikato.

If I renege pagka umatras ako dito, kawawa ang batang Pilipino. Kaya good that there is an international pressure sa ICC kasi bin*****s**** sila ni Bolton. Well he is really a very far right 'yan sa America, bata ni Trump and he has criticized ang ICC.

Pero ngayon na lang --- but if you'd notice hindi naman ako nagyayabang, tayo 'yung una at hindi talaga ako pumayag bin*****s**** ko sabi ko p***** i** ninyo. [applause] I said do not f*** with my country you know. Mas marunong pa kayo kung anong gawain sa problema namin.

Tatala when the day is done, at the end of the day, kung magkal*****-l***** ang Pilipinas, itong mga y*** na ito wala naman silang pakialam. They might just send aids and everything.

Kaya sabi ko hindi talaga ako nagsisi. I never regretted p***** i** ko 'yung presidente nila at lahat na because I think just --- meager knowledge of law. Hindi naman ako bright as in bright talaga. Bright-bright lang kagaya lang gyud sa inyo para lang makalusot 75-75, iskolar-iskolar, hindi naman kaya ng utak.

I'm just as ordinary as you, but I said there's always a time when you have to defend your country. [applause] That's why... Gawain lang ninyo ang trabaho ninyo. As long as it's within the framework of your duty, do it.

And sinabi ko, ako, ako 'yung managot? O kaya sabihin ko sinagot ko sila, ikaw man ang magsagot. Sabi ko o ako. Anong sagot mo nitong... Eh p***** i** ninyo wala kayong pakialam. Umalis kayo diyan.

It's not because I have to pre... Talagang itong mga ano. So the timely word of Bolton now is quite refreshing to us lalo na ako na pinaka maingay talaga nung binastos ko sila noon eh kasi binabastos nila tayo eh.

I only bow to the Filipino people. *[applause]* I will not bow to anybody. I can accept the criticism of the NPA, Abu Sayyaf, 'yun vendor diyan, 'yung holdupper diyan, if he is not contented with my performance, they have every duty to be angry at me. Sila 'yung bumoto sa akin eh.

If I fell short, then as a Filipino, that is your right to criticize and even slam me if you want. I would never, never take it against you. Pero kung itong mga puti, itong mga g*** na ito, magpunta dito, maghanap ng kasalanan natin.

Hindi ko nga alam kung ano 'yang extrajudicial killing. Eh wala 'yan sa Revised Penal Code. Kaya sige lang, balang araw 'pag naubusan kayo ng target at gusto ninyo ng live fire pati live human target, makapagdala lang ako ng tatlo niyan, makita mo 'yan eh puro puti. *[laughter]* Bwisit.

Well anyway. I'm happy. I'm very happy to be awarding our soldiers for their bravery, loyalty and... *[applause]*

Kaya nung una, hindi ko kayo ano... I'm not trying to --- look, I do not --- to ingratiate myself to you. I was elected by the people. You have your mandate. I have my workdefinition. Trabaho lang ako.

If the time comes I am no longer relevant, tomorrow will take care of itself. Kung ayaw na ng Pilipino o gusto ako ng Pilipinas, I said, let it be tomorrow and it will correct itself.

Hayaan muna natin 'yan kasi may problema tayo. We have the drug front. We have the insurgency, the Moro insurgency. Sinakyan ito ng --- well, we are talking to them as I promised during the elections.

But sinakay itong Abu Sayyaf. Wala namang alam 'to kung hindi... For you guys who are Muslims here, do not be offended. My mother is a half-Maranao, my father is a Cebuano. Do not be...

Talagang mga walang hiya 'tong mga g***, p***... Walang ginawa 'to kung hindi pumatay at magsira.

Search and destroy. Iyan lang ang alam ng mga g***. So what's the... So I guarantee them that for as long as I have my Armed Forces na loyal to the Constitution and to the flag only --- ako, isa lang akong beneficiaries diyan --- you remain loyal to the flag, to the Constitution, hindi nila tayo matutumba. I guarantee you. *[applause]* I am...

As a matter of fact, they are out most of them now, they are shopping for the best intelligence gadgets. Ibinigay ko talaga pati mga bagong armas.

Ngayon --- well anyway that's a long story. But I will provide you with the best. Sabi ko nga, if at all, we can buy our gadgets. Huwag tayo magbili doon sa iba kasi kung gamitin natin 'yan, tayo pati 'yung kausap mong commander, pati may isang commander sa p***** i***** labas, nakikinig sa atin.

So doon na lang kayo sa Israel. Wala naman tayong dynamics sa kanila. So most of the orders sa Israel. And the quality is also good.

America, okay. China, still okay. But my military generals want a one made in Israel because it is good and we can be secured.

So all of these things I promised you I'm buying it for our country for you to use to defend the Republic of the Philippines. *[applause]*

Let me just --- ako iba ang salita ko. Minsan si... I can understand a bit of Ilocano. Ang Davao halo eh. At iba-iba tayo, Pampagueño, Tagalog, Ilocano, Bicolano. We do not even have the same menu, pagkain. But we are only bound by one thing and that is the [flag]...

Kung wala 'yan, watak-watak na tayo. Ay sus. Sabihin, "Ay kaming mga Maranao, bahala kayo diyan mga Kristiyanos diyan sa Luzon."

But at one point in our history, our forefathers decided that we should be one. They signed it with their blood to say that even if we differ in some norms of conduct and the subculture of the tribe, we remain Malay. And this was a thriving place before the conquerors came.

So nagkaiba-iba ating kultura. But it's water under the bridge.

Lastly, I would just like to remind you. My oath of office, your oath of office is practically the same.

In two sentences, it says: I swear as a soldier or as a President that I will do everything to preserve the Republic of the Philippines and to protect the people, period. Iyan lang ang trabaho natin.

Maraming salamat po. *[applause]*

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