

NATIONAL DAY OF THE PHILIPPINES



The Daily Star

Special Supplement

June 12, 1993

MESSAGE



Today, we celebrate the 95th Anniversary of the Philippine Independence and the establishment, by revolutionary proclamation, of the first democratic republic in Asia. June 12 marks the liberation of the Filipino and serves as a beacon of the reality of Filipino unity, valor and nationalism.

For our own generation, our age-old national struggle for independence waged by our heroic forebears has taken us along a never, but not less perilous path. The fight against mass poverty, ignorance, disease, underproductivity, social inequality and injustice.

June 12 is a rare occasion when Filipinos, everywhere, can pause and share a moment to think fondly of their beloved homeland and ponder how they can contribute each on his own way — to attain a free, progressive and dynamic Philippine society resting on a solid political, economic, social and spiritual foundation. June 12, in short, should make us close ranks even further to attain our dream of "Philippines 2000" as the vision for a brighter future.

Our task today is not only to maintain our freedom and democratic way of life but also to strengthen them and make them endure in an ever-changing world. But to make them strong and enduring, we must first lay a foundation of material progress matched by the moral regeneration of our people. We must therefore stand united and strong again to attain our dream of "Philippines 2000", as the vision for a brighter future and as a prelude of still higher levels of national achievement of our people.

"Philippines 2000" means our common obligation to build up our freedom and our democratic way of life and economically strong and viable society to bring us to the mainstream of universal progress.

"Philippines 2000" means a progressive society that would provide equitable dividends and opportunities to our people in return for the hopes and sacrifices, the loyalty and faith they have invested in our nation's future.

"Philippines 2000" means a newer kind of heroism — the grief and the drive to work and toil without recognition or reward, to do things quietly purposefully, laying stone upon stone, so that the larger edifice that is Philippine society shall be rebuilt and made enduring.

As we celebrate this 95th anniversary with the theme "MABUHAY ANG PILIPINAS KAHAPON, NGAYON AT BUKAS" let us bank on the Filipino's sense of nationhood that flourished in 1898 and enliven it today so that we may surpass our present difficulties, meet today's challenges and achieve our goals for a better Philippines.

A glorious Independence Day celebration to all our people.
MABUHAY ANG SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO
MABUHAY ANG REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS.

Fidel V Ramos

President of the Republic of the Philippines

Philippine-Bangladesh Relations

The Philippines formally recognized Bangladesh in February 1972, shortly after it emerged as a sovereign state in December 1971.

RP-Bangladesh diplomatic relations were officially established on 24 February 1972 with the appointment of the first Bangladeshi ambassador to the Philippines in 1981. Since then, the two countries have maintained friendly relations and cooperated in many global and regional issues. The Philippines and Bangladesh set up resident embassies in each other's capital in 1981.

Bangladesh's position in the United Nations is similar to those of the Philippines as reflected in its support for various UN resolutions.

The visits by then Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1973 and former President Ziaur Rahman in 1980 opened the doors for the expansion of Philippine-Bangladesh relations. As a result of Rahman's visit, a trade agreement and a cultural agreement were con-

cluded. Both agreements have been ratified by the two governments in 1986.

In recent years, the Philippines has supported the convening of a UN special meeting to discuss damages caused by recent floods in Bangladesh and in generating international understanding and cooperation in dealing with post-flood situation, avoidance of recurrence of such floods and mitigation of flood damages.

The Technical Assistance Council of the Philippine (TAC), since its inception in 1979, has extended assistance to Bangladesh. Participants from Bangladesh have availed themselves of the Council's training programmes on rural banking, project study preparation, business consultancy and energy management. Recently, a group of senior officials from Bangladesh visited the Philippines, under UN auspices, to observe how human resources are harnessed for RP's population control programmes.

