

# NATIONAL DAY OF THE PHILIPPINES



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## Manila, Dhaka share common ideals, says Filipino Ambassador

**Q** YOUR Excellency, do you think that bilateral relations between the Philippines and Bangladesh concerning joint venture projects, economic development, trade volume, transfer of technology and skilled manpower are in right perspective?

**A.** There is an understanding based on goodwill, cordial friendship and intimacy that exists between our two peoples and countries which we, together, can enhance even further.

On significant national and global issues, the two countries cooperate with each other in the United Nations and other international forums. There is wide acceptance in both countries for mutually beneficial exchange of technology. In fact, the Philippines provide Bangladesh with consultants in different technological fields through different US & UN agencies such as USAID, FAO, UNDP, ADB etc. In the garment industry, of Bangladesh Filipinos provide expertise and guidance considerably.

In joint venture projects, one of our firms F F Cruz & Company Inc is involved with Bangladeshi firm Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd. in Bogra since 1987. They are engaged in road constructions.

Our trade relations, although improving with Bangladesh, should still be accelerated. At the moment, the balance of trade is in favour of the Philippines.

Official and private sector visits are constantly being made between our two countries. Recently, an 11-member delegation of chess players visited Manila to participate in the World Chess Olympiad in Manila. Official visits to Manila, such as that of Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam and the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, so far, been the latest. Trainees from Bangladesh have been pouring in the universities of the Philippines, Los Banos, Development Academy of the Philippines, AIM, etc where they are given valuable training.

**Q.** How do you visualize the future of democracy in the Philippines against the backdrop of the recent controversial election?

**A.** The fact that the Philippines was able to go through what is internationally recognised to be a relatively clean and unadorned election with a huge turnout of voters has impressed our friends and potential investors abroad. The Catholic Church, the Army and most political observers have decided that, in spite of the slow counting of votes which might have given rise to suspicion, the election was one of the fairest in history. Democracy would continue to prosper, the speculated winner, General Fidel Ramos (although he has refused to claim victory even at this stage), has announced, in line with his firm adherence to the democratic principle, the infusion of new political culture to the Filipinos as a foundation of his government. He noted that the rejection of the US bases may have sent the wrong signals to the international community, to our neighbours, including the US and Japan. But he declared in a Times interview that he will review the entire range of US-Philippine relations, focusing mainly on economic and defence issues. On the assumption that he will be the next President, General Ramos said that he will pursue, during the first 100 days of his six-year term, policies for the stability of the nation, economic recovery, accelerating power development, streamlining the bureaucracy and protecting the environment as much as possible. These processes will allow us a state of stability and enhance our national progress. I am sure that people will take this grand opportunity to end the fractious quarrelling and make united efforts to achieve maximum economic recovery.

**Q.** How do you think the SAARC and the ASEAN coun-

**tries can work together for the mutual benefit of the people of this region?**

**A.** There is a perception from other members of SAARC that its integrated Action Programme is rather weak and follow-up action was not taken on important issues. There has been sharp decline in meetings that produce no results but reports. Some members allege that SAARC has become too malaised, full of ritualistic observances and lacks adequate motivation to move forward.

Since SAARC's formation in 1985, there seems to be a very slow progress in strengthening cooperation. Some members urged SAARC to make effective use of its Charter as it has provisions for SAARC to cooperate with other international and regional organisations like ASEAN, East Asian Nations and the European Community. Once mutually beneficial relations are established, procuring external aid for SAARC will not be far-fetched and substantive issues could be fed into its structure.

**Q.** During the time and after Philippine's transition to the people's power, it had faced

many problems. How did your country deal with these problems?

**A.** As we all know, President Aquino's new government found itself short of funds and confronted with enormous political, social and economic problems that were handed down by its predecessor. In the first year of the new government, the immediate international response was positive. Bilateral and multilateral assistance came in. Enjoying international goodwill, the government of President Aquino launched the ambitious Philippine Assistance Programme (PAP) better known abroad as the Multilateral Assistance Initiative (MAI). These spurred and enabled the newly restored democracy of the Philippines to stand on its feet and ensure the well-being of the people of our country through sustained economic growth. The Philippines undertook a better selling campaign to overcome widespread negative impression and remove lingering uncertainties — privatisation, government investment incentives, the acceleration of public sector investments were made foundations of such campaign.

The Philippine Government continues to move ahead with serious reforms like the improvement of basic infrastructure, especially power, communications and transporta-

tions. Investment were not only popularised and made relatively easy, persistent problem of red tape, graft and corruption were reduced and efforts for attracting foreign investors were redoubled.

