MESSAGE

Warmest greetings to all my *Kababayans* in Kenya, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

As I conclude my tour of duty as Philippine Ambassador and my 43 years of dedicated service to the Department of Foreign Affairs on 08 November 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell and convey my deepest appreciation to the Filipino Community for the unwavering support that you have extended to me and to the entire Philippine Embassy team through the years.

Serving as the Philippine Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) for two years and five months has been a fitting culmination of my career in foreign service. It has given me the chance to advocate for policies and initiatives that contributed to the advancement of Philippine political, economic, and socio-cultural interests in the bilateral and multilateral fora. It has likewise allowed me to engage with people from all walks of life and learn their stories, and appreciate the captivating beauty of each country in this jurisdiction.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has posed unprecedented challenges to us, I am proud to have witnessed how our *Kababayans* turned this hardship as an opportunity to help one another, and kept the indomitable Filipino spirit intact. It is my hope that you will continue to represent our country and promote our rich cultural heritage in the best possible ways, be it here in Africa or in any place you go.

My wife Marla and I will soon be leaving Kenya, but certainly not without the wonderful memories and rewarding experiences that we will fondly look back on. We feel blessed and humbled to have shared this journey with you.

It has been a great honor and privilege to have served you, my dear Kababayans.

Muli, maraming salamat po sa inyong ibinigay na tiwala at suporta! Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

ALEX G. CHUA Ambassador

05 November 2021