

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE AWARDING
OF INCENTIVES TO PHILIPPINE OLYMPIANS IN THE TOKYO 2020
OLYMPICS AND OTHER FILIPINO ATHLETES**

[Delivered at the Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace in Manila | 23 August 2021]

Kindly sit down.

You know bago sa lahat, with the pandemic spreading like a wildfire in the country and everybody taking precautions, it would not be a discourteous act to wash your hands even in front of the person that you have shook hands or --- because it's the norm of the day. Hindi dapat mainsulto 'yang maghuhugas ka, and you should do that also. Alam mo isang tama lang 'yan. At because I could not express myself if I wear a mask --- ako sumusugal ako ng wala. But anyway, kung mamatay ako dahil sa inyo ngayong hapon na ito. Kayo ang nagdamay sa akin. *[laughter]*

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; Japan's Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Koshikawa, Kazuhiko; President of the Philippine Olympic Committee and 8th District Cavite Representative Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Sports Senator Bong Go; Presidential Spokesperson Secretary Harry Roque Jr.; Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Sports Development and 5th District of Isabela Representative Faustino Michael Carlos Dy III --- *[Wala siya?]* *[Official: Nandito, Mayor, ayon po nakabarong.]* *[Ah ayon, yes, sir, sorry.]*; officials of the Philippine Sports Commission led by Chairman William Ramirez; Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation Chairman Andrea Domingo.

I am pleased to welcome you in this humble office of mine, the pride of the Philippines—our Philippine Olympians in the recently concluded Tokyo 2020 Olympics and other Filipino athletes.

Today, we celebrate our Olympic medalists, led by Air Force Staff Sergeant Hidilyn Diaz, gold medalist in Weightlifting, Women's 55kg --- our country's very first gold medal in Olympics history. *[applause]*

We also honor our silver medalists and bronze medalist in Boxing --- Nesthy Petecio and Carlo Paalam, and Eumir Marcial. *[applause]*

It is also fitting to recognize, once again, the achievement of our 1996 Atlanta Olympic silver medalist in Boxing, Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco. *[applause]* Finally.

Aside from the incentives to be given under the National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act, as well as from the Office of the President, each of our medalists will be conferred with the following awards:

- the Presidential Medal of Merit to Ms. Diaz;
- the Order of Lapu-Lapu (Rank of Kamagi) to Ms. Petecio, Mr. Paalam, Mr. Marcial, and Mr. Velasco

A Presidential Citation for the other Olympians of the Philippine Olympic Committee, and the Philippine Sports Commission have already been awarded today.

Together with your fellow Olympians Eleen Ann Ando and Jayson Valdez, who are here with us, I congratulate you once again for bringing pride and honor to the country and for uplifting the spirit of Filipinos amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your hard work, dedication and sportsmanship, even amidst the challenges in your training and competitions prior to the Olympics, are truly inspiring.

I am confident that you will get better and stronger in securing more victories in the future.

Your success will continue to motivate many aspiring athletes and our Filipino youth to channel their energies into sports and other productive activities, keeping them away from the harmful vices.

Allow me to thank the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission for their unwavering support and strong efforts in [ensuring] that our athletes were ready to compete at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Rest assured that the government remains committed in providing full support to our Filipino athletes.

In this regard, I enjoin the Philippine Sports Commission, the Philippine Olympic Committee, and other sports bodies to continue providing much-needed assistance to keep our athletes on top of their game and to help them become all-time greats.

I also wish to congratulate Ambassador Kazuhiko for Tokyo's successful hosting of the 2020 Olympics. May the upcoming 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo also become a resounding success. It takes a village to raise a child, but it takes the world to support champions so that they can succeed in Olympics.

The strength and excellence of our athletes in the international sports arena demonstrate the Filipino spirit of resilience and determination to succeed. Our Tokyo 2020 medalists and Olympians truly embody our greatness as a people and as a nation.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat! Mabuhay ang lahing Pilipino! *[applause]*

Well, I'm sorry, I apologize but there are two pages for acknowledgements.

The National Housing Authority General Manager Marcelino Escalada Jr. is here?
Iyong magbigay ng lupa at bahay. Ikaw ba `yun? Mayaman ka ah. *[laughter]* Lupa
at bahay lang. Ano kaya ang mapanalunan natin kung tayo ang mag-
compete? *[laughter]* Hindi nga ako makatindig dito sa... *[laughter]*

You know, I never really recovered from that bad spill sa ano, sa motor. Hindi na
bumalik `yung ano ko. So I could not be an athlete anymore. I could only be a
spectator and maybe, as a Filipino, cheer and shout for your victory.

Our proud Olympians, athletes and coaches --- hindi na kailangan; other invited
guests --- mayroon dito; ladies and gentlemen. Iyon lang po at mabuhay kayong
lahat! *[applause]*

Mabuhay kayong lahat! *[applause]*

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