

MESSAGE

The Christmas season presents us with the distinct opportunity to be thankful for the milestones that marked our year and to spread holiday cheer to others.

I join the Filipino community in Australia as you celebrate the most joyous occasion. I am certain that each Filipino family will gather this season, grateful for the blessings that have come our way as well as for the challenges that deepened our faith.

In the Philippines, our economy continued to post significant growth keeping its standing as one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. The government is determined to implement much needed policy and infrastructure reforms to maintain our positive trajectory and ensure that this growth is inclusive and sustainable.

This is no small feat given the considerable trials that beset the Philippines the past year such as the onslaught of natural calamities and the ongoing developments in international trade and security. The unity and resilience of our people inspire our public servants to remain focused and committed to deliver the services needed. Indeed, each one of us shares in the critical task of nation-building.

As we welcome the new year, the Philippine Embassy renews its commitment to advance the comprehensive partnership of the Philippines and Australia and to uphold, at all times, the rights and welfare of Filipinos and Filipino-Australians. It is our fervent hope that the Filipino diaspora in Australia will likewise strengthen the ties that bind them with the Philippines.

Maligayang Pasko at Masagana at Mapayapang Bagong Taon!

ShelaVeen MA. HELLEN B. DE LA VEGA

Ambassador

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