

Presidential News Desk

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT CEREMONY IN HONOR OF GENERAL NOEL S. CLEMENT

[Delivered at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City | 04 January 2020]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo; Excellencies of the Diplomatic Corps; the National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana and the other members of the Cabinet; Senator Bong Go; Senator [Ronald] dela Rosa; Senator Francis Tolentino; MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari; the outgoing Chief of Staff General Noel Clement; the incoming Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Felimon Santos Jr.; the officers, enlisted personnel, and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

I am glad [excuse me] to join you today as we honor General Noel Clement for his successful tour of duty as Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Your stint at the helm of our military will be remembered for your principled and irreproachable leadership in fighting insurgency and securing our sovereignty.

I likewise laud your spirited efforts in spearheading the humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations of the AFP. Your faithful adherence to the military professional service inspires your troops to continue serving with valor, heroism and selflessness.

To our soldiers, I assure you that you will always have my full support and confidence as we build a more stable and peaceful future for our people.

Be assured that this administration will always assist the men and women of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as we overcome the challenges we face as a nation.

I trust that you will work in unison with the incoming Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Felimon Santos, Jr. as you remain steadfast in protecting our country against lawlessness and terrorism.

Under the command of [Lieutenant] General Santos, I am confident that the AFP will further achieve more milestones in the campaign to protect our freedom and democratic values. It is my hope that you will carry out programs that will elevate the competence, the probity and integrity of our uniformed personnel.

May this momentous occasion renew your commitment to defend our homeland from lingering and emerging security threats as you uphold the safety of our families and communities.

Together, let us embody solidarity as we pursue a more peaceful future for all.

Thank you for your service at mabuhay ang sundalong Pilipino! [applause]

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Source: PCOO-PND (Presidential News Desk)