

# ...So Help Us God

The Presidents of the Philippines and  
Their Inaugural Addresses



J. Eduardo Malaya  
Jonathan E. Malaya





There are few books that, immediately upon their date of publication, deserve to be called definitive. This is one such book.

—MANUEL L. QUEZON III  
historian and columnist

...*So Help Us God* makes an important contribution to understanding our history as a nation. More than dates and places, this book tries to make sense of the past, placing our former presidents within the context of their times, thus presenting a fresh and candid but honest assessment of the challenges of each presidency.

—MANUEL "MAR" ROXAS II  
Senator and former Secretary  
of Trade and Industry

This anthology of inaugural speeches—with sensitive but objective introductions of the speakers—helps put into perspective the history of our nation. It helps us discern how our people have struggled to realize cherished values and aspirations, as we continue, even now, to uphold our identity in a globalizing world.

—DELIA D. ALBERT  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

As the old folks would say, you have to get it from the horse's mouth and then do your own thinking. Here are our presidents, presumably in their very best prose, expressing their highest hopes and perhaps their greatest delusions as well. The Malaya brothers have done a great service by putting these leaders side by side and, hopefully, helping us to get through the thickets of political rhetoric to find better measure of the men and women who have taken turns at the helm of our nation's destiny. So help us God.

—NELSON A. NAVARRO  
political analyst and columnist

10 Nov 2004

*Manbu hay (Best Wishes) for a  
better world !!! - To Tun Dr  
Mahathir Mohamad, Malaysia*

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JONATHAN E. MALAYA



ANVIL  
Manila



*...So Help Us God: The Presidents of the Philippines and Their Inaugural Addresses*  
by J. Eduardo Malaya and Jonathan E. Malaya

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Working without discipline does little  
for the good of the world.  
For  
Rena Cristina, Melanie,  
Mark Edward, Jana Ariana and mama Zony

—Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-42 B.C.)

I have been warned that work is expected of  
the adult nation, that our people expect the impossible.  
For this young and vigorous nation of ours,  
making it really impossible.

—Ramon Magwayay, 1954 (Manila)

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*Wisdom without eloquence does little  
for the good of the states  
but eloquence without wisdom is generally  
highly disadvantageous and is never helpful.*

—Marcus Tullius Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

*I have been warned that much is expected of  
this administration, that our people expect the impossible.  
For this young and vigorous nation of ours,  
nothing is really impossible.*

—Ramon Magsaysay, 1954 Inaugural

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