



# The Continuing Revolution

Meeting the Challenges  
of Development and  
Poverty Reduction

FIDEL V. RAMOS

Best wishes for a <sup>7 Mar 2002</sup>  
better world — TO H.E. Prof. Dr. Mahatma

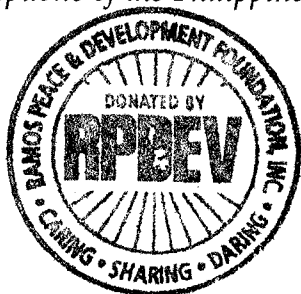
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Meeting the Challenges  
of Development and  
Poverty Reduction

FIDEL V. RAMOS



Volume 9  
of the collection of speeches  
of Fidel V. Ramos,  
former President of the  
Republic of the Philippines



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# Preface

This ninth volume of my speeches and policy statements, made generally during the period from mid-1998 to mid-2001, hopefully, will serve as a helpful intellectual resource for decision makers, historians, scholars and concerned citizens – like the eight other volumes that were published between 1993 and 1997.

## **On Peace and Development**

On completing my term as President on June 30, 1998 after 51 years as a public servant both in the military and civilian sectors, I felt that as a private citizen in retirement, it was still my duty to help in the collective effort to revitalize our economy, then badly hit by the “double whammy” of the mid-1997 East Asian financial turmoil and the prolonged El Niño drought.

## **On People Empowerment and Civic Responsibility**

As I look forward to many more years of serving our country and people in a private capacity, I take comfort in the realization that the goal of sustainable development and poverty elimination lies within reach of each and every Filipino. Rich and poor, plain citizens and public

servants, young and old, have the capacity to move our country forward in spite of short-term inadequacies and outside competition in this era of globalization – if we get our act together.

Instilling a stronger sense of civic responsibility in our people, especially the younger generation from where our new crop leaders will emerge, is a crucial task of leadership. And let us not forget: people empowerment is a civic responsibility, and civic responsibility enhances people empowerment.

Civic responsibility can be summed up by three simple words: caring, sharing and daring. Caring and sharing come naturally to us Filipinos, as we are known for our hospitality, compassion, generosity and friendliness. But we must also dare to commit ourselves to civic tasks, dare to give more than take, and dare to reform to make a difference.

The ultimate test of civic responsibility is for us to dare to take collective action for the common good.

### **On the Continuing Revolution**

The continuing revolution triggered by Bonifacio's Cry at Pugad Lawin in August 1896, Rizal's martyrdom in December 1896, and Aguinaldo's declaration of

v

independence from Spain in June 1898 culminated in the formation of Asia's first Republic in Malolos in January 1899.

Together with the Philippine-American War of 1899 to 1910, the Filipino guerilla resistance movement against Japan during World War II, the winning of Philippine independence from the United States in July 1946, the Philippine Government's fight against communist insurgency, Muslim separatism, and military mutineers, and EDSA Uno and EDSA Dos - all these form a seamless, expanding web of resolute effort by the Filipino people to fulfill their aspirations for a better quality of life and a higher place of respect and dignity in the community of nations.

The Filipino vision remains unfulfilled - but we must continue building on our gains while learning from our mistakes to attain it. *Kung tayo'y laging nagsasama-sama, nagtutulungan at nagkakaisa - KAYA NATIN ITO!!!* (If we stay together, help each other and remain united - WE CAN DO IT!!!)

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINAS!!! (LONG LIVE THE PHILIPPINES!!!)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Ramos', written in a cursive style.