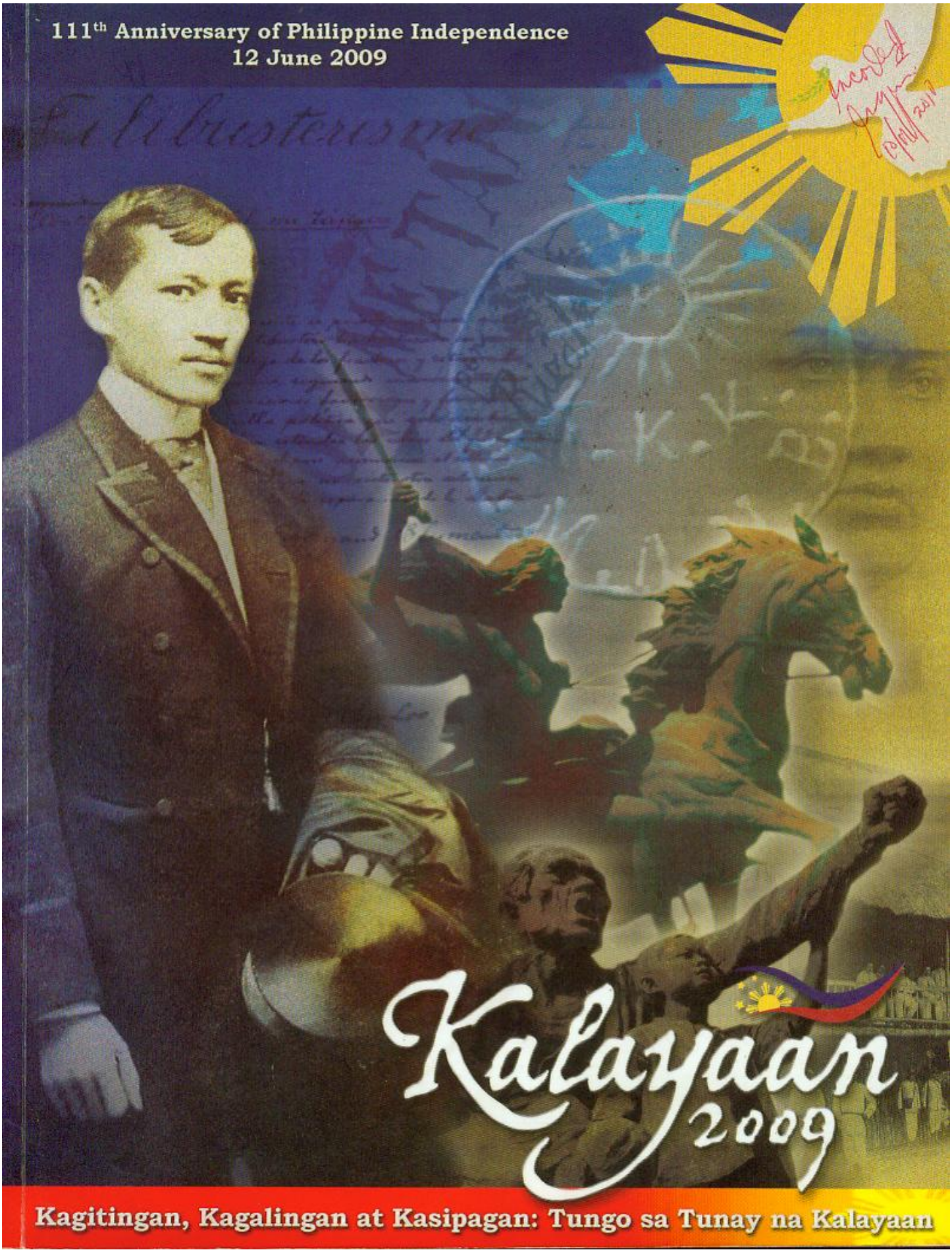
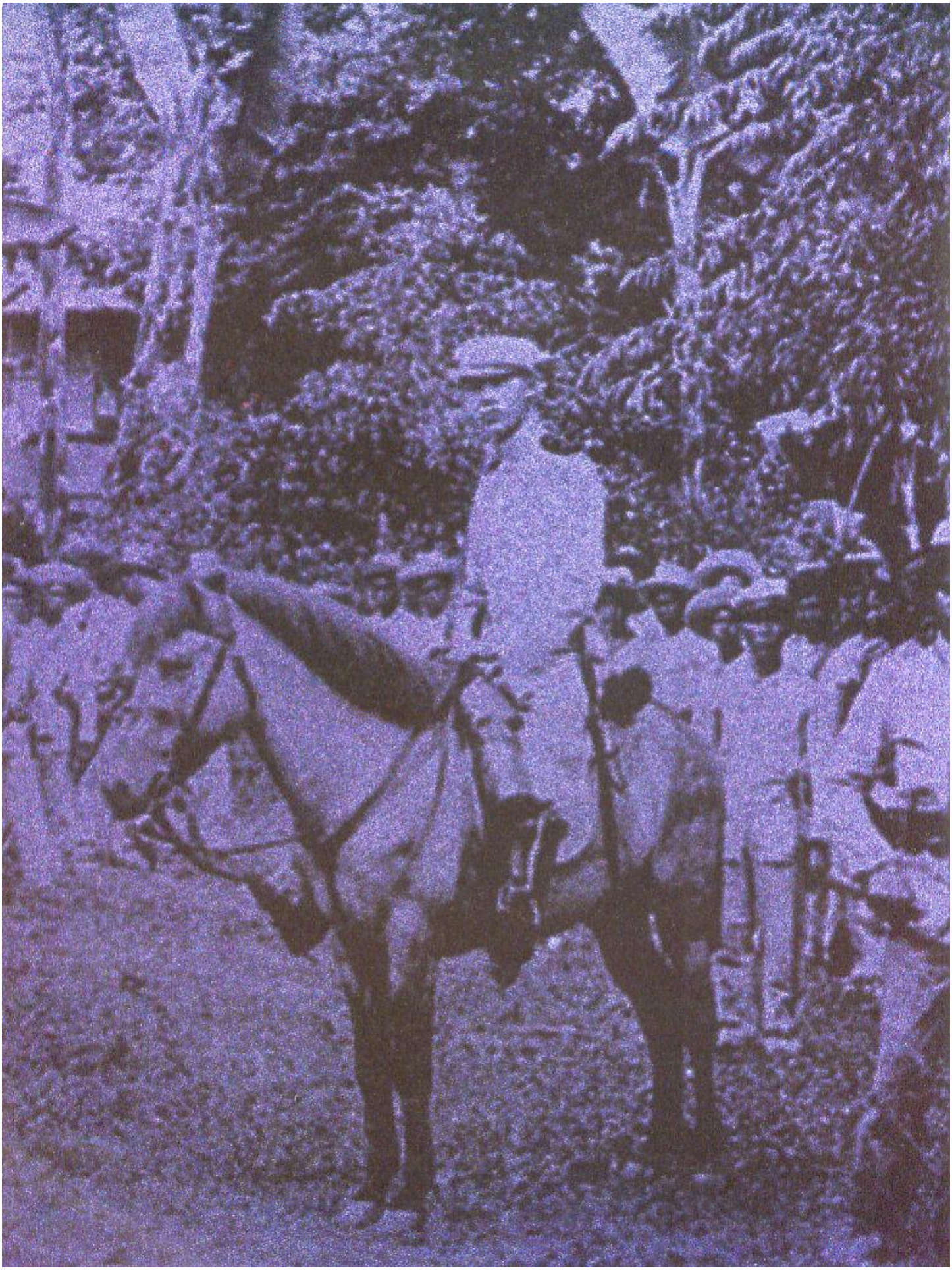
111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence
12 June 2009



Kalayaan 2009

Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan: Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan



111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence

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Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan: Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan

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MESSAGE



Warmest greetings to the Filipino people on this year's observance of 111th Philippine Independence Day.

Commemorating this year's Independence Day gives us valuable insight into the high price our forefathers paid for our freedom and democracy and the need for us to be continually vigilant in preserving them. Indeed, our sovereignty would not have been achieved without the sacrifices and gallantry of those who came before us, those who fought and triumphed over many insurmountable odds.

Thus, it is only fitting that recognition be given to our patriots who unselfishly and heroically offered their lives that we may live and enjoy the liberty that we have now.

Through this year's commemoration, we should not only exalt the valor of our heroes but also commit ourselves to further work in protecting and preserving our democratic ideals. May all our countrymen, especially the youth, learn the lessons of history and the martyrdom of our ancestors that we may always stand and walk proud as Filipinos.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGE



In behalf of my colleagues in the Senate, I would like to extend our sincere and warm congratulations to the National Historical Institute for the publication of the Independence Day 2009 souvenir magazine.

The NHI should be commended for its commitment and zeal in spearheading our country's celebration of Independence Day every year. Every June 12, we recall the bravery, patriotism, and selfless sacrifice of men and women who have contributed to our patrimony. We would also like to commend the NHI for planning and implementing programs dedicated to historical research, popularization of culture, and commemoration of noteworthy events for the purpose of instilling and strengthening love of country.

We are confident that the NHI will lead the country in inspiring our people, especially the youth, in discovering the fascinating aspects of our history. Our knowledge of history gives us a sense of pride of self. More importantly, with the initiatives of the NHI, we hope to underscore the connection of our political maturity with our capacity to learn from events in the past.

We continue to be a nation of heroes as we breath life into the future. Let us encourage the heroes in all of us. We reiterate our support for the NHI and wish it success in all its future endeavors.

Mabuhay ang ating mga bayani! Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Juan Ponce Enrile
Senate President

MESSAGE



My warmest greetings to the men and women of the National Historical Institute.

On June 12, 1962, President Diosdado Macapagal declared that 'a nation is born into freedom on the day when such a people, molded into a nation by a process of cultural evolution and sense of oneness born of common struggle and suffering, announces to the world that it asserts its natural right to liberty and is ready to defend it with blood, life and honor.' This well-received pronouncement led to the signing of Republic Act 4166 in August 1964, declaring June 12 as Philippine Independence Day.

The commemoration of the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence could not have come at a more opportune time to remind us of the preciousness of our freedom as a people and the sacrifices expended by our forebears to attain full nationhood.

We in the House of Representatives share your concern in instilling greater public awareness of the value of our freedom from subjugation, so that we, as a people, can take pride of our race. At the end of the Second Regular Session of June this year, we passed on Third Reading House Bill 6378 or the National Historical Commission of the Philippines Act, which seeks to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical heritage and resources by changing the nomenclature of the National Historical Institute into the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. With this bill, we will strengthen the powers and functions of this institution, stressing the relevance of history to our people, pride in our heritage, and confidence in future as a people untied.

My colleagues and I congratulate the NHI for its dedication and research in bringing out historical matters that further enlighten the nation.

Mabuhay!

Prospero C. Nograles
Speaker
House of Representatives

MESSAGE



Isang pagbating punong-puno ng pag-ibig sa ating bayan at mamamayang Pilipino sa pagdiriwang ng ating Araw ng Kalayaan.

Ang kalayaang tinatamasa natin ngayon ay bunga ng maigting na pakikibaka ng ating mga ninuno sa mga nagnais sumakop sa ating bayan at yumurak sa ating kalayaan. Sila ang mga bayaning hindi nag-alintanang ibuwis ang kanilang buhay at yaman huwag lamang mapaglaruan ang ating mga karapatan bilang malayang Pilipino, na may sariling pagkakakilanlan at pinagmulan tungo sa isang maunlad at masaganang bukas para sa mga darating na salinglahi.

Ang mga sakripisyong pinagdaanan natin bilang isang makasaysayang bansa ay nagsisilbi ngayong inspirasyon sa ating pakikipagtunggali sa mga hamon ng panahon. Maging sa makabagong panahong ito ay hindi tayo nauubusan ng mga bayani, mga mamamayang nakahandang ialay ang kanilang husay at kaalaman para sa ganap na kaunlaran at kasarinlan ng ating bayan.

Pangunahin na rito ang dakilang manggagawang Pilipino na noon pa man ay matiyaga nang nagbabantay ng ating kalayaan at nagpapasigla ng ating ekonomiya. Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang angking galing at talino, nakuha natin ang paghanga ng buong mundo. At sa kabila ng mga inani nating tagumpay, mula sa nakaraan hanggang sa kasalukuyan, patuloy ang kanilang kontribusyon sa ekonomiya at pagmamalasakit sa bayan.

Sa pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Kalayaan, sama-sama nating sariwain ang mga pagpupunyagi at kabayanihan ng lahing Pilipino mula noon hanggang ngayon. Huwag nating iwaglit sa ating isipan na ang kalayaan ay may katumbas na kabayaran. Magkaisa nawa tayo upang patuloy itong pangalagaan.

Mabuhay ang malayang Pilipino!

Marianito D. Roque
Kalihim
Kagawaran ng Paggawa
Chair/Tagapangulo, NOC
June 12, Independence Day

MESSAGE



Freedom is the highest ideal man or nation can ever aspire to. Perhaps it is for this reason, and as history has shown time and again, freedom comes to nations not as a facile gift but as a prize won through struggle, suffering and rarely, not without bloodshed. And once gained, a people's freedom must be defended and nurtured towards national progress so that all will feel its benefits - for freedom that allows the continuous deprivation of a part of that nation would be meaningless.

On the 111th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, let us remember with humility and gratitude the sacrifices of our forefathers in gaining for us the freedoms we now enjoy. Let us honor their legacy by following their example, and strive to preserve and expand our nation's freedom not only for ourselves but more so for our brother Filipinos still left behind in our nation's march toward progress.

Mabuhay ang ating Kalayaan! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Ambeth R. Ocampo, DPA
Chairman
National Historical Institute

MESSAGE



In times past, Filipinos have been unswerving in their efforts to build a country of liberty, harmony, and other benefits enjoyed by a free country. As we reaffirm our desire for self-determination, as a nation independent from foreign intervention, we are indeed upholding our forefathers' legacy of freedom and continually honoring their sacrifices as we step forward into the next succeeding decades.

Independence means a lot to us Filipinos. It is the basis of our continuity as a nation and a means to build a country without differences in race, religion, party, and creed, so that all citizens will live in peace and harmony. At present, what the whole nation is trying to attain is not the freedom that the Declaration of Independence hoped to accomplish, but freedom from poverty and all forms of social injustice that now hold us back from moving forward.

We became a free nation with all the rights to design our destiny. Our people take pride in the attainment of political independence which was a lifelong dream of our forefathers for us and for the next generation. This gives us the very reasons to be proud of ourselves.

We still have much to learn. Though we have come a long way since 1898, Independence Day is always an opportunity for us to look back on our triumphs and setbacks to prepare us for the challenges of the future.

I have faith in the Filipino people. Together, we can save our country from the political and economic crisis which it is now in, put it on the road of success and progress to realize our desired goals.

Itaguyod Natin ang Kalayaan ng Pilipinas at Kagalingan Nating mga Pilipino! Mabuhay ang Bansang Pilipinas!

Ludovico D. Badoy
Executive Director III
National Historical Institute
and Vice-Chair
National Organizing Committee
Kalayaan 2009

MESSAGE



In the afternoon of 12 June 1898 in the town of Cavite Viejo, Filipinos gathered at the residence of General Emilio Aguinaldo to witness the first Philippine national flag unfurl as the San Francisco de Malabon Band played the *Lupang Hinirang*.

Reciting the Declaration of Philippine Independence, our people promised to support freedom "with our lives, and fortunes, and with our scared possession—our honor." Indeed, the birth of our nation was marked by the great sacrifice of Filipinos. Those who fought for our Independence risked and place everything they had—their fortunes their families and their very lives—on the altar of freedom.

Fueled by their ardent vision of a free and independent nation, propelled by their love for the country, an driven by faith in the Filipino people, our forebears proclaimed to the world the Philippines, a nation born.

With freedom in their hearts and strength of spirits, a diverse people united. Yet, as our country successfully won the struggle for national independence more than a century ago, let us not forget that it is only one of the many freedoms that we continue to aspire for as a people in these modem times.

Kagitingan, Kagalingan, at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan, this year's Independence Day theme reminds us that , indeed, freedom is not bestowed. It is something that we must together achieve.

As a nation, we have shown our resilience and remained unwavering in our efforts to advance the welfare or our people—uplifting the lives of our poor and nurturing our children for a brighter dawn in our country, in our region and in the family of nations.

As the Philippines marches forward, the men and women of the Department of Foreign Affairs, guided by the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy, nation security, economic diplomacy and assistance to nationals—remain steadfast in advancing the interests of he Philippines and the Filipino people in the world community.

With our people's courage valor, and hard work, I am confident that our country is on its way towards realizing our collective aspirations for peace, prosperity, and progress.

Today, after we have raised our flag and sung our national anthem, and as we renew our pledge to support freedom with our lives, fortunes and honor, let us reminder the sacrifices of Filipinos overseas and those they left behind, whether a century ago or a century hence.

Mabuhay ang lahing Pilipino! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!

Alberto G. Romulo
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Excerpts of

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's speech during the Vin d'Honneur

Malacanang Palace, June 12, 2009



Today we remember once again those historic events of a hundred and eleven years ago when a band of patriots announced to the whole world the birth of a new and sovereign nation, one with full rights to dream its own dreams, choose its own leaders, and work towards its own goals and aspirations.

Our freedom, paid for by the blood of heroes, has been challenged several times since. But our people rose to the occasion at every turn, defending their liberty with everything they had, prepared to render the ultimate sacrifice if asked to do so.

Those external threats to our freedom are no more. Our former conquerors have become our close friends and allies in our quest for development. Yet we must remain united and vigilant as ever, not only against foreign domination, but—more urgently—against a familiar enemy who continues to eat away at our people's capability to exercise their free will. That enemy is poverty, and the hunger, ignorance and despair that it brings.

