



MALACAÑAN PALACE  
MANILA

## MESSAGE

I join the Filipino people in the observance of **Women's Month**.

In the past several decades, international organizations, women's rights movements, and various governments have worked together and made significant strides in addressing gender inequality by dealing with its cultural, institutional and historical roots.

While there is still much to be done to completely free women from this bondage of inequality, we can nonetheless proudly claim that concrete, sustainable, and inclusive actions have been taken by our government to create an environment where women's rights are respected and their contributions to society are recognized.

I therefore encourage every Filipino to join us in celebrating the indispensable role of women in our nation's progress by participating in this month-long celebration and supporting advocacies that seek to fight for and acknowledge the inalienable rights of women as equal partners of men.

Let us elevate women to their rightful place in society by empowering every Filipina to break not only the barriers that have long hindered them from reaching their full potential, but also the backward mindset that fueled a culture of gender oppression and inequality.

May we have a meaningful celebration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo Roa Duterte".

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA  
8 March 2021