

SPEECH
OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE CHANGE OF COMMAND AND RETIREMENT
CEREMONY IN HONOR OF LT. GEN. EDGAR FALLORINA

[Delivered at 24 October 2017 | Haribon Hangar, Clark Air Base, Pampanga]

Kindly sit down. Thank you for the courtesy.

[May the commander of the troops, may I request you to give the tikas pahinga order please?]

Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea and the other members of the Cabinet; AFP Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año and the major service commanders; Lieutenant General Edgar Fallorina; Lieutenant General Galileo Gerard Kintanar Jr.; the officers, enlisted personnel and civilian employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines; mga kasama ko sa goyberno; mga mahal kong kababayan.

It is my pleasure to join you in the PAF's Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony of Lt. Gen. Edgar Fallorina.

I congratulate Lt. Gen. Fallorina for his successful tour of duty as Commanding General of the Philippine Air Force.

I am confident that the PAF is in good order, with the several improvements initiated by Lt. Gen. Fallorina and the upgrades made under his administration.

The PAF has made remarkable organizational improvements under his leadership. He has established the command framework, Jointly Engaged Transforming Force for Greater Peace and Security. Under his leadership, the Tactical Operations Command and the Air Defense Command were reactivated.

The Philippine Air Force also performed aerial reconnaissance and maritime patrol missions over the West Philippine Sea, the Benham Rise and other parts of the Philippine territory.

You have supported internal security operations, mainly on the ongoing military operation in Mindanao, where the PAF provided the air assets for troop movement and close air support to ground troops against the Abu Sayyaf Group and the other [local] terrorist groups.

Humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations [such as] aerial observation over calamity-stricken areas and airlift of assisting personnel, relief goods and victims were done as well.

The PAF has also [deployed] several aircraft and more than 400 personnel to Marawi City for combat support and troop movement operations.

I assure you that the PAF [has the] government's full support as you perform your mandate as an organization. In fact, two C130s and 12 FA-50 aircraft have been added to the PAF since July of last year.

I enjoin our troops to continue performing their duties well, especially as martial law remains in effect in Mindanao, and there are persisting threats of terrorism and [insurgency].

We recognize the valor and the sacrifices of the PAF personnel who were killed and wounded in action, particularly the casualties caused by the conflict in Marawi City. Rest assured that the Philippines is committed to promote the welfare of all PAF personnel and their loved ones.

That you have left your families and the comfort of your homes to serve the country is truly praiseworthy. Indeed, the Philippines and our people are indebted to you because of the sacrifices you have made every single day.

We have made significant headway in ridding the country of the scourges of criminality, insurgency, terrorism and corruption because of your invaluable contributions and there could never be a task more ennobling than that.

May you always stay faithful to the Constitution and the people whom you have sworn to protect.

Truly, you have made our country safer and more secure.

Good day and mabuhay ang Philippine Air Force! Thank you. *[applause]*

--- END ---