No nation is immune from the impact of the global crisis. A few are faring relatively better than the others. The Philippines fortunately belongs to those few, not because of luck, but because we chose years ago to prepare for an emergency like this by taking the bitter pill of fiscal and economic reforms.

On those reforms we built our growth, the fruits of which we invested in turn in long overdue physical and human infrastructure. We worked hard to bring increasing balance to our national economy. Pumping more money into infrastructure and welfare, we expanded our domestic demand, which decreased our reliance on exports. Our export to GDP ratio now is only 28.5%, compared to 49% in 2000.

We moved quickly to diversify our trade partners as well as the overseas destinations of Filipinos going abroad. At the same time, we worked to build up new industries and develop new sectors, and encouraged our people to build up their skills in accordance with shifting demand. All of these measures, among other things, helped loosen our ties to the fortunes of the world's biggest economies when they started going down last year.

I am proud to say that the Philippines is now one of only two countries in the region whose growth rate

remained positive the first quarter of this year, albeit much slower than before.

We must continue to focus here at home on creating jobs and keeping prices low, while rescuing the poorest among our people with targeted subsidies of food, fuel and rice.

It is not enough for us to celebrate our day of freedom by remembering our heroes. We must also think about their hopes for a better life for us, and commit to work even harder to realize them. Only then can we say that we deserve the gift of freedom our forefathers gave us.

During these trying times, the Philippine spirit and commitment to caring should prompt every Filipino to count his blessings and share them with the less fortunate. Now is the time for pulling together and focusing on family and community. We must start a new era of volunteerism and community spirit that embraces all sectors – government, the religious, civic groups, non-governmental organizations as well as our foreign friends. The nation needs all of us pulling in the same direction.

I believe that when the rebound occurs, our relative position within the region and the world will continue to improve. Not only do we have the resources to absorb the global shocks, but we also have our economic resilience and continuing fiscal reforms that will enable the nation to pull ahead when the global recovery begins.

We must look at the present with clear eyes, ever mindful of the goals that we hope can be realized soon. Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan ang magdadala sa atin tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan. Courage, Excellence and Industry – the Filipino has all these qualities, in abundance. Add to these the unity of a people determined to rise from poverty once and for all. They are the building blocks of our new growth.

Let us all work together to apply the lessons learned from this global crisis, so that together we may create a global village that celebrates the sovereignty of each nation even as it works as one in pursuit of our common goal: a world that is free from fear and free from want.



President Arroyo leads the diplomatic toast with Papal Nuncio Edward Joseph Adams and DFA Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Rigodon de Honor





The President beaming with smile for a successful *'Rigodon de Honor'*

Ridogon de Honor is a formal ceremonial dance tradition performed by several pairs of formally dressed couples at Palace grand balls. The tradition dates back to the Spanish Colonial era and was started in Malacanang by the American governor general.

In this year's grand ball, 20 pairs were chosen by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo herself of a mix of personalities from politics, business, culture and entertainment, coordinated by Presidential Assistant Lupita A. Kashiwara. In keeping with the austerity of the times, the ladies wore the *Filipiniana* terno while the men wore *barong tagalog*.



Ambassador Yano with Becky Garcia; Chiqui Roa-Puno with Babes Romualdez

Among the participants include the President's daughter-in-law Ma. Victoria "Kakai" Arroyo, wife of Cong. Dato Arroyo; Dina Arroyo-Tantoco; Rep. Trisha Bonoan-David; Nikki Prieto-Teodoro, wife of DND Sec. Gilberto Teodoro; the President's personal etylist Joanne Andrade-Zapanta; former beauty queens Miriam Quiambao and Precious Lara Quigaman; Sunshine Cruz-Montano; Lizzie Zobel de Ayala, wife of industrialist Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala; Viviene Tan; Julie Defensor; Belinda Adores; Dinagat Gov. Jade Ecleo-Villaroman; Mimi Aquino; dance instructor Becky Garcia; Anette Gozon-Abrogar; Entrepreneur

Frannie Jacinto; Carol Quimson; Chiqui Roa-Puno; and Liana Romulo, daughter of DFA Sec. Alberto Romulo.

Heading the list of male participants are Ambassadors Luis Arias of Spain and Roderick Smith of Australia; retired General Narciso Abaya and Alexander Yano; envoy on renewable energy Vicente Perez; Sen. Ramon 'Bong' Revilla Jr.; former Economic Planning Sec. Ralph Recto; Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio; Cong. Dong Gonzalez; Roman Romulo; Anton Lagdameo; Gov. Dex Cua; Michael Keon; Jericho Petilla; Kenneth Yang; Ali Atienza; Buddy Cunanan; Atom Henares; Raul Manzano and PS columnist Babe Romualdez.

With DFA Sec. Romulo, President Arroyo led the Independence Day reception for the diplomatic corps and appealed for more investments to help the country in the midst of the global crisis and she said, "Today we call upon our nation's sense of community and solidarity, to gain freedom from economic deprivation as the world faces an economic crisis." She vowed that the government would continue to offer incentives to help the private sector "keep and create jobs."



Twenty pairs participate in the 'Rigodon de Honor' at Malacanang as part of the 111th Independence Day celebration, including Sunshine Cruz and Australian Ambassador Rod Smith, Julie Defensor and Ali Atienza, Liana Romulo and Vince Perez, Vivian Tan and Pasig Rep. Roman Romulo, Becky Garcia and Ambassador Alexander Yano, Mimi Aquino and Gabby Claudio, Chiqui Roa-Puno and Babe Romualdez, and Precious Lara Quigaman and Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr.

Who is Juan de la Cruz?

by **Mona Lisa H. Quizon**
NHI Researcher



Have you noticed that Filipinos are usually called Juan de la Cruz? In the editorial section of the newspapers, you will notice caricatures of Pinoys labeled as Juan de la Cruz. Where did this name originate? Who started this so-called, nom de guerre of the Filipinos?

Juan de la Cruz is the generic name of the Filipino. It is symbolically used in the Philippines to represent the Filipino. Juan de la Cruz is equivalent of Uncle Sam of America. In Philippine culture the name Juan is associated to different personalities such as Juan Luna, Juan Palaris, Juan Tamad, Juan Bautista among others.

During the colonization of the Spaniards, one of way of showing their colonial power to us was by giving the natives Catholic names. The Spaniards introduced the name of saints such as Juan, Santiago, Marcos, Maria etc. The Roman Catholic Church played an important role in the naming of a child, with almost every other baby baptized and named after religious personalities. Indeed, majority of the Filipinos have acquired Spanish names. Juan de la Cruz literally translates as John of the Cross. St. John was acknowledged as one of the masters of mystical theology and a leading figure in the Catholic Reformation.

But reaching into the dark baubles of forgotten Philippine lore, old tales of the origin of the pluralists of the name Juan de la Cruz oozes out like an odoriferous fume. Transferred from generations to generations by whispers and candid remarks the belief that the name evolved into unrestrained colonial popularity when the Spanish masters necessitated unlettered native Filipinos to sign their names to documents. Since they could not write, they just affixed the letter x. And since the most popular name was "Juan", anyone writing their name as x was thus known by the Spaniards as Juan of the Cross or Juan de la Cruz.

Juan de la Cruz was coined by Robert McCulloch-Dick, the editor and publisher of The Philippine Free Press in 1900s. He noticed the frequency with which the names appeared on police blotters and court dockets. He often wrote small verses about Juan de la Cruz in The Philippines' Free Press who was often depicted narrating the petty crimes committed by them. Later on, McCulloch-Dick widened his idea of Juan until he made Juan de la Cruz as a typical Filipino. Juan de la Cruz is associated with the image of a naïve-looking man wearing a salakot, camisa de chino, native trousers and slippers. Jorge Pineda, a resident cartoonist of The Philippines' Free Press, first drew the image of Juan in 1912.



R. MCCULLOCH DICK



JORGE PINEDA

For them Juan de la Cruz is a typical Filipino which is friendly, humble, self-respecting and hardworking. Through the years the idea was followed by other newspapermen and Juan de la Cruz appeared into various pages of books, newspapers and other printed materials.

Juan de la Cruz now represents the Filipino "masa" and is commonly used in editorial cartoons as well as a symbol in effigies and printed materials used in street rallies. Activist often call Juan dela Cruz a victim of American imperialism, especially since most editorial cartoons of the American era often depicted Juan de la Cruz along with Uncle Sam. Furthermore, a famous Pinoy Rock Band was created in the 70s representing the archetypal rebellious Filipinos.

Through the years, Juan de la Cruz became the symbol of Pinoy psyche. His characteristics had been embodied by many of us which can be considered advantageous or disadvantageous as Filipino. In the end, Juan de la Cruz continues to make his presence felt and mark his identity in our history.



FRANCISCO BALAGTAS

Poet of Principles

by **Peter Jaynul Villanueva Uckung**
Senior History Researcher
National Historical Institute

Salamat sa iyo, o nanasang irog,

kung halagahan mo itong aking pagod,

ang tula ma'y bukal na bait sa kapos

pakikinabangan ng ibig tumarok.

"*Tumarok*" (to fathom) is indeed the key word, but the sweet, mellifluous cadence of the poem lulls one to forget everything and just go on reading and enjoying the story as it unfolds. The real message of the poem is camouflaged by its lyrical finesse and by the fictionality of the story itself. Perhaps this is why the author encourages the reader to fathom the wordings—to read between the lines. Anticipating an *easily confused* reader, the author requests him to *think it over.*

Kung sa pagbasa mo'y may tulang malabo,

bago mo hatulan, katkatin at liko,

pasuriin muna ang luwasa't hulo

at makikilalang tama at wasto.

The message becomes clear as one considers the social situation in the Philippines during that time—the late 1830's. The poem was "Plorante at Laura," written by Francisco Baltazar a.k.a. Balagtas.

Francisco Balagtas was born in Panginay, Bigaa (now Balagtas), Bulacan on April 2, 1788, a son of the blacksmith Juan Baltazar and Juana de la Cruz. Unlike other contemporary poets, he studied derecho canonigo, filosofia, teologia and humanidades. He worked as a helper in Tondo to support his studies where he met Jose de la Cruz, a prominent poet whose penchant for fighting cocks as payment for his literary works earned him the sobriquet "Huseng Sisiw."

Francisco fell in love with Maria Asuncion Rivera. A rich rival suitor, Mariano Capule, worked out a scheme that landed the poet in prison. While incarcerated he wrote his masterpiece "Plorante at Laura," and dedicated it to Ms. Rivera, calling her Celia in the poem. Released in 1838, he went to Bataan, married Juana Tiambeng of Orion and served as the town's head lieutenant, judge of seeded lands, then court translator. He was again imprisoned for four years for an old crime – shaving the head of a rich man's helper. He spent the last years of his life writing poetry and translating Spanish documents. He died on February 20, 1862, a penitent, penniless poet.

Nevertheless, he would have a profound effect on at least three of the foremost heroes of the Phillippines: Andres Bonifacio, Apolinario Mabini, and Jose Rizal. Scattered elements of the said poem can be readily recognized in Andres Bonifacio's poem, "Pag-ibig sa Tinubuang Lupa," and Jose Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios." Apolinario Mabini wrote down "Plorante at Laura" from memory and translated it to English. The message of the poem of Balagtas, it seemed, could only be read for what it truly was, by men sensitive to the social heartbeat of the times. Balagtas, to the eyes of these heroes, was not only a master of Tagalog metrical romance but was also a socialist, a nationalist, a revolutionist, a thinker of the highest degree who fired a salvo of metrical criticism against the social evil of that time. His fecundity enabled him to mask his poetic tirade with romance and so escaped persecution. His work remained shrouded with

romance until well-meaning men deciphered the enigma of "Plorante at Laura" and found it applicable to their own troubled era.

Sa loob at labas ng bayan kong sawi,

kaliluha'y siyang nangyayaring hari,

kagalinga't bait ay nalulugami

ininis sa hukay ng dusa't pighati.

The Philippines then was plagued with mal governance.

Ang magandang asal ay ipinupukol

sa laot ng dagat ng kutya't linggatong

Balang magagaling ay ibinabaon

at inililibing na walang kabaong.

Those who tried to stem the flood of corruption were persecuted.

Nguni, ang lilo't masasamang loob

sa trono ng puri ay inilulуklok,

as sa balang sukab na may asal hayop

mabangong insenso ang isinusukob.

Was Balagtas here describing the friars?

Kaliluha't sama ang ulo'y nagtayo

at ang kabaita'y kimi't nakayuko

santong katuwira'y lugami at hapo,

ang luha na lamang ang pinatutulo.



Was Balagtas referring to his countrymen's tolerance to endure unbearable sufferings in silence?

At ang balang bibig na binubukalan

ng sabing magaling at katotohanan

agad binibiyak at sisikangan

ng kalis ng lalong dustang kamatayan.

To cry for reform is to court death.

O taksil na pita sa yama't mataas!

O hangad sa puring hanging lumilipas!

ikaw ang dahilan ng kasam'ang lahat,

at niring nasapit na kahabaghabag.

Clearly, Balagtas here was referring to those corrupted by power.

Kung nasusuklam ka sa aking kandungan,

lason sa puso mo ang hindi binyagan,

nakukutya akong di ka saklolohan,

sa iyong nasapit na napakarawal.

In helping the Christian, the Muslim was definitely the Good Samaritan here. Was Balagtas opting for a religious reconciliation? Did he understand the need to reunite with our Muslim brothers of Mindanao?

Ipinahahayag ng pananamit mo,

taga-Albanya ka at ako'y Persyano,

ikaw ay kaaway ng baya't sekta ko

sa lagay mo ngayo'y magkatoto tayo.

Unity in times of adversity was the message here, never mind the difference of culture, or religion. Balagtas was a universalist.

Moro ako'y lubos na taong may dibdib,

at nasasaklaw rin ng utos ng langit

dini sa puso ko'y kusang natitinik

natural na leing sa aba'y mahapis.

Finally it is clear that the Muslim was the central character of the story, not the Christian, for he was the savior of the day. Even his lady love (also a Muslim) saved the Christian's love interest from being raped. Would the Muslim read this poem. Balagtas was really the quintessential social write. It is a pity his works are gathering dust in the bookshelves. We can learn a lot from him.



MUSIC FOR THE NATIONAL SOUL

by **Peter Jaynul Villanueva Uckung**
Senior History Researcher
National Historical Institute

Julian Felipe thought of himself as a Filipino patriot first and a composer second. However, it is for his music that he will always be remembered.

In 1896 Felipe was enjoying life as a composer and keyboard artist of some repute. However, with the outbreak of hostilities, he decided to abandon the piano and learn to fight instead. The Philippine revolution had begun and Julian Felipe, for love of country, joined the fight.

His military career was cut short, however, when he was arrested by the Spanish authorities and thrown into prison at fort San Felipe in Cavite City. He missed being executed only because the Spaniards had no proof to convict him of any serious crime. Instead he was jailed for about a year at Fort Santiago and then released on June 2, 1897. Meanwhile, the leader of the revolution, Emilio Aguinaldo, who was exiled to Hong Kong after signing the Pact of Biak-na-Bato, returned to the Philippines on May 1, 1898. Now allied with the Americans, he was ready to continue the revolution.

The two men were destined to cross paths on June 5, 1898. Bearing a letter of recommendation from his friend, Mariano Trias, Felipe sought out Aguinaldo who was at the time in Cavite City at the home of Maximo Inocencio. In a good mood after the recent victories against the Spaniards, Aguinaldo and his generals were planning the course of the war when Felipe arrived. Recognizing the young man's skill as a pianist, Aguinaldo asked him to play a march composed by a Filipino in Hong Kong. The Musician complied.

Upon hearing it, Aguinaldo was not satisfied with the music. He described it as good but obviously it was not good enough. It was not emotionally appealing. He wanted a more serious melody that will instill courage and patriotism in the hearts of every Filipino Aguinaldo then asked Felipe if he could compose a more soul-rousing tune, one which will reflect the nation's ideals. It was more of a command than a request. He was being commissioned to compose the nation's anthem. The pianist, although awed by the challenge, said that he would try.

Felipe returned to his home and immediately began the composition. On June 11, 1898, the composer returned to Aguinaldo's home in Kawit Cavite with a finished work. With Aguinaldo were some of the revolutionary generals. Felipe had walked in on a meeting. Despite the fact that he was interrupting,



Felipe was greeted warmly and was duly asked to play his composition.

Everybody froze and listened as the pianist played out the anthem's stirring chords and haunting melody. Here was an artist at his finest moment. Felipe had managed to draw upon his own patriotism and channel it into his music. He consciously incorporated some tonal characteristics of the Spanish Royal March to remember the passing of an era.

As the last tones vanished into the air, Aguinaldo and his generals, including Generals Mariano Trias and Baldomero Aguinaldo, applauded Felipe's creation. They initially titled it Marcha Filipina Magdalo, after Aguinaldo's original Katipunan faction during the first phase of the revolution. They then unanimously approved it to be the national anthem of the country.

Aguinaldo decided that Felipe would teach his score to the members of the band of San Francisco de Malabon (now General Trias) so that it could be played the next day for the declaration of Philippine Independence here in Kawit.