Trade Associations

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS ASSOC., INC
Rm 502 Don Santiago Bldg
1344 Taft Avenue, Manila
Tel 521 9631, 521 2699
Fax 521 4466
Mr David Ong—President

ASSOCIATION OF CONSOLIDATED AUTOMOTIVE PARTS & PRODUCERS, INC
961 President Quirino Avenue
Malate, Metro Manila
Tel 522 0533
Fax 58 84 89
Mr George C Lim—President

ASSOCIATION OF FOOTWEAR INDUSTRIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC
C/o Paramount Vinyl Products Corp
56 G de Jesus St, Caloocan City, MM
Tel 35 65-61-62
George Barcelona—President

ASSOCIATION OF PHILIPPINE STEEL MILLS, INC
2/F, Herston Bldg, Emerald Ave
Origas Commercial Complex,
Pasig, Metro Manila
Tel 631 3026-29
Cheng Han Sui—President

BOATING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
Unit 5 Southway Condominium
Mayapac Cor Yakal Street, Makati, MM
Tel 851-823
Fax 815-9148
Mr Arturo Supangan—President

CERAMIC EXPORT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC
Rm 305, Fedman Bldg, Salcedo St,
Legaspi Village, Makati, MM
Tel 813 1315; 817 8950
Fax 8108707
Mr Renato Pleno—President

CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
C/o Mabuhay Vinyl Corp
4/F Gammon Centre, 126 Alfaro St
Salcedo Village, Makati, Metro Manila
Tel 815 2088
Fax 816 4785
Mr Oscar A Barrera—President

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
C/o Solid Corp, Solid House,
2285 Pasong Tamo Ext, Makati, MM
Tel 88-65-11 to 18
Fax 816-0130
Mr Peter San—President

MESSAGE



On this 95th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Philippines, I take pleasure in joining my countrymen, friends and well-wishers in the People's Republic of Bangladesh in celebrating this historic occasion.

Coming, as it does, at the heels of the recently concluded Philippine elections, the day is made even more significant in that, by the power of the ballot, the Filipino people have once more displayed resolve and determination in safeguarding their sovereign will. Having gone through the experience of pain, agony and nightmare over two decades of the darkest chapter in the nation's history since attaining freedom and liberty 95 years ago, they have vowed that never again shall the flame of democracy flicker, falter and fade.

In the Philippines, in Bangladesh, as in remote corners of the globe, the cry for freedom, liberty and democracy continues to echo and reverberate. Chains and shackles of repression snap, yokes of autocracy break up while dividing walls collapse to liberate man from degenerated and regimented systems.

In availing of this opportunity, I enjoy my compatriots in this part of the world to give life and meaning to this year's theme: "MABUHAY ANG PILIPINAS: KAHAPON, NGAYON, AT BUKAS" (long live the Philippines: yesterday, today, and tomorrow) so that this independence our forefathers have valiantly fought for and dreamt about will endure for all time.