**Q.** Bangladesh and the Philippines have some socio-economic problems which are common to both countries. Do you think that Bangladesh can learn some lessons from the Philippines in the way that they have solved their problems?

**A.** President Aquino often said, "Political freedom do not feed empty stomach." But the People's Power in the Philippines in 1986 had stole the world's attention and led to the amazing "political changes" we have witnessed elsewhere. Asia and Eastern Europe are the major contributors in these amazing changes. Bangladesh is also the product of "people's power" and I think your leadership is doing everything possible for poverty alleviation and self-sufficiency in food, etc. There is really nothing that the Philippines had done that Bangladesh is not already doing. Much hard work lies ahead and I feel that

room for improvement of our trade and economic relations. As we do not deal in counter-trade, perhaps our two countries and its respective governments can sort out ways to solve this problem. At present the balance of trade is in favour of the Philippines. In 1989 a Memorandum of Understanding regarding our trade relations has been signed between the Philippines International Trading Corporation and the Bangladesh Trading Corporation. However, our respective central banks have not been brought into the picture; hence, the foreign exchange component has not come out in a manner that is acceptable to both our countries.

**Q.** Have you any message for the people of Bangladesh on your National Day?

**A.** On behalf of the Filipino people, I convey to the people of Bangladesh our warm congratulations and sincere felicitations on their observance of Eid-ul-Azha. It is my sincerest hope that the people of the Philippines and Bangladesh, who share common ideals of freedom and people's power will be always bound by close ties of friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation.

Born in the small town Mauban, Quezon, His Excellency Mr Pastores hailed from a large family of eight children. His father was an engineer and mother a housewife. He is a product of one of the oldest universities in the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas founded in 1611. He graduated with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws as a full scholar. He is a member of the Philippine Bar.

Mr Pastores practiced law as a Junior Associate at the Diokno Law Office for two years and in 1956 joined the foreign service. Since embarking on his diplomatic career he had held various positions in Hong Kong, Thailand, Australia and Canada. In 1983 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (AEP) to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan with concurrent accreditation to Lebanon and Syria.

Later he was transferred as AEP to Iraq and at present is the AEP to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. In Manila, he served as the Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs and as Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs.

During the above period, he obtained a Carnegie Endowment Fellowship in Diplomacy from the Columbia University in New York and an Export Promotion Techniques from the UNCTAD in Geneva, Switzerland. Recently he was awarded the Medal of Independence of the First Degree of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

H. E. Mr Pastores has profound interest in sports, contemporary arts and has a passion for reading and travelling. He is a widower with five sons.



MESSAGE

The Philippine national elections on May 11 and the turnover of government power on June 30 will boost the historic crusade for democracy which Filipinos valiantly fought for during the People's Revolution at Edsa six years ago.

The world knows that in 1986 Filipinos made international history when they rose up against a homegrown tyrant and catapulted to power the widow of Filipino martyr, Benigno 'Ninoy' Aquino, to lead them in restoring democracy in the Philippines and nurture it as their way of life and ideology.

Many also know that despite natural and man-made calamities and obstacles, President Corason C. Aquino succeeded in giving life to our infant democracy — her greatest legacy to the Filipino people.

Even her decision not to run for re-election is in keeping with her commitment to freedom. For with it is the opportunity and challenge to her successor and the Filipino people to continue the revolution won at Edsa and the government's service for national prosperity.

As we Filipinos, therefore, observe our independence day on June 12, it becomes fitting that we — both government leaders and the citizenry — reflect on what have been done since 1898 and 1986, and take the next right steps for national growth and development.

(Sgd) Raul S. Manglapus  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs



MESSAGE

Today, as we celebrate the 94th anniversary of Philippine Independence, let us re-affirm our faith as one nation in the triumph of freedom, in the stability of our democracy, and the sustainability of our development.

For together, we have transformed the landscape of our destiny according to our aspirations as a free and united people. We have poured a new patriotic spirit into the arteries of our national striving to bring forth self-sufficiency in the countryside, greater competitiveness of the Philippine agro-industrial sector in the ASEAN region, a higher sense of civic competence among our citizenry, the resurgence of NGO's and people's organisations who help the most needy to help themselves.

Together, we restored, more than democracy, a sense of hope to our troubled people, hope for a better nation for ourselves and our children, hope for a better quality of life that makes being a Filipino worth all the sacrifices and heroism of our forefathers' generations.

