

**110th INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE
OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALBERTO G. ROMULO**

With great pride and a renewed sense of purpose, the Filipino nation commemorates the 110th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence.

We Filipinos stand today as one country - proud of our freedoms, vigilant of our rights, and dedicated to strengthening to the fullest extent our democratic institutions and processes.

Our heroic forebears we remember with gratitude and reverence. Their libertarian ideas, their patriotic principles, and their sacrifices on the altar of our freedom remain the strong and stable foundations of our nation.

Our collective experiences continue to animate a national spirit resilient in the face of every obstacle; unbounded in its vision of the common good, and eager to serve the nation's highest ideals.

Guided by a profound respect for democratic values, we continue resolutely to chart our national course toward more lasting peace, more equitable development, and greater prosperity that leaves no one behind.

As one people, we remain committed to overcoming the challenges and seizing the opportunities put to every nation by our globalizing world.

As a responsible member of the international community, we continue to do our part to create a world safer and more secure from the scourges of poverty, strife, and environmental degradation.

This year's theme of our Independence celebrations - "Republic Service, Tungo sa Ganap na Kalayaan at Kaunlaran" - is a clarion call for all our stakeholders to renew and to reinvigorate our collective efforts toward nation building, social transformation, and economic development.

This year's celebrations recall to us our national history's greatest lesson: that whenever we Filipinos act with common purpose and unity of vision, we are able to achieve great things.

On this joyful national occasion, the Department of Foreign Affairs reaffirms its determination to fulfill its mandate of harnessing diplomacy for the protection, preservation, and promotion of our national interest in a free, stable, and prosperous world.

Collectively and individually, we in the DFA rededicate ourselves to our overriding objective: Service to the Filipino at home and to the global Filipino overseas.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at ang Sambayanang Pilipino!