

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE SEND-OFF CEREMONY FOR THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION TO THE
18th ASIAN GAMES**

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 13 August 2018]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy.

You know I was quite a bit late. I was swearing in the new employees of government mostly judges. I had to go into a more dynamic discussion with them.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and other members of the Cabinet; Representative Abraham Tolentino and other honorable members of the House of Representatives; officials of the Philippine Sports Commission; officials and members of the Philippine Olympic Committee led by its President Victorio Ricky Vargas; the athletes and coaches participating in the 18th Asian Games headed by chief --- head of the mission and Ormoc City Mayor Richard Gomez; mga kababayan

It is my pleasure to stand before you some of the most dedicated and passionate athletes of our country today. Of the millions of Filipinos, only few have been gifted with the ability and provided with the opportunity to be part of something this big.

How you got here is proof of your commitment and dedication to your respective sports and the sacrifices you went through just to become part of this national team. Your presence here is a testament to the indomitable Filipino spirit that each of you embodies.

As we send our best men and women to the 18th Asian Games, remember that you do not only compete for yourselves, but also carry with you the pride of your families, your communities, and the entire Filipino nation.

I join the Filipino people in wishing you all the best as you uphold the values of integrity, resilience and sportsmanship in your pursuit of the gold.

The Philippine Olympic Committee and its partners have done their part in ensuring your successful preparation for this year's Asian. All I ask from you is that you do your best and that you do it fair and square.

In return, trust that we in government will continue to support the development of our athletes and intensify our commitment towards sports excellence, global competitiveness and the greater glory of your country, the Philippines.

Every victory you bring back home is shared by the entire nation. We pray for your well-being and hope that your successful trip --- and also a safe return to the country.

I wish you the best of luck at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino! *[applause]* Saludo ako sa inyo mga kababayan ko. *[applause]*

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