Once more, in the recent elections, both government and people gave their best to ensure these are honest, orderly and peaceful, the climax of the hard-won material and moral gains after Edsa. We see the emergence of new rules in Philippine politics: not guns but goals; not goons but the public good; not gold but the grace and guidance of God; not graft but the goodwill of a people confident in the inevitable victory of freedom by the ways of peace. Riding on the crest of a new political order is the unmistakable maturity of our people, the enduring blessings of empowerment, ready to wash the shore clean of traditional, patronage politics.

For indeed, the single most important lesson of our history is that the Filipino soul shall most certainly prevail: a soul abundant in hope and compassion and charity. Like the dove that flies toward the face of the sun, let us move on in our never-ending journey into the fullness of life, in a nation even more free and prosperous, more stable and secure.

Mabuhay llong Tagumpay Ng Atang Kalayaan. Mabuhay Ang Sambayanang Pilipino.

(Sgd) Corason C. Aquino  
President of the Republic of the Philippines

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE PHILIPPINES

**Geography.** The Philippines is made up of 7,107 islands covering a land area of 115,739 sq. miles (229,404 sq. km). Main island groups are Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Capital is Manila. Time zone is GMT+8 hours.

**Getting There.** Manila and Cebu are international gateway cities. Philippine Airlines, the country's flag carrier, links Manila to 26 cities in 19 countries and provides daily service to and from 42 local destinations. Major international carriers and cruise liners serve Manila. Chartered flights are available for special trips. Cebu has direct weekly flights to Japan. It also services chartered flights from Japan, Hongkong and Singapore. There are flights from Cebu to major cities in the Philippines.

**Airports.** Manila is served by the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), 7 km from the city center; and the Manila Domestic Airport, 1 km from the NAIA. Cebu is served by the Mactan International Airport (MIA), 45 minutes from the city center. Both international airports have adequate traveler facilities: duty-free shopping centers, souvenir shops, tourist information counters, hotel and travel agency representatives, and car rental services. The NAIA has banks, postal service, a medical clinic, and a baggage deposit area.

**Climate.** March to May is hot and dry. June to October is rainy. November to February is cool. Average temperatures: 78°F/25°C to 90°F/32°C; humidity: 77%.

**People.** Population is 60 million. Filipinos are of Indo-Malay, Chinese and Spanish ancestry.

**Language.** Filipino is the national language. English is widely spoken.

**Religion.** Predominantly Roman Catholic. Other faiths are Islam and Protestantism.

**Government.** Democratic Republic.

**Currency/Credit Cards.** Unit of currency: Peso (P)=100 centavos. Bank notes: P5, P10, P20, P50, P100, P500. Coins: 5c, 10c, 25c, 50c, P1, P2. International credit cards such as Visa, Diners Club, Bank Americard, MasterCard and American Express are accepted in major establishments.

**Communication Facilities.** The Philippines has modern and efficient communications services such as international direct dialing, telex, facsimile, worldwide express delivery service and telegram system.

**Economy.** The country's economy is principally light industry and agriculture. Traditional export products are copper, gold, sugar, coconut and copra. The top non-traditional exports are semiconductors and garments.

**Accommodations.** In Metro Manila and most large provinces, a wide selection of deluxe, standard and pension-type accommodations is available. The Department of Tourism has a "Homestay Program" in selected provinces which enables visitors to stay with Filipino families.

**Convention Facilities.** The Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Manila is equipped with modern convention facilities and services. Smaller meetings can be held in hotels and other establishments. Out-of-town hotels and resorts are alternative convention sites.



The Ambassador of the Philippines after being decorated by the King of Jordan.

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more vigorous efforts should be made and strong sense of dedication and cooperation is needed both from the public and private sector along with people of Bangladesh.

**Q.** How do you think that the two countries can improve trade and economic relations?

**A.** As I said earlier, there is

## Capsule History

The earliest settlers in the country were the Aetas, a small Negroid people who came by land from Central Asia during the Paleolithic period, when the Philippines was still part of the Asian mainland.

The second wave were Indonesians, Mongoloid people with Caucasian strains, who came by sea. From around 200 B.C. came the Malays, in successive waves of migration which lasted until the fourteenth century.

Chinese dynastic records show that the Philippines has trade with China since the ninth century, and that Arab ships were bringing Philippine products from China through Canton. Chinese porcelain ware seems to have been a major import, judging from large quantities of it being excavated. By the middle of the fourteenth century, Cambodia, Annam, Siam and Tonkin were also trading with the lowland settlements of Philippine Malays.

The Filipinos that the explorer Ferdinand Magellan came upon in March 1521 were a literate people with their own literature and written alphabet. Local laws covered family relations, usury, property rights, divorce, inheritance, loans and crime.

