

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE AWARDING OF INCENTIVES TO THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION MEDALISTS IN THE 18TH ASIAN GAMES

[Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace | 12 September 2018]

Kindly sit down. Salamat ho sa kortesiya.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and the other members of the Cabinet; Presidential Adviser for Sports Dennis Uy; Philippine Sports Commission officials led by Chairman William Ramirez; Philippine Olympic commission officials led by President Victorico Vargas; Asian Games Chief of Mission Richard Gomez, yes sir; honorable members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, wala sila, absent; Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia Lee Hiong Tan Wee, yes sir; the bronze, silver, and gold medalists, and other athletes of the 2018 Asian Games including their parents and coaches; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Dalawang pages lang rin ho po kayo. This is all that you get.

I am not into reading speeches but the problem is I have so many commitments this afternoon. I think the Ambassador of US is there waiting. So because of diplomatic time constraints, basahin ko na lang.

Usually, I only read the last paragraph para madali. Iyong last paragraph, tatlong sentence lang rin, balik tayo dito. *[laughter]*

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you back as Filipinos who have made the entire country immensely proud.

I congratulate our athletes and their coaches for their efforts in bringing honor and recognition in the Philippines --- to the Philippines in the field of sports. We Filipinos have always been known for our competitive spirit, and this year we did not --- and this year, we did not fall short of showing our trait to our neighbors.

Our journey in the Asian Games has truly fostered unity among our players who are pushing towards a specific goal. More than just a competitor's passion for the game, what draws them together is the collective aspiration to represent the best of our resilience, competence and determination as a nation.

Let me assure our athletes that you have my continued support in developing yourselves as you pursue your respective discipline.

I commend the Philippine Sports Commission for supporting the athletes and for enabling them to perform well during the games. I have already directed the PSC to provide additional incentives, to be sourced from its funds, to the winning individuals of the 18th Asian Games.

It is my hope that this will not only further motivate our athletes to work harder, but also find resourcefulness, ways to maximize their potentials and inspire the rest of the youth to be part of an active and healthy citizenry.

I have always believed that sports play a crucial role in fostering patriotism among us. The entire country looks forward to your next win as you secure your place in your respective fields and wave our flag, high and proud, for the world to see.

Thank you at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!

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