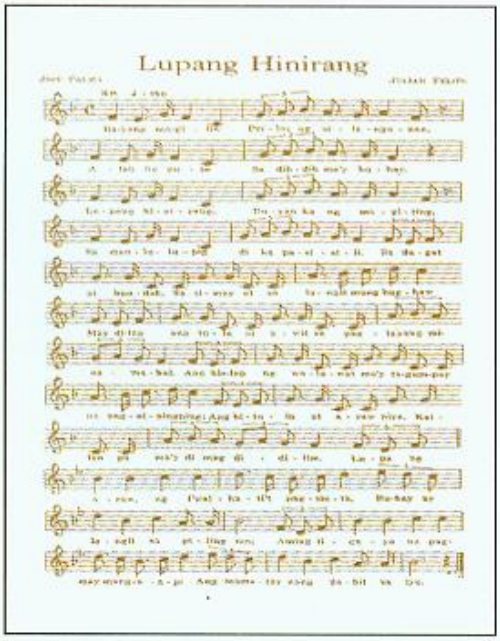
Composing a national anthem was tough enough, but teaching it to a band he hardly knew which was tasked to play it the next day it the next day was another matter. Fortunately, Felipe had experience teaching, he once taught music to earn money.

The following day, June 12, 1898, Julian Felipe's masterpiece accompanied the hoisting of the new Philippine flag during the historic Declaration of Philippine Independence. It has been played at all gathering ever since, becoming the national anthem of the Philippines now known as the Marcha Nacional Filipina.

In August of 1899 the anthem was given lyrics, written by post Jose Palma who titled it "Filipinas". The original words were in Spanish. During the American regime they were translated into English by American Mary A. Lane and Camilo Osias and were adopted by the Philippine Commonwealth as a national symbol. The Filipino version was penned by Ildefonso Santos and Julian Cruz Balmeda in the 1940's. This was proclaimed as the official Filipino version on May 26, 1956.

And it has been as sine this national Anthem of the Philippines or "Lupang Hinirang".

As for Julian Felipe, the Philippines legislature passed an Act on December 4, 1924 for the government by him P 4,000 for his contribution to the creation of the National Anthem.



National Flag Days

May 28 to June 12
Per RA 8491



Republic Act No. 8491 prescribed the period from May 28 to June 12 of every year as Flag Days. During this period, all offices, agencies and instrumentalities of government, business establishments, institutions of learning, and private homes are enjoined to display the Philippine national flag. Republic Act No. 8491 is a reminder to every Filipino that the Philippine national flag is the singular symbol of the country defining the unity of the various towns, provinces, regions, and ethno-linguistic and sectoral groups of the nation. It advocates national unity, love of country, and nationhood.

According to historical books, the Philippine national flag was a brainchild of President Emilio Aguinaldo. Our veneration of our national flag is many times more meaningful if we know the distinctive meanings embedded in each element in it.

The colors symbolize certain values: the red field means that Filipino valor is second to none. The white field means that Filipinos are capable of governing themselves. The sky blue field signifies the loftiness of the Filipino struggle for freedom.

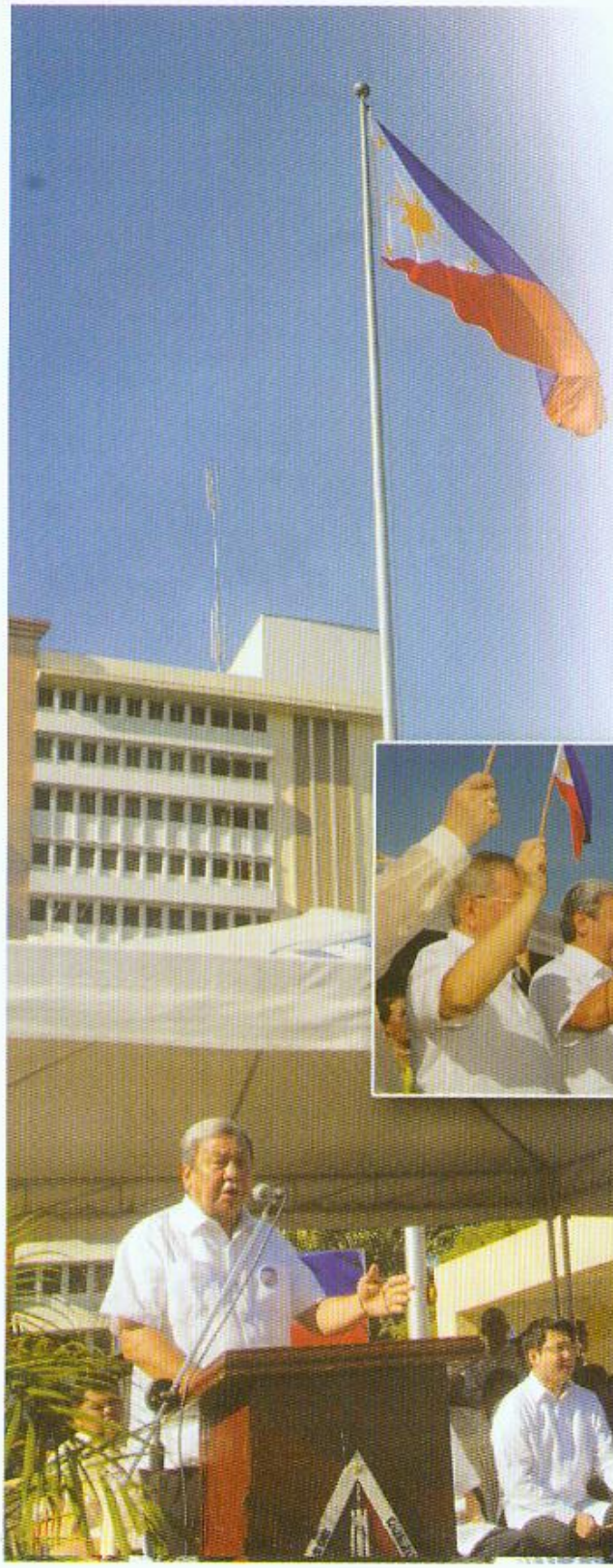
The equilateral triangle represents the Katipunan ideals of Liberty, Equality, and the Brotherhood of Men.

The three stars represent the three major geographical subdivisions of the Philippine archipelago, namely Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The points in each star represent all the islands that make up these major geographic subdivisions.

The eight rays of the sun represent the eight provinces declared by the colonial government to be in a state of war (an estado de Guerra) during the revolution.

Our national flag is further distinguished from all other national flags. When the red field is up and the blue field is below, it signifies that the country is at war.

Let us respect our national flag. It not only represents our national identity but is the flag that was colored by the blood of our forefathers and enshrined by their sacrifices.



Quezon City

Atienza Leads the National Flag Day in Quezon City

DENR Secretary Joselito Atienza led the kick off rites at the Quezon City Quadrangle and was assisted in the Flag Raising Ceremony by QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, NHI Exec. Director Ludovico Badoy, DOLE Usec. Arthur Sodusta, Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, Cong. Nanette Castelo Daza, Cong. Mary Anne Susano, Dep. Commissioner Emilio Gonzales III, other Q.C. national officials and about 6,000 government employees.

According to Sec. Atienza, the "**Pilipinas Kong Mahal**" flag theme put stress on "**pagbibigay respeto at pagmamahal sa ating bansa**."



"Pilipinas Kong Mahal" the Flag Advocacy message is a good reminder for all in the midst of materialism and new technologies, now more than ever we need to enhance good citizenship practices by putting up our flags at home, giving value to the beauty of our natural resources, showing care for a clean and green environment and other practices, Atienza elaborated. "This year's theme echoed President Arroyo's resolve to foster unity among Filipinos under a national symbol telling of an extraordinary country blessed by God," Atienza said.



Secretary Lito Atienza with Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, NHI Exec. Director Ludovico Badoy, DOLE Usec. Arthur Sodusta, Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista, Cong. Nanette Castelo Daza, Cong. Mary Anne Susano, Dep. Commissioner Emilio Gonzales III and other Q.C. national officials.









Technical Working Group







Imus Alapan

Flag Raising in Imus, Cavite

Flag Raising in Imus, Cavite. DENR Secretary Joselito Atienza led this year's National Flag Day program at Imus Heritage Park, Cavite as chairman of the Flag Advocacy Committee Chairman. Last year, President Arroyo designated Sec. Atlenza as Flag czar. The Flag Day nationwide celebration this May 28 is in commemoration of Battle of Alapan in Imus, Cavite in consonance with **RA 8491** the **Flag and Philippine Heraldic Code**.

Wagayway Festival opens in Imus

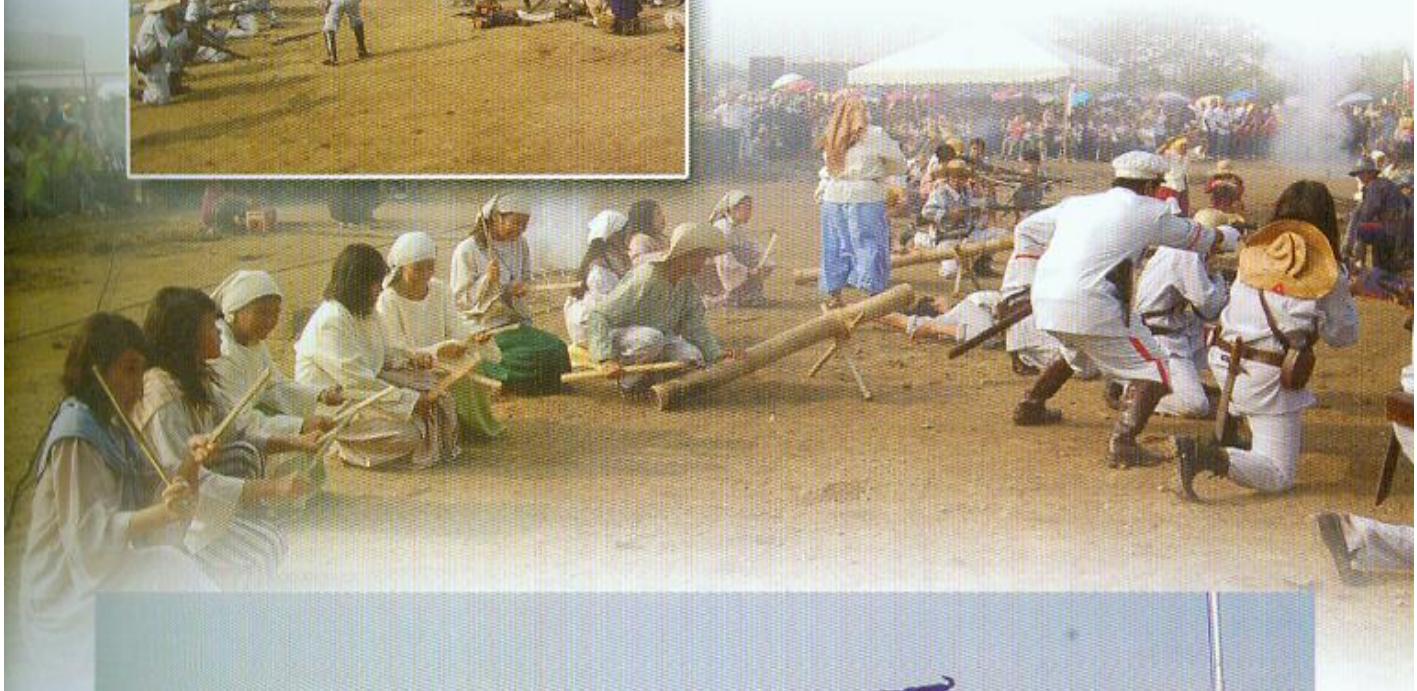
Municipal officials in Imus, Cavite led by Mayor Manny Maliksi and Vice Mayor Mandy Ilano opened the Wagayway Festival, a week-long celebration intended to make people aware of the event that led to the waving of the national flag for the first time in this historic town.

The event was capped by a dramatic live commemoration of the famous "Battle of Alapan" on May 28, 1898, inauguration of the newly constructed General Licerio Topacio Park at the town plaza, and a grand parade on some streets in the town.

Historians said it was in that epic battle that the Philippine flag sewn by Marcela Agoncillo in Hong Kong was first unfurled, following the victory of the Filipino revolutionaries against the Spanish forces.

The National Historical Institute (NHI) has made the Wagayway Festival one of the centerpiece events in the 111th anniversary celebration of the proclamation of Philippine Independence on June 12.








STAR


ational Flag Day 2009
28 May 2009
Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence

PGMA's Speech during the 111th Philippine Independence Day Celebration

Rizal Park, Koronadal City, South Cotabato
12 June 2009



Maraming salamat Secretary Roque sa iyong pagpakilala sa akin.

Ang aton gobernador diri sa South Cotabato, Governor Daisy Fuentes; ang aton host mayor, Mayor Fernando Miguel; ang aton congressman diri sa distrito, Congressman Arthur Pingoy; ang Cabinet Officer for Regional Development sa Region XII, Secretary Gilbert Teodoro; tanan mga opisyales sa South Cotabato kag sa Koronadal City; our Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces; our Chief of the Philippine National Police; our major service commanders; tanan mga opisyales sa kabilugang Region XII nga ari subong; tanan naton nga kasimanwa: Malipayon nga Independendence Day sa aton pungsod!

To those looking for a parade in Luneta, our chairman for the festivities, chairman of the National Historical Commission Ambeth Ocampo who is here with us would say, this year's Flag Raising focuses on Mindanao and on jobs. Heroism is not obsolete. It comes in many forms. When the nation needs us it is an opportunity to become heroes today.

Just like Governor Fuentes said, kun sang una ang mga bayani naton nakigaway para saaton pulitikal nga kaluwasan, subong, dapat naton gamiton ang aton paghili-usa bilang isa ka komunidad para maluwas kita sa pagka-imol kag sa krisis sa ekonomiya sang kalibutan.

I am happy to hold our traditional Independence Day, Flag Raising and Wreath laying ceremonies here at the Rizal Park in Koronadal. Congratulations! on the refurbishing of the Rizal monument.

Wala sang pungsod nga nakalikay sa epekto sang global crisis. Apan diri sa SOCSKSARGEN siling sang inyo mga opisyales, wala'y dako nga epekto ang krisis diri. Congratulations sa inyo nga tanan!

Ang Pilipinas isa gid sa pila lamang ka pungsod nga nakapadayon sang iya positive growth rate. Ang produksyon naton bilang GDP nagtubo gihapon, nangin 0.4 percent growth sa first quarter sang tuig, kag ang total nga ginkita sang pungsod nga ginatawag GNP nagtubo 4.4 percent. Ang mga laing mga ekonomiya sa kalibutan, the vast majority of them negative ang ilang growth rate. Gani may ara kita nga mga kasimanwa who have to come back because they lost their jobs abroad. Sama kanina ang aton OFW nga nagtindog diri sa entablado to receive the assistance for our returning OFW, I asked him, "diin nga ekonomiya ka naghalin?" And he said he came back from Taiwan. Because Taiwan was one of the economies that had a very big drop in GNP and that had to lay-off many workers including Filipino workers.

Apan siling ni Congressman Pingoy, who'd just arrived from the economy of Taiwan, subong Taiwan is now hiring workers again. So, the world is beginning to recover. Salamat sa Ginoo.

Apan kita diri sa Pilipinas, bakit, why were we able to be one of the few countries in the region that still exhibited a positive growth rate? Tungod kay sadto pa gintumar na naton ang mapait nga medisina nga amo ang mga reporma sa ekonomiya. Ginamit naton ang ganansya halin sa reporma sa pagpatukod sang dugay na nga kinahanglan nga physical and human infrastructure.



Investing in our country's infrastructure is one of the top priorities of our economic reform agenda. Kaganina siling ni Governor Daisy Fuentes, manindot, gwapo ang mga kalsada diri sa South Cotabato. And we are further enhancing the General Santos City Airport. Ginakompleto naton ang rehabilitation sang terminal building kag construction sa perimeter fence. This P30 million project is undergoing bidding now and be awarded within 30 days.

We hope that this enhancement will support the efforts to grow SOCSKSARGEN as a major destination in our country.

Our efforts to support our workers during these challenging times range from investments that will help create new jobs, livelihood assistance to affected workers, and retraining programs that will help our workers find new employment among others.

Kaupod sa aton sabat sa pagkadula sang trabaho tungod sa global economic crisis amo gid ang Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program o CLEEP nga ginapatuman subong sa bilog nga pungsod. Ang gina-una naton amo ang mga tawo nga nadula ang trabaho sang nagsira ang ila mga kumpanya tungod sa paghinay sang mga orders halin sa iban nga pungsod, kay dako ang epekto sang global crisis didto sa ginhalinan sang orders.

The CLEEP here in Region XII is under the oversight leadership of Secretary Gilbert Teodoro. And prior to today's awarding, CLEEP in Region XII has benefited 8,500 individuals —Oh, kamo nga nagapasalamat, congratulations sa inyo nga tanan! —and 14.0 percent of them have come under the livelihood projects of the Petroleum Association of the Philippines, which has partnered with the government on this, and we thank them. Kag kaganina we awarded employment contracts, training vouchers and livehood grants under the CLEEP.

Kag may ara kita naman sang Mega Job and Livelihood Fair that will give our kababayans, our kasimanwa access to job matching and placement services, pre-employment documentation services from the NBI, NSO, BIR, DFA and other agencies. We will also offer livelihood assistance, technology and skills demonstrations, legal assistance, and other similar services. Kag special greetings sa aton 1,000 or more than 1,000 delegation of our TESDA trainees.

I am heartened to hear from you that the training scholarship program is reaching those who need it and is making an impact. Why is our training making an impact? Tungod kay anay, before our administration, ang budget sa Technical Education and Skills Development, 200 million pesos. Subong, this year —this year, it is three billion pesos. This is one of the many measures the government has taken to mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis. By training and/or retraining our youth and unemployed in new technical skills, we are giving them the opportunity to find jobs in industries that need their skills and in some cases, even the ability to start their own small businesses at home.

