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**SPEECH BY PRESIDENT FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR. AT THE ARMY OFFICER
CANDIDATE COURSE “GAIGMAT” CLASS 58-2023 GRADUATION CEREMONY**

[Delivered at the Philippine Army Headquarters, Fort Andres Bonifacio in Taguig City
| 07 July 2023]

Thank you very much to our DND Secretary, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. *[Please take your seats.]*

The Special Assistant to the President Secretary Anton Lagdameo; the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff General Andy Centino; Philippine Army Commanding General Lieutenant General Romeo Brawner Jr.; the Philippine Army Officer Candidate Course Graduating Class 58-2023, and of course, just as important their proud parents who have joined us here this afternoon; my fellow workers in government; distinguished guests; ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

I am one with the entire Filipino people as I congratulate the graduates of the Philippine Army Officer Candidate Course “Gaiamat” Class 58-2023.

This occasion signifies the culmination of your hard work, your dedication, [and] your sacrifice in overcoming the challenges of becoming an Army Officer.

While this graduation ceremony marks the end of this chapter in your training, your journey does not end here— an even bigger challenge awaits you as you start to assume leadership roles in our Army.

This is aptly captured in your class name, “Gaiamat”— a word that means being watchful of everything at all times—which underscores the vigilance required given our complex and evolving security environment.

Indeed, as members of the “Gaiamat” class, you are called to become sentinels of the nation’s Army and symbols of illumination who will serve as guides and exemplars of excellence amongst our troops.

As you step into the ranks of commissioned officers of the Philippine Army, remember leadership does not emanate from titles or positions alone.

More importantly, leadership stems from being able to demonstrate initiative [and] flexibility amidst uncertainty; to show resilience and tenacity under pressure; to instill amongst yourselves and others hope, courage, and unity even in the most difficult of circumstances.

The rigid nature of your training has forged you into formidable warriors—embodying the core principles of honor, integrity, and service while continuing to show resilience and adaptability—rousing greatness in all who follow you.

As you ascend to the ranks of Second Lieutenants of the Philippine Army, hold firm to the ideals that have led you to this pivotal moment.

Lead by example, command with respect, [and] execute with excellence as you confront the challenges ahead.

Let patriotism permeate every fiber of your being, empowering you to navigate the complexities of the field with heightened awareness and true mastery of your craft.

Be assured, the government's dedication to your advancement and welfare goes beyond providing modern equipment alone. We continue to prioritize retooling and retraining to arm you with intellectual fortitude, with tactical prowess, and strategic acumen to thrive on the modern battlefield.

I invite you to join me and this administration in building a better, safer, and more secure nation for all Filipinos in the years to come.

Congratulations once again to all the graduates on this exceptional achievement that we commemorate today.

Manalig tayo at patuloy na mangarap, Gaigmat.

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

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