



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



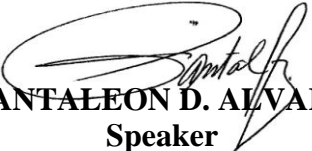
MESSAGE

My heartfelt greetings to the officials and various stakeholders of the **National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)** as we all commemorate this year's *National Heritage Month* by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 439.

Our country's ethnological and cultural diversity has created a truly unique national identity. This amalgamation of various local ethnicities together with infusions from our Asian neighbors, Spain, and the United States have produced a cultural tapestry that is truly distinct. The collective Filipino culture is one that, while firmly grounded on its many roots, has the remarkable capacity to adapt to the world – a multi-faceted characteristic not many countries possess.

I commend the **NCCA** for your efforts to chronicle and preserve the Filipino identity expressed through various ways. I can imagine the challenge that you face considering the dynamism of our national identity which is continuously evolving amidst modernity, technology, and globalization. This year's National Heritage Month theme, "*Pambansang Pagkakaisa Para sa Pamana,*" echoes our commitment to be *#OneHouseForChange*. We in the House of Representatives believe that genuine social and political reform is key in securing the future of our nation.

Given the array of challenges before us, it will take more than just the government's efforts to get the job done. What is required is a citizenry with a renewed sense of duty. We are Filipinos on a mission for our country and the future generations. It will not be a painless journey but let us stay the course, "*walang susuko, walang bibitaw, walang iwanan.*" *Mabuhay po kayo!*


PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ
Speaker