To ensure greater efficiency in the granting of scholarships, we have simplified requirements so that more of our people can benefit from this program. If you are 15 years old and above, a Filipino citizen, and you have a desire to learn a skill that will help you find a new job or start a new business, then you are qualified to apply. We encourage those who want to take advantage of this to visit a TESDA office. There is a TESDA office in Koronadal and there is a TESDA office in General Santos City. Our initiatives are working to create new jobs for those affected by the global economic downturn. We urge those affected workers to visit the nearest DOLE office and other government offices to inquire about the programs that can assist them.



Nagapangabudlay kita para mabalanse ang ekonomiya sang aton pungsod. Tungod sa pagbutang naton sang mas dako nga pondo sa imprastraktura kag mga programa nga magabulig sa mga imol, ginpadako naton ang aton domestic demand o kun ang pagnegosyo sa sulod sang pungsod. Tungod sini, nagdyutay man ang aton reliance sa mga exports. Amo nga subong, ang aton export to GDP ratio 28.5 percent na lang kumpara sa 49.0 percent naton sang tuig 2000. Gani bisan nga nagbudlay ang mga exports, dako ang aton domestic demand. Naghimo man kita sang programa agod nga mas madamo kag lain-lain ang aton mga trading partners kag mga pungsod nga kaladtu-an sang mga overseas Filipinos. Samtang ginhimo naton ini, nagtukod man kita sang mga bag-o nga industriya tulad sang Business Process Outsourcing industry, kun diin nagdominar ang Pilipinas sa bilog nga kalibutan. Dali ang pagsaka naton sa industriya nga ini, and I am sure that SOCSKSARGEN, South Cotabato, GenSan and Koronadal are attractive areas for investments in business process outsourcing.

But we also must not lose sight of the challenges we were already addressing before the onset of the global economic crisis. Climate change ranks high on the list of challenges that must not be forgotten in a rush to fix a world economy. Kun mapadayon ang climate change, diri sa Mindanao nga walay mga typhoon subong, the typhoons will begin to come in Mindanao and Mindanao's role as the food basket of our country will be jeopardized. The challenge of climate change and the devastating permanent impact it will have on economies around the world, will still be with us long after the global economy returns to health.

Gani to help mitigate climate change, our Administration is focused on developing renewable sources of energy

to ensure that our power supplies are sustainable and that we are able to attain a higher level of self-sufficiency and reduce reliance on external sources.

Ang Biofuels Law —salamat kay Congressman Pingoy kag ang aton mga congressmen —and the newly-passed Renewable Energy Act of 2008 offers significant incentives to companies that wish to invest in renewable energy projects in our country. We are encouraging investors to take part in the development of alternative energy. That includes such projects as the proposed hydro-electric plant in Lake Sebu —which according to Secretary Reyes, is in the feasibility study stage —also it includes the Korean jatropha plantation and processing project which was unveiled yesterday to be located in SOCSKSARGEN. We are now focusing on promoting the wealth of natural resources that are available in our country so that investors are aware of these opportunities. For example —what we call that, Daisy? —the Seven Waterfalls of Lake Sebu. Congratulations! sa aton Lake Sebu.

Addressing the conflicts in Mindanao and the plight of those affected remains a very high priority. We are working closely with the LGUs and the international agencies to ensure that the needs of the people in the conflict areas are quickly met. We also hope to continue the peace process soon to achieve longer-term stability and prosperity for the people of Mindanao.



We are awaiting advice from our third party facilitator, the Government of Malaysia, on when peace talks will resume and to set the time and place where talks will be held. I had two opportunities to talk to the new Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, within the last 30 days. He gave his assurances of his country's support to the peace process. He also stressed that they will persevere in ensuring that peace talks will resume between the Philippines and the MILF.

At present, our GRP panel chairman, Ambassador Rafael Seguis, is back-channeling to finalize the agenda and talking points between the two peace panels the moment peace negotiations will resume. Our Panel is being assisted by the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process in implementing other programs under the peace process. We all want peace to reign once more in Mindanao but we must be patient as we undergo the peace process. We cannot solve this long-festering problem using quick-fixes. And that is one of our main messages for celebrating Independence Day in Mindanao.

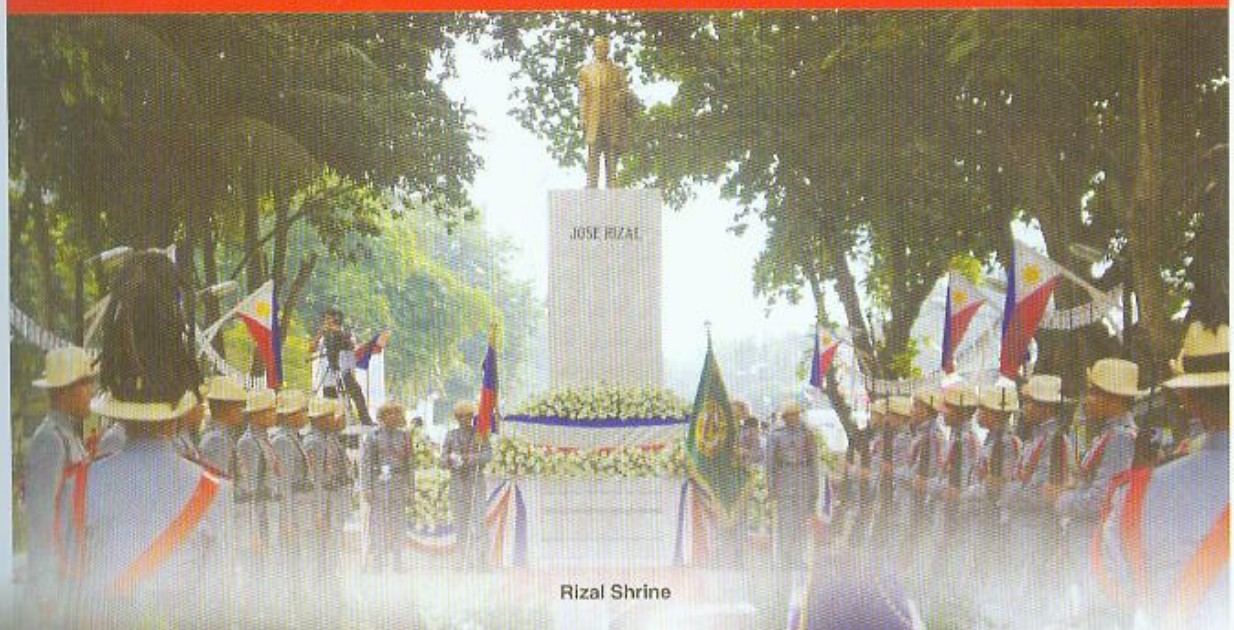
June 12 in Mindanao significantly harks back to Bonifacio who saw beyond Katagalugan and imagined a nation. It harks back to Aguinaldo who saw brothers in the people of Mindanao then as now separated by geography, religion and culture. But history provides both a common past and a common future.

Kaganina after I greeted our officials from South Cotabato and Koronadal. I greeted the different members, representatives of the different IP tribes here in South Cotabato. About a dozen different costumes, about a dozen different tribes, maybe different religions but all answering to the name —Pilipino. A common future is what we all have whatever is our costume, whatever is our religion, whatever is our ethnic culture.

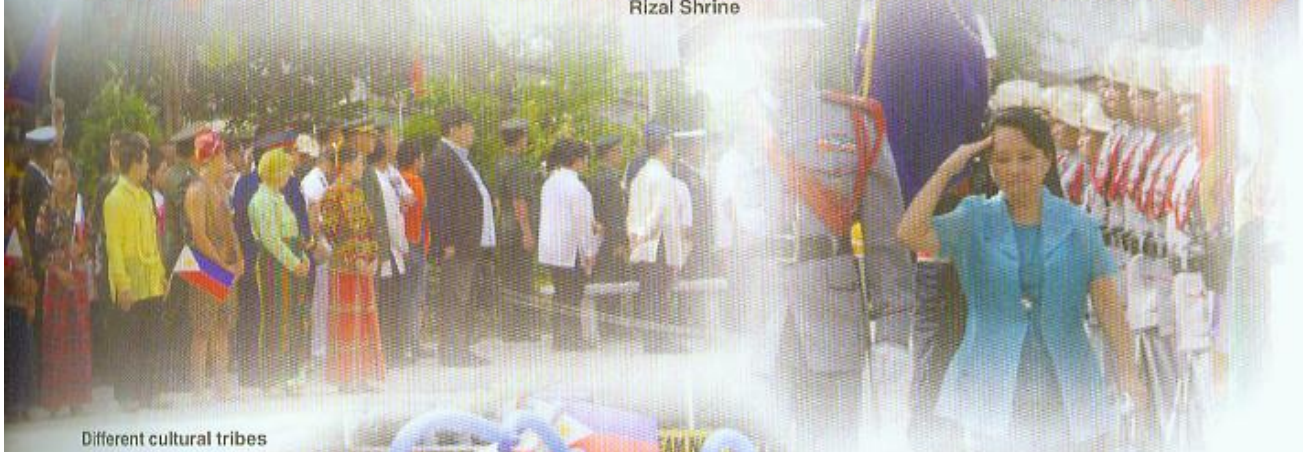
Together, we march to nationhood. Mabuhi ang aton pungsod! Happy Independence Day sa inyo nga tanan!

SIMULTANEOUS FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

PGMA leads Independence Day in Koronadal



Rizal Shrine



Different cultural tribes awaiting the arrival of the PGMA





The arrival of the President





After the military honors, the President salutes to the soldiers.

Labor Secretary Marianito Roque, Chair of the June 12 National Organizing Committee, had announced that the President wanted to fulfill her wish to be with the Mindanaoans to show her resolve for the country's peace and development in Mindanao being the food basket of the country. He added that the government's peace efforts can fast track the economic growth of Mindanao.

Koronadal is a fast-developing growth center made up of 27 barangays, including the four zones in the poblacion. Being the capital town of South Cotabato, as well as the administrative center of Region XII, it is the center of the province in terms of political, cultural and socio-economic activities. Business firms and other establishments have sprouted in the city. Considered the provincial agri-industrial center of South Cotabato, it attracts local and foreign investors because of its geographical location and natural resources.

Mrs. Arroyo's speech towards the end of the colorful ceremonies emphasized that heroism comes in various forms, that it is not obsolete. In the past, she said, if the country's heroes fought and died for independence and political freedom, "Filipinos (today) should be inspired to unite and help combat the effects of the global economic crisis."



PGMA in Flag Raising ceremony with South Cotabato Governor Daisy Fuentes, Mayor Fernando Miguel, Congressman Arthur Pingoy, CORD for Reg. XII Sec. Gilberto Teodoro, DOLE Sec. Marianito Roque, this year's NOC Chair, NHI Chair Ambeth Ocampo, NHI Executive Director Ludovico Badoy, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. V. Ibrado and other officials.





The President is escorted by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Ibrado



The President shakes hands with local audiences



Release of 111 balloons which symbolizes the 111th Anniversary of our Independence Day. The balloons have the same number of which lucky balloon winners are entitled to job contracts, livelihood vouchers, training/scholarship grants.



The President is assisted by DOLE Sec. Marianito Roque, CORD for Reg. XII and Sec. Gilberto Teodoro as she distributes different certificates for employment, job contracts, livelihood vouchers, training grants/checks for scholarships under the CLEEP program.



NBN 4 Anchorwoman Veronica Gimenez getting some historical viewpoints from NHI Executive Director Ludovico Badoy

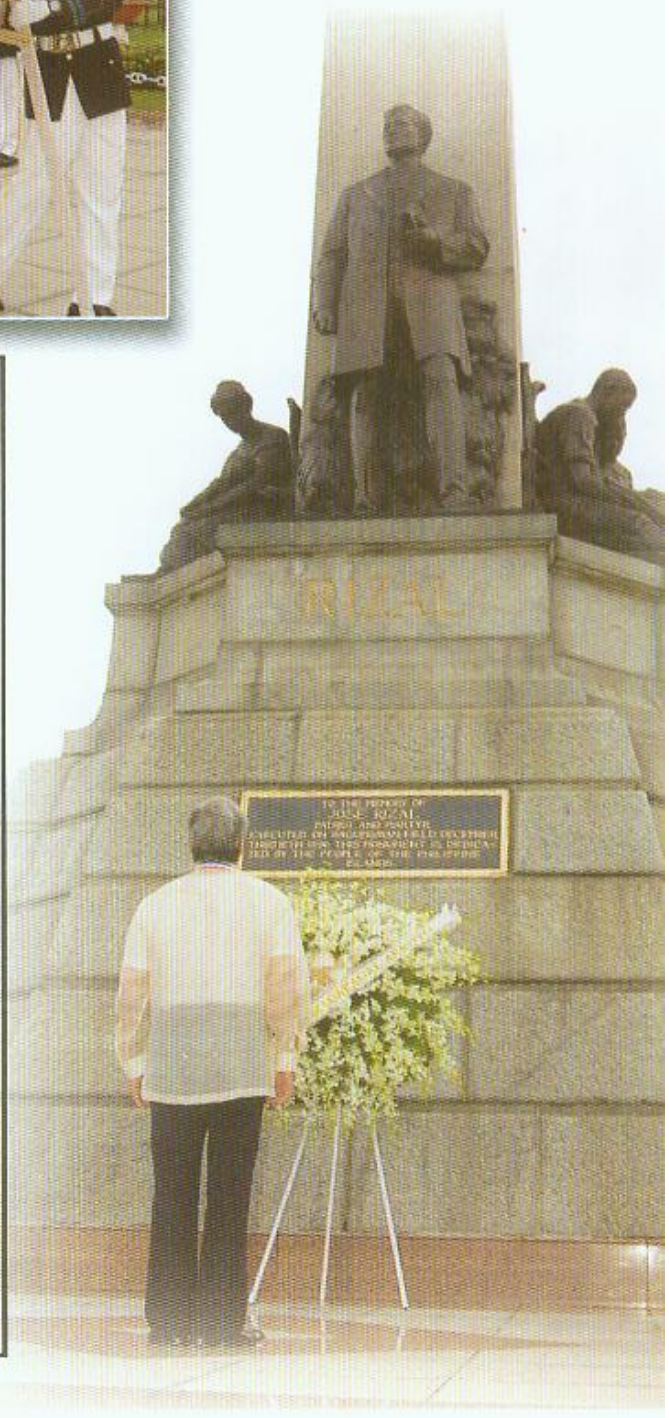


Manila Rizal Park

Jobs, Livelihood, Discounts and Concerts for 111th June 12

On June 12 celebration of the 111th Philippine Independence Day, DOLE Secretary and NOC chair of the 111th Independence Day Marianito Roque said that in keeping with this year's theme "**Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan: Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan**" the event had a **three-day jobs** generation activities in Rizal Park and in 18 sites around the country.

Specifically, DENR Secretary and CLEEP Steward for NCR Joselito Atienza said the triple-one anniversary focused on **3 target beneficiaries**. The first day **June 12** is reserved for **displaced government workers** for emergency contract employment or vacant plantilla positions and the qualified workers in various government agencies. There is an estimated 50,000 positions for the combined vacant plantilla positions for **qualified**



jobseekers and **emergency contract workers** in various government agencies, bureaus, corporations nationwide.

The next day June 13, some 1000 companies from the private sector offered 75,000 positions as well as LGUs and on June 14, some **50,000 land and sea-based jobs for OFWS** had been given by 1,000 local recruitment agencies/ contractors.



Also, to pursue last year's theme of "bringing government closer to the people" **President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo** has directed her cabinet secretaries to implement the **Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program** as part of the government's economic resiliency plan addressing the global financial crisis. The various **CLEEP Stewards/champions** brought to the people in all regions jobs, emergency employment contracts, livelihood, housing, scholarships and entrepreneurial opportunities to be led by **DOLE and NAPC**.



