



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the Filipino people in celebrating the **Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.**

One hundred and twenty-two years ago, our forebears, armed with nationalistic fervor and indomitable spirit, proclaimed the birth of a sovereign nation founded on democratic ideals and grand aspirations for a prosperous future. As heirs to this legacy, it is our unavoidable duty to protect the Republic that they established by defending our freedoms and preserving our way of life.

The fight against COVID-19 is an opportunity for this generation of Filipinos to embody the strength of character of the martyrs of our past as we collectively strive to weather this public health emergency. Taking inspiration from our modern day heroes—our healthcare professionals, law enforcement personnel, essential workers and other front liners—let us contribute to this cause by dedicating our resources and sacrificing our petty desires for the sake of the common good.

Looking forward to the future with much optimism, let us all free ourselves from fear, selfishness and prejudice so that we may endure this pandemic and rebuild a society that we can confidently leave behind to future generations of Filipinos.

May we have a meaningful commemoration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo Roa Duterte".

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA  
12 June 2020