

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE 82ND
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**

AFP General Headquarters Grandstand, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

December 20, 2017

Yes, sir

Kindly sit down. Thank you for your courtesy, sir.

Things I would just like to communicate with you. Not...

Commander, kindly give the tikas pahinga so that they're comfortable while I'm talking also.

Salamat po.

I have a prepared speech every time but may pumapasok kasi na mga extraneous topic that --- it's not because I want to ingratiate myself. But for the reason that it seems to be hindi alam ng lahat.

Right after the war in Marawi, I released P500 million for intervention for those who were dead or wounded during the war. Pero mostly, itong P500,000 would be interventions and it would include P500 million rather. P500 million it is in the hands of General Macario. Sabi ko, "Gastusin mo 'to for this... sadly 'yung nawalaan ng paa. I want them prosthetics, 'yung titanium."

Pangalawa, right after here, I'll go to V. Luna and the AFP. I will be giving monthly subsidy to the hospital. P250... [Magkano 'yun Bong? 150? 'Yung sa V. Luna pati sa ano?] Sa karami ng pera ko. Hindi ko na malaman tuloy. I will subsidize 'yung medicines, especially those who are --- Well, they need the management for bills. It's P50 million monthly para sa AFP, pati P50 million sa V. Luna. [applause]

Doon na ninyo kunin 'yung ano ninyo... For those who are retired, I know that you have medicines to take, management for all the kind of ailment that a soldier suffers when he retires. Kasi baka hindi niyo alam 'yan, there's always the ready money. I'm going to deliver it right after this ceremony. Pupunta ako doon.

So let me greet you, mga kasama ko sa gobyerno, mga trabahante; Ang ating mahal na Pangulo, President Ramos; Mga bisita and... Anong grupo ka niyo? Media? Ah, media. Mga kaibigan ko sa media.

I congratulate the Armed Forces of the Philippines for more than eight decades of honor, service, patriotism. To this day, you continue to play a crucial role in safeguarding our citizenry and securing our land. I salute the brave men and women of our Army, Air Force and Navy for their courage, dedication and sacrifice to liberate Marawi from the clutches of extremist terrorists and communist insurgents. Having said

that, may I also extend my pasasalamat sa ating mga pulis and the other uniformed men, personnel in government who fought alongside with you.

This success, along with the recent neutralization of Isnilon Hapilon and his followers, further bolsters this administration's firm thrust towards eliminating all terrorist groups in the country. We will not allow those who subscribe to the Daesh ideology to succeed. We will never allow the Islamic State to make the Philippines its regional center.

Although we have already begun to rebuild Marawi City and rehabilitate conflict-affected areas, our fight is far from over. We will remain vigilant as we continue our intensified military operation against the remaining terrorist groups.

I now return the favor to our troops who made the supreme sacrifice, suffered injuries and went beyond the call of duty. Be assured that the government will support all of your endeavors as we realize a stronger and more resilient government. Do not worry about your families. Do not kill yourself just thinking of what will happen tomorrow. As President Ramos aptly said once upon a time, "Tomorrow will take care of itself."

But tomorrow, the Philippine government will always be there to see to it that your children will continue to go to school until college time. And as I've said, I made some proposals [applause] a few months ago, that we are ready to surrender the real estate, the... your camps, just like what's happening in other cities. You can either go into a venture or you can go into leasing the prime estate. Tatal kampo lang naman 'yan. You can choose anywhere outside here. But what is most important is that you have a fund ready and available for your families.

I'm sorry that Carlos Dominguez III, our Finance, ayaw niyang ibigay diretso. I really do not know the reason and I do not ask. But he wants to build a mini --- since you are not covered by the GSIS --- he wants the money placed there parang maliit na GSIS for you and the police and we will give you the seed money.

You know guys, I'm sure that if it is just handled right, hindi na kayo maghirap mga edukasyon ng mga anak ninyo. All that I want to see is that an ordinary soldier can finance the education 'yung mga anak ninyo. I want a sergeant, a corporal, na 'yung anak ninyo pwede maging --- as long as they have the brain na they can continue to go to school and be a doctor, a lawyer who has a post-graduate studies. 'Yan ang maasahan ninyo.

That's why I'm hurrying up Secretary Lorenzana because I want to finish it in one year para wala na akong burden to be expecting all the time. I'm a kind of a person always in a hurry because you know, the imponderables of life is we just are here for a limited time.

'Yan ang gusto kong mangyari at kung sundin ninyo 'yung mga iba dito but this time, you can be very sure that the money will go direct to you. Ang kondisyon lang ni Finance Secretary is that there be some sort of a mutual, parang GSIS, and the money deposited in that entity and it will be run by professional.