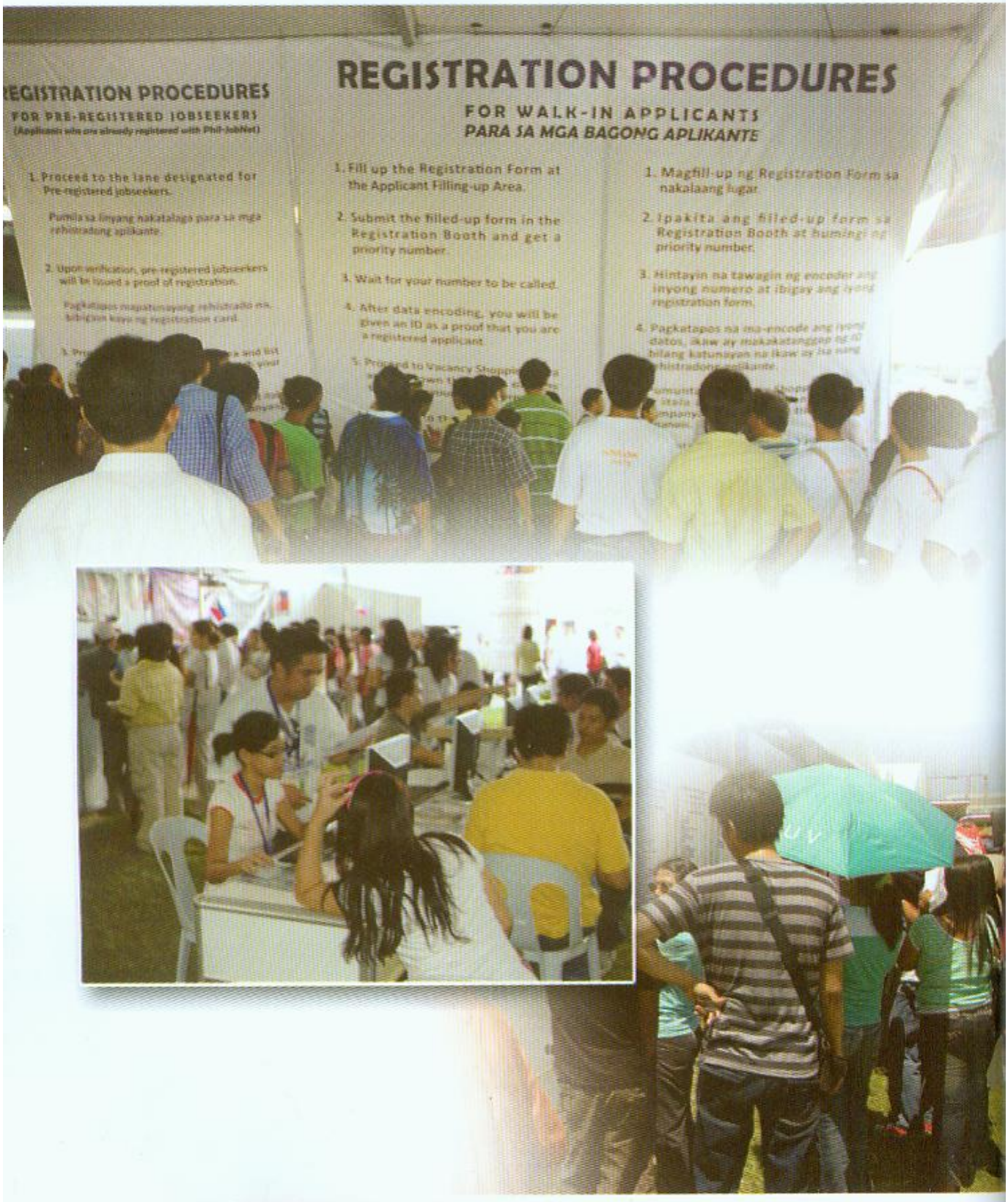
Sec. Atienza leads the flag raising with Vice Mayor Isko Moreno, Congressman Bagatsing, Congressman Benny Abante Jr., DOLE Usec. Lourdes Trasmonte and DepEd Asec. Teresita Inciong.



Emcees Nikka Cleofe and Anjo Bendigo from NBN-4





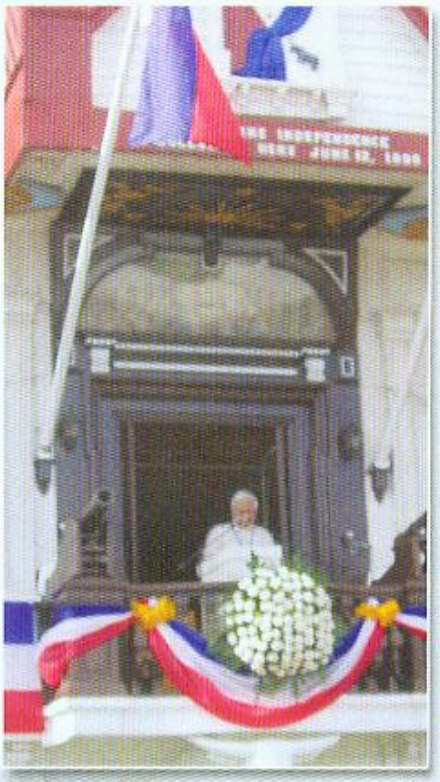

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES
FOR WALK-IN APPLICANTS
PARA SA MGA BAGONG APLIKANTE
1. Fill up the Registration Form at the Applicant Filling-up Area.
2. Submit the filled-up form in the Registration Booth and get a priority number.
3. Wait for your number to be called.
4. After data encoding, you will be given an ID as a proof that you are a registered applicant.
1. Magfill-up ng Registration Form sa nakalaang lugar.
2. Ipakita ang filled-up form sa Registration Booth at humingi ng priority number.
3. Hintayin na tawagin ng encoder ang inyong numero at ibigay ang inyong registration form.
4. Pagkatapos na ma-encode ang inyong datos, ikaw ay makakatanggap ng ID bilang katunayan na ikaw ay isa nang nakarehistrong aplikante.
REGISTRATION PROCEDURES
FOR PRE-REGISTERED JOBSEEKERS
1. Proceed to the lane designated for Pre-registered jobseekers.
Pumila sa linyang nakatalaga para sa mga rehistradong aplikante.
2. Upon verification, pre-registered jobseekers will be issued a proof of registration.











Cavite

Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. led the traditional flag raising and wreath-laying ceremonies on June 12 at the Shrine in Barangay Kaingin with Gov. Erineo S. Maliksi, his son Imus Mayor Emmanuel L. Maliksi, other mayors and local officials of the province The relatives of General Aguinaldo, led by Rep. Joseph Emilio Aguinaldo Abaya, another grandson of Aguinaldo, also joined the activities at the Shrine.







Malolos City

More than 20 government agencies participated in the jobs and livelihood fair in the Malolos provincial grounds in Bulacan after the flag raising ceremony led by Education Secretary Jesli Lapus.

In his speech, Sec. Lapus said a total of P20M seed capital from various agencies were distributed to address small, medium business and livelihood opportunities. Further, 9,000 emergency employment scholarship grants were distributed. Diskwento Caravans rolled in major streets to the local publics to avail of OTOP products while SSS was on hand to assist members in seeking loans in various government services.

Sec. Lapus urged everyone to do their respective responsibilities and tasks with all integrity as this means serving the country as well.











San Juan

Upon arrival of Mayor JV Ejercito, he was given a welcome honor by the PNP escorts and other officials for the flag raising ceremony, wreathlaying at Pinaglabanan Shrine, lighting of the Kalayaan torch and releasing of balloons.

Around 200 people from the PNP, local officials and employees of San Juan, students and different people's organization attended the flag raising ceremony.











Caloocan City
Bonifacio Monument

Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno, assisted by Caloocan Mayor Echiverri in the flag raising and the wreathlaying in Bonifacio Monoment Caloocan exhorted the people to heal the land and end our divisiveness. "Let us heal the land, hilumin natin ang sugat ng pagkakawatakwatak. Let us heal the land, heal the wound of divisiveness.

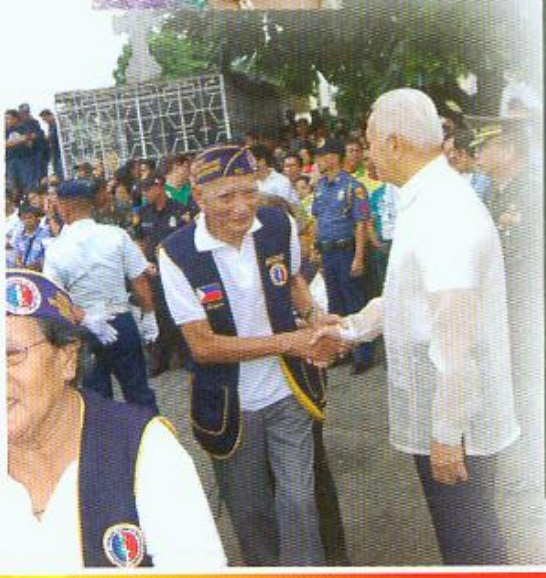
The chief justice has asked the people and the country's leaders to pay attention to the moral structures that ought to govern the personal as much as the public lives of officials.











Manila North Cemetery

DND Undersecretary Ernesto G. Carolina, Jr., in his speech as the guest of honor, thanked the Filipino war veterans, saying "Araw ito ng pasasalamat sa ating mga Beterano. Ang ating Kalayaan ay utang natin sa ating mga ninuno na siyang nagbuwis ng dugo at buhay."

In his statement, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said, *"Parangalan natin ang mga Beterano. Mga Bayani ng bayan na nakibaka, nanindigan, at nagbuwis ng buhay. Sila ang humango sa atin sa kuko ng mapang-aping Espanyol."* He also took note of the mausoleum's name in Spanish, and suggested to the National Historical Institute (NHI) to re-write it in the national language.

VIPs present during the event were Major Ge. Jojie Fojas (PA), former tourism secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Manila Councilor Lou Veloso, and members of various Filipino war veterans organizations.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Mga Programa, Serbisyo at Palabas









NHI Executive Director Ludovico Badoy, Chair of the NOC Technical Working Committee and DOLE Undersecretary Art Sodusta, Chair of the NOC representing Secretary Marianito Roque laid out various government services to complement the historical ceremonies in the 3-day Mega Job Fair. These include NBI assistance for clearance, NSO birth certificate, SSS claims, Pag-ibig housing loans assistance, LTO's driver license, DFA passport services and the Diskwento project of LRO. These government services were replicated nationwide during the 3-day mega job fair.

Other opportunities included granting of TESDA scholarships, CHED vouchers, DSWD cash certificates, hiring of DepEd teachers, police and army personnel of PNP, DND/ AFP, NARS program of DOH, street cleaners of MMDA, construction workers of DPWH Oysters, Green Technology works of DENR and others.

The cultural and entertainment events were also featured during the 3-day affair which showcased the creativity of the Filipino talents. Leading these

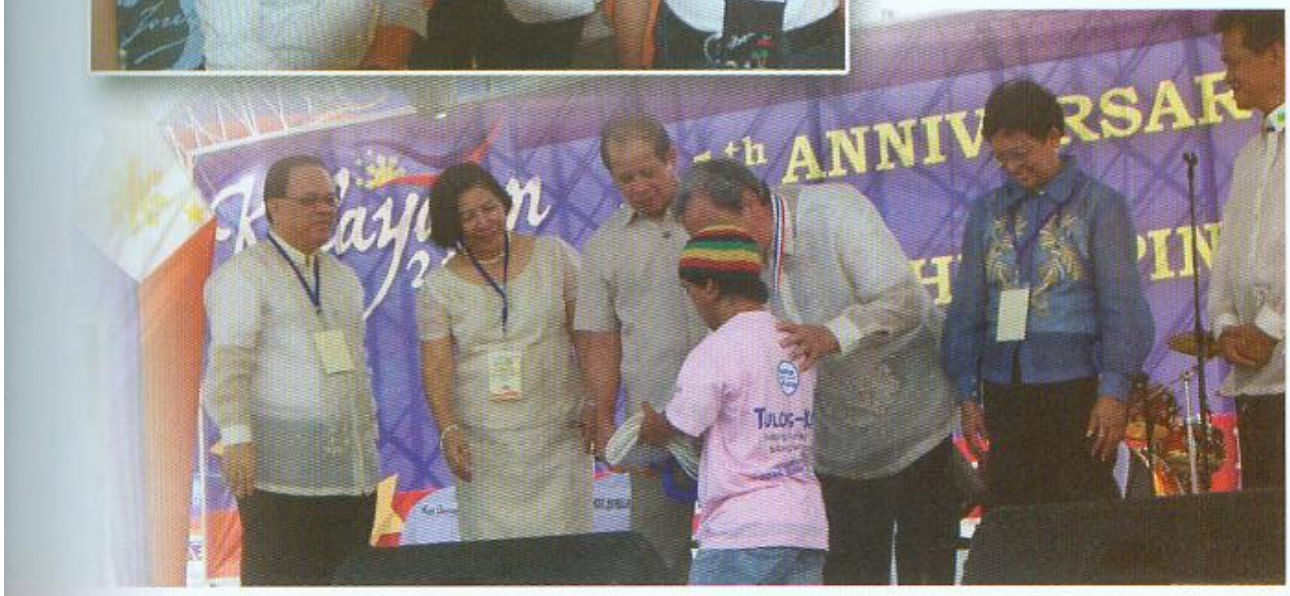


performers were Charice Pempengco, Pilita Corrales, UP Conservatory of Music who crossed international boarders and put the Philippine in the global map.

A Kalayaan Festival concert organized by the DOT featured various dance troupes and musical bands and entertainments led by the Star Magic kids, AFP bands, Bayanihan Dance Group, Shirley Halili-Cruz School of Ballet, PETA and DOT Singing Ambassador for the 3-day event. The entertainers were led by Noel Cabangon, Grace Nono, Sherlyn Regis, Bagong Burios, Jong Cuenco, Sadyan Santino Jaranilla and hosts Iza Calzado and Smokey Manaloto which also gave a tribute to the late Rock Artist Francis Magalona who was the icon for makabayan songs, by the leading bands and the Magalona family.



International singer Charice Pempengco

















Cultural nite Host Smokey Manaloto and popular child actor Sanjan "Santino" Jaranilla

A Different Kind of Heroism (CLEEP)

Region 1

Health Secretary Sec. Francisco Duque and PMS Secretary Hermogenes Esperon led the flag raising and wreathlaying in front of the La Union City Hall. *Handog sa Pangulong Gloria* contracts, scholarships and livelihood grants/checks were awarded to various beneficiaries. Both Cabinet secretaries proceeded to CSI Mall to open the jobs fair and *diskwento*. Some 8,000 were hired on the first day under the CLEEP program.



"Providing jobs for Filipinos is nothing out of the usual for the government and for business, but in this time of global economic crisis, it's a form of heroism," said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a break with tradition, the President marked Independence Day in Koronadal City, South Cotabato, launching the government's three-day nationwide jobs fair and distributing livelihood grants to displaced workers.

"To those looking for a parade in the Luneta, we say, this year's flag-raising focuses on Mindanao and jobs. Heroism is not obsolute. It comes in many forms in different times. When the nation needs us, it is an opportunity to become heroes today," she said in her speech.











Region I-A Cordillera Autonomous Region

At Rizal Park, Baguio City, Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral led the flag raising and wreath laying rites with DENR Undersecretary Eleazar Quinto, Congressman Macrisio Domogan, and Mayor Rey Bautista participating.

At the Baguio Convention Center, 7,488 government employment contracts, 1,050 training vouchers, 80 scholarship vouchers, and 61 livelihood checks with estimated 2,274 beneficiaries from the 13 participating agencies of the President's CLEEP program were distributed during the Independence Day celebration.

At least 700,000 poor families nationwide stand to benefit from the P50 billion earmarked by the national government in the next five years to uplift them from their present economic conditions, Secretary Experanza Cabral said here.

According to Cabral, the P50B budget, which is equivalent to P10B a year, will be exclusively dedicated to the conditional cash program of the agency in order to encourage poor families send their children to school and given appropriate health services so that they will be productive citizens in the future.

Region II

CabSec head and Region II Cord Silvestre Bello and Agriculture Unsersecretary Jesus Emmanuel Paras led the flag raising and floral offering in Rizal Park, Tuguegarao, Cagayan with 20 mayors, vice mayors, councilors, CORD representatives, government officials and 5,000 students and beneficiaries witnessing the event.

Awarding of jobs; livelihood assistance under the CLEEP employment contracts; blood letting; botika ng barangay; various government services of SSS, Pag-ibig and PhilHealth; techno demo on agri-fisheries; medical missions; and cultural presentations highlighted the three-day event. Over P3.5M were given to 573 beneficiaries that include school vendors, farmers, informal sectors; P500 thousand for SEA-K and food for work from DSWD; P72M of farm-to-market roads from DA for all these address the poverty and underemployment concerns of government.















Region IV

Independence Day celebration in Calamba, and the jobs and livelihood fairs were led by Gov. Teresita Lazaro, Mayor Joaquin Chipeco, and Rep. Justin Chipeco.

With the theme *Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan*, the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) of MIMAROPA celebrated the commemoration of the 111th Independence Day at the provincial capitol ground in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The affair was spearheaded by Cong. Rodolfo G. Valencia of Oriental Mondoro, together with Gov. Arnan C. Panaligan and Calapan Mayor Paulino Salvador C. Leachon.



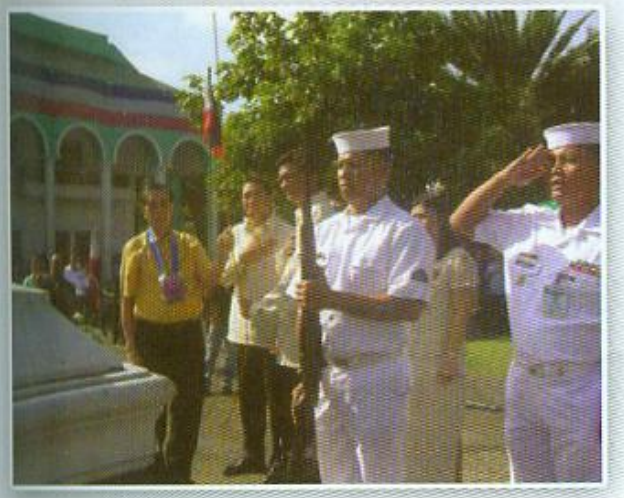


Region V

Sec. Andaya extolled the role of Bicolanos in the fight for independence. The Bicol Astrodome hosted the mega jobs and livelihood fair activities.









Senate Pres. Juan Ponce Enrile assist DBM Sec. Rolando Andaya in the flag raising ceremony.







Presidential Assistant for Western Visayas Raul Banias with Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and CLEEP Steward Secretary Raul Gonzales Sr. and Iloilo First District Congressman Raul Gonzales Jr. prepare to distribute employment contracts, education vouchers, checks and certificates to the different beneficiaries of the various government agencies as part of the Kalayaan 2009 Mega job Fair, a 111th Independence Day celebration at the Amigo Plaza Mall.



Chief Presidential Legal Counsel and CLEEP Steward Secretary Raul Gonzales with Col. Gerardo Layo, commanding officer of the 301st Brigade lay the wreath at the statue of National Hero Jose P. Rizal at the Plaza Libertad during the wreath laying ceremony as part of the celebration of the 111th Independence Day.

