



MESSAGE

As the Filipino nation commemorates the 159th birthday of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the Climate Change Commission recognizes our national hero's enduring legacy and inspiring championship of environmental integrity and public health during his time.

Perhaps oblivious to many, Rizal, while in political exile in Dapitan, helped plan the city with mindful and careful regard for the environment. Among his important contributions to the city were the construction of the town's first water system, the development of hills into orchards of fruit-bearing trees, the creation of livelihoods from these projects, and the draining of marshes to rid the community of malaria.

He explored the rich biodiversity of the land by collecting and studying the species of plants, insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and shells he discovered and had them identified at the Ethnographic Museum in Dresden, Germany.

On this special day, we encourage the Filipino to emulate Rizal in his commitment to building scientific knowledge and healthy and environment-friendly communities as we rise to the climate and public health challenges of our time.

May Rizal's life and legacy continue to inspire us all, especially the youths, to become exemplary stewards of the environment and staunch champions of the health and well-being of our people and planet.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "EMM", representing Emmanuel M. de Guzman.

SECRETARY EMMANUEL M. DE GUZMAN
Vice Chairperson and Executive Director
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