Cesar C. Pastores
Ambassador of the Philippines in Bangladesh

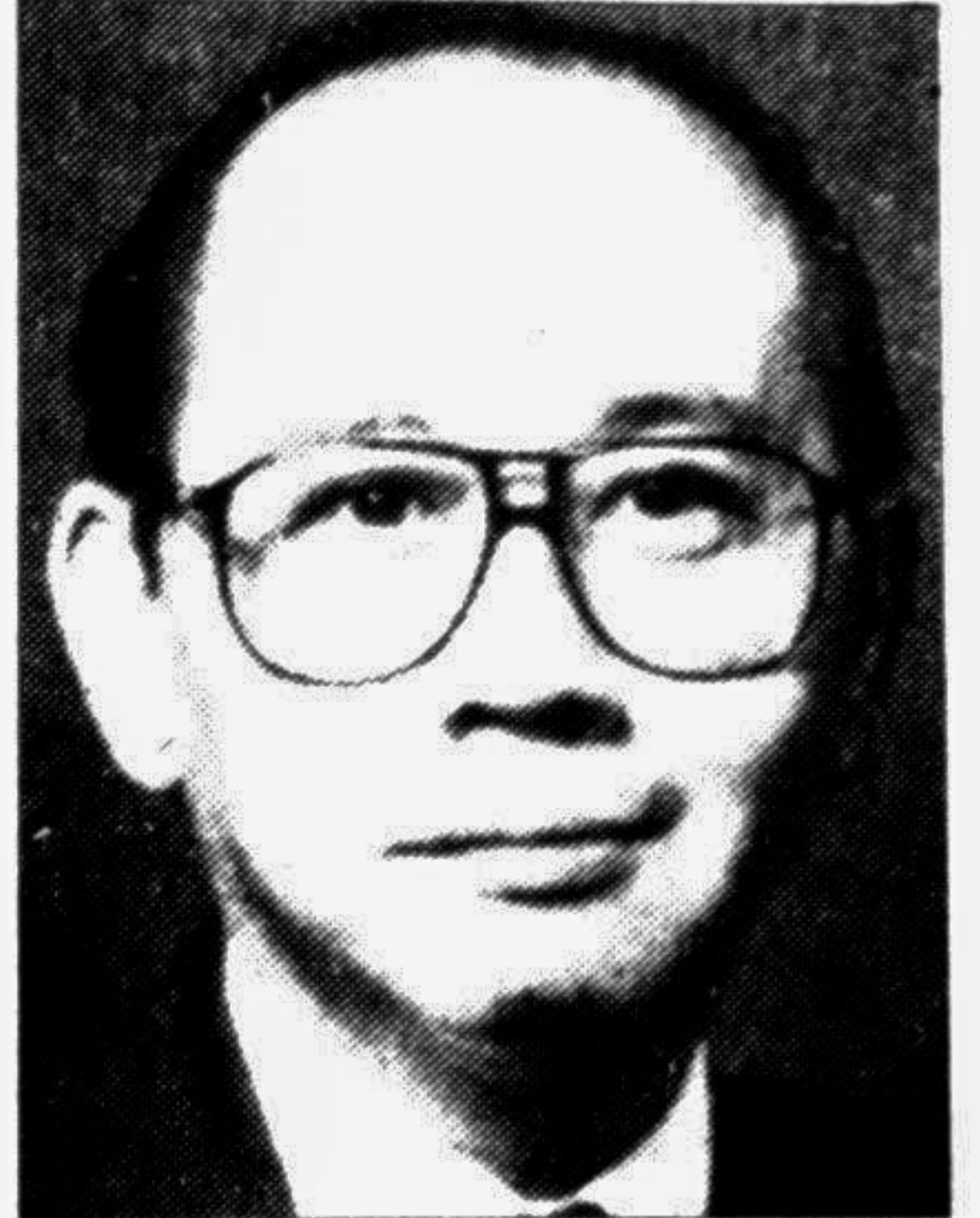
Export Promotion Organisations

Bureau of Export Trade Promotion (BETP) is the primary export assistance and information arm of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). BETP provides specialist assistance to foreign buyers in person via their product officers, arranges buyer seller matching and regularly circulates foreign buyers requirements to suitable Filipino exporters. BETP cover all regions of the Philippines via a network of DTI Regional Offices.

Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) comprises a select group of senior trade development officers located at 24 overseas commercial posts. They are ready to provide commercial information and other assistance to foreign buyers and help plan visits to the Philippines in liaison with BETP and other export promotion bodies in the Philippines.

Center for International Trade Exhibitions and Missions (CITEM) is another specialist DTI export promotion agency whose prime function is to organise trade fairs in the Philippines and the participation of Filipino exporters in overseas trade fairs and mis-

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On the occasion of the observance of the 95th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to the Filipino community in Bangladesh.

It gives me joy to know that the patriotism of our Filipino brothers abroad has remained intact. It is a very heart-warming feeling to note that you find it in your hearts to celebrate this big event in the history of our country.

It is but fitting that we ob-

serve Philippine Independence, for it is this independence which has earned the Philippines and the Filipinos the respect of the world.

May the Filipino people, under the providence of the Almighty, be one in the quest for a brighter and stronger Philippines.

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO.
Roberto R Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs, RP

sions. CITEM has product officers who are able to assist foreign buyers in their enquiries and maintains a permanent exhibition of Philippine export products.

