



A Call to Re-build Our Nation

“For I am doing a work in your days...” (Hab. 1:5b)

Yes, the Filipino can. Amidst the birthpains of an automated election, despite the long queues of people waiting for their turn under the sweltering heat of the sun, unperturbed by doomsayers all too willing to see him fail, Juan Dela Cruz voted. And he voted well, with all his hopes and aspirations for a nation that he and his children can be proud of. This indeed is the Lord's doing. Let us join Him in rebuilding our nation.

Let us be subject to the governing authorities (Rom. 13:1-7). Whoever it is we voted for, it is God who instituted our new set of governing authorities. They are God's servant for our good. Today we have leaders who have a clear mandate from the people; let us honor them. Let us re-build the necessary environment for them to govern well; let us trust. Let us begin with ourselves and the different private and public institutions that we are a part of. For so long we have allowed mistrust to erode the fabric of our society; let us be vigilant in maintaining trust. Let us not allow any unsupported allegation to gain currency whether in print or in media; let us uphold responsible talk and journalism.

Let us be pro-active in our “works of love” (Rom. 13:7-8,10). The re-building of our nation is too big to be left to the sole responsibility of our government after we have voted. It is not enough to rail against graft and corruption, we must put up the necessary systems and processes that can make public transactions transparent and less discretionary. Let us make public service rewarding not only for the satisfaction and recognition of having done good, but also with the satisfaction of being able to provide for one's own. And for this, we need to pay the right taxes. Let us also harness the power of civil society to address the need of the poor among us by working together with the government. It is not enough to call for unity; let us start cooperating and working together for the common good.

Let us be vigilant. Since our new set of governing authorities are God's servant for our common good, let us make them answerable to us and to God. Let us uphold a high standard for government service. Now that they have the clear mandate of the people, let us make sure that they attend to our nation's need. Now that they have the trust of the Filipino people, let us call them to task and address important national issues that have long been captive to political vagaries—issues such as constitutional reform, government rationalization, foreign debt, reform in our educational system, and others.

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