



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS
MESSAGE

*"In the same way, faith by itself,
if it is not accompanied by action,
is dead." (James 2:17)*

My heartfelt greetings to all Filipinos around the world as we commemorate the 120th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence. With great pride and a renewed sense of purpose, I join the rest of the nation in reaffirming our shared heritage of independence.

This year's theme "***Independence 2018: Change We Fought For, An Offering To An Abundant Future***", is a clarion call for all of us to renew and reinvigorate efforts toward nation building and social transformation. But it is not enough to just talk about freedom. We must not only believe in it, but also work for it, because as quoted from the Bible above, faith without action is dead.

The leadership of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte gives us the golden opportunity for the Philippines to be truly free. The Government is now working hard for us to continue our fight for independence albeit a different kind of independence: freedom from crime, freedom from illegal drugs and freedom from corruption.

The President has given us the seeds of genuine love and concern for the Filipino, anywhere in the world. It is time for us to unite and together sow the same love for country that we may reap the benefits of a better, sustainable and inclusive future that is comfortable for all.

It may take a village to raise a child, but it takes all Filipinos— whether it be our OFWs, teachers, soldiers, the private sector and the civil service— to work together for law and order, development and economic progress. We all have to put action to our faith.

The men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs shall work for all Filipinos to realize President Duterte's vision of an independent foreign policy attuned to the needs and aspirations of the Filipino people and imbued with the highest standards of professionalism.

We shall strengthen and deepen our commitment to our core national interest, the more than ten million Filipinos living and working abroad to gain economic freedom for their families and give them better opportunities in life.

We shall push on and fight for our national interests and uplift the image of the Philippines in order to bring real change and economic and political benefits home— by being friends to all and enemies to none. We shall "Build, Bridge, Build" to protect the country's interests and to achieve peace and prosperity, including the long-term security and stability in our region.

As we all join hands and help the President accomplish his mission for real positive change in the country, guided by the three pillars of foreign policy— national security, economic diplomacy and assistance to nationals— we shall stand tall as Filipinos and be living witnesses as the Philippines continue to work and be victorious in advancing the country's interests in the world stage, and ensuring the well-being of Filipinos wherever they are.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at ang sambayanang Pilipino!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Peter S. Cayetano".

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City, 12 June 2018