



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE SPEAKER



My warmest greetings to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts on the occasion of the National Heritage Month with the theme “Victory and Humanity: Upholding Filipino Heritage and Identity.”

The prolonged battle against this deadly pandemic--- where most of our cultural and tourism sites remain closed, and where people continue to be socially distant from one another--- takes its incremental toll on mind, body, and soul. Under this House leadership, we have primarily passed measures to bolster the public health system, deliver social protection, and provide assistance to vulnerable groups. But genuine recovery means we put premium not just on mind and body, but also the soul. Our country’s cultural tradition and heritage is our soul.

Article XVI, Section 15, of the Constitution mandates that: “The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical cultural heritage and resources.” By virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 439 s. 2003, the month of May is declared as National Heritage Month in order to create among Filipino people a consciousness, respect, and love for the legacies of our nation’s cultural history. When we celebrate our heritage, we celebrate the enrichment of our souls.

Cultural heritage sites are touchstones for universal peace and understanding. As we await the day when our country can once again re-open all our cultural heritage sites, I am glad we have this celebration that allows us to be part of the preservation of the tangible and intangible heritage of our nation.

May we all have a victorious National Heritage Month celebration.


Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco