

**Presidential Communications Operations Office
Presidential News Desk**

**SPEECH OF
PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
DURING THE NATIONAL HEROES DAY CELEBRATION 2019
(Delivered by House Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano on behalf of the
President)**

[Libingan ng mga Bayani, Taguig City | 26 August 2019]

We stand here today on this sacred ground to honor our brave heroes who have dedicated their lives to secure the liberties that we enjoy today.

We honor the valiant men and women who have braved persecution and oppression and faced harm and even death, all in the name of justice, equality and freedom.

Today, we pay tribute not just to those heroes whose statues adorn our edifices, or whose portraits appear on our currency, or whose exploits are immortalized in the annals of this nation's history.

We dedicate this day most especially to those unnamed heroes who have also shed blood, sweat and tears in defense of this nation and the values that it represents.

Their ultimate sacrifice will never be in vain if we, in our daily lives, learn to embody their courage through small deeds of heroism that will touch the lives of our countrymen, especially the poor and marginalized.

As we commemorate National Heroes Day, I call on my fellow Filipinos to emulate the patriotism of all those heroes who came before us by supporting the government's nation-building efforts, especially our campaign against illegal drugs, criminality, corruption, terrorism, poverty and environmental degradation.

Let me take this solemn occasion to reaffirm my administration's commitment to create an environment where every Filipino, regardless of ethnicity, political affiliation, religious belief, educational attainment, or financial capability, can become a hero in his own right.

It is our obligation to build on the legacy of those brave men and women who offered their lives building the foundations of a better Filipino nation. We owe it to our heroes to be worthy heirs to this legacy.

I therefore ask my fellow Filipinos to set aside our differences so that together, we may shape a more dynamic and prosperous society that will serve as a cradle of future generations of Filipino heroes.

Maraming salamat.

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