

Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk

**SPEECH OF PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE DURING THE
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES OF THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY
ACADEMY (PMA) "BAGSIK DIWA" CLASS OF 2022**

[Delivered at the Philippine Military Academy, Fort General Gregorio H. del
Pilar in Baguio City | 15 May 2022]

Thank you. Kindly sit down.

[Cadet Second Class John Troy Albano, can you give the tikas pahinga to the troops?]

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo, National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana; Interior and Local Government Secretary Eduardo Año; National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon Jr.; Presidential Adviser on Military Affairs Arthur Tabaquero; Senator Bong Go, Vice Chairperson of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Office of the Vice President Undersecretary Philip Francisco Dy; AFP Chief of Staff General Andres Centeno; Benguet Governor Melchor Diclas; Philippine Army Commanding General Lieutenant General Romeo Brawner; Philippine Air Force Commanding General Lieutenant General Connor Anthony Canlas Sr.; Philippine Navy Flag Officer in Command Vice Admiral Adela Bordado; PNP OIC Chief Police Lieutenant General Vicente Danao Jr.; PCG Commandant Admiral Artemio Abu; PMA Superintendent General Lieutenant General Ferdinand Cartujano; officials, faculty members and staff of the Philippine Military Academy; Cadet Corps Armed Forces of the Philippines led by the Bagsik Diwa graduating Class of 2022 and their proud parents; Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalos --- Magalong, I'm sorry it's --- maybe my eyes *[laughter]* I'm quite old you know; Foreign Service Attaches in attendance; distinguished guests; mga mahal kong Pilipino

Nothing can be more appropriate at this time than for me to extend my congratulations to the 214-strong male and female graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy Bagsik Diwa Class of 2022. *[applause]*

Yours is the honor today as it is your parents' proudest moment. This day belongs not only to each of you individually but to your parents and loved ones as well.

Permit me too, to specially congratulate the top graduating cadets of this class who have shown remarkable leadership qualities and academic excellence.

Noontime of June 30, 2022, my public life as President of this republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to which all of you belong, comes to an end.

In contrast, your responsibility to uphold, protect and secure people's rights, lives and properties officially starts today, although I am sure that that responsibility was nascent when you enrolled in this academy years ago --- four years to be exact.

It is said that only the courageous, the fiercely competitive, the disciplined and the best, if you will, may pass through the storied halls and hallowed grounds of the Philippine Military Academy. [The] fact that you march here today on historic and mystical grounds is a testament to that truth. You are the best that the youth of the land can offer. *[applause]*

My friends and to you the graduating class, the world is changing and it is changing fast. And so do attitudes, mores and values. The man in uniform has not been spared this phenomenon, for he too, has undergone and will continue to undergo some degree of change or transformation, although he remains rooted to the basic concept of soldiering which is to defend, protect and advance freedom and democratic institutions.

Today, the man in uniform must be many things at the same time if he is to be relevant to the changing times.

He must be both a warrior and a peacemaker; an arms-bearer and a pencil pusher; skilled in the art of war and adept as a lifesaver; an offensive machine and a fierce defender; a tribune and a diplomat; a soldier and a civil servant.

You can be all these if you want. The Philippine Military Academy has sufficiently prepared you for all possibilities and all eventualities. The eyes of the Filipino people are upon you. Always remain true to your oath. By your actions in public, the Philippine Military Academy, shall be judged. You are the face of your alma mater.

My administration was constrained to adopt extreme legal measures to fight society's ills at the start of my term. Sad to admit, after six years, these ills hound us still though to lesser degree of intensity. Corruption, red tape, and illegal drugs, and crime and criminalities are the wrongs that we need to correct.

I guess it is in the hands of the next generation of Filipino leaders and movers where our salvation rests. You, the Bagsik Diwa Class of 2022 belong to that generation. *[applause]*

In every country's history, every generation of Filipino leaders and movers lies where our salvation and rests. You, the Bagsik Diwa Class 2022 belong to that generation.

In every country's history, every generation has a role to play and a mission to fulfil. The challenge has been said.

To the members of the Bagsik Diwa Class, we await your response. Maraming salamat at mabuhay kayong lahat! *[applause]*

Pardon of punishment. Ano bang ginawa ninyo? *[laughter]* I will just read it anyway.

In observance to the time-honored tradition of the Philippine Military Academy on the occasion of the graduation of PMA Bagsik Diwa Class 2022, I, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte of the Republic of the Philippines and Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of the Philippines, hereby – ayaw kong basahin eh. *[laughter]* Bigyan mo ako listahan kung anong ginawa nitong mga... *[laughter]* Ulitin ko na lang.

I, as Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of the Philippines, hereby pardon *[applause]* all outstanding punishments of the underclassmen – second class, third class, fourth class of the Cadet Corps *[applause]* Armed Forces of the Philippines as recommended by the Superintendent PMA effective today. Granted this – next month pa ito *[laughter]* – granted this 15th day of May in the year of our Lord 2022, PMA Fort General Gregorio H. Del Pilar Baguio City, and I sign. *[applause]*

Pumalakpak muna kayo bago ko pirmahan 'to. *[laughter]* You clap your hands. *[applause]*

[President Duterte signs document]

This will include the past, the present, and maybe the future. *[laughter]*

Salamat po.

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