



DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

On the Occasion of the Office Blessing of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

On 11 August 2010

7:05 p.m.

Salcedo Village, Makati City

MESSAGE

delivered by

LEILA M. DE LIMA

Secretary, Department of Justice

A very pleasant evening to all of you!

It's an honor and a pleasure to be invited to tonight's event. It's an honor because I have a great respect for the values that the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (the "Foundation") stands for; and it's a pleasure because this event presents a nice break from my usual occupations, actually, back-breaking days in the Department of Justice. At the same time, it presents a great opportunity for me to express, in behalf of the Philippine government, our solidarity with the Foundation in its laudable

efforts to strengthen German-Philippine cooperation towards civic education, development and political reforms.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Peter Köppinger, whom I have had the pleasure to meet before, for the accomplishments of the Foundation since he took over last October 2009, not the least of which is the establishment of this new office, which will hopefully herald an even more productive and successful future for the Foundation.

Since way back in the 1960s, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung has already been operating in the Philippines. I note that what began, on December 20, 1955, as the *Society for Christianity Democratic Education Work* – a centre aimed at promoting a system of civic education program inspired by Christian Democratic values within Germany – evolved into an internationally active and responsible organization that has presence in over 100 countries. And today, more than fifty (50) years from its establishment, the values that it promotes – freedom and liberty, peace, solidarity and justice – remain to be highly relevant ideals that our own country, the Republic of the Philippines, is still seeking to realize.

I, myself, am particularly inspired by the man in whose honor the Foundation was named. His political and civic work embodied the principles upon which his party, the Christian Democratic Union (the “CDU”), was founded. He promoted not just democratic traditions but,

most importantly, the importance of integration, solidarity, cooperation and shared responsibility. He realized that, without the participation of *all* the people – of both men and women, from all walks of life, whether they be conservative or liberal, Christians, Catholics or Protestants – all the ideologies will remain inanimate and empty.

In other words, he valued the contribution and role of the people. His was a truly humanistic approach towards governance and leadership. This, more than anything, is the value that we, Filipinos, would do well to truly understand and internalize. And these are the same principles that guide me in my daily responsibilities and challenges as Secretary of Justice.

In this vein, I do believe that these values of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung are significantly paralleled by the ideals upon which the new administration is based. In fact, right from the very start, the true strength of the campaign that then Senator Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III ran was its ability to unite all people, from all walks of life, under the banner of truth, justice and rule of law – a fact that was indubitably proven when he won the election by a landslide margin of 5.7 million votes.

I guess that this merely proves that true statesmen, those who are worth their salt, share some of the most basic values: transparency, respect for the rule of law, and respect for the role and dignity of their people.

At this point, I would like to extend to the Hon. Sabine Weiss, of the German *Bundestag*, my admiration for her own endeavors in behalf of the Foundation. I wish you and the rest of the other participants in the upcoming *Dialogue for Newly Elected Members of the House of Representatives* a productive and successful interaction. We welcome and appreciate all your hard work and efforts.

For myself, I cherish the privilege of being invited here tonight because it enables me to serve my country in a capacity that is adjunct to my position as Secretary of Justice: as a representative by which the ties of two democracy-loving nations are strengthened and solidified.

Thank you, once again, for welcoming me. *Guten Abend!*