

## Love of Country (Maka-Bayan)

### Reflection

What do we like most about the Philippines? What do we not like about our country?

### Inspiration from the Holy Bible

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people chosen as his inheritance. (Psalm 33:12)

If then my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

### Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"You are the best nation produced [as an example] for mankind. You enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and believe in Allah. If only the People of the Scripture had believed, it would have been better for them. Among them are believers, but most of them are defiantly disobedient." (Surah Ali 'Imran 3:110)

### Hadith

Abu Talha (RA) reported: That the Messenger of Allah (SAW) said: "Love of your country (patriotism) is part of your faith".

Ahmad, At-Tirmidhi, IbnMajah, and Al-Hakim (Radhiyallahu 'anhu) recorded that Hakim bin Mu'awiyah bin Haydah narrated that his father said that the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said: "You are the final of seventy nations, you are the best and most honoured among them to Allah."

### In what ways can we show that we love our country?

a. Be diligent about our responsibilities as citizens. We pay our taxes, follow the law, and set a good example for our children to follow. Even Jesus Christ understood that a citizen should abide by his obligations to God and to the government.

"Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

"Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar

what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." (Matthew 22:16-17, 19- 21)

Serve our country with commitment and competence. As public servants, we are expected to have the passion, humility and skills to do our jobs.

Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. (Ephesians 6:7- 8)

And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them. (Psalm 78:72)

### **Challenge**

What is your most significant learning for today? How will we keep it to our own life?

### **Prayer**

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: Grant us Lord the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.