

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES CHANGE OF COMMAND AND THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

[Delivered at the Camp Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City | 11 December 2018]

Salamat po. Kindly sit --- take your seats. Commander, can you give the tikas pahinga? Thank you.

By the way, before I forget, si General Galvez will join the Cabinet next week as the Secretary of the Peace Process Office. *[applause]* I think he is the ninth military man to join my government.

Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo; former President and House Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; former President Fidel Ramos, sir; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet; outgoing Chief of Staff Carlito Galvez; the New Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Lieutenant General Benjamin Madrigal; major service commanders, officers, enlisted men, personnel and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; other distinguished guests; mga kababayan

It is my pleasure to stand before the courageous men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who have tirelessly worked to secure the freedom we enjoy today.

As you celebrate more than eight meaningful decades of selfless service and sacrifice for the Filipino people, we also congratulate Carlito Galvez for his successful tour of duty as Chief of Staff of the AFP.

We recognize his significant contributions in strengthening our armed forces, especially in his efforts to eradicate the ills that plague our society. He

fought corruption within the organization by initiating reforms that improved the financial state of our soldiers and the efficiency of the financial systems [in] the AFP.

During his stint, General Galvez also created the AFP Development Center to address the gaps in the existing AFP Leadership Programs and to further develop the character, competence and capacity of our military.

Upon assuming command, he supervised our internal security operations and the implementation of martial law in Mindanao. This led to the neutralization of more than two thousand terrorists, the recovery of thousands of firearms, and the clearing of seven guerrilla fronts.

As he retires from his valiant service to our nation, his accomplishments speak well of how he fulfilled his mission to foster a stronger and more dependable armed forces as well as a safer and more secure Philippines.

General Galvez, as you hang up your uniform, you can stand proud knowing that the armed forces that you will pass on is one that is formidable and empowered. Be assured that as you leave military service, you have inspired others with your work and have set an edifying example [to] the entire institution.

Last week, I signed Executive Order No. 70 creating the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict. From the military-centric approach that gave us our recent successes against the communist movement, we now shift to a new civilian-led approach that will tap other government agencies and other private sector in bringing basic services and other development interventions that will address the root cause of the communist movement.

General Madrigal, you are now tasked with the responsibility of preserving peace and ensuring order as we shift to this new approach. Sustain the progress of those who came before you and create a legacy that will cause ripples [of] positive change in the years to come.

As we trudge the noble path of realizing lasting peace and sustainable development in our country, I trust that under General Benjamin Madrigal's leadership, the AFP will achieve more milestones in the campaign to combat terrorism, end insurgency, and address lingering and emerging threats to national security.

The Filipino people count on the AFP to remain steadfast in its mission to defend our land and preserve the peace in our communities. Let us not fail them.

As I have done my part to ensure the welfare and well-being of our troops, including their immediate families, I now ask our men and women in uniform to support the leadership of General Madrigal so that we may soon realize our aspirations for a stronger armed forces and a safer and more secure nation.

Congratulations to General Galvez and General Madrigal at mabuhay ang Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas!

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Source: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)