



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the entire Filipino nation in celebrating the 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

More than a century ago, thousands have laid down their lives so that we may live with the dignity and rights befitting a free nation. The journey to freedom was a long and arduous one—which our countrymen paid for with blood, sweat and the ultimate act of selfless sacrifice. Despite the insurmountable hardships, the patriotism and undaunted spirit of the Filipino led to our triumph against the shackles of slavery and abuse.

On that day, we showed our colonizers and the rest of the world what Filipinos are made of. Let us take inspiration from our forebears who valiantly fought and offered their lives so that we may have the liberties that we enjoy today. Let us pay homage to their heroism by preserving our sovereignty and performing our own civic rights and responsibilities. After all, it is our inherent duty as citizens to ensure that the Philippines fulfills its destiny as a great and prosperous nation.

*Mabuhay ang ating kalayaan! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Filipino!*

  
RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA  
12 June 2017