Philippine chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) is the umbrella private sector representative organisation having 1750 members of whom:

139 are sector trade associations, 85 are provincial Chambers of Commerce

PCCI provides a trade opportunities/buyer-seller making service for its members and foreign buyers, utilising a computerised database. It also mounts overseas missions and

hosts incoming missions.

It is the Filipino partner in a number of bilateral business councils including those with the European Chamber of Commerce, Australia, Canada and Japan.

Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc : formed late in 1991 from merger of two private sector exporters' organisations. The combined organisation has more than 1,000 members. The trade opportunities/buyer-seller matching services will be expanded using a computerised database and regular publications. The organisation has a regional network of eight offices.

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Background to the Philippines

Geography : the Philippines is an archipelago comprising 7,107 islands lying north of Indonesia and east of Indochina, forming the eastern boundary of the South China Sea. It extends 1,850 kms north to south and 1,060 kms from east to west. Its land area is 3,00,400 square kms, about the same as Italy. The largest islands are Luzon in the north and Mindanao in the south. The 11 largest islands account for 95% of the land area.

Climate : general daytime temperatures are around 30°C (85°F), which fall at night to about 22°C (72°F). The humidity is fairly high. There are three distinct seasons : wet from June to October; dry and cooler from November to February; dry and hot from March to May. Tropical storms and typhoons occur from time to time and can cause extensive damage. In the wet season most of the rain falls in brief, heavy storms during the afternoon. Outside the capital landslides and flooding can affect travel by road and air.

Population : estimates vary, but the total population in 1990 was approximately 60.5 million with an average growth rate of 2.3% since 1980. The rate has declined from 2.7% in the 70's

and 3.0% in the 60's. More than 10 million people live in Greater Metro-Manila and a further 26 million in other urban areas. The second largest city is Davao (8,50,000), followed by Cebu (6,10,000).

The population is predominantly young, under 30, and the labour force is growing rapidly. Ethnically, the predominant groups are Indo-Malay (over 95%), Chinese and Spanish. The Philippines is the only predominantly Christian country in Asia, with Roman Catholics comprising 83% of the population.

Language : the national language is Filipino (Tagalog) but all government announcements, laws and other information are available in English. Virtually all businessmen speak English fluently. There are a large number of dialects in rural areas.

Travel & Communications : Manila Airport is very well connected to the rest of the world with direct flights to and from major cities. Direct international flights to Singapore and Japan are now available from Cebu also. Typical travel times :

Europe: 17 hrs Hong Kong: 2 hrs
US East Coast: 22 hrs Singapore: 3.25 hrs
US West Coast: 15 hrs Sydney: 7.5 hrs
Tokyo: 4 hrs

Those requiring to stay longer than 21 days, residents of Hong Kong or Taiwan, or citizens of communist countries, need a visa.

Holidays : the official national holidays are January 1st (New Year), late March/early April (Maundy Thursday and Good Friday), May 1st (Labour Day), May 6th (Araw Ng Kagitangan), June 12th (Independence Day), August 30th (National Heroes Day), November 30th (Bonifacio Day), December 25th (Christmas Day), December 30th (Rizal Day).

Currency : the unit is the Peso (P), made up of 100 Centavos. In Manila US dollars are generally accepted, but in the rest of the country, dollars will generally only be accepted at major tourist resorts.

Telecommunications : the telephone is efficient within Manila. There is fairly widespread use of fax although

some businesses tend to use fax on the same line as the telephone. Traditionally the telex has been used extensively but this is no longer the case. International telephone, telex and fax services are good.

Hotels : First class hotels are plentiful in Manila but are few in number in the provinces.

