

**ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO**  
***Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs***

**MANUEL L. QUEZON GAWAD PARANGAL**

**October 22, 2016**

**Crowne Plaza, Galleria Hotel, Ortigas Ave. Quezon City**

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**Good evening.**

**On behalf of:**

- **Dr. Manuel Alba,**
- **Justice Antonio Carpio,**
- **Ms. Mary Jane Sta. Ana Guck,**
- **The late Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago,**
- **Bro. Armin Luistro,**
- **Mr. Oscar Hilado,**
- **Justice Francis Jardeleza,**
- **The late Fr. Pierre Tritz,**
- **Fr. Bienvenido Nebres,**
- **Chairman Andres Bautista,**
- **and myself,**

**It is our great honor to receive this award from the  
people of Quezon City.**

**If we can be said to have served our fellow citizens, then the recognition truly belongs to the Filipino people, who provide the motivation and inspiration for our humble endeavors.**

**In 1935, Manuel Quezon shared these powerful words at his first State of the Nation Address:**

**We, the citizens of these Islands, are now fairly started upon the final stretch of the long road we have so patiently and persistently followed toward the goal of independence. Up to here the trail has been a tortuous one. But the difficulties we have encountered and the frustrations we have endured have not deterred us from our purpose. They have served only to spur us onward—to increase the intensity of our undying devotion to the cause.**

**As the Philippines continues up the long road of history, I hope and pray that we Filipinos may exercise the patience to achieve the betterment of our nation.**

**May no difficulties deter each of us from our purpose,  
and may we find in our fellowmen the guidance and  
strength with which to persevere in each other's  
service.**

**Thank you very much indeed for awarding us**