The Spaniards ruled the country for over 300 years. Traces of their influence are still very much visible. Baroque churches and forts, symbolic of the sword and the cross that established Spanish rule, still stand. The majority of Filipinos answer to Spanish names, and many words in the local dialects are derived from the Castilian tongue. By the mid-nineteenth century, the educated Filipinos formed a force strong enough to challenge Spanish authority. The brilliant Jose Rizal—

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## Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Trade Information Service  
25 March 1992

Product/Service : COPRA

1. BASILAN AGRICULTURAL TRADING CORPORATION (#162)  
Suite 906, Sto. Cristo Bldg., 479 Jabonero St. Bignondo, Manila  
Telephone No(s): 48-65-41 loc. 375, 49-10-02  
MR EFREN J. NEW — PRESIDENT  
Activity : Exporter, retailer

Product/Service : Copra, coffee, rubber, general merchandise  
2. DAVAO CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC. (#351)  
DCCCII Bldg., JP Laurel Ave., Davao City 8000  
P.O. Box 137, DAVAO CITY  
Telephone No(s) : 6-44-33 (PLDT), 29-59 (DCTS)  
Fax No(s) : (082) 6-44-33  
MR ASTERIO S. UYBOCO — PRESIDENT  
Activity : NGO

Product/Service : Livestocks, poultry, fruits, rice, sugar, copra fishery, vegetables, cutflowers, rami, coffee cacao, rubber, banana, lumber, garments machine shops, repair shops  
3. LORD'S FORTRESS EXPORTERS BUILDERS CORP. (#1656)  
Babatrin Malolos, Bulacan  
P.O. Box 668 Manila, Phts. 1099  
Telephone No(s) : 797-45-24 (PLDT, Malolos)  
Fax No(s) : (632) 521-72-25  
Telex No(s) : 40404 GMCR (Attn: Box 0623)  
Cable Address : FORTRESS MANILA  
MR MARIO DELA CRUZ — PRESIDENT/GEN. MGR./CEO  
Activity : Manufacturer/exporter of marine products  
Product/Service : seaweeds, furniture, garments, salt, copra fishfarm, prawnfarm.

4. LU DO & LU YM CORP. (#716)  
P. O. Box 18, Cebu City  
Telephone No(s) : 9-41-61/69  
Telex No(s) : 74248001 LUDO PM (CEBU)  
Cable Address : LUDO CEBU  
MR DOUGLAS LUYM — PRESIDENT  
Activity : Manufacturer, exporter

Product/Service : Crude coconut oil, copra meal and abalone shell  
8. SARMENTO MANAGEMENT CORP. (#1214)  
2316 Sarmiento Bldg. II, Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati M. M.  
Telephone No(s) : 816-76-01 to 05, 816-72-43/77  
Fax No (s) : 816-46-01  
Telex No(s) : 4220 DCC  
MR ROGELIO M. SARMENTO — PRESIDENT  
Product/Service : Manufacturer, exporter of granulated charcoal, importer, wholesaler/distributor of retreading materials, radial tires, patches/tire repair materials, grandparent stocks. Offers tire retreading services.  
Engaged in piggy, copra, rice, corn production.

Product/Service : Crude coconut oil, refined edible oil, copra meal pellets, crude corn oil, refined corn starch, gluten mela and gluten feeds  
5. MARPHIL EXPORT CORPORATION (#1745)  
1102 Parc Regent Condominium, H V dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati, M. M.  
Telephone No(s) : 817-52-79  
Fax No(s) : (632) 810-91-99  
Telex No(s) : 26486 MARPHIL PH  
MR IRENEO LIM — PRESIDENT/GEN. MANAGER  
Product/Service : Manufacturer/exporter of cashew nuts, copra, coffee, corn and other agricultural products  
6. MATLING INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CORP. (#793)  
Rm. 1201, Ermita Center Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila  
Telephone No(s) : 521-86-73/77/80  
MR RICHARD K. SPENCER — PRESIDENT  
Activity : Manufacturer of cassava starch, copra, cacao  
7. MINA OIL MILL CORP. (#827)  
Rm. 1107, Tytana Plaza Bldg, Plaza Lorenzo Ruiz cor. Oriente St. Binondo, Manila, M. M.  
Telephone No(s) : 40-43-36, 47-66-14, 476-386  
Cable Address : MINA OIL CABLE  
MR VICENTE K. T. GUTIERREZ — CHAIRMAN  
Activity : Manufacturer, exporter, wholesaler/distributor

Product/Service : Crude coconut oil, copra meal and abalone shell  
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