



MESSAGE

Today, the entire Filipino nation unites in remembrance and celebration of the Declaration of Philippine Independence 109 years ago.

In doing so, we pay tribute to our forefathers whose sacrifices earned for our motherland the distinct honor of being the first democratic republic in Asia.

As we commemorate our triumphs, we also acknowledge the historic thread linking our forebears to our country's modern-day heroes - the global overseas Filipino workers - who, in active partnership with the Philippine Government, continue to contribute significantly to our great task of nation-building and development.

And indeed at 109, the Philippines has grown deeper and deeper roots, firmly anchoring itself with the values of freedom, democracy, the rule of law and global partnership for peace and prosperity.

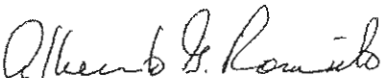
As an independent nation, we have shown our resilience and remained unwavering in our efforts to advance the welfare of our people - uplifting the lives of our poor and nurturing our children for a brighter dawn in our country, in our region and in the family of nations.

As the Philippines moves forward, the men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs, guided by the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy --- national security, economic diplomacy and assistance to nationals --- remain steadfast in advancing the interests of the Philippines and of the Filipino people in the world community.

As we renew this pledge today, we also call on all Filipinos throughout the world to renew their commitment to work together in order to achieve our collective aspirations for peace, prosperity and progress.

"Sama-sama tayo tungo sa pag-asenso!"

Mabuhay ang lahing Pilipino! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!


ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City
12 June 2007