



Message on Philippine Independence Day



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Today, we rejoice and praise God as we celebrate the 123rd anniversary of the birth of our Republic, the First Independent Nation in Asia.

As we enjoy the blessings of independence, may I invite everyone to reflect on the words of a Filipino statesman, Former UP President Carlos P. Romulo:

“Let us teach our people again to be proud that they are Filipinos.

“Let us teach them to realize anew that being Filipino means having as rich and noble a heritage of language, culture, patriotism, and heroic deeds as any nation on earth.

“Let us teach a steadfast faith in Divine Providence, a stable family institution, the unhampered enjoyment of civil liberties, the advantages of a rich and spacious land.”

The Roman philosopher Seneca reminds us that “men love their country, not because it is great, but because it is their own.” The Philippines, being the only country God has given us, demands our whole-hearted patriotism. If it has to be a great nation then we as a people must love our nation and give her our best. We know as a consequence that genuine love of country breeds integrity both in government and in the private sector, hard work and excellence in our vocations, and a sense of national pride. It also makes us grateful to God for having a country of our own and gratitude inevitably evokes the spirit and willingness to do what it takes to make our nation flourish and great again.

Let us therefore be in the forefront of a crusade to exemplify what love of country means in our daily lives and in our own humble way be a partaker in building a better Philippines.

God bless the Philippines. God bless us all.