

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING HIS ATTENDANCE TO THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE CHANGE
OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT CEREMONY IN HONOR OF
LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROZZANO D. BRIGUEZ**

[Delivered at the PAF Multi-Purpose Gymnasium, Villamor Air Base in Pasay City | 16 January 2020]

Kindly sit down. Salamat po.

National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go; Lieutenant General Felimon Santos, Chief of Staff, the Armed Forces of the Philippines; the outgoing Commanding General Major General Allen Paredes --- the incoming rather; the outgoing commander General --- Lieutenant General Rozzano Briguez; officers, enlisted personnel and employees of the Philippine Air Force; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Meron rin akong medal. Ibinibigay ito --- walang ano valor pero medal pa rin. *[laughter and applause]* Every time magpasok ako ng military whatever celebration, anniversary, maganda rin. Pero sabi ko may halaga ba ito? Sabi, "Wala, sir, ano lang 'yan --- pang-ano lang 'yan --- pambigay lakas ng loob para..."

Well, that's life. As the narratives have been given her long sacrifice, work, toil and everything. Eh ako medyo nagkulang kaya hanggang dito lang ako. *[laughter]*

Marami na akong ganito po. 'Yung sa bakalan ito...

Today, we look back at the achievements of the Philippine Air Force, or PAF, under the leadership of Lieutenant General Rozzano D. Briguez. I also congratulate General Briguez for a job well done

in his outstanding tour of duty as the Commanding General of PAF and for his years of distinguished service. *[applause]*

Now as good as any other time to tell you that from here he will be heading an office, a critical one. I fired the --- for corruption --- pinalitan ko and he's going to head the exploration division of the Philippine National Oil Company. *[applause]* Lahat naman kayo may naghihintay. All that I ask is honesty. Period.

In fulfilling his mandate, he has pursued reforms that professionalized and raised the morale of our troops, fostered camaraderie with our air forces, and upgraded thereby our fighter planes and airbases, improving the capacity and effectiveness of the PAF.

General Briguez, we thank you for your trailblazing leadership that further enabled the PAF to fulfill its vital role in our whole-of-nation approach towards achieving security and inclusive development of our country.

I also commend the PAF for its invaluable contributions and accomplishments in the areas of internal security operations, disaster response, as well as its strong support to law enforcement and peacekeeping efforts.

The entire Filipino nation acknowledges your crucial role in our internal security operations by providing air assets, assistance in air and ground operations and close personnel support to our ground troops, most especially during engagements against the Abu Sayyaf and other terrorist groups.

I now enjoin our troops to sustain the fight against terrorism and other acts of lawlessness under the leadership of the PAF's new Commanding General, Major General Allen T. Paredes. Under his direction and guidance, I hope that you will embody strength and fortitude in ensuring lasting peace in our homeland.

I assure you that this administration will continue to boost the morale, efficiency, and responsiveness of the PAF through continuous capacity building and other meritorious initiatives.

On modernization, I am pleased to announce that the PAF will receive substantial assets under the Second Horizon of the Revised AFP Modernization Program so that you can rest assured that our country is behind you as you bravely soar to greater heights in order to secure genuine and lasting peace for the benefit of the Filipinos.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang Hukbong
Panghimpapawid ng Pilipinas! [*applause*]

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