

**Speech of H. E. President Fidel V. Ramos  
Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association  
Baguio City, February 14, 1993**

COLONEL FELIX DUENAS, CHAIRMAN OF PMAAA; GENERAL MARIANO, PRESIDENT OF PMAAA; SECRETARY DE VILLA OF NATIONAL DEFENSE; CHIEF OF STAFF ABADIA; SUPERINTENDENT MARCELO; THE OLDEST LIVING GRADUATES PRESENT; GENERAL LEONCIO "TATANG" TAN OF THE CLASS OF 1928; OUR YOUNGEST CAVALIER, LIEUTENANT LEO EDWARD CARANTO OF THE CLASS OF 1992; THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; MY CO-WORKERS IN THE CABINET AND IN OTHER AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT; THE CAVALIER AWARDEES, THE GOLDEN JUBILARIANS, THE SILVER JUBILARIANS AND ALL OTHER JUBILARIANS AND THEIR LADIES; OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS; FELLOW CAVALIERS; MGA MAHAL NA KABABAYAN.

I THANK FELIX DUENAS FOR HIS VERY GENEROUS INTRODUCTION. BUT HE FORGOT TO MENTION THAT I AM A CAVALIER, AND SO I AM MENTIONING THAT MYSELF.

FOR INDEED, I SHARE WITH YOU THE MEMORIES AS WELL AS THE ASPIRATION THAT EVERY GRADUATE OF THIS REVERED INSTITUTION HAS KEPT IN HIS HEART ALL OF THESE YEARS SINCE HE FIRST ENTERED THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

I AGREE THAT THIS IS A SPECIAL OCCASION NOT ONLY FOR THE ALUMNI, NEITHER FOR THE ACADEMY ITSELF, BUT INDEED, THIS IS A SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ALL FILIPINOS BECAUSE THERE IS NO OTHER INSTITUTION IN OUR MILITARY HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN HELD WITH SUCH HIGH REGARD BY OUR PEOPLE AS THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY.

AND SO TODAY IS NOT JUST A BRIEF MOMENT OF RENEWAL FOR ALL OF US, BUT IT IS ALSO IN MANY, MANY WAYS, A PERIOD OF STOCK-TAKING OF ASSESSING OUR OWN PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, OUR INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS, BUT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US AS AN ORGANIZATION THAT CARRIES IN ITS ROSTER DISTINGUISHED AND CAPABLE FILIPINOS AS TO WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO FOR OUR PEOPLE AND FOR OUR COUNTRY.

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE ALL THE IMPROVEMENTS TAKING PLACE ALL AROUND THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY. NOT JUST THE BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT UP SINCE THE KILLER EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 1990, NOT JUST THE SPARKLING NEW FACILITIES THAT ARE COMING UP LIKE THE MESS HALL AND THE MORE MODERN BARRACKS, BUT SPECIALLY THE BASIC, SUCH AS ROADS, AND EVEN WATER WHICH IS NOW BEING PUT INTO THE ACADEMY. THESE ARE SIGNS OF PROGRESS AND THESE ARE SIGNS OF CONCERN.

YOU MAY ALSO HAVE NOTED THAT IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO ITSELF, WE HAVE SIMILAR RENEWAL TAKING PLACE. RENEWALS THAT WERE URGENTLY NECESSARY AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE OF JULY 1990 WHICH WAS EXPERIENCED BY MANY OF US, AS VICTIMS, AS REHABILITATION WORKERS AND AS RECONSTRUCTORS LATER ON.

FOR INSTANCE, WE HAVE NEW HIGHWAYS COMING UP TO BAGUIO. THE PUGO BY-PASS FROM ROSARIO THAT CONNECTS FROM THE OLD KENNON ROAD JUNCTION TO THE RENOVATED HIGHWAY FROM AGOO TO

BAGUIO IS NOW VERY, VERY PASSABLE. WE ARE NOW ALSO REBUILDING NAGUILIAN ROAD FROM BOTH ENDS, FROM THE BAGUIO END AS WELL AS FROM THE LOWLAND END. AND IN DUE TIME, THAT WILL BE A MODERN HIGHWAY THAT WILL BE ENJOYED BY LOTS OF PEOPLE INCLUDING THOSE RESIDING IN THIS AREA.

LATER ON TODAY, WE SHALL FIRM UP THE PRIVATIZATION OF CAMP JOHN HAY SO THAT ITS CEASES TO BECOME A WHITE ELEPHANT IN THE HANDS OF GOVERNMENT AS A SUBSIDIZED AGENCY. THIS WILL BE EVENTUALLY TURNED OVER TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, TO INCLUDE ENTREPRENEURS FROM THE CITY OF BAGUIO SO THAT IT CAN BECOME A REVENUE PRODUCING ASSET NOT ONLY FOR THE COMMUNITY BUT FOR OUR GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.

