

Basuguan ng Pilipinas



Embassy of the Philippines

Canberra

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11 June 2013

TO ALL FILIPINO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

The Embassy would like to furnish you with the following Messages for the 115th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence:

1. Message of President Benigno S. Aquino III;
2. Message of Vice President Jejomar C. Binay; and
3. Message of DFA Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario

Wishing you all happy and meaningful Independence Day celebrations with all our kababayans and Australian friends in your various areas in Australia.


BELEN F. ANOTA
Ambassador



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

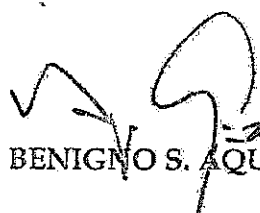
MESSAGE

We join the international Filipino community in commemorating the 115th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

More than a century ago, our forebears fought for freedom, granting every Filipino the right to pursue what is good and right for himself, his loved ones, and his country. Their sacrifices had not been in vain. Today, our people remain united in independence, and are now fighting another battle—to free ourselves from the shackles of ignorance, corruption, injustice, and poverty. May you ignite the patriotism and bayanihan spirit in your hearts, as together, we build and fortify the structures on which our nation is built; may this event be an opportunity to further promote our cultural heritage and uphold the Philippines' revived distinction in this globalized, multicultural milieu.

We are our country's modern-day heroes in this period of revitalization; let us work as one collective, playing our part as custodians of peace and democracy, and as stakeholders in our movement towards equitable progress and lasting reform.

May you have an engaging and meaningful celebration.



BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

MANILA
12 June 2013



Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Vice President

MESSAGE

I join all Filipinos everywhere as we celebrate the 115th anniversary of Philippine independence.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, in a balcony in Kawit, Cavite, we, as a nation and as a race, asserted our right to be independent and free from foreign rule. That freedom is a right. And so it must be exercised and protected carefully so that the cradle of noble heroes and her sons and daughters may never again fall to oppression.

As we celebrate our declaration of freedom from tyranny, may we never forget the price our forebears paid so that we may enjoy the liberties we have today.

And I pray that we may work together to finally free ourselves from the bonds of hunger and poverty.

Mabuhay ang bansang Pilipinas!

Mabuhay ang lahing Pilipino!


JEJOMAR C. BINAY



MESSAGE

One hundred and fifteen years ago, Filipinos stood victorious and proud as the Philippine flag was raised for the first time to signify the birth of an independent nation. It was a time when the task of nation-building, daunting as it was, served to form a shared vision of a free, prosperous and just society that would be worthy of the pride of every Filipino.

This year's theme, *Kalayaan 2013: Ambagan tungo sa Malawakang Kaunlaran*, reminds us that each of us has a role to play in turning the vision of a prosperous Philippines into reality. With the principled leadership of President Benigno S. Aquino III, the Philippines endeavors to achieve inclusive growth that will ensure an improving quality of life for all.

We call on Filipinos all over the world to join in our country's march towards economic development and social progress. By investing in the Philippines and engaging in entrepreneurship, overseas Filipino workers can be more powerful drivers of growth. Our collective efforts will eventually transform overseas employment from a necessary means of survival to a real economic choice.

The Department of Foreign Affairs remains steadfast in its resolve to contribute to nation-building. Guided by the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy – the preservation of national security, the enhancement of economic diplomacy, and the protection of the rights and welfare of Filipinos overseas – we continue to engage the international community and represent Philippine interests abroad to ensure an environment that is conducive to growth.

Today we commemorate the sacrifices of the men and women who valiantly fought for our independence. From their example, we can draw strength and inspiration for the work that lies ahead. As we celebrate our Independence Day, let us all come together in forging a bright future for our country.

Mabuhay at Maligayang Araw ng Kalayaan!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert F. Del Rosario'.

ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

12 June 2013
Pasay City