



Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

FROM THE CHAMBERS OF:

Diosdado M. Peralta
CHIEF JUSTICE

MESSAGE

I join and support the National Commission for Culture and the Arts as it spearheads this year's commemoration of the National Heritage Month.


The theme of this year's celebration, "*Victory and Humanity: Upholding Filipino Heritage and Identity*," highlights the urgency for public awareness to conserve and promote Philippine cultural heritage amidst the new normal brought by the pandemic. It likewise commemorates the 500th anniversary of the victory of Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan, and the 500th anniversary of the Philippine part in what is historically considered the first circumnavigation of the world.

The past year has been a draining one for all of us—physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. In spite of all the challenges the current global health crisis has unleashed our way, it has also forced us to become better versions of ourselves. The restrictions and responsibilities we are still facing force us to dig deep into our inner strengths, show gratitude for our blessings, and treasure our family and loved ones. It has likewise taught us the value of our collective efforts and our socio-cultural solidarity as Filipinos in responding to this crisis. Now, more than ever, is the perfect time for deep introspection and collective action, in order for our nation to overcome and emerge victorious these trying times.

Let us thus further embrace and harness the innovations offered by modern technology and virtual platforms in proactively organizing and engaging in heritage-related activities. Doing this will inspire Filipinos to forge a strong sense of identity, to take pride in our culture and heritage, as well as to hope and unite for a better future for the country.

Long live the Philippine culture and heritage! May God bless us all.

City of Manila, March 2021.


DIOSDADO M. PERALTA
Chief Justice