



REMARKS OF AMB. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR. AT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY LONDON'S RIZAL DAY 2024 COMMEMORATION



Knights and ladies of Rizal, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather this afternoon to commemorate the 128th anniversary of the martyrdom of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal.

We gather not only to remember his life and sacrifice but also to reflect on the ideals he lived and died for — a legacy that continues to inspire generations of Filipinos in the Philippines and around the world.

In his lifetime, Jose Rizal was a doctor, writer, and the First Filipino. He valued education, justice, and the dignity of every human being regardless of differences of race and nationality. He saw the human in every human being before anything else. Hence the universality of his writings. To be sure, his writings and actions inspired the rise of a nation distinctly itself — not from a sharp and discriminating sense of difference, but from a desire for all of the good things in life: freedom, dignity, well being; being no one's servant nor anyone's master for that matter; finally at home in a place they could call their own. Not to exclude strangers but to warmly welcome them to experience Filipino hospitality. The result was a brave struggle for independence after centuries of foreign rule from distant Madrid via Mexico at that. A rule comparatively mild to be sure; as it tended to be under a Catholic colonial master ruling a Catholic people. Their souls and those of their political masters were the same in the eyes of their common God — even if their social and political conditions were not. But it was all under heaven, in an empire on which the sun never set, ruled from the Escorial in Spain by kings as distant from Spaniards as they were from their Filipino subjects.

PAGE 1/3



DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHILIPPINES

[DFA.GOV.PH](https://dfa.gov.ph) [FB.COM/DIAPHIL](https://fb.com/diaphil) [X.COM/DIAPHIL](https://x.com/diaphil) [@DIAPHIL](https://instagram.com/diaphil) [/COMPANY/DIAPHIL](https://in.com/company/diaphil)



#DFAFORGINGAHEAD BAGONG PILIPINAS



REMARKS OF AMB. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR. AT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY LONDON'S RIZAL DAY 2024 COMMEMORATION

As we extol his brave death, we honor his life of accomplishments worthy of the best of mankind; it erased any prejudice against the capabilities of our race.

Wherever in the world Filipinos live, work and add to the betterment of all without distinction, we carry the spirit of Dr. Rizal. Whether here in the UK or elsewhere, Rizal's lived ideals exemplified by his bravery and integrity, of skill in the service of humankind, guide us as we build wider bridges of understanding; and stronger ties between the Philippines and the world. We are universalists.

Jose Rizal believed deeply in the potential of the Filipino people. But he knew that the path to the freedom we wanted could not, indeed should not be taken through violence that widens division and hatred that forges differences like steel through fire. Rather a more encompassing and far superior freedom achieved through a liberal education, enlightenment, compassion for everyone in need of it; and a love of country untainted by ignorant hatred of others. He said, "The youth is the hope of our future." That sounds trite. Where else can hope come but from youth to carry on the struggles of your old age and mine; and thereby achieve our mission of a better country in a better world. And never at the expense of others. This timeless sentiment remains relevant. Progress — whether of nation or individual — is rooted in the nurturing of minds, the cultivation of compassion, and a resolute belief in a brighter future — not just for us but for all.

PAGE 2/3



DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHILIPPINES

[DFA.GOV.PH](http://dfa.gov.ph)

[FB.COM/DFAPHIL](https://www.facebook.com/dfaphil)

[@DFAPHIL](https://www.x.com/dfaphil)

[/COMPANY/DFAPHIL](https://www.linkedin.com/company/dfaphil)



#DFAFORGINGAHEAD

BAGONG PILIPINAS



REMARKS OF AMB. TEODORO L. LOCSIN, JR. AT THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY LONDON'S RIZAL DAY 2024 COMMEMORATION

The Filipino community here in the UK is a source of pride and strength. You have made remarkable contributions to British society while never forgetting wherefrom we all come — Filipinas Naming Mahal.

I'd like to take this moment to recognize the efforts of the Knights of and Ladies of Rizal in the United Kingdom, whose dedication to preserving and promoting the legacy of our national hero has stayed steadfast. Your commitment ensures that the legacy of Dr. Jose Rizal is not confined to history books but stays an animating force in the lives and actions of Filipinos worldwide.

I urge you to remember the words of Rizal that echo through eternity: "I wish to show those who love their country, that one does not need to be rich or noble but simply to act with love and sincerity." Thank you./END

PAGE 3/3



DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHILIPPINES



dfa.gov.ph



fb.com/dfaphil



@dfaphil



/company/dfaphil



#DFAFORGINGAHEAD

BAGONG PILIPINAS