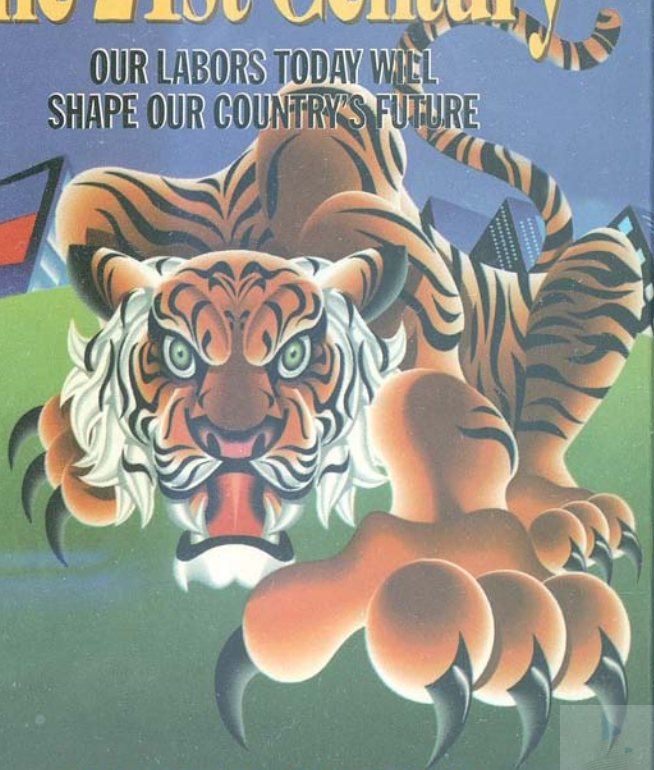


# Leadership for the 21st Century

OUR LABORS TODAY WILL  
SHAPE OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE



FIDEL V. RAMOS

## The book

AS my Administration enters its final year, I see our task as that of renewing our vision of Philippines 2000—in the light of what we have already achieved, and in the face of the challenges the new century casts before us. We Filipinos must raise our sights to the nation we want to be—and *will* become.

We must complete laying the foundations for the modernization of our economy, and the global competitiveness of our country. We must place the Philippine State on sound democratic footing—by empowering ordinary Filipinos to take active part in making the political decisions that shape their lives. And we must uplift the common life that the least of our people can live in dignity—caring for one another—in a free, peaceful and progressive national community.

The task I envision cannot be completed in the time that remains to me. You may be sure the work of Government will not slacken during this final year of my Presidency. And my prime concern will be to ensure that I leave our country a foundation of stability, civic order and unity. If this can be achieved, I shall leave office happy and confident that the beginnings of a new dawn are in our country.

*From the Preface*

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Volume 2 A Call to Duty, October 1993

Volume 3 Time for Takeoff, March 1994

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Volume 5 Our Time Has Come, June 1996







# Leadership for the 21st Century



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**OUR LABORS TODAY WILL  
SHAPE OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE**

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**FIDEL V. RAMOS**



A sixth collection of speeches  
by the President of the Republic  
of the Philippines

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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*Published by the Friends of Steady Eddie*



PERDANA  
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# Preface

**A**S MY ADMINISTRATION enters its final year, I see our task as that of renewing our vision of Philippines 2000—in the light of what we have already achieved, and in the face of the challenges the new century casts before us. We Filipinos must raise our sights to the nation we want to be—and *will* become.

We must complete laying the foundations for the modernization of our economy, and the global competitiveness of our country. We must place the Philippine State on a sound democratic footing—by empowering ordinary Filipinos to take active part in making the political decisions that shape their lives. And we must so lift up the common life that the least of our people can live in dignity—caring for one another—in a free, peaceful and progressive national community.

## **Faster, higher, stronger**

How shall we achieve these new goals?

By the same dogged determination, the same level of hard work, the same willingness to consult, to conciliate opposition—and the same amount of patience, patience, patience—that have served us so well these past five years.

I propose that we borrow our new watchword from the Olympic Games. Let us make Philippine development from now on—*citius, altius, fortius*—‘faster,’ ‘higher,’ ‘stronger.’

Let us pole-vault into the twenty-first century!

Politically, our goal should be to make Philippine democra-

cy work for ordinary people. The international media praise our country for developing as a democracy—in a region where development has typically been organized by authoritarian governments. *But* the kind of “democracy” we have is still miles away from the democratic ideal.

In this work of modernization and democratization, Government has the responsibility of leading the way. But Government will get nowhere unless we all pull together. This is therefore the time for us Filipinos to make demands on ourselves. This is the time for us to speak of duty.

### **A new home for the Filipino nation**

The task I envision cannot be completed in the time that remains to me. You may be sure the work of Government will not slacken during this final year of my Presidency. And my prime concern will be to see to it that I leave our country a foundation of stability, civic order and unity. If this can be achieved, I shall leave office happy that my Government has laid the beginnings of a new dawn for our country.

A hundred years ago, Jose Rizal envisioned what this country would be like a century hence. In our time, our task is to lay the foundations of a new home for the Filipino nation—a house that will endure throughout the third millennium—and fulfill the gift of Christ promised in 2 Corinthians 5:17: “*Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*”



FIDEL V. RAMOS  
Malacañang  
March 1997