

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**MESSAGE OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING HIS VISIT TO THE WESTERN MINDANAO COMMAND TO
HONOR SOLDIERS DIED IN PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE (PAF) PLANE
CRASH**

[Delivered at the Western Mindanao Command in Zamboanga City | 05
July 2021]

To the officers and men of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, this is a very sorrowful event and kung ano `yong nasa puso ninyo, ganoon rin ako. As Commander-in-Chief, I was --- well, noong sinabi sa akin as usual... *[Senator Bong Go: Hindi daw madungog kaayo. Tanggalin imong mask, imohang face shield.] [Aide: Tanggalin natin, sir? President Duterte: Okay.]*

Alam mo sa totoo lang noong ibinalita sa akin, as usual I go into a process of sorrow, more than anybody else o kasing pareho tayo. The life of a soldier is always valuable whether in the fields of fighting or events such as these.

They died for our country and, for that, I am very grateful to those who died and those who suffered and are still suffering now. Gusto ko lang malaman ninyo that we will extend all help at `yong ibang medyo naano `yong extremities nila that we will --- they will have the same prosthesis and all. But burn is a long process to heal.

Ako, wala akong masabi na --- eh pareho tayong lahat eh nagdudusa eh. Kaya lang the best that we can really do and the most important thing is that itong namatay that they shall not have died in vain. They died for our country and it behooves upon us to continue the help when they were alive as they are now in heaven.

Walang problema --- gumawa kami ng... I hope we finish this before I make my exit na malagyan kayo ng isang GSIS for your mga --- lahat na, retirement and everything, and you have your own bank. Ang ano lang nito is I will sell a part of Bonifacio.

Total sundalo naman kayo eh. You can always go to the mountains to find the place where you can... Iparenta namin `yang a part of Bonifacio to raise

the money so that you can have that [real?]. Ang gusto kasi ni Dominguez ay `yong parang bangko. You know, Dominguez is a --- ang --- `yang Andrews Air Base, iyon `yong pangalan ng Secretary ng Finance natin. Alam niya kung gaano kahirap ang buhay ng sundalo.

Pero dito sa panahon ko, I assure you that I will add more benefits for your family. Ang importante naman --- tayo kung maganoon tayo, okay lang sa atin.

But what is very important really is that the family that you'll leave behind will have the same privileges. And importante diyan ang eskwela, which we have set up a foundation for that to see them through to college. Makaabot naman ng kurso sa kolehiyo. And this I promise you, soldiers.

I have said this before, nasabi ko na ito. We are still working at it. Pero gusto ko lang maiwan --- bago ako maiwan, gusto kong maglagay ng malaking pera para sa Armed Forces of the Philippines. Iyan lang ang mabawi ko sa sundalo ko lalo na `yong namatay, that they will --- their families will be protected, that their families will be comfortable at `yong daily living and education of the children will be assured.

Again, I commiserate with you. I am as sorrowful as you. And as Commander-in-Chief, ako `yong pinaka --- pinakanasasaktan sa buhay na nawala. I am at a loss of words so that I will end up here, or else I will end up crying also like you.

Maraming salamat po. My salute. *[applause]*

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