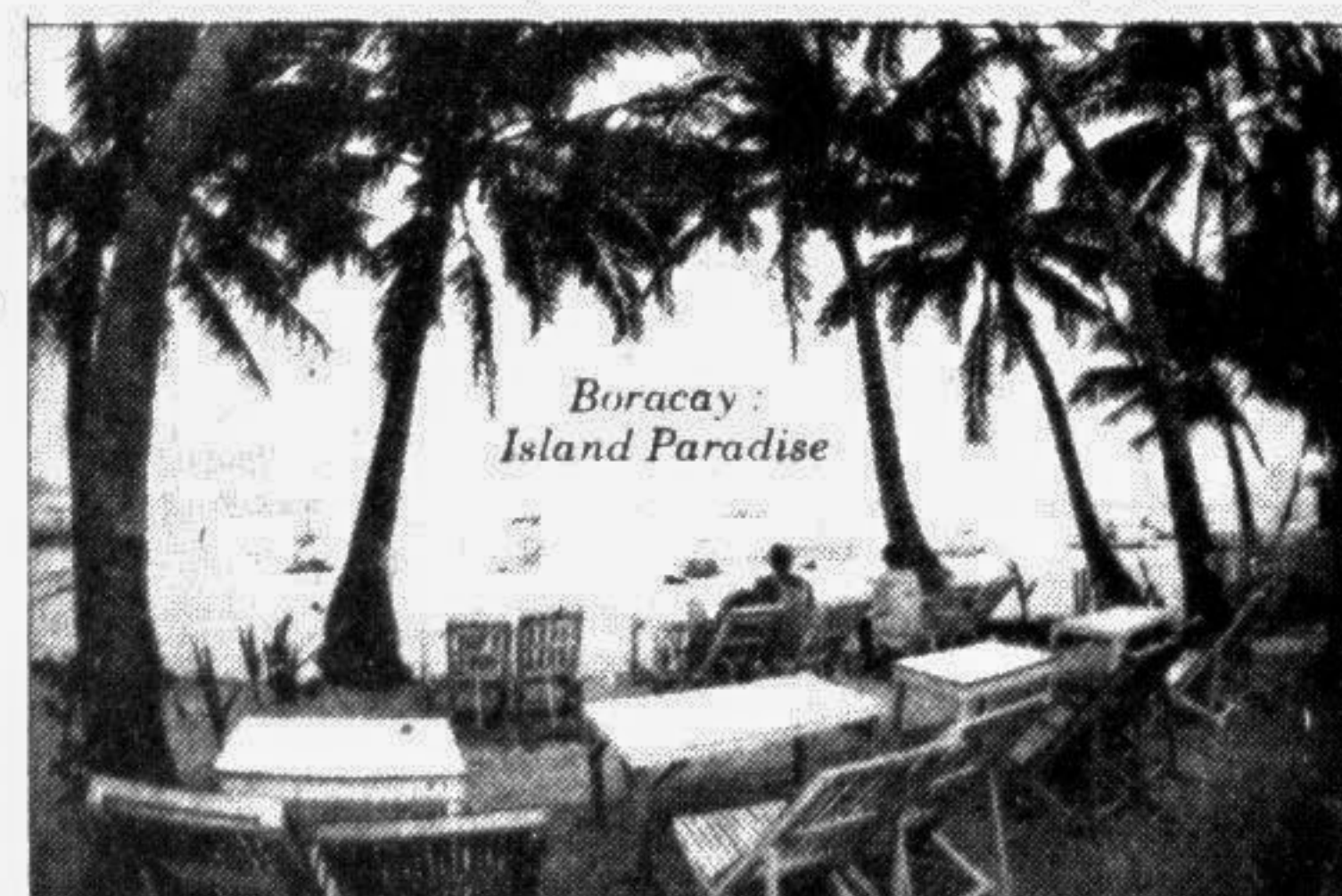
History & Politics : early history is characterised by suc-

cessive influxes of Malays, Chinese, Arabs and Indians over a 500 year period. In 1521 the Spanish navigator Magellan discovered the Philippines and the Conquistadores brought it under Spanish rule. Subsequently Jesuit friars imposed a common culture.

Rebellions were frequent and in the 19th Century the Americans sided with rebellious elements and won an important victory over the Spanish in 1898. Subsequently, in 1900 the Americans took control.

In the Second World War the Japanese took over but after-

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Boracay Island Paradise

We share with the Republic of the Philippines and its people the glorious observance of the 95th Anniversary of their Independence. Congratulations and best wishes



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Sonka, Bogra