



Basuguan ng Pilipinas

Ottawa

Embassy of the Philippines

#### MESSAGE

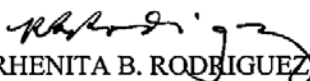
I have the pleasure of extending my heartfelt greetings to the officers and members of the Hamilton Filipino Community Centre and to all those behind this evening's main event, the Miss Philippines Hamilton 2008 Pageant.

This occasion is especially important for us in the Philippine Embassy, as it represents a milestone in our efforts to reach all Filipino communities throughout Canada. With the help of the Hamilton Filipino Community Centre, our delegation is finally here under the leadership of Ambassador Jose S. Brillantes, and we are truly happy to be part of your celebrations tonight.

On this very special occasion, I especially want to thank your organization for the efforts you have made to celebrate the rich traditions of Philippine culture and sharing it with the bigger Hamilton community. Your organization is a commendable example of a group that continues to maintain its links with its cultural heritage, even as its members have become part of the great multicultural mosaic that is modern Canada.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my thankfulness to the ladies that are vying for tonight's crown. It is often said that the value of a culture is reflected most by the beauty of its people. It is with this thought, and the knowledge that our contestants possess not only physical beauty but of the heart as well, that I find confidence in saying that they truly represent the best of the Filipino.

*Ipagpatuloy nating ipagbunyi ang kagandahan ng ating sariling kalinangan.  
Mabuhay ang kulturang Pilipino!*

  
RHENITA B. RODRIGUEZ  
Consul

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
04 May 2008