



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the Filipino people in commemorating the **121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal.**

More than a century ago, Rizal inspired a movement that gave rise to the Filipino national identity. During that dark chapter in our nation's history, his writings served as the light that guided our forebears in the fight for genuine equality and independence.

As an author and as a scholar, he denounced the corruption, greed and other social ills that up to this day continue to plague our society. Even in death, he imparted upon us his aspirations for a nation that is free from the scourge of injustice, tyranny and suffering.

May we take this occasion as an opportunity to recognize Dr. Rizal's ultimate sacrifice for the sake of our country. Let us reflect on his patriotism as we strive to continue his work of building a more united, peaceful and prosperous Philippines.

I wish all of us a meaningful celebration.

**RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE**

**MANILA**  
30 December 2017