



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the entire nation in commemorating *Araw ng Kagitingan*.

We have set aside this day to honor our valiant troops who made their last stand in Bataan in defense of our democratic way of life. Indeed, we owe to the heroes of our past the liberties that we enjoy today, and their patriotism continues to fuel our enduring pursuit of genuine self-determination.

The battlefields of Bataan tested the character of our forebears and produced heroes that defined their generation. Today, as our generation is tested by a global health crisis, we see the rise of present-day heroes—hardworking medical professionals and health workers, military, police and law enforcement personnel, firefighters, security guards, and front liners in the food service, transport, waste disposal and other essential industries—who despite great personal risk, continue to work so that we may all survive.

As we face this unprecedented public health emergency that threatens the very survival of our society, let us all draw strength from the heroism of the veterans of Bataan and the unnamed heroes in the fight against COVID-19. May their example give us the courage and strength to endure this pandemic and rise as a stronger and more resilient nation.

May we have a solemn commemoration.

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

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA  
9 April 2020