

**PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III's MESSAGE  
FOR FILIPINOS ABROAD ON THE  
113<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION OF  
PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY  
Premier Guest House Lobby, Malacañang  
June 12, 2011**

Isa pong mainit na pagbati sa ating mga kababayan sa iba't-ibang panig ng mundo.

Today, Filipinos at home and all over the world are commemorating our independence. But more than commemoration, today is also about paying tribute to all the heroes who made countless sacrifices to win and preserve our freedom. From the nameless soldiers who willingly put their lives at risk in different battlefields, to our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal whose 150<sup>th</sup> birthday is a week from now.

We take this opportunity to remember their contributions to establish this sovereign republic; and we take this opportunity to take the tasks they have left behind unto ourselves: to fulfill our own roles and to undertake our own heroics so that we may push this country further along the path of progress.

You may have gone to find your fortunes and your futures in another land, but the values that define us as true Filipinos will always be imbued in your hearts: creativity, compassion, and most of all, love for country.

We are currently creating a better Philippines -- one that can stand in honor side by side with the countries you currently reside in.

I believe that today, we can all agree that no matter where we are in the world, this is one aspiration we all share -- a world where the talent, the skill, and the virtues of the Filipino people are given the respect and attention they deserve in the global arena.

So let us continue working together as one people towards this goal.

Let us show the world how our solidarity knows no borders.

Gawin nating makabuluhan ang paggunita natin sa “Araw ng Kalayaan.”

Sama-sama nating palayain mula sa tanikala ng kahirapan ang ating mga kababayan. At patunayan natin sa buong mundo na karapat-dapat nating mapasakamay ang kalayaang tinatamasa nating ngayon.

Maraming salamat po.

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