



Pasuguan ng Pilipinas • Embassy of the Philippines  
Canberra



## MESSAGE

I am pleased to convey my warm greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the **Filipino Australian Association of Northern Territory, Inc. (FAANT)** on the occasion of the **116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of** Philippine independence.

The noteworthy achievements of Filipinos and Filipino communities abroad stand in true testament to the heroism fostered by our forefathers. Let us always remember the sacrifices of our national heroes to secure the freedom of the Filipino nation, and to foster freedom and democracy among nations.

We remember with pride that our country holds the distinct honor of being the first democratic Republic in Asia. Since 1898, we have on many occasions proven to be a bastion of democracy, earning the respect and esteem of the family of nations. We should continue working together to uphold this hard-won freedom, and enable all Filipinos to achieve their best aspirations.

Let us strive to channel our collective energy and dedication to the highest ideals of peace, justice, harmony and prosperity.

This year, we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, the first Secretary of Foreign Affairs. May we adhere to his ideals of nationalism and good citizenship.

The Philippines takes pride that under the leadership of the Aquino administration, his commitment to "**Matuwid na Daan**" and "Good Governance is Good Economics" has restored confidence in the Philippines, spurring accelerated growth and development.

On this note, I continue to enjoin FAANT to be a steadfast partner in our mission of nation-building and development. Filipinos in Australia are ambassadors of goodwill in further strengthening the bridges of friendship between the Philippines and Australia, and its peoples.

I also urge FAANT to organize other socio-cultural events that showcase Philippine history, culture, and heritage, as well as people to people links with Australia given the long standing historic ties between our two countries.

Let us renew our commitment to work for a truly progressive and peaceful Philippines. I encourage you to continue persevering in our joint efforts to ensure the well-being of Filipinos in Australia and that democracy in our *Inang Bayan* remains vibrant and flourishing.

*Mabuhay ang Bayang Piipinas!*

  
**BELEN F. ANOTA**  
Ambassador

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Canberra, Australia

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