AND THEN THIS AFTERNOON, BECAUSE OF MY DESIRE TO MAXIMIZE THE SUPPORT THAT OUR PEOPLE SHOULD MANIFEST TO THIS COMMUNITY THAT HAS WITHSTOOD THE CHALLENGES OF WAR, EARTHQUAKE, TYPHOON AND WHAT HAVE YOU. WE HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD THIS GIANT P50 MILLION SUPER SWEEPSTAKES DEVOTED TO THE WELFARE OF THE CORDILLERAS. THE DRAW WILL BE HELD AT BURNHAM PARK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PEOPLE. THE NUMBER FOR THE FIRST PRIZE IS NOT GOING TO BE DRAWN BY THE PRESIDENT, BUT BY SOMEONE CHOSEN BY THE OFFICIALS FROM OUR CULTURAL COMMUNITY. I HOPE ALL OF YOU HAS TICKETS TO THIS GRAND PRIZE OF ₱50 MILLION. IF YOU DON'T, IT IS NOT YET TOO LATE TO INVEST.

MY DEAR FRIENDS, WHAT I AM TRYING TO SAY HERE IS THAT, WE MUST NOW OPEN WIDE OUR PERSPECTIVES IN THE SAME WAY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS REACHING OUT TO ALL THE SECTORS OF OUR SOCIETY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING OUR POLITICAL STABILITY, OUR SOCIAL COHESION AND OUR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS.

I AM HAPPY TO NOTE FROM ADMIRAL MARCELO THAT INDEED, THE ACADEMY ITSELF IS REACHING OUT. WE HAVE REACHED OUT TO THE WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY BY MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR 16 YOUNG FILIPINAS TO ENTER AS CADETS IN THE NEXT CLASS.

WE HAVE ALSO REACHED OUT IN A VERY COST EFFECTIVE WAY BY THE CONVERSION OF THE PMA INTO A GENUINE TRI-SERVICE ACADEMY WHERE THE LAST TWO YEARS OF THE FOUR YEARS STAY OF A CADET IN THE ACADEMY IS DEVOTED TO HIS MAJOR SERVICE SPECIALIZATION TRAINING. WITH THIS SYSTEM, WE GENERATE A LOT OF SAVINGS ALTHOUGH THIS INCURS MANY ADDITIONAL HOURS OF HARDWORK ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE FACULTY. AND WHATEVER SAVINGS ARE GENERATED THESE ARE INVESTED BACK INTO BETTER EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY.

WE ARE IN MANY, MANY WAYS WORKING ON THE LIBERALIZATION OF OUR SOCIETY. THE REACHING OUT PROCESS HAS CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE AN ENDURING PEACE IN OUR COUNTRY. IN FACT, THE INSURGENCY IS WINDING DOWN IN A PROCESS OF RECONCILIATION. TAKLS WITH THOSE ON THE EXTREME LEFT, THOSE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT AND THE SECESSIONISTS IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES HAS BROUGHT SO FAR ENCOURAGING RESULTS.

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES ITSELF IS ENTERING A NEW PACE IN OUR HISTORY. WHAT WE ALL WANT TO ATTAIN WITH THIS REACHING OUT AND LIBERALIZATION EFFORTS IS A STABLE AND PEACEFUL PHILIPPINES IN WHICH EVERY FILIPINO WILL HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO GO UP, IN WHICH THERE IS A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND THE GOODIES IN LIFE, AND WHERE THERE IS GREATER PARTICIPATION OF THE ORDINARY PEOPLE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESSES WHICH AFFECTS THEIR VERY LIVES. THIS IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE PEOPLE THAT I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT FOR MANY YEARS

NOW.

AND SO LET US ACCEPT THAT THE GAME HAS CHANGED. IT IS NO LONGER PARTISAN POLITICS THAT SHOULD BE DOMINANT IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE. THE NAME OF THE NEW GAME IN THE PHILIPPINES AS IT IS ALL OVER THE WORLD ESPECIALLY IN OUR REGION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IS ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS. THE PHASING OUT OF THE COLD WAR AND ONE SUPERPOWER IS EVIDENCE OF THE CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER. AND SECURITY IN OUR REGION IS NO LONGER EQUATED TO WEAPONS OR MILITARY CAPABILITIES, BUT IT IS ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS AND ECONOMIC CAPABILITY THAT NOW DEFINE THE RULES OF THE GAME.

AND SO MY DEAR FRIENDS, OF THE PMAAA AND OF THE PMA, WE SOMETIMES WOULD WONDER WHAT NOW IS THE ROLE OF THE MILITARY PROFESSIONAL, OF THE VETERAN AND OF THE PMA ALUMNUS IN THIS NEW SETUP AROUND THE WORLD.

