



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS

Christmas Message of
Hon. PERFECTO R. YASAY, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

ONE HEART, ONE MIND, ONE VOICE

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS in Bethlehem happened with all its indescribable joy and luminous glory – proclaimed by the angels, witnessed by shepherds, and visited by Magi from the East. The Messiah's earthly birth signaled the unraveling of God's wondrous plan for peace in every individual's heart – and peace the world over. To this day, the angelic proclamation of "Peace toward men of goodwill" has remained the aspiration of peace-loving nations.

In the midst of wars and internecine conflicts, most of the world's nations – including the Philippines -- continue to share the persistent belief that peaceful engagements and multilateral relations remain the key to preserve a fragile peace.

As for us at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) here and abroad – at our embassies and consular offices across the continents – we continue to play the key role of being shining light and compelling voice of our country addressing leaders and peoples of the world. At the same time, the DFA remains committed to uphold the welfare and well-being of our countrymen abroad.

During this season of joy and celebration, may I share with you the collective wish of the DFA leadership that we all seek ways to edify one another wherever we are. It is heartwarmingly true that we have many friends in this country and around the world, and they put a good word about us each time, support our cause in clash of ideas, and come to our defense when the going gets rough. I have on many occasions personally experienced this, and every show of support truly reinforces our positions on many issues and affirms us as honored representatives of our country.

With more reason, we need to close ranks, get our act together, and strengthen the DFA team spirit on every occasion and in every circumstance. It is thus necessary to seek to know more about one another, to listen with our hearts and minds – and resolve to uphold our country and our people, and have one view and one voice especially on issues and cases that require a united front. We cannot at anytime afford to strike a discordant note in any of our important messages to the world.

Today, more than ever, we need to strengthen our collective will as a people. We need to overcome our doubts by putting faith in our country and be proud of our independence as a sovereign equal of all nations – big or small – in the international community. We must work together to nurture the hope of our families, communities, and society. We reclaim today the promise of a blessed tomorrow.

A unified voice is our constant aim, and as we work together, with the resolve to uphold our country and our people, we can truly have one mind, one heart, and one voice as DFA – and as a country.

Happy Holidays to you all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

PERFECTO R. YASAY, JR.
Secretary of Foreign Affairs