

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Department of Foreign Affairs*

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### **LABOR DAY MESSAGE OF THE HON. DR. ALBERTO G. ROMULO SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**1 MAY 2007**

With opportunities and challenges arising from globalization, the Philippines – with its over eight million Filipinos overseas – has steadily transformed into a truly global nation.

Through the years, the lives of our people have become intertwined with those of the world's citizenry, just as our nation's future has become increasingly integrated with that of the larger international community.

The Philippines has an unmistakable global presence that is felt immediately: Throughout the world, our countrymen and women nurture the ailing back to good health, care for and mold young minds, efficiently manage households, conceptualize and put up vital physical infrastructure, manage the evolving information superhighway, and on the overall, expand economies and reshape societies.

Indeed, the Filipino global workers – important pillars for the economic security of their families and the continued progress and development of the Philippines and their host country – have distinguished themselves and their motherland in the world community through their professional and economic achievements.

Filled with pride in their accomplishments, we pay tribute to our country's modern day heroes today.

While we are reminded of their successes, we remain keenly aware and deeply appreciative of the sacrifices that overseas Filipinos have had to endure and the risks they face in order to secure a better future for the collective Filipino family.

Today, the Department of Foreign Affairs reiterates its unwavering commitment to continue promoting the interests, protecting the rights and ensuring the welfare and safety of Filipinos overseas.

The Department will continue to do so through, among others, a proactive approach to and constant monitoring of possible crisis situations, the continuous improvement of our consular services, and the vigorous pursuit of bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives that will uphold, protect and promote the migrant workers' rights and welfare.

The global Filipinos who sacrificed and contributed to the further strengthening of our Republic and people deserve nothing less.