## Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Intramuros, Manila

## MESSAGE

On this occasion of national remembrance of a great day of patriotism, valor, and resilience, I extend my warmest and sincerest greetings to all Filipinos, especially to our migrant workers

The Philippines is a nation imbued with a rich history. Everyday, heroic acts are performed by Filipino men and women, enriching this history even more and inspiring both present and future generations with national pride.

Before Independence, our struggle was for political and social emancipation. Now that we have achieved this, our fight is already for economic progress and prosperity, and more. We wave the Philippine flag on this historic day to keep alive the values that its colors represent: peace, truth, and justice, for royal blue; patriotism and valor, for scarlet red; and equality and brotherhood, for white. The importance of imbibing and living these values resonates more in our time when we at the DOLE are taking a fast track in pursuit of our labor and employment agenda, foremost of which is decent and productive employment, social protection for vulnerable workers, sustained industrial peace, and labor justice for all.

This year's Independence Day commemorative theme, "*Kalayaan 2015: Tagumpay sa Pagbabagong Nasimulan, Abot-Kamay na ng Bayan,*" reflects our efforts towards these activities. It serves to remind us to act together as officials and employees of the Department and to remain true and focused on our reforms so that those who will succeed us in the years to come will already have a sound platform with a solid foundation to build on and pile up more gains. Our gift to all Filipinos this Independence Day is to bring inclusive growth through decent work. Let us work together to multiply this gift.

On behalf of the Department of Labor and Employment, I greet you all a meaningful Independence Day.

*Nawa'y manatiling nagaalab ang ating pagka-Pilipino, sa isip, sa salita, at sa gawa.* God bless!

**Rosalinda Dimaphis-Baldoz** Secretary Department of Labor and Employment