From whereof he speaks, I forgot the name of the father in law but ang tatay ni Sonny Dominguez was once upon a time a general of the Air Force and maybe from whereof he speaks, he knows his business. So 'yan ang assurance ko sa inyo. I am in a hurry.

Yesterday, I signed the General Appropriations Act for 2018. By the way, 'yang pera ninyo diyan, 'yang GSIS ninyo, it is not part of the yearly appropriation for the military organization. Hindi kasali 'yan. 'Yung year-to-year expenses are found in the GAA, the General Appropriations. Ito, it's more of a proprietary business that you can go into and if handled carefully, you'll never be want of money. This is not money intended to buy bullets and arms, weaponry. It is purely a social welfare for the Armed Forces of the Philippines and you might also include the police.

This fulfills my campaign promise of doubling the basic pay kasi nandiyan na sa GAA ngayon 'yung increases ninyo for next year. [applause] Take a look at your paycheck sa January and I said this fulfills my campaign promise of doubling the basic pay of our hardworking men and women in uniform, which will take effect on the very first day of 2018.

Alam ba ninyo na... huwag na lang ninyo ikwento nagyabang tayo dito. They were in a quandary whether to fast track the TRAIN or 'yung pay ninyo and Dick Gordon just wanted that the money part of the Armed Forces appropriation for infrastructure will be spent really for that purpose alone. And hindi naman ako nagpapa-hero pero minsan kung magkahiyaan, eh ibang istorya na 'yan.

So because I promised you, I will double your salary, sabi ko sa kanila, sabi ko to my aide, "Unahin na muna ninyo 'yung pangako ko." Kasi sabi ko, "Pag hindi niyo inilusot 'yan, I will resign as a matter of principle." Sinabi ko talaga sa kanya. So in the order of things, nauna 'yung inyo bago 'yung TRAIN because they thought that it was the TRAIN appropriation was important to me. Sabi ko kay Bong Go. "Magkahiyaan tayo dito, 'pag napihaya ako, I will resign." Kaya nauna 'yung dito --- 'yung sa inyong...

Now, you can just imagine, you know, life is always timing. Right at the start of my administration, I promised you guys that I will double your salary. But the problem is there is no such thing as a double na in parity talaga lahat, it's not allowed by law. So -- - but there is a considerable increase in your salary. Imagine kung naisipan ng gobyerno 'yan matapos 'yung Marawi siege. Alam ko maligayahan din kayo, at a certain extent, but mabuti't na lang naisipan ko 'yun because I knew the dark clouds looming at the horizon, kaya inuna ko na kayo.

Sabi ko, right at the start, dodoblehin ko 'yung salary niyo next year. That was the earlier part of 2017. Hindi talaga ako nagkamali. Nung command conference natin, I reminded you that, you know, sabi ko, bantay kayo diyan. And hindi naman ako nagpapayabang but I was the one who took it as the last item during the first command conference, sabi ko, "In the hindsight, do not forget of that..." on the dot 'yun.

And ito namang medals ninyo, 'wag I'm --- I do not offend anybody here ah, kasi 'yung mga Bisaya walang hero. 'Yung si Lapu-Lapu 'yung unang pumatay ng imperialista, I think he was a Muslim. He is because sa archives sa Malaysia, once upon a time, I said I went around Southeast Asia to --- going to the archives in my extra time, 'yung congressional visit namin, inter-parliamentary, at naisipan ko na talagang gugulo 'to. So long before the Marawi, sabi ko, "Bong, I want to create a medal exclusively to be awarded by the Office of the President," hindi kailangang ako, because I --- I just see something, not really a sixth sense, but sabi ko, I would need to show my solidarity and gratitude to you guys.

Sa awa ng Diyos, on the dot talaga, matter of timing and imagine if --- I --- I just invented it for the first time after the siege. Ang sasabihin man ninyo, "Tong gobyerno na 'to kung hindi tayo namatay, kung wala tayong nakatay doon, ngayon lang tayo binibigyan ng increase." So right on the dot ako, sabi ko, "At this time, there will be some tumor in the country." So 'yun ang --- that's the little, how would you call it? The niceties --- the vignettes of life.

Now, anong nangyari in between at anong napasok sa utak namin dito sa --- we formulate the --- we run the Executive department.

This complements our continued efforts to improve the capability of the AFP by modernizing military equipment and machinery. Having mentioned these, I have every confidence that we, together as a force, will embrace the changes that are necessary for continued development and work even harder to fulfill our duty and responsibility to protect the Filipino people.

Again, happy 82nd anniversary at mabuhay ang Sundalong ng Pilipinas. I salute you. [applause]

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