

Speech of H. E. President Fidel V. Ramos
129th Birth Anniversary of Andres Bonifacio
Quirino Grandstand, Luneta, November 30, 1992

INTRODUCTION

MARAMING SALAMAT JUSTICE ABRAHAM SARMIENTO, BINABATI KO RIN SI MAYOR ALFREDO LIM, PUNONG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA; SENATOR WIGBERTO TAÑADA, UP PRESIDENT PEPE ABUEVA, PROFESSOR RENATO CONSTANTINO, DR. FELIX MARAMBA, JR., BISHOP TITO PASCO, I ALSO GREET THE LEADERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MGA IBA PANG PILING PANAUHIN, MGA KABATAANG FILIPINO NA NANDITO NGAYON AT LAHAT NG MGA IBA PANG KABATAANG NAKIKINIG SA ATING PALATUNTUNAN, ANG MGA PANGKARANIWANG FILIPINO NA SILA AY NANGUNGUNA SA ATING BAGONG DEMOKRASYA, MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT! AT MGA KASAMA AT MGA KATULONG SA ATING PAMAHALAAN, MAGANDANG HAPON PO SA INYONG LAHAT. MAAYONG HAPON SA INYONG TANAN MGA KAIGSURAN (ILOCANO DIALECT) (MUSLIM) PEACE BE WITH YOU BROTHER MUSLIMS.

ANG ATING PAGDIRIWANG NG ANIBERSARYO NG KATIPUNAN AT NI GAT ANDRES BONIFACIO SA TAON NA ITO AY TUNAY NA MAKASAYSAYAN. NGUNIT MAYROON PANG ISANG PANGYAYARI NA DAPAT BIGYAN NG PANSIN SA TAON NA ITO AT IYAN AY ANG PAGTATATAG NG ISANG PAMAHALAAN NA SUMASANG-AYON SA MGA MAHALAGA AT GININTUANG TURO NI ANDRES BONIFACIO SA ATING LAHAT, AT IYAN AY IYONG PAGBIBIGAY NG KAPANGYARIHAN SA MGA PANGKARANIWANG FILIPINO.

SA MGA INIWANG KATHA NG ATING MINAMAHAL NA SI ANDRES BONIFACIO ANG KANYANG SINULAT UKOL SA PAG-IBIG SA TINUBUANG LUPA AY KAILAN MAN HINDI NATIN MAKAKALIMUTAN. ITO PO AY NABANGGIT NA NI MAYOR FRED LIM NGUNIT NAKAKAHALAGA ITO AT DAPAT BANGGITIN DIN NG INYONG PANGULO.

ANG SABI NI BONIFACIO; "ALING PAG-IBIG PA ANG HIHIGIT KAYA SA PAGKADALISAY AT PAGKADAKILA GAYA NG PAG-IBIG SA SARILING LUPA. ALING PAG-IBIG PA, WALA NA NGA, WALA."

THIS DAY IS THE 129TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF ANDRES BONIFACIO, AND THIS YEAR IS THE CENTENNIAL OF THE FOUNDING OF THE KATIPUNAN. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT WE FILIPINOS MARK THESE TWO EVENTS TOGETHER WITH THIS PARADE AND CELEBRATION FOR ANDRES BONIFACIO NOT ONLY WAS THE FOUNDER OF THE KATIPUNAN, BUT THE KATIPUNAN WAS THE EMBODIMENT OF HIS NOBLEST DREAMS FOR OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COUNTRY.

THE ONE SANCTIFIES THE OTHER.

HISTORY TELLS US THAT ON THE NIGHT OF JULY 7, 1892 BONIFACIO MET WITH A HANDFUL OF MEN AT A HOUSE IN TONDO. AND UNDER THE FLICKERING LIGHT OF A TABLE LAMP THEY SIGNED WITH THEIR OWN BLOOD AN OATH TO WORK FOR THE WELFARE OF THE MOTHERLAND, AND TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO A SECRET SOCIETY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "KATAAS-TAASANG KAGALANGGALANGANG KATIPUNAN NG MGA ANAK NG BAYAN."

FROM THAT NIGHT ONWARD THE PACE OF EVENTS WAS FAST. A YEAR AFTER IT HAD SPREAD ALL OVER MANILA AND WAS BEGINNING TO BRANCH OUT INTO CAVITE AND BULACAN. BY 1896, IT HAD CHAPTERS IN EIGHT PROVINCES, AND WAS GATHERING ADHERENTS IN THE THOUSANDS.

BEFORE THE KATIPUNAN WAS READY TO STRIKE, HOWEVER, IT WAS DISCOVERED BY THE SPANISH AUTHORITIES. ON AUGUST 26, 1896, ANDRES BONIFACIO AND OTHER KATIPUNEROS LAUNCHED THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION AGAINST SPAIN.

WHAT FOLLOWED WAS MANY YEARS OF GLORY AND GRIEF, TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY.

THE GRIEVES AND THE TRAGEDIES OF OUR NATIONAL REVOLUTION INCLUDED THE EXECUTION AND MARTYRDOM OF JOSE RIZAL.

THE DIVISION OF THE KATIPUNAN IN TWO FACTIONS.

THE DENIAL OF BONIFACIO OF A PLACE OF HONOR IN THE ORGANIZATION HE HAD FOUNDED AND HIS TREACHEROUS ASSASSINATION.

