

## **Presidential Communications Operations Office**

### **Presidential News Desk**

#### **SPEECH OF**

#### **PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

#### **DURING THE AWARDING CEREMONY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE WESTERN MINDANAO COMMAND (WESTMINCOM) – JOINT TASK FORCE SULU**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace in Manila | 09 November  
2020]

Today, we honor the brave men and women of the Western Mindanao Command-Joint Task Force Sulu of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the highly successful conduct of 'Operation Perfect Storm II' in Parang, Sulu on November 3.

This operation resulted in the neutralization of at least seven members of the Dawlah Islamiyah-Abu Sayyaf Kidnap for Ransom Group under Mundi Sawadjaan and Radullan Sahiron.

These men were reportedly en route to conduct a kidnapping operation in Surigao Province.

Despite unfavorable [weather] conditions, our troops from WESTMINCOM-JTF bravely undertook air and sea interdiction operations that led to this victory.

As your Commander-in-Chief, I commend and salute you for your gallantry. Your vigilance and commitment in defeating these terrorists and ensuring the safety and security of our nation, which is really truly inspiring.

Your dedication to your sworn duty strongly affirms this administration's unwavering commitment to safeguard our people and maintain peace and security in the country.

Be assured of this administration's unwavering support to the AFP through programs --- and of the police also --- through programs that will further improve your capacity to respond to the security needs of the country.

To the valiant troops we are honoring today, please accept my love for you and your family and you have learned --- just earned the respect of a grateful nation.

Mabuhay kayong lahat! [*applause*] Tigas.

I should start with Lieutenant General Corleto Vinluan, commander of Western [Mindanao] Command. Sir, saludo ako.

And the others namely: Brigadier General William Gonzales, Philippine Army; Brigadier [General] Ignatius Patrimonio, Philippine Army; Colonel Antonio Bautista, Philippine Army; [Colonel] Andrew Bacala Jr., Infantry Philippine Army; Lieutenant [Colonel] Herbert Dilag, Philippine Army; Lieutenant [Colonel] Nomar Alinsangan, PAF; Lieutenant [Colonel] Eduardo P. Castillo, Philippine Army; Lieutenant Colonel --- [*Not general, I think it's colonel. You have to excuse my eyes. Nagdo-doble na.*] --- Lieutenant [Colonel] Peter Louie Solosa; [Major] Jiro [Poblacion], Philippine Army; Major [Arnel Marcos], Philippine Army; Major John Ian M. Galera, Philippine Army; Lieutenant Aries Caguitas, Philippine Navy; Captain Mark H. Lacerna, Philippine Air Force; Major Jean B. Bibon, PAF; First Lieutenant Leonard T. Liper, Philippine Air Force; First Lieutenant Lawrence M. Magos, Philippine Air Force; First Lieutenant Jed Torres, Philippine Air Force; Commander Philip Edward [Lamug], Philippine Navy; Major Eric B. Alfonso, Philippine Army; Captain Jovy C. Perater; Philippine Army; [Second] Lieutenant Jerrica Angela Manongdo, Philippine Army.

Hindi ko na basahin `yung ano. So I talk to you in behalf of the grateful nation. We need to beef up our security kaya magpakatatag kayo. Do not worry. Your job is to ser --- secure the nation. Make it peaceful. Salamat.

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