I CONTEND THAT THE BUILDING OF A PEACEFUL AND STABLE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON YOUR PROFESSIONALISM, YOUR COURAGE, YOUR INTEGRITY, AND ON YOUR LOYALTY. YOUR TRAINING IN LEADERSHIP SHOULD STAND YOU AND OUR PEOPLE IN GOOD STEAD, IN PEACE AS WELL AS IN WAR. THE MILITARY VIRTUES OF SELF-DISCIPLINE, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND OF KNOWING HOW TO LEAD OTHER PEOPLE AND ALSO VIRTUES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH.

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY WILL CONTINUE TO MEET THE MANAGERIAL EXPERTISE OUR ASSOCIATION CAN PROVIDE. AND CERTAINLY, OUR ARMED FORCES MUST CONTINUE TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO TRAIN ITS OFFICERS EARLY IN THEIR CAREERS NOT ONLY IN TROOP LEADING AND IN THE COMBAT ARTS, BUT ESPECIALLY NOW IN CITIZENSHIP, IN SOCIAL BROADENING AND IN SETTING THE EXAMPLE FOR YOUNG AS WELL AS OLDER FILIPINOS AS WE MOVE ON TO MODERNIZATION.

WE THEREFORE WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO ALL OF US TO BE A PART OF THIS RENEWAL AND MODERNIZING EFFORT. THIS IS THEREFORE, THE MESSAGE I GIVE TO YOU, FELLOW CAVALIERS, AND THAT IS TO JOIN US IN THIS EFFORT TO WIDEN HORIZON, TO MODERNIZE OUR INSTITUTION, TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY AND TO WIN THE WAR AGAINST INDISCIPLINE, GRAFT AND CORRUPTION AND ALL OF THE ILLS THAT OUR SOCIETY HAS BEEN STRUGGLED WITH FOR MANY DECADES.

I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM ALL OF YOU THAT I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE WORK OF ONE OF OUR ALUMNI IN THE PERSON OF GENERAL MARIANO, THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE AFP LOGISTICS COMMAND. NOT ONLY HAS HE LONG AND THOROUGHLY BEEN ADVOCATING PROFESSIONALISM AND CORRECTNESS IN OUR PROCUREMENT SYSTEM BUT HE AND SOME OTHERS WROTE A BOOK ABOUT IT. AND BECAUSE OF THIS AND IN MY DESIRE TO HIGHLIGHT AND UNDERLINE THAT NEED IN OUR ARMED FORCES, IN GOVERNMENT ITSELF, I HAVE RECENTLY DESIGNATED HIM AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL ON MORAL RECOVERY. BUT HE DOES NOT ONLY REPRESENT HIMSELF, HE REPRESENTS HIS COMMAND, HE REPRESENTS THE AFP AND INDEED, THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN THIS ROLE. I DO NOT THINK I COULD HAVE CHOSEN A BETTER COUNCIL MEMBER AND I AM SURE THAT HE WILL CAPABLY REPRESENT ALL CAVALIERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

IN CLOSING, LET ME SUMMARIZE IN A COUPLE OF SENTENCES WHAT I HAVE JUST TOLD YOU. FIRST OF ALL, THE NEW NAME OF THE GAME IS ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SO THAT WE CAN DEVELOP ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY. BUT BEFORE WE CAN DO ANY OF THAT, WE MUST HAVE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS. THIS

MEANS THAT THE PHILIPPINE TEAM, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PHILIPPINE PRIVATE SECTOR MUST BE EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE IN WHATEVER IT DOES. OUR PEOPLE MUST MAXIMIZE THE BEST OF OUR HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS MEANS THE EFFORT NOT ONLY OF THE BIG TYCOONS BUT ESPECIALLY THE ORGANIZED EFFORT OF ORDINARY FILIPINOS ASSISTED AND ADVISED BY PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WITH CAPABLE NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. WE MUST ALSO KEEP FIRST AND FOREMOST IN OUR MINDS KNOWING THAT WE MUST BE FAITHFUL TO THE MOTTO OF COURAGE, INTEGRITY AND LOYALTY THAT THERE IS NO HIGHER LOYALTY THAN LOYALTY TO OUR COUNTRY, TO GOD AND TO OUR PEOPLE. ALL OTHER LOYALTIES EVEN THAT TO OUR RESPECTIVE CLASSES AND TO THE PMAAA ITSELF, BE SET ASIDE AND ARE SECONDARY TO LOYALTY TO COUNTRY, GOD AND PEOPLE.

IF WE CAN BE FAITHFUL TO THIS MOTTO IN ITS HIGHEST SENSE AND BE COMPETITIVE WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD STARTING WITH THOSE IN OUR REGION, I AM CONFIDENT, I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS AS AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND AS A PEOPLE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. MARAMING SALAMAT SA INYONG LAHAT. MABUHAY ANG PMAAA.

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