YET, NO NATION AND NO PEOPLE CAN AFFORD TO BE SELECTIVE ABOUT THEIR HISTORY--CHOOSING ONLY THE PLEASANT THINGS TO REMEMBER AND RELEGATING THE UNPLEASANT SIDE TO FORGETFULNESS.

WE MUST LEARN FROM OUR HISTORY.

WE CANNOT STOP AT MERELY COMMEMORATING THE MEMORY OF ANDRES BONIFACIO AND THE KATIPUNAN. TO DO SO WOULD BE MERELY TO PERPETUATE OUR MISTAKES AND NOT HONOR THE MEMORY OF BONIFACIO. WE MUST SANCTIFY AND INSURE OUR FUTURE BY THE EXAMPLE OF BONIFACIO.

WE MUST ALSO DERIVE FROM THEIR MEMORY INSPIRATION AND PURPOSE FOR OUR OWN LIVES TODAY AND THEY MUST ENERGIZE US IN FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A NEW TIME -- GUARDING AGAINST THE PITFALLS THAT MADE BONIFACIO A VICTIM, AND STRIVING TO DO BETTER IN THE NATIONAL ENTERPRISE WE ARE NOW EMBARKED UPON.

TO THIS DAY OUR REVOLUTION REMAINS UNFINISHED, AND WHILE THIS HAS BECOME A CLICHE, REFLECTION TELLS US THAT IT IS SO VERY TRUE. MANY OF THE HOPES AWAKENED BY BONIFACIO AND THE KATIPUNAN HAVE REMAINED UNFULFILLED -- NOT LEAST THEIR HOPE THAT THE POOR MASSES OF THIS NATION WILL THEMSELVES RISE IN WELLBEING UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.

EVERYTIME WE REMEMBER BONIFACIO AND THE KATIPUNAN, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE REVOLUTION WAS SEEDED AND FIRED BY THE HOPE OF THE POOR FOR A BETTER LIFE. SOME HAVE TRIED TO TAKE THE REVOLUTION AWAY FROM THEM -- SAYING THAT THIS WAS AN ILLUSTRADOS' AFFAIR. SOME HAVE SOUGHT TO APPROPRIATE BONIFACIO FOR THEIR OWN CAUSE AND FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

ONE THING IS VERY CLEAR ABOUT THE STORY OF BONIFACIO AND THE KATIPUNAN. THEY FOUGHT FOR A NATION, NOT FOR A CLASS. THEY EXPRESSED ARDENTLY THE HOPES OF THE POOR UNDER A FREE PHILIPPINES. BUT THEY BROUGHT INTO THE CAUSE OTHER GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY -- THE EDUCATED AND THE AFFLUENT -- AND TURNED THE REVOLUTION INTO THE STRUGGLE OF THE ENTIRE FILIPINO RACE.

BONIFACIO AND THE KATIPUNAN BELONG TO NO PARTY AND TO NO SPECIAL CLASS -- BUT TO ALL FILIPINOS.

TODAY, WE ARE AGAIN AT THE CRITICAL HOUR IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE. AND DEPENDING ON HOW WE ACT, OUR COUNTRY WILL EITHER PROSPER OR FALTER DEPENDING ON HOW WE MATCH OUR DEEDS TO OUR

BRAVE WORDS, THIS NATION WILL ENTER INTO ITS FIRST CENTURY DEVELOPED AND JUST, OR DRAGGED DOWN AS EVER BY CRISIS AND DISUNITY.

MY COUNTRYMEN, I WILL VENTURE TO SAY THAT TODAY -- ON THIS 129TH BIRTHDAY OF ANDRES BONIFACIO -- OUR PRESENT STRUGGLE WILL MEET WITH SUCCESS.

MGA MAHAL NA KABABAYAN, SA PALAGAY KO MAAARI NATING MASABI NA ANG PAGBIBIGAY NG KAPANGYARIHAN SA ATING MAMAMAYANG FILIPINO SA LARANGAN NG PULITIKA AY HINDI LAMANG UMIIRAL, HINDI LAMANG NANANATILI, NGUNIT ATING PINALALAKAS ARAW ARAW. SAMANTALA, HINDI PA RIN NAISASAGAWA AT NAITATATAG ANG PAGBIBIGAY NG SARILING KAPANGYARIHAN SA MAMAMAYANG FILIPINO SA LARANGAN NG EKONOMIYA AT SA PAMUMUHAY NG MGA MALILIIT NA FILIPINO. KAYA IYAN PO ANG PINAGSISIKAPAN, IYAN PO ANG LAYUNIN NG ATING ADMINISTRASYON SA NGAYON. AT KUNG TAYO AY LAGING NAGKAKAISA, LAGING NAGSASAMA-SAMA, LAGING NAGTUTULONG-TULUNGAN, AKO'Y NANINIWALA NA KAHIT ANUMANG KRISIS, KAHIT ANUMANG KAHIRAPAN, KAHIT ANUMANG KALAMIDAD, KAYA NG FILIPINO IYAN. HUWAG NINYONG KALIMUTAN ANG ATING SIMBOLO, THUMBS UP! KAYA NATIN ITO MGA FILIPINO, KAYA NATIN IYAN KUNG TAYO AT NAGSAMA-SAMA.

MARAMING SALAMAT PO. MABUHAY ANG KABATAANG FILIPINO, MABUHAY SI BONIFACIO AT ANG KATIPUNAN, MABUHAY ANG REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS. MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA INYONG LAHAT.

010793-1100-ROE