

Message from Mr. Antonio S. Abacan, Jr.

Metrobank Foundation 25th Anniversary

Former President Aquino, Dr. Ty distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

On the occasion of the Foundation's 25th anniversary, I have the honor to announce a special project that we shall be undertaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the Foundation's Board of Advisers, former President Corazon Aquino. As you all know, some of our major programs, particularly in the field of education, were inspired, initiated or otherwise referred to us for assistance by no less than former President Aquino herself. Among these are the college scholarship program, which we began in 1995 and has since provided educational assistance to more than 500 poor and deserving students from all over the country, the stipend program for English, Science and Math teachers in regional science high schools managed by the Department of Science and Technology, and a desk donation program that aims to equip some of our public high schools with the appropriate learning tools, to name a few.

In appreciation of the inspiration and support we have received from the former President, and as a fitting token of our gratitude for her many years of enduring wisdom and guidance, the Metrobank Foundation is donating One Million Pesos to fund the production and printing of a brochure as well as a guidebook on the Aquino Museum in Tarlac. In partnership with the Benigno Aquino Museum and the Aquino Center as a whole, the brochure and guidebook will help visitors of the Museum gain a better understanding of the exhibits that are to be found in the Museum, ultimately deepening an appreciation of the socio-cultural, political and historical legacies of both the late Senator Benigno Aquino and the former President.

We hope that this simple token of our appreciation and gratitude will further strengthen our partnership with the Benigno Aquino Foundation, so that we may continue to benefit from the dynamic involvement of Mrs. Aquino in the life of the Metrobank Foundation.

My friends, ladies and gentlemen, at this point in tonight's program, it is my privilege to introduce our guest of honor this evening. Without further ado, please join me in welcoming the former President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Honorable Corazon C. Aquino.