Region VI

Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez stressed that the observance of the 111th Philippine Independence Day Anniversary which focuses on jobs creation and employment opportunities also spotlights significant things which the government has undertaken in order to make the people feel they are part of the nation's progress.

A total of 232 Bantay Gubat certificates of employment in 50 towns received checks of P4,000 each under the *Tupad and Isla* program of PGMA.

In Aklan, Mayor Rebalado distributed TESDA Pangulong Gloria Scholarship certificates to 150 students in five techvoc schools.

Region VII

Secretary Cerge Remonde, Ombudsman Director Apostol, Regional Directors of NGAs in Region VII and government employees participated in the simultaneous flag raising ceremonies in Cebu. A 100 car caravan paraded the city toward SM for the jobs and livelihood fairs. In Negros Oriental, Finance Secretary Teves awarded employment contracts under the CLEEP benefiting 255 beneficiaries and livelihood checks amounting of P5 M.



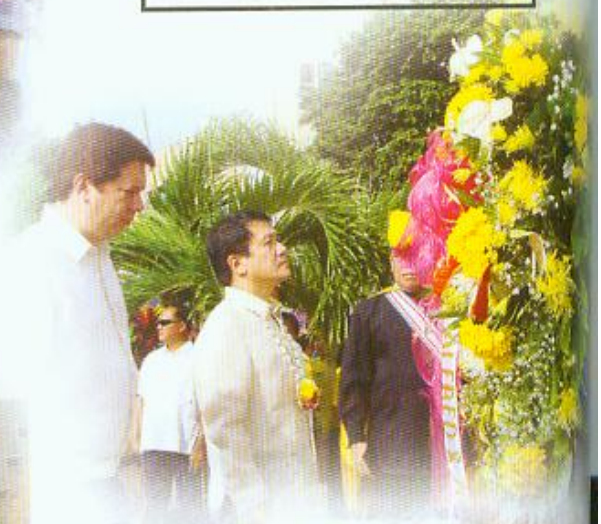




Region VIII

Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio led the Flag Raising ceremonies in Tacloban City. Jobs fair was also held and livelihood grants/training vouchers were given to beneficiaries in Region VIII.









Region IX

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita with Mayor Celso Lobregat and Presidential Adviser Crisanto de la Cruz led Zamboanga City's commemoration of the 111th Independence Day which is considered the city's grandest and colorful celebration so far in the history of Zamboanga. Sec. Ermita awarded DSWD checks totaling P151,000 for 16 deportee beneficiaries as livelihood assistance under the SEA-K program of DSWD. This is specifically for the re-integration program for deportees and returning undocumented OFWs.

Executive Secretary Ermita said he is happy with the city's observance of independence day. "It is the most colorful flag-raising ceremony I have ever attended in my 56 years in government." He also lauded the whole day jobs fair which made available hundreds of local and overseas employment for job seekers.















Region X

SSS Administrator Romulo Neri handed TESDA PGMA scholarship grants in Lanao del Norte for 547 scholars through 11 TekBok providers in Iligan witnessed by Moreno, Cong. Vicente Belmonte, and Mayor Lawrence Cruz. A group of scholars received the PGMA scholarship vouchers on the *Balik-buhay sa Mindanao*, as well as 495 scholars from Lanao del Norte, Agro-industrial school in Bucalan, Tubod, North Central Mindanao Colleges and Christ the King Colegio de Maranding. Also, training and livelihood vouchers under the CLEEP were handed to 150 residents.







Region XI

Guest Speaker Jesus Dureza led the flag raising and wreathlaying at Rizal Monument, Rizal Park in Davao City with Vice Mayor Sarah Duterte, Regional Directors of NGAs, local officials, police and military officers, and civic organizations participating. Sec. Dureza stressed the effort of President Arroyo in making Independence Day celebration a job generation activity by holding a job fair for local and overseas employment. Around 19,000 jobs were offered for jobseekers in the region





Awarding of Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Agrarian Scholarship Program (PDMASP) to scholarship grantees

ARMM

This is how much the President loves us here in Mindanao, says DAR Sec. Nasser Pangandaman in a query on why the President chose to personally officiate the Independence Day in Mindanao.





Caraga

Tourism Secretary and CARAGA CRD Joseph "Ace" Durano was guest of honor in Butuan. He emphasized the importance of the Filipino youth as the hope of the nation, "With talents shown this morning by your students and pupils, I can now see a brighter future for our country. Therefore, we must rely our youths to be the future heroes of our nation," Durano said.

Secretary Durano awarded a total of P582,000 under the Grassroots Entrepreneur Eco-Tourism (GREET), 16 livelihood checks of P1.8M, 572 job contracts under CLEEP, and 750 PGMA scholarships.







Argentina Buenos Aires



Philippine Embassy personnel in Buenos Aires, Argentina headed by Ambassador Rey A. Carandang (4th from right) made a floral offering at the bust of Dr. Jose Rizal.



Ambassador Rey A. Carandang leads the flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy chancery. Also present are Embassy personnel and members of the Filipino community.

Australia Canberra

Ambassador Ernesto H. De Leon hosted a Vin d'Honneur which was attended by heads of the diplomatic missions, officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, heads of the Australian Defense Force, and officials from AusAID and other Australian government agencies. He also mentioned the strong diplomatic and bilateral relations of the Philippines and Australia.



During his speech in an Independence Day Ball, Ambassador De Leon urged all Filipinos to continue to support the Philippines by promoting Filipino culture, pointing out the positive qualities of the Philippines and the Filipinos, and by continuously supporting the political institutions of the country. He also urged anybody who is qualified to vote to exercise his/her right in the forthcoming elections in May 2010.



Ambassador Ernesto H. De Leon attended the National Day Dinner and Cultural Night organized by the Philippine Cultural Society (PCS), an organization devoted to preserving and transmitting Philippine values and culture to second generation Filipino-Australians and our friends in Australia. Aside from the different cultural performances, the cultural night was highlighted by the Miss Teen Independence Beauty Pageant 2009, wherein 6 young and talented ladies competed for the crown.







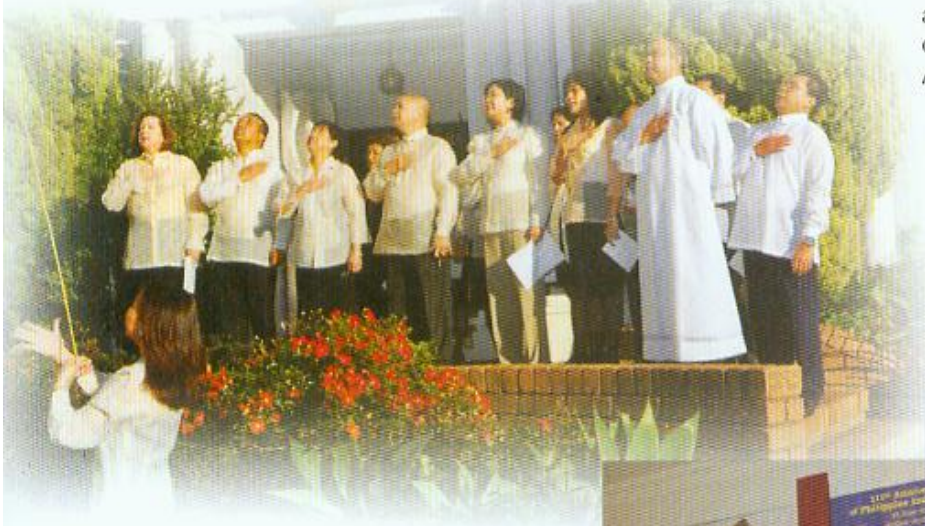
Australia Sydney

The Filipino Community in New South Wales, Australia celebrated Philippine Independence Day with flag-raising ceremonies in cities throughout the state. Filipinos in the city of Bathhurst were the first to raise the Philippine flag this year in New South Wales

The Philippine flag in Bathurst, reportedly the largest in New South Wales, measures 12 feet by 30 feet and can be seen from a distance. The flag was donated to the Filipino Community of Bathurst by the Lions' Club of Bathurst.

Philippine Consul General Eva G. Betita and Bathurst Mayor Paul Toole spoke of the strong ties between Filipinos and Australians in the city.

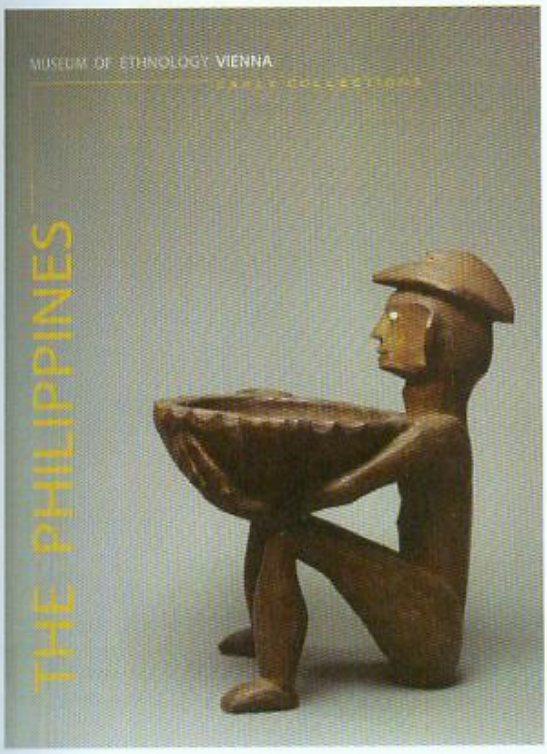
Filipinos in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia celebrated Philippine Independence Day with the raising of the largest Philippine flag in Australia. Consul General Eva G. Betita (2nd from left) is flanked by (from left to right) Philippine Community Council President Ronaldo Villaver, Bathurst Mayor Paul Toole, and Filipino Community and Friends President Nenita Weeks



Philippine Consul General to Sydney Eva G. Betita (third from left) leads the Philippine Independence Day flag-raising rites at the Philippine House in Sydney. Philippine Tourism Representative Consuelo G. Jones (first from left) and Special Trade Representative Fatima S. Sanchez joined the ceremonies. Father Manny Santiago (second from right), who reacquired his Philippine citizenship, sings the national anthem.



Consul Betita and New South Wales Minister for Water and Regional Development Phillip John Costa link hands in a ceremonial gesture for the strengthening and deepening friendship and cooperation between the Philippines and Australia. The reception was attended by officials of the Australian Government, Consuls General, and leaders of the Filipino-Australian Community of New South Wales.





Austria Vienna

The book, "*The Philippines: Early Collections*" was presented at a reception hosted by Ambassador Linglingay F. Lacanlale on the occasion of the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Philippines.

The 92-page book highlights over 50 key pieces of the Museum's 1,422 objects of the Philippines, which range from *bulol* from Ifugao, blankets from Abra, *suklang (*basket hat*)* from Bontok, gold jewelry from Batanes, musical instruments of Luzon, leg adornments from Mindoro, and amulets and swords (*kampilan*) from Mindanao. The Museum's early collections were acquired from Alexander Schadenberg, Karl Alexander Anselm Freiherr von Hügel and Baron Richard von Drasche-Wartinberg.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo, in his foreword for the book, noted that the objects in the book "reflect the creative ingenuity and the rich diversity of Philippine culture and heritage." He also pointed out that the publication will add to the expanding body of knowledge on the Philippines and Philippine communities.



(right) Chargé d' Affaires Jose Burgos and Consul Indhira Bañares leads the flag-raising ceremony. (left) Officers of the Philippine Embassy along with the Filipino Community at the Embassy grounds during the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. (right)

Bahrain Manama



Chargé d' Affaires Jose Burgos, Consul Indhira Bañares and Welfare Officer Alice Lim reads the Independence Day message of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo, and DOLE Secretary Marianito Roque and OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon, respectively.

The Philippine Embassy in Bahrain, in commemoration of the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence held a flag-raising ceremony led by *Chargé d' Affaires* Jose Burgos at the Embassy grounds last June 12.



The guests enjoying a sumptuous Filipino breakfast

Bangladesh Dhaka



Flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy grounds

The Philippine Embassy in Dhaka's celebration of the 111th Independence Day took off with a radio interview given by Philippine Ambassador to Bangladesh Zenaida Tacorda-Rabago on 10 June 2009 at the Radio Foorti.

The 45-minute radio interview covered social, educational and cultural topics and tourism in the Philippines. This interview was preceded by a radio quiz and awarding of prizes.

The Embassy hosted the 111th Philippine Independence Day Reception. About 300 dignitaries and personalities attended the reception. Bangladeshi Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Shafeq Ahmed graced the reception as Guest of Honor.

The Embassy hosted a get-together with the members of the Filipino community in a local restaurant in Dhaka attended by about 250 Filipino community members.







(left to right) Ambassador Rabago gives her remarks during the reception; Ambassador Rabago and Guest of Honor Law Minister Shafeq Ahmed offered the ceremonial toast; Ambassador Rabago and Law Minister Ahmed cuts the ceremonial cake as Papal Nuncio in Dhaka Most Reverend Joseph Marino looks on

Belgium Brussels





Ambassador Ortega leads the toast for the 2009 Independence Day Celebrations with the Filipino Community in Brussels together with former Belgian Ambassador to the Philippines Christian Tanghe (fourth from the left).



Ambassador Ortega, together with the Embassy officials and the organizing committee of the 2009 Philippine Independence Day Celebration, pose before the ceremonial "cake-cutting" of the Kalayaan 2009 cake.



H.E. Cristina G. Ortega, Philippine Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg and Head of the Philippine Mission to the European Communities, led the flag raising ceremony on June 12 at the Philippine Embassy in Brussels. She delivered President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's 2009 Independence Day message for Filipino's abroad, as well as her own inspirational message in line with the theme, "Kagitingan, Kagalingan, at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan". The Ambassador encouraged the Filipino community to help give back to the country by accomplishing three things: 1) reacquiring Filipino citizenship through Republic Act 9225, 2) registering as overseas absentee voters for the 2010 Presidential elections, and 3) considering the Philippines as their top investment priority.

Ambassador Ortega briefed those in attendance to never forget the real essence of the Philippine Independence Day. "This day is about our unified struggle as a people to attain the noblest of aims: self-determination". A Filipino breakfast concluded the celebration.

The 111th Philippine Independence day celebrations started with a reception for the Filipino community in Luxembourg on 02 June 2009. The highlight of this year's celebration was the diplomatic reception held in the prominent Bozar Center for Fine Arts of Brussels on 09 June 2009. The reception featured an exhibition of the paintings of the world-renowned Filipino artist Mr. Manuel Baldemor. It was attended by the officials from the Belgian Government, European Union institutions, leaders of the Filipino community and the friends of the Embassy. This year's Independence Day celebrations culminated with the diplomatic reception in Luxembourg on 18 June 2009.

Brunei Darussalam



Philippine Ambassador to Brunei, Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez delivers her speech during the 111th Philippine Independence Day Flag Hoisting ceremony.



Ambassador to Brunei Benavidez delivers her speech at the Diplomatic Reception.



Ambassador Benavidez delivers her Independence Day and farewell speech at the gathering of the Filipino Community.



Students from Tinkerbell Learning School perform to the music of "Magtanim ay Di Biro" during the Filipino Get-together.



Philippine folk dances by the Philippine Maharlika Dance troupe headed by Dr. Marcelino Gapultos, Jr.



Gift given to Pengiran Datin Hajah Johana, wife of the Minister of Religious Affairs.



The cutting of the Philippine Independence Cake, together with the Filipino Community.



Ambassador Benavidez upon arrival at the venue of Philippine Independence day Filipino Community Get-Together with the President of Filipino Association in Brunei held at the Scout Center on 14 June 2009.



The Performers during the Diplomatic Reception together with Ambassador Benavidez, and Minister



The officers and staff of the Consulate, the Philippine Department of Tourism in Los Angeles and the Philippine Trade and Investment Center led by Consul General Aragon pose for a souvenir photo with Secretary of Energy Angelo T. Reyes and Senator Francis Pangilinan.

California Los Angeles



The officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles led by Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon together with the Philippine Tourism Office held a flag raising ceremony at the residence of the Consul General. With Congen Aragon are Secretary of Energy Angelo T. Reyes and Senator Francis Pangilinan.



A City Council Resolution was presented to Consul General Aragon on June 12, proclaiming the week of June 8-12 as the Philippine Independence Week in the City of Los Angeles.



The Filipino-American community in Southern California organized a dinner dance ball on 13 June at the Westin Bonaventure. This year's Grand Ball was chaired by Ms. Darna Umayam. Secretary Angelo T. Reyes and Senator Francis Pangilinan are guests of honor.

California San Francisco





Philippine Consul General to San Francisco Marciano A. Paynor, Jr. with Consulate officers and staff during the early morning flag raising ceremony at the Official Residence of the Consul General; (right photo) Consul General Paynor and Supervisor David Chiu with Filipino community leaders and Consulate officers raising the Philippine flag at the San Francisco City Hall



Consul General and Mrs. Paynor with Filipino WWII veterans and their families during the reception at the San Francisco City Hall



Consul General and Mrs. Paynor (center) celebrate Independence Day with members of the Filipino American community in Milpitas and the East Bay.





The Embassy leads the parade (left) as Filipino community organizations carry their colors during the Independence Day Picnic (right).



Canada Ottawa

Amabassador Jose S. Brillantes and Minister and Consul General Joseph Gerard B. Angeles raise the flag at Tahanang Rizal.



Amabassador Brillantes delivers his keynote address during the Independence Day Gala.



Bert Nievera entertains the crowd with Filipino-Canadian songstress Flor Therese Agpoon.

Consul General Alejandro Mosquera reads the message of the President at the Nathan Philips Square flag-raising ceremony





Congen Mosquera read the message of President Arroyo at PCG Open House

Canada Toronto



Hon. George Smitherman, Member of the Parliament, addressing the crowd during the Nathan Philips Flag Raising at the City Hall Toronto



Folk Dance performed by members of the Filipino community



Consul General Mosquera addressing the attendees at the Toronto Police Headquarters celebration of Philippine Independence

Canada Vancouver

The employment Information campaign program is part of the Consulate's activity to assist Filipino citizens who are in Canada on work permits. The topics discussed in the program included the following: Immigration Consultation, Guidance and Counseling, Housing/ Settlement, Employment Interviews, Reintegration and Livelihood.



Photo above shows Philippine Consul General Prado delivering her Independence Day Message: Top right photo shows Consular Officer in-Charge of Labor Bernardino V. Julve giving the Welcome Remarks and Message of the Secretary of Labor. Lower left photo shows Vice Consul Melanie Rita Balisi Diano reading the message of President Arroyo. Lower right photo shows the Officers and Staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver and PCG Labor



Flag Raising Ceremony at the Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver



Consul General Prado with Consular Officer-in-Charge of Labor Bernardino Julve during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Labor Office



Ambassador to Chile Ma. Consuelo Puyat-Reyes offers a toast for the continued prosperity and well being of the Chileans and Filipinos together with Mrs. Angela Jeria de Bachelet (center), representing her daughter, President Michelle Bachelet and Apostolic Nuncio and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Monsignor Giuseppe Pinto (right) during the reception hosted by the Philippine Embassy for the members of the Diplomatic Corps, government officials, academe and friends to celebrate the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence held at Grand Hyatt Santiago on 26 June 2009.

Chile Santiago



Ambassador Puyat Reyes and Minister Castañeda leads the community in the flag raising ceremony and singing of the National Anthem.



Ambassador Puyat-Reyes reads the message of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo during the reception held at the Grand Hyatt Santiago on 26 June 2009.



Consul Paul Uy and Ms. Winnie Simbahan dance gracefully the "Tinikling" with Ms. Victoria Artificio and Mr. Pedro Cornejo handling the bamboos



Sister Justine Abache renders her version of the song popularized by Ms. Lea Salonga "The Journey"



Ambassador Brady delivering her speech

China Beijing



Guests at the RP-China Friendship Dinner

The Philippines and China have developed a fast-growing partnership that is multi-faceted, multi-sectoral, pragmatic and mutually beneficial and both sides are ready to work together to elevate it to a higher level.

This was stressed by Philippine Ambassador to China Sonia Brady and Chinese Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister Hu Zhengyue at the Philippines-China Friendship Dinner hosted by the Philippine Embassy in Beijing on 12 June.

"We are more than friends – we are family," Ambassador Brady said. "As we move towards the 35th year of our bilateral relations, let us work together to attain the vision of our leaders to break new grounds and move the relationship to even higher level of partnership and cooperation, for the benefit of our peoples and our region as a whole."

"China and the Philippines are friendly neighbors. China is ready to work with the Philippines to elevate the relationship to a higher level," Assistant Minister Hu said. "For thousands of years, our peoples have lived in harmony and friendship. We sincerely hope that this friendship could be passed from generation to generation."





China Chongqing



Consul General Charles C. Jose and Vice Chairman Yu Xuexin of the Chongqing CPPCC in a toast to celebrate the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

In his toast remarks, Consul General Charles C. Jose noted the importance of the event as this is the first time the Consulate General is celebrating Philippine Independence Day in Chongqing since its establishment on 29 December 2008. He expressed the hope that through the years and through the joint efforts of both sides, the Consulate would be able to accomplish its mission of cultivating friendship and understanding between the peoples of the Philippines and Chongqing and of promoting closer cooperation between the two sides in the areas of trade, investments, tourism, culture and people-to-people exchanges.



Consul General and Mrs. Charles C. Jose and the members of the Philippine Consulate General in Chongqing.



Members of the Filipino community in Chongqing.



Children of Consulate Personnel dance the *Itik-Itik*.



Consul General Alex G. Chua and Mrs. Marla Chua with the officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Guangzhou

China Guangzhou

In Consul General Alex Chua's message, he lauded the robust bilateral relationship between the Philippines and China which stemmed from the deep resolve of its leaders to continuously enhance and intensify further, manifested through the constant high-level exchange of visits.



Consul General Chua delivers his National Day Statement during the Reception



Consul General Chua's meeting with Guangdong Vice Governor Wan Qingliang before the Reception



From left: Ms. Angeli Mari Chua, Mrs. Marla Chua, Guangzhou Vice-Mayor Xu Ruisheng and Consul general Chua



Vice-Governor Wan Qingliang delivers his congratulatory remarks



Consul General Ledda and Macau SAR Chief Executive Ho toast to lasting friendship, prosperity and progress for the Philippines and Macau SAR, China.



Macau SAR Chief Executive Ho, Consul General Ledda, Mrs. Ledda, Administration and Justice Secretary Florinda Chan and RP Independence Day reception guests listen keenly to "The Angelos" sing *Dahil Sa Iyo* which the classical-pop tenor group dedicated to the Chief Executive.

China Macau

The Philippine Consulate General in Macau hosted a reception at the Macau Tower on 16 June. The event was attended by Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) Chief Executive Edmund Ho, Justice and Administration Secretary Florinda da Rosa Silva Chan, Consular Affairs Director General Chen of the Chinese MFA Commissioner's Office in Macau and over 200 other guests from various sectors including the Filipino community.

In his address, Consul General Jaime Victor B. Ledda cited encouraging developments in the fields of telecoms cooperation, cultural and tourism exchanges and trade which signaled confidence and optimism in Philippine – Macau SAR ties even in the midst of the current economic challenges.

Chief Executive Ho acknowledged the Filipino community as an integral part of Macau society and thanked them for their contribution to the economic growth, progress and cultural diversity of Macau.



Consul General Sanchez in giving her welcome remarks, cheered the Filipino "Kahanga-hanga ang Sinag ng Pilipino sa Buong Mundo"

China Shanghai

Consul General Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez noted that not only is the Philippines celebrating its 111th Independence Day but also the 34th year of the establishment of Philippines-Diplomatic Relations. She also extended President Arroyo's message that "Filipinos are of one heart with our Chinese friends in keeping our partnership strong, mature, and forward-looking."



Consul General Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez (2nd left) is flanked at the Independence Day rites by (from left to right) Deputy Director of the Financial Committee of Shanghai People's Congress Yu Guosheng, , Shanghai Vice Mayor Zhao Wen, Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Shanghai CPPCC Ding Huanhuan, Shanghai Foreign Affairs Deputy Director General Shao Huixiang











Members of various Filipino communities display their talents during the celebration



Consul General Raul Hernandez delivers his remarks during the reception

China Xiamen

In his message to the gathering, Consul General Raul S. Hernandez took the opportunity to highlight the excellent relations between the Philippines and Fujian province, which are deeply-rooted and tightly-knit, as well as the potential for further cooperation especially in the economic and business fields as a result of improving Cross-Straits relations.

Consul General Hernandez also emphasized that through the theme of this year's celebration of the Philippine independence, "*Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan: Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan*," President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo reminded that Filipinos should use their strength, talents and sweat to ensure that the nation reaps the benefits of a just, prosperous and peaceful society and that this is the only way they would become truly free.



Cutting of the *Kalayaan* 2009 Commemorative Cake. In this photo are (from L-R) Director General of the Xiamen Foreign Affairs Office, Mme. Chen Aijing; Xiamen Vice Mayor Zhan; Mme. Hernandez; Consul General Hernandez; Fujian Vice Secretary General Luo and Vice Chair of the Fujian Chapter of the China Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries Chu Yanli.



Havana PE staff and members of the Filipino community in Havana pose after the 12 June flag-raising ceremony.



Ambassador Mcarthur F. Corsino addresses guests during the Diplomatic Reception

Cuba Havana

The Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRT) taped interviews with Ambassador Corsino and Filipino students studying in Cuba for a 30-minute feature of the Philippines in two parts in the television show *Iguales y Diferentes*. A "fashion show" of typical Filipiniana costumes and an Arnis or Eskrima Kali exhibition by members of the Cuban Eskrima Kali Association were also filmed by ICRT.

In his remarks, Ambassador Corsino noted the common histories between Philippines and Cuba and the enduring friendship and cooperation between the Filipino and Cuban people. He also cited the near parallel lives of the national heroes of both countries, Dr. Jose Rizal and Jose Martí. Both were accomplished writers, masons, nationalists and martyrs.



"Fashion Show" of Filipino costumes led by Ambassador and Mrs. Corsino



The Philippine ancient martial arts "Arnis" is demonstrated by the Cuban Eskrima Kali Association.

Czech Republic Prague

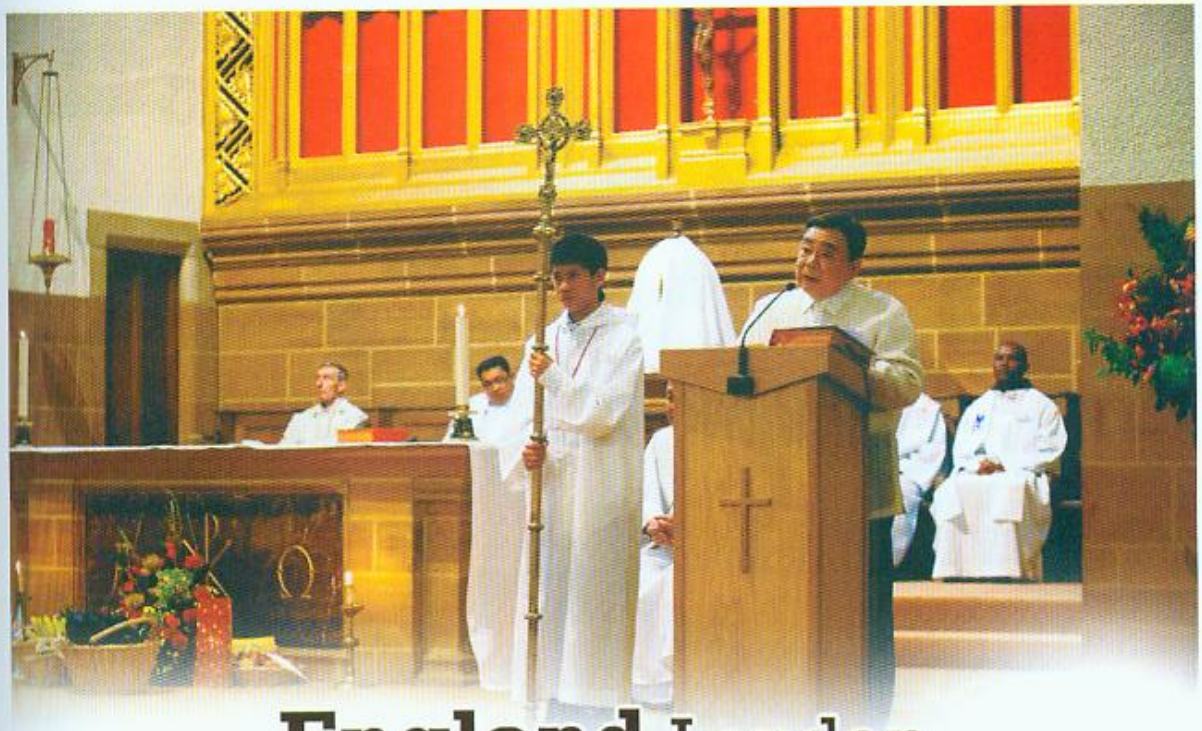


The Philippine Embassy in Prague, led by Ambassador Regina Irene P. Sarmiento, organized a number of events to commemorate the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence. These events were the following: 1) hosting the Manila-based Kammechor choir on their way to Linz, Austria to participate in the 2nd Anton Bruckner Chorale Competition and Festival; 2) a diplomatic reception attended by over fifty foreign ambassadors, other diplomatic officials, and officials of the Czech government; 3) a flag-raising ceremony and a *salu-salo* for members of the Filipino community where Filipino food and beverages were brought in all the way from Manila.





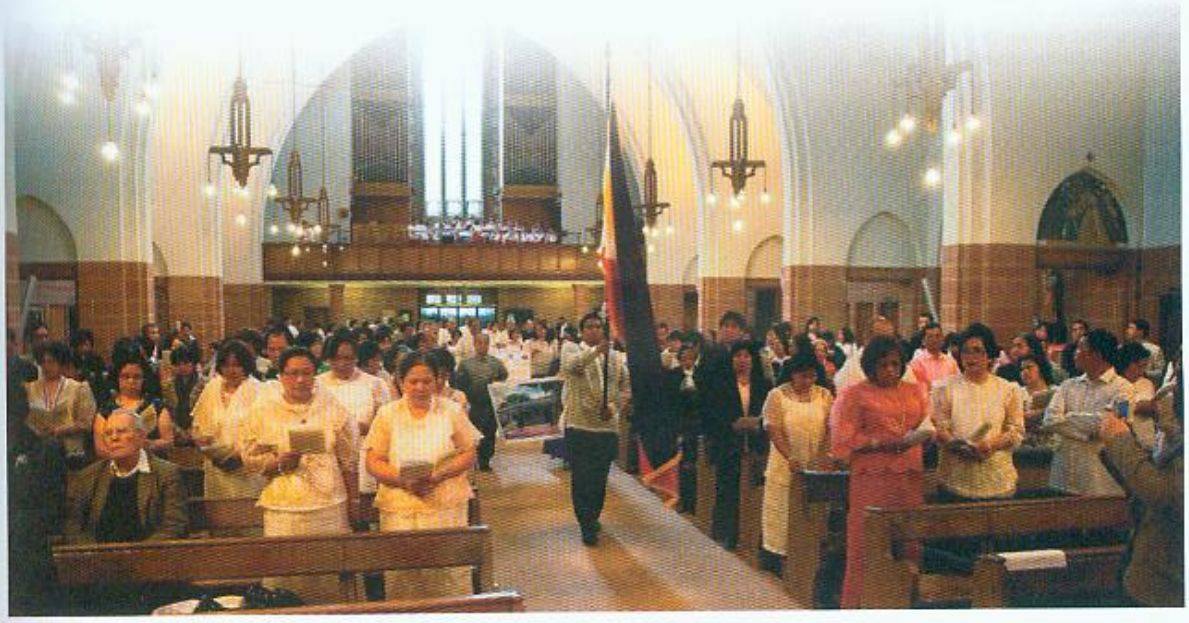
Ambassador Regina Irene P. Sarmiento welcoming guests from the diplomatic corps during the diplomatic reception held last 11 June 2009 at the official residence in Kaeravkovska 13, Prague 6. The garden reception, held on a rainy day, was a success and was attended by more than 50 ambassadors as well as officials of the Czech government and representatives from the business sector.



England London

A Thanksgiving Mass was held at the Carmelite Priory in London, with more than 500 people in attendance, including Ambassador Edgardo B. Espiritu and members of the Philippine Embassy. The main celebrant was Fr. Cirino G. Potrido, CM, Head of the Filipino Chaplaincy.

A community *salo-salo* took place after the mass. People attended the event in their best *Filipiniana* attire, and took turns performing various song and dance numbers to the entertainment of the crowd.





France Paris

The singing of the Philippine and French National Anthem marked the opening of the Pista sa Paris official programme



The Filipino Community in Paris, in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy, capped this year's celebration of the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence with the annual *Pista sa Paris* held at the open air *Stade dela Muette* in the 16th arrondissement of Paris on July 5.

To kick-start the event, a festive parade commenced from *Place Trocadero* facing the iconic *Eiffel Tower*, which is itself celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. Embassy officers and staff led the 45-minute walk from *Trocadero to Stade dela Muette*.

The colorful costumes, the revelry of street dancing, and the cheerful smiles of our *kababayan* enticed spectators and onlookers. Adding glitter to the parade were the candidates of the "*Mutya ng Kalayaan 2009*."

The Ambassador Rora Navarro-Tolentino and Atty. Jun Tolentino and the Embassy officers and staff pose for as souvenir photo in front of the Eiffel tower





Germany Berlin



Official Photo of the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin



Ambassador Albert with "Kammerchor Manila"



Officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin and the Consulate General in Frankfurt



Ambassador Albert leading the 111th Philippine Independence Day program

The Independence Day reception was held at the Urania, a popular forum for cultural events, on June 18.

A visual art exhibit of five Filipino artists was opened followed by a performance of the 26-member Filipino chorale group, Kammerchor.

Ambassador Albert addressed the nearly 250 guests from the diplomatic corps, government offices, and Filipino community highlighting the role of Berlin's liberal tradition on the life of Dr. Jose Rizal who finished and published his political novel "Noli Me Tangere" in Germany in 1887.

The Philippine Community in Berlin organized a 'Santacruzan' with benefit concert on the evening of June 20, followed by an art exhibition on June 21.



Santacruzan held at the Philippine Community Center in Berlin

Greece Athens

Philippine Ambassador to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao hosted a well-attended diplomatic reception at the Ambassador's residence in Paleo Psychico on 12 June to celebrate the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence with some 250 guests from the Greek government, the diplomatic corps representatives from the Greek business sector, leaders of the Filipino Community in Greece and members of Greek media.

Among the prominent guests is led by Capt. Panagiotis Tsakos, one of Greece's biggest Greek ship owners, Olympic Gulf Tankers owner Adonis Antoniou, and Elvictor Group owner Stavros Galanakis were among the many shipping-industry magnates and executives. Ambassadors from Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America, and Africa enjoyed Filipino food at the reception together with honorary consuls, officials of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government institutions.



Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao welcome Ambassador and Mrs. Alexios Christopoulous, A10 Director of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao with Greek television personality Ilias Psinakis, nephew of Steve Psinakis, a prominent Greek businessman and renowned anti-dictatorship fighter in the 1980s in the Philippines



Around 250 guests enjoy an evening of good food, music and Filipino hospitality at the Philippine Independence Day reception held at the Ambassador's residence in Athens

Greece Cyprus



Philippine Ambassador to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao hosted a diplomatic reception in Nicosia, Cyprus to celebrate the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence on June 24.

Joining Ambassador Tiglao in hosting the reception were Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, Nicosia Consul a.h. Mrs. Shemaine A. Bushnell-Kyriakides, and her husband Alexis Kyriakides.

Ambassador Tiglao (right) greets Cyprus President Dimitris Christofias (left) and Mrs. Elsie Christofias (center) at the Philippine National Day reception in Nicosia on June 24.

Cyprus President Dimitris Christofias and Mrs. Elsie Christofias led the guests in congratulating the Philippines on its national day.

Other guests who graced the well-attended event were resident ambassadors in Nicosia, including US Ambassador Frank C. Urbancic, Jr.; Ambassador of the Russian Federation Vyacheslav D. Shumskiy; officials of the Cyprus Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and prominent Cypriot businessmen.

It was the first time that a diplomatic reception to celebrate the anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence was held in Cyprus.



Ambassador Tiglao and President Christofias with, from left, Mr. Alexis Kyriakides, Consul a.h. Shemaine Bushnell-Kyriakides, and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao.

Guam

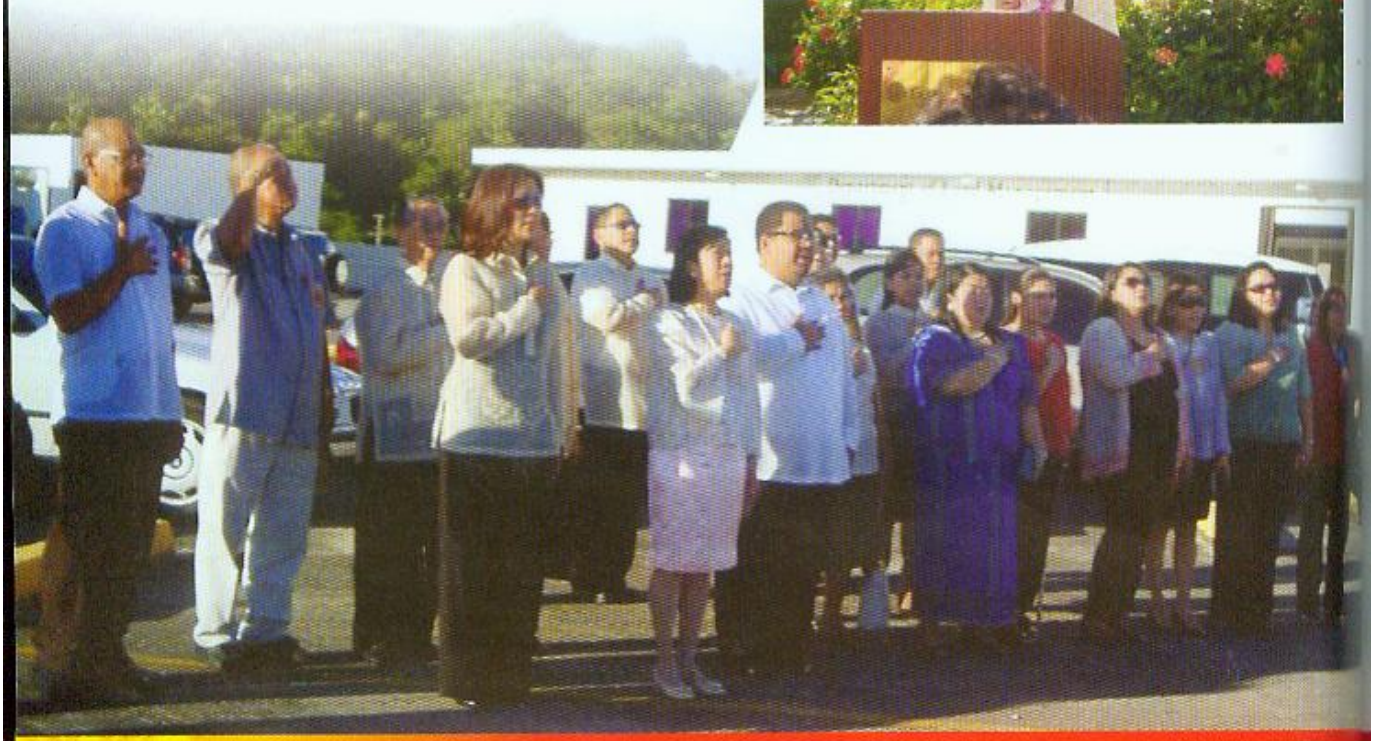
The Philippine Consulate General in Guam started the Independence Day celebrations with the traditional flag raising ceremony, Pinoy Almusal and later *vin d'honnuer.*

Consul General Olivia V. Palala read the messages of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.



Consul General Palala gave brief remarks honoring the sacrifices and bravery of our forefathers who fought for freedom and extolled the contribution of the Filipino community in Guam and assured continued cooperation between the Philippines and Guam.





Hawaii Honolulu



Doves soar into the skies as Consul General Abadilla, (second from left) Consul Cortes (singing "Ang Bayan Ko") Filcom members and Consulate staff watch.

Dr. Raymund Liongson, Messrs. Eugene Asuncion and Ronald Ching re-enacting the proclamation of the 1898 Philippine Independence at the Consulate balcony

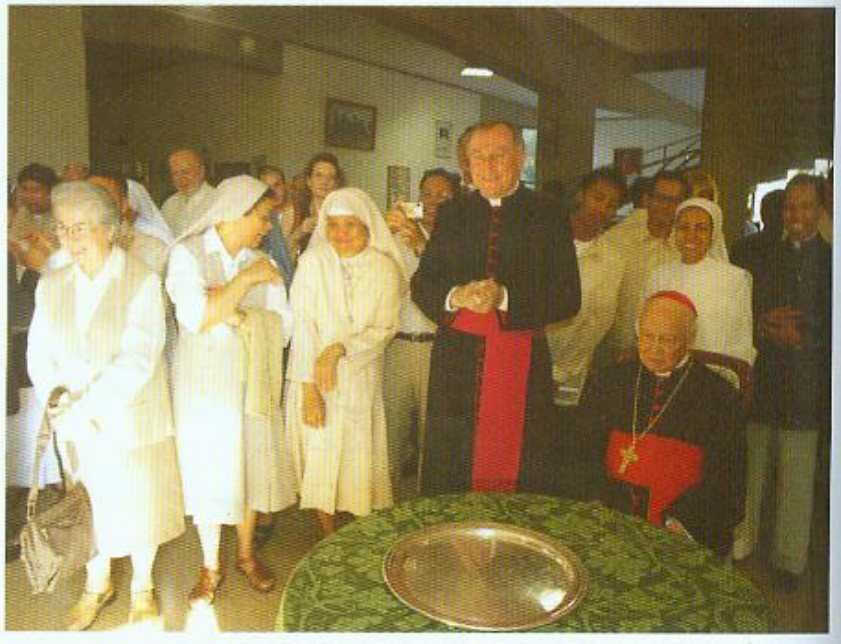


Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Lilibeth V. Pono delivers her message at the conclusion of the mass.

Holy See Vatican

The Philippine Embassy to the Holy See offered a Holy Mass on 12 June to commemorate the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence.

A high ranking Vatican official, Monsignor Pietro Parolin, who is the Undersecretary for Relations with States of the Holy See's Secretariat of State, presided over the Eucharistic celebration with some 50 Filipino priests concelebrating.



Msgr. Pietro Parolin, with Cardinal Jose Sanchez, leads the guests in watching the presentation of Filipino dances.



Consul General Claro Cristobal delivers his Independence Day message, extolling the country's freedom and independence for the past 111 years.







Hongkong

The Consulate, in coordination with the Philippines Association of Hong Kong, organized a day-long festivity for the Filipino community. Consisting of the following activities:

a) an Interfaith Prayer Service in Harcourt Garden led by various religious leaders in Hong Kong
b) participation of about 2,000 Filipinos in an Independence Day parade
c) Setting up exhibits/booths utilizing native Filipino crafts
d) Performing various Filipino dances in cultural and variety show
e) Setting up booths to provide basic services to the Filipinos





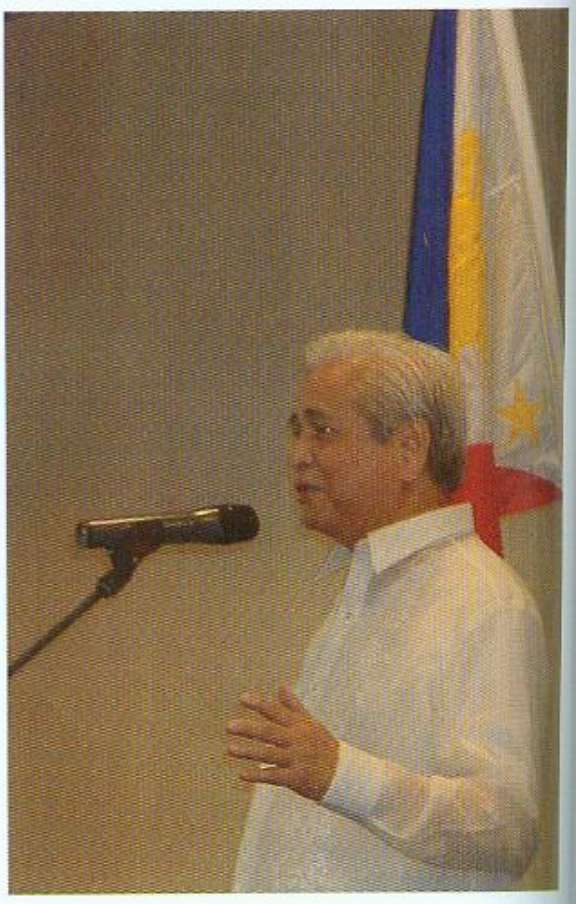




Ambassador Del Rosario receives the members of the diplomatic corps



Ambassador and Mrs. Del Rosario led Embassy officials, members of the Filipino community and guests during the Independence Day mass



Ambassador Del Rosario addresses the members of the diplomatic corps, government officials and business community during the reception

Hungary Budapest

The Philippine Embassy in Budapest celebrated the 111th Independence Day on 14 June 2009 at the Embassy grounds. The event was attended by the members of the Filipino community in Hungary and Hungarian friends.

The whole-day event started with a flag-raising ceremony led by Philippine Ambassador to Hungary Alejandro D. Del Rosario, accompanied by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, then the reading of the messages of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and The Honorable Secretary of Foreign Affairs by Ambassador Del Rosario and Consul General Armando L. Comia, respectively.

This was followed by a mass celebrated by Fr. Luis Halasz, a Hungarian priest who did missionary work in Sablayan, Mindoro for 40 years. Fr. Halasz who speaks Filipino fluently, celebrated the mass in Filipino.

After the mass, the guests were invited to a Filipino lunch hosted by the Embassy.

On 10 June, the Embassy hosted a reception for the Diplomatic Corps, Hungarian government officials, and business executives at the Hotel Sofitel, Budapest. About 100 officials, diplomats, private sector representatives and businessmen attended the event.

India New Delhi



The reception was graced by Mr. K.V. Thomas, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of the Government of India, and attended by approximately 280 guests, including Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the diplomatic corps, Indian Government officials, business executives, friends of the Embassy, and the Filipino community.



Philippine Ambassador to India Francisco L. Benedicto led the flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy compound. The Philippine flag was hoisted as guests from the Embassy and the Filipino community sang the *Lupang Hinirang*. This was followed by a program at the Residence. Ambassador Benedicto and Second Secretary and Consul Iric C. Arribas read the Independence Day messages of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, respectively.



Ambassador Vidal E. Querol reads the message of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo after the flag raising ceremonies at the Balay Pinoy on 12 June.

Indonesia Jakarta

The ceremony included the reading of the messages of the President and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the awarding of certificates of appreciation to two Filipinos in recognition of their leadership and contribution to the success of the Filcom's independence day celebration in Jakarta.

The Filipino community, with the participation of the Philippine Embassy, organized a family day on 7 June. It was the community's unique but highly successful way of bringing together *kababayans* in Jakarta to celebrate Independence Day with the theme *Kapamilya, Kapuso, Pinoy Tayo! Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan.*



Ambassadors of ASEAN member countries join Ambassador Querol for the traditional cutting of the cake at a reception in Hotel Borobodur

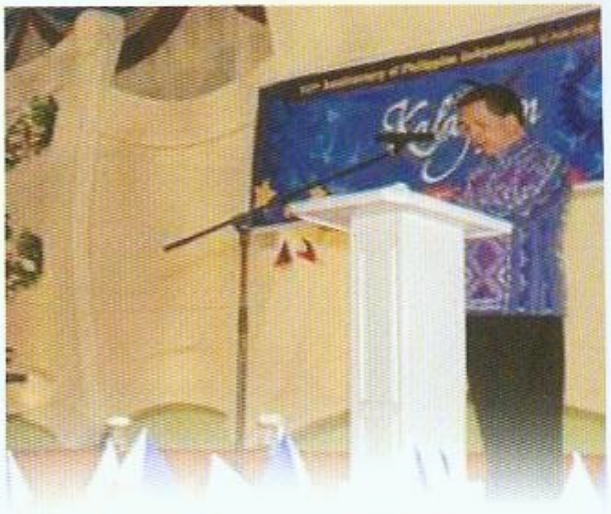
Activities were not limited to Jakarta. Ambassador and Mrs. Querol accompanied by Embassy personnel who took the opportunity to provide mobile consular services, flew to Surabaya for the annual Filcomin Surabaya Independence Day event. Truly, it can be said "Pinoy tayo, kahit saan, kahit kailan" with the deep sense of nationalism of Filipinos that brings them together faithfully to celebrate their National Day.



From L-R: Manny Q. Mercado, General Manager, Millennium Hotel Sirih Jakarta; Madame Marieta S. Querol; Sous Chef Domingo Madridano, guest chef from the Heritage Hotel Manila; at the ceremonial ribbon cutting to open *Fiesta Pilipinas*, a Philippine cuisine festival, on 08 June. Ambassador Querol and Ms. Elaine Mercado look on.



Consul General Crescente R. Relation delivers his Independence Day message



Guest of Honor Gov. Sinyo Harry Sarundajang delivers his remarks

Indonesia Manado



A toast with guests of honor Gov. Harry SInyo Sarundajang



Presentations of Manado International School Teachers and Pupils

A flag-raising ceremony was held in the morning of 28 May 2009 at the Consulate grounds. The singing of the national anthem and a salute to the Philippine flag was followed by the *Panunumpa sa Watawat*.

Consul General Relacion then delivered his Independence Day message, emphasizing the following points: 1) the need to recall the countless sacrifices made by forebears: 2) the plight of Filipino workers who have been displaced as a result of the current worldwide economic downturn and the ongoing programs of the Philippine government to address their concerns; 3) the sacrifices being made by overseas Filipino workers; 4) the need to continue to build on the international brand "Filipino worker;" and 5) commemoration of the 60th year of Philippine-Indonesian relations.

The Consulate hosted a dinner reception at the Nyiur Melambai Convention Center, which was attended by North Sulawesi Governor Sinyo Harry Sarundajang, the Catholic Bishop of Manado, heads of regional offices, senior officials from the provincial government, businessmen and corporate executives, and members of the Filipino community in North Sulawesi.



Ambassador Petronila Garcia welcomes guest of honor Daniel Hershkowitz, Minister of Science and Technology MK

Israel Tel Aviv

Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia summed up the achievements of Philippine-Israeli friendship which spans more than half a century during the reception at the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel marking the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence.

Some 400 guests composed of members of the Diplomatic Corps, Israeli government officials, businessmen, friends of the Embassy and members of the Filipino community warmly applauded Ambassador Garcia as she mentioned that the Philippines was the only Asian country which voted in favor of the creation of Israel at the United Nations.



Some 400 guests, enjoy the lively Philippine National Day Reception at the Dan Tel Aviv Hotel.



Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia delivers toast remarks during the 111th Philippine Independence Day Celebration



Ambassador Generoso Senga delivers his remarks and reads the messages of President Arroyo and Secretary Romulo



Embassy personnel with members of Filipino community during the flag raising ceremony

Iran Tehran

The highlight of the Independence Day celebration was the flag raising ceremony. It was followed by a short program led by Philippine Ambassador to Iran Generoso Senga. A traditional Filipino breakfast was sponsored by the Embassy.

A traditional Filipino Muslim dance and musical performances were rendered by members of Filipino community. A group singing of nationalistic song "Pilipinas Kong Mahal" followed by shouts of "Mabuhay ang Pilipinas" concluded the program.



Ambassador Senga (4th from left) with guests at the diplomatic reception held at the Ambassador's Residence on 13 June 2009. From Left: Indonesian Ambassador Iwan Wiranataatmadja, Brunei Madam Hamidah Harris, Thailand Ambassador Kriangsak Kittichaisaree, Thai Madam Sarapee Kittichaisaree, Indonesian Madam Malinar Wiranataamadja, and Brunei Ambassador Sahari Pengiran Hj Salleh



Members of the Filipino community perform a Maranaw Dance

Italy Milan





In his message, Consul General Antonio A. Morales paid homage to Filipino heroes, and paid tribute to modern day heroes – Filipino migrant workers - for their sacrifices and invaluable contribution to the country.

The Philippine Consulate General in Milan, Italy kicked off its 111th Independence Day celebrations on 6 June 2009, with an