



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the Filipino people in celebrating the **120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.**

This historic day forms the foundation of the liberties we enjoy today. Through the patriotic fervor shown by our forefathers, we have freed ourselves from colonial subjugation and proved to the world that we stand united as the pioneer of republican democracy in Asia.

May the solidarity and heroism exhibited by our ancestors fuel our desire to spur meaningful and lasting change in our communities as we collectively battle the social ills of corruption, illegal drugs and criminality that impede our progress as a nation. By cherishing the sovereignty that is borne out of the sweat and blood of our heroes, we stand firm and unwavering in our conviction to create a brighter and better future for all Filipinos – regardless of their status in life.

Inspired by the sacrifices of those who have bravely stood before us, may we also find the courage to defend our cherished democratic ideals now and in the years to come.

May we all have a meaningful observance of Independence Day.

  
RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA  
12 June 2018