



# CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS ANGELES

## M E S S A G E



The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles wishes our *kababayan* community in Southern California, Southern Nevada and Arizona a safe and peaceful celebration of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

With the fullest appreciation of the monumental challenges confronting everyone, allow me, at least on this occasion, to draw your gaze upon our beloved motherland, the Philippines. Remember how our country broke free from the shackles of colonialism 122 years ago and let us draw strength from our forebears who surmounted all odds to make us a free nation and a proud people.

So much has changed in the world in the past three months that we cannot even reckon how far-reaching the consequences of the present pandemic will be. With so much despair, sadness and confusion in the world at present, perhaps it is time to look to the past to draw inspiration and to lean on our community to feel empowered and not alone.

The theme of this year's Independence Day celebration, *Kalayaan 2020: Tungo sa Bansang Malaya, Nagbabayanihan, at Ligtas* is a reminder to Filipinos that only through the solidarity of a nation that lifts one another up will our hard-won independence continue to thrive, our people free, safe and secure.

It is also an exhortation to honor our modern-day Filipino heroes, at home and abroad, who are at the frontlines of defending life against the onslaught of a deadly pandemic, echoing the sacrifices of our heroes who in the past fought with incredible courage to win our freedom from bondage and oppression.

To the Filipino-American healthcare workers, pride of the nation and fighter for the world, may you be blessed with ever more strength and resilience. To the Filipino-American community in the southwest U.S.A. who live by the true spirit of *Bayanihan*, may you always be empowered to pursue your advocacies during these trying times. Never forget to give back to your community and help your compatriots back home.

*Mga minamahal kong kababayan, maraming salamat sa inyong malasakit at katatagan sa pagpapanatili ng kaligtasan ng isa't isa mula sa pandemya. Sa ating sama-samang pakikipaglaban at pagtutulongan, nawa'y makamtan natin ang mithiin ng bawat Pilipino na maging ligtas at tunay ng malaya!*

*Mabuhay ang Kalayaan! Mabuhay ang Sambayanang Pilipino!*

**ADELIO ANGELITO S. CRUZ**  
Consul General

12 June 2020

#Kalayaan2020 #PH122 #WeHealAsOne #WeRiseAsOne