

Presidential Communications Operations Office

Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY GROUP (PSG)
CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY**

[Delivered at PSG Grandstand, Malacañang Park, Manila | 25 February 2020]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea; National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rolando Bautista and the other members of the Cabinet; my --- she's my lovely wife, Cielito Avanceña [*applause*]. Ma'am, totoo 'yan.

Senator Imee Marcos, isang magandang babae rin; honorable members of the House of Representatives; AFP Chief of Staff General Felimon Santos and the major service commanders; the outgoing Group Commander Brigadier General Eriel Niembra and his lovely wife Mrs. Jovy Niembra; the incoming Group Commander Colonel Jesus Durante and Mrs. Helen Durante. [*Si Helen ba ang classmate mo? Ah mag-classmate kayo. Marami kayong pag-usapan*]

The officers and enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the Presidential Security command; other distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen.

Habang nagsasalita si Group --- si Brigadier General Niembra, kinalabit ko si Bong. Sabi ko, mabuti pa itong mga military Bong, kay pag-alis nila sa opisina may pabaon na sariling personal flag. Tayo, p***, kung hindi tayo namatay wala ka. You only have the --- when you are dead and the flag is wrapped around your coffin.

Today, I stand proud as I speak before one of our country's most dedicated and reliable men and women in uniform.

First, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to Brigadier General Niembra for his successful tour of duty as the outgoing PSG commander.

Under his steady and unwavering leadership, the PSG was able to provide security to me and my family [for] around 19 foreign and 1,250 local engagements, as well as full protection [to] Heads of State and Ambassadors during their visits at Malacañang.

Moreover, the PSG was able to secure our safety during the 2019 elections, the 3rd and 4th State of the Nation Address, and the 30th Southeast Asian Games, and the 1st Presidential Silent Drill Competition.

Come to think of it, I have not heard of any other drill but I'm raising the --- until it reaches the... December. You guys can arrange the frequency of the drilling but I want the people to see soldiers and policemen doing the drill every day.

It might really be a copycat but you have been to China and you have seen the drill that the military shows off to the people every day.

It gives our people a sense of security and proud to see the uniformity in the cadence when military drills do it. Gawin ninyo `yan. And the December finals would be one million. Baka dagdagan ko pa ng two million. *[applause]* Dagdagan ko pa ng three million. Hindi naman...

You know, hindi ako humingi sa sarili ko. I never did that and I never will. Kung ako maghingi --- all my political, even during the campaign, I could not bring myself to say, "Bigyan mo nga akong pera." Hindi ko kaya.

Pero kung para sa kapwa tao ko, para sa inyo... *[whistles]* "Bigay." Kaya ang sundalo ko mag-exhibition. Kaya it will --- I will just pass around the hat and for those Filipinos who are really also proud of their soldiers and love of country, I'm sure we won't have a hard time.

There will be no... Huwag kayong mag-alala hindi ako namimilit ng tao. `Yung gusto lang. Marami akong kaibigan na mayayaman. Marami akong classmates na talagang they have made it. Well, one of them is Tugade. He's a billionaire even before... Nandito ba si Art? Sabihin mo sa kanya isang milyon sa kanya.

Moreover, the PSG was able to...

I also laud Brigadier General Niembra for taking steps towards ensuring that our PSG personnel are able to continue with their training classes and schooling for the advancement of their careers.

Bago ako ano, ulitin ko lang. It's not because I want to rub it in. But you know, the PSG binigyan ko ng 100 million a month. Then ang V. Luna, 50 million a month. Ang AFP, 50 million a month. Kaya huwag sana akong makarinig na walang pera pang-medisina ang sundalo ko.

And for those who were you know, may --- [a bit sad?] na 'yung naging baldado. I said I guarantee them that they can walk again and use their arm again, sabi ko. And it's gonna be the prosthetics and robotics. I assured them that they will back in the service at marami na ang bumalik na serbisyo using the titanium, the state of the art. And you will have the best of everything sa panahon ko.

Sir, your efficiency and effectivity in the discharge of your duties have certainly inspired the entire PSG to strive for excellence, whatever their positions may be.

To the incoming PSG Commander, Colonel Jesus P. Durante III, I thank you for stepping up to the challenge of being the next [leader] of the PSG.

I trust that under your supervision, the PSG will be able to continue the excellent provision of security to the Office of the President, to my family as well, and to the visiting heads of states [and] diplomats. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Lastly, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude to every PSG trooper for their valiant efforts in the performance of their duties. Each and every one of you has truly shown undaunted courage and unbridled patriotism by choosing to be of service to our beloved country.

With high integrity and valor, let us remain united in safeguarding our institutions as it strives to bring about a more social, secure, peaceful and dignified life for the Filipinos.

At ako naman ho, I have said it again and I say it now na ako hindi ako naghilingi ng personal loyalty. I loathe it. Ayaw ko. Nakokornihan, nahihilasan ako.

All that I ask is that when the time comes I will be proudly saluting you and please remain loyal only --- only to the flag of the Republic of the Philippines and no one else.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat! [*applause*]

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