



MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

MESSAGE

My warmest greetings to the organizers and participants of the **Online Talakayan Towards VAW-FREE Barangays**.

This webinar series, which officially kicks off our **18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women**, is a welcome event that supports this administration's goal of protecting the rights of women and children by addressing all forms of gender based violence and abuse.

I am pleased that, as we deal with the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, this campaign will highlight gender issues that have been aggravated during this health crisis, particularly violence against women in our communities.

As we endeavor to fully implement the Magna Carta of Women down to the barangay level, I am directing the **Philippine Commission on Women** and the **Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Children** to work closely with local governments in encouraging victims to come forward and in capacitating VAW desk officers in every barangay to respond to reports of abuse in their communities.

Let me take this opportunity to ask the participants to work with the government so that together, we may fully protect and empower women and children to live healthy and productive lives.

I wish you all a successful event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodrigo Roa Duterte".

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

MANILA
December 2020