

MESSAGE

Today is a day of remembrance and renewal.

We remember the heroism and sacrifice of our forebears who laid the foundations for the establishment of Asia's first Republic in 1898.

This is a democratic legacy which we-- as a state and as a nation-- should rightly be proud of and strive to further strengthen.

Likewise, we renew the pledge to continue doing our part in building a more peaceful, progressive and prosperous Philippines.

The Philippines has advanced steadily towards greater growth, guided by a common vision for a better shared future and powered by the sinew and might of the hard working and dedicated Filipino.

As we commemorate the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence, the theme "***Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan,***" underscores the challenges to and the responsibilities of our generation to bring to full fruition the ideals that animated our forefathers' noble efforts.

These are values that resonate with relevance for the global Filipino nation- bound as we are by a common heritage and shared aspirations.

I thank the Filipino- American community for your demonstrated commitment to help uphold, protect and promote our Filipino heritage; I am confident that you will continue to do your part in contributing to the full development of your motherland.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at ang diwa ng kalayaan! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Philippines

Manila
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