



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

International Women's Day, March 8, is a celebration of nations across the world in honor of women's collective efforts to push social, economic, cultural and political reforms affecting women's rights and conditions.

Generations have been witness to the amazing ways by which women have transformed societies by playing the role of mothers, workers, intellectuals, educators, caregivers, soldiers, activists, artists and leaders.

Indeed, women are heroes.

The entire world can look up to women—for their creativity and imagination, for their courage and boldness, for their self-sacrifice and charity.

We are fortunate, as we are grateful, that the Philippines has been a fertile ground for outstanding women in various sectors. The Philippines ranks high in the Asia Pacific region and in the world in terms of gender equality. My administration shall strive to maintain this distinction as well as continue to recognize their invaluable contributions in sports, science, governance, education, public service and the arts.

May this special day, commemorating the milestones of women's historic struggle for equality across the globe, spur everyday awareness and inspire change in attitudes in families, communities and the country.

Together, we can make change work for women and women can make change work. May you have a meaningful and engaging celebration.


RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
March 2017

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES