



PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING

## M E S S A G E

The recognition of a common humanity is the first step in the celebration of our differences – differences that inform our cultures, our values, our heritage. Filipino heritage embodies the great humanist idea that people of all backgrounds and faiths can unite around the conservation of structures, values, knowledge and belief systems. It is our identity.

Yet the protection of heritage is not only limited to the physical structures but also to products of human creativity by which our communities envision their identities. It includes our social practices, oral traditions, and living expressions that we inherited from our ancestors and passed down to our descendants.

This year's celebration of the National Heritage Month underscores humanity and victory through heritage as we look back into two important junctures in our history 500 years ago: the first circumnavigation of the world and the Battle of Mactan. Our ancestors welcomed the voyagers and provided them with food and supplies to complete their journey. They also fought for our homeland and championed heroism at the Victory of Mactan. These events caused far-reaching ripples that shaped our culture and identity as Filipinos.

As we brace the new normal, let us use these events to amplify our humanity and help others appreciate our culture and heritage. Let us use our heritage to remind us that we have more in common than what divides us. For a nation united in its identity is already a victory.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) expresses its gratitude to the Subcommittee on Cultural Heritage (SCH), and all heritage authorities, experts, site managers, partners and the public – for your continuous support in this mission. Let us continue to work together towards a brighter future and better life for every Filipino.

*Mabuhay ang pamanang Filipino!*



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