

Countrymen, To Work!

By THE CHAIRMAN

Philippine Executive Commission



ONE year ago the Filipino people, through their chosen leaders, inaugurated a new régime of unity and coöperation with the Japanese Empire in the establishment of a New Order in Greater East Asia dedicated to the liberation of the Oriental peoples and to the attainment of their common happiness and prosperity. Today we can see the first fruits of that régime of coöperation in the vigorous rebirth of our native civilization and in the enduring foundations that have been laid for our political maturity, our economic security, and our social welfare.

Choice Justified

The inspiring progress we have made constitutes the best justification of the choice we made last year. It should also inflame us with the resolve to redouble our efforts to complete the vital and noble task before us and to achieve the final establishment of a New Philippines which, in natural and productive harmony with the other nations of East Asia under the leadership of Japan, will secure for ourselves and our posterity the blessings of peace and plenty.

We shall need all our spirit of abnegation, all our energy, all our patriotism, to surmount the difficulties in our way and to reach our goal. A promising start has been made but it is only a start. The wreckage of war and of past mistakes is being cleared away but this is only the preparation for the positive construction that must follow. We must now build, faithfully and well, with confidence and determination, the fitting habitation of our native soul.

If I were asked to characterize the first year of the present administration, I would say that it has been one of transition, a year of spiritual preparation. Beyond the purely material tasks of reconstruction, beyond the reopening of roads and the rebuilding of

bridges, beyond the restoration of law and order, the main purpose and chief achievement of the new régime has been the spiritual regeneration of the Filipinos.

Enduring Happiness

We have ever been guided by the realization that lasting peace cannot be restored so long as the minds of the people continue to be distracted and deluded by pernicious Western influences, and that enduring happiness cannot be achieved so long as the spiritual energies of the people are stifled by a fatal blind dependence on the West and by an obsession of fancied rights with meaningless disputes.

Thus, in pursuing our immediate political and economic objectives during the past year we sought to lay down firm foundations for the future by implanting a deep consciousness of social duty. As members of the great family of the Filipino people, we have a duty to unite for the common good, sacrificing all personal considerations, discarding all causes for jealousy and division, abandoning all doubt and hesitation, and pledging all our efforts to the full development of our native culture and institutions. As members of the vast community of Oriental nations, we have also a duty to support Japan with all our will and all our resources in the great war for the liberation of Greater East Asia from Western Imperialism and for the establishment of a New Order of freedom, equality, and prosperity for all Orientals, secure forever from Occidental depredations.

When the chosen leaders of the Filipinos were invited one year ago by the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Expeditionary Force to establish an organization for Filipino participation in the new régime, we responded to the magnanimous invitation, with full trust in the unselfish and lofty motives of

Japan and the Japanese Military Administration, with heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to assist in the accomplishment of a noble mission, and with unflinching determination to serve the Filipino people. I trust that the events of the past year have justified our decision and that in the end history will vindicate it completely and triumphantly.

Today, on this solemn occasion, it is pleasing to recall that we have left behind us an era of partisan struggle and disunion. Without regret and hesitation we have dissolved all Philippine political parties which only aroused selfish ambitions and created personal animosities because of the individualistic desire for political power and prestige. We have laid party affiliations aside, because in our present task of building the New Philippines we cannot and must not be divided by political bickerings that will only divide and lead us to failure and ruin. Political parties have fallen with the fall of the Commonwealth régime, and we must now think, speak and act, not as many but as one for the common good of the Filipino people.

Aims of KALIBAPI

Recently we have organized the "Kapisanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas," an association founded on the principle that the happiness of the Filipinos

must rest on the peace, contentment and prosperity of the entire Philippines. The establishment of the KALIBAPI, which has the full endorsement of the Japanese Military Administration, is the next logical step to take after the eradication of political parties. The Filipinos desire to perform their part in our present constructive endeavors; therefore, they organized the KALIBAPI, which aims at the mental education, moral regeneration, physical invigoration, and economic prosperity of the Philippines under the beneficent guidance of the Japanese Empire, the natural leader of all Oriental peoples.

But we have only begun the enormous and vitally important task before us. Spiritually renovated, conscious of our unavoidable obligations as Filipinos and as Orientals, we must now throw ourselves with earnest and inflexible will into the actual construction of a New Philippines within the New Order. The first year of transition and of preparation has come to a glorious end. The years of achievement lie ahead. Let us here resolve to do our part, each and every man at this post, each and every man with faith in the sacredness and with undying hope for the triumph of our cause, to build a Philippines for the Filipinos within an Orient for the Orientals, that will live and grow and prosper until the end of time.