



Basuguan ng Filipinas

Ottawa

Embassy of the Philippines

MESSAGE

I am greatly pleased to have this opportunity to extend my personal greetings to the officers and members of the Hamilton Filipino Community Centre and to everyone who has contributed towards the success of tonight's event, the Miss Philippines Hamilton 2008 Pageant.

Your goal of representing and sharing Filipino culture with the Hamilton community is truly laudable. Modern Canada is a colorful confluence of ethnic, religious, social and regional communities, and celebrating our own heritage and sharing it with our neighbors preserves our uniqueness even as we have become part of Canada's multicultural tapestry.

I am also truly happy that through the Miss Hamilton 2008 Pageant, you have provided our *kababayans*, especially our youth, with a fresh opportunity to express our identity. When we are far away from home, our connection with our cultural distinctiveness could wither away if we lose touch. And if we lose a sense of our uniqueness, we somehow lose a part of our character – of what makes us Filipino. Your focus on culture and the youth assures that our sense of being Filipino will continue to thrive and shine within the tapestry of cultures that make up modern Canada.

Nais ko ang pagpapatuloy ng inyong tagumpay. Maligayang pagbati muli sa inyong pagdiriwang.


JOSEPH GERARD B. ANGELES
Minister and Consul General

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
04 May 2008