



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

I join the entire Filipino nation in celebrating **Lapulapu Day**.

Five centuries ago, Lapulapu and his warriors defeated colonial invaders at the Battle of Mactan. May we draw inspiration and express our unending gratitude for the gallantry and patriotism that emboldened him to defend his motherland.

Now, more than ever, we must show our resiliency, strengthen our commitment, and espouse the bayanihan spirit as we collectively strive to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, let us honor the worthy heirs to Lapulapu's legacy – frontliners and healthcare workers—who, despite the challenges that come their way, continue to work for the safety and well-being of our people and the advancement of our nation. They are our contemporary heroes that we must emulate.

As we continue to honor and celebrate the valor of Lapulapu, the duty now rests on our shoulders to carry on his aspirations for our nation. Let us all march in solidarity towards our shared hope of a stronger and more prosperous future for every Filipino.

I wish everyone a meaningful observance.

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
27 April 2021