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## VOICE OF THE MOUNTAINS

by: JINKY V. MANGAD

### I

In the tapestry of tongues, history's whispers reside,  
Powerful hands have shaped the tides.  
Yet amidst the changes, a language stands tall,  
Filipino, a mirror reflecting us all.

### II

In the land of the Kalinga, where traditions flow,  
Through dances and chants, rich cultures grow.  
Filipino language, though woven with care,  
Holds the spirit of Kalinga's vibrant air.

### III

Each dialect a gem in the Filipino crown,  
Yet some shine brighter, while others drown.  
Tagalog leads, but Kalinga's song,  
In the chorus of cultures, where does it belong?

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#### IV

From highland dances to the beat of gongs,  
Kalinga's traditions weave their own songs.  
In every Salidummay, a story is spun,  
Of warriors, weavers, and the life they've won.

#### V

As in Thneedville, where one vision ruled,  
Languages face erasure, the diversity cooled.  
Yet the Filipino tongue can be a bridge,  
To honor each culture, from peak to ridge.

#### VI

MTB-MLE strives to preserve what's dear,  
Teaching in mother tongues, keeping heritage near.  
For the Kalinga, this brings hope anew,  
That their stories and language will continue to view.

#### VII

In the Filipino language, Kalinga finds a stage,  
A place to showcase their cultural heritage.

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As we speak and write, let us remember and see,

Each word carries a part of our shared identity.

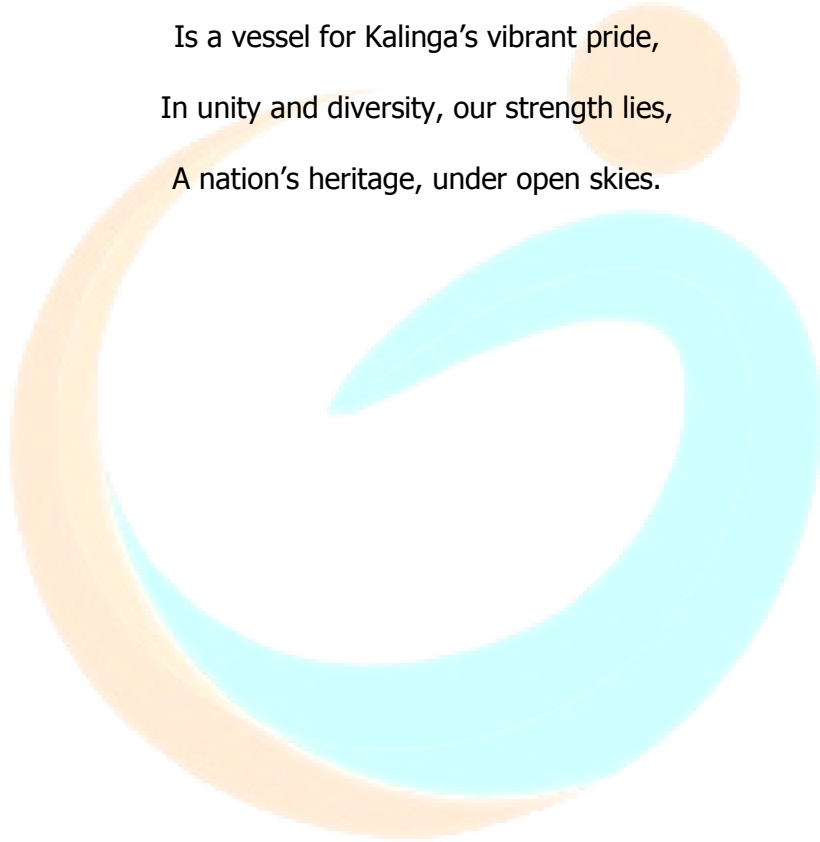
## VIII

Thus, the Filipino language, broad and wide,

Is a vessel for Kalinga's vibrant pride,

In unity and diversity, our strength lies,

A nation's heritage, under open skies.



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