



WHEN THE NATION LEARNS TO SPEAK

by: JAY ANDALICIO DELIDELI

There was a time
when our words were birds with broken wings,
perched upon the rusted fences
of forgotten dreams.

We watched the sky in quiet longing,
afraid that hope had flown too far.

Yet beneath the dust of silence,
a language remembered our names.
It bloomed in lullabies
sung by mothers with empty hands,
in the cracked palms of farmers
who planted tomorrow in fields of faith,
and in the weary footsteps of workers
who carried the sunrise on their backs.

Our language is more than ink upon paper.
It is the heartbeat of every island,
the pulse beneath every prayer,
the bridge that gathers strangers

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Alvin B. Punongbayan

Associate Editor: Andro M. Bautista

Managing Editor: Raymart O. Basco

Web Editor: Nikko C. Panotes

Manuscript Editors / Reviewers:

Chin Wen Cong, Christopher DC. Francisco, Camille P. Alicaway, Pinky Jane A. Perez,
Mary Jane B. Custodio, Irene H. Andino, Mark-Jhon R. Prestoza, Ma. Rhoda E. Panganiban, Rjay C. Calaguas,
Mario A. Cudiamat, Jesson L. Hero, Albert Bulawat, Cris T. Zita, Allan M. Manaloto, Jerico N. Mendoza

INSTABRIGHT e-GAZETTE

ISSN: 2704-3010

Volume VIII, Issue I

August 2026

Available online at <https://www.instabrightgazette.com>



into one family.

Justice is not born
from the thunder of anger alone.
It grows like bamboo after rain—
patient, resilient,
its roots embracing the earth
while reaching toward the light.

Listen...
The child who asks, "Why?"
is already changing the world.
The elder who remembers
keeps history from becoming ash.
The teacher who believes,
the dreamer who persists,
the neighbor who chooses compassion—
they write the future
without lifting a pen.

We have stumbled.

We have bled.

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Alvin B. Punongbayan

Associate Editor: Andro M. Bautista

Managing Editor: Raymart O. Basco

Web Editor: Nikko C. Panotes

Manuscript Editors / Reviewers:

Chin Wen Cong, Christopher DC. Francisco, Camille P. Alicaway, Pinky Jane A. Perez,
Mary Jane B. Custodio, Irene H. Andino, Mark-Jhon R. Prestoza, Ma. Rhoda E. Panganiban, Rjay C. Calaguas,
Mario A. Cudiamat, Jesson L. Hero, Albert Bulawat, Cris T. Zita, Allan M. Manaloto, Jerico N. Mendoza

INSTABRIGHT e-GAZETTE

ISSN: 2704-3010

Volume VIII, Issue I

August 2026

Available online at <https://www.instabrightgazette.com>



We have carried storms in our bones.

But even broken bells
can still summon a nation.

So let our voices
become rivers instead of walls,
songs instead of swords,
hands instead of fists.
Let every word we speak
be a seed of mercy,
every sentence
a promise of dignity,
every story
a home where no one is forgotten.

And when generations yet unborn
ask where hope was found,
may they hear it still—
not in monuments of stone,
nor in crowns of gold,
but in ordinary people
who chose to speak

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Alvin B. Punongbayan

Associate Editor: Andro M. Bautista

Managing Editor: Raymart O. Basco

Web Editor: Nikko C. Panotes

Manuscript Editors / Reviewers:

Chin Wen Cong, Christopher DC. Francisco, Camille P. Alicaway, Pinky Jane A. Perez,
Mary Jane B. Custodio, Irene H. Andino, Mark-Jhon R. Prestoza, Ma. Rhoda E. Panganiban, Rjay C. Calaguas,
Mario A. Cudiamat, Jesson L. Hero, Albert Bulawat, Cris T. Zita, Allan M. Manaloto, Jerico N. Mendoza

INSTABRIGHT e-GAZETTE

ISSN: 2704-3010

Volume VIII, Issue I

August 2026

Available online at <https://www.instabrightgazette.com>



with courage,

to listen

with love,

and to build

one nation,

one voice,

one tomorrow.



Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief: Alvin B. Punongbayan

Associate Editor: Andro M. Bautista

Managing Editor: Raymart O. Basco

Web Editor: Nikko C. Panotes

Manuscript Editors / Reviewers:

Chin Wen Cong, Christopher DC. Francisco, Camille P. Alicaway, Pinky Jane A. Perez,
Mary Jane B. Custodio, Irene H. Andino, Mark-Jhon R. Prestoza, Ma. Rhoda E. Panganiban, Rjay C. Calaguas,
Mario A. Cudiamat, Jesson L. Hero, Albert Bulawat, Cris T. Zita, Allan M. Manaloto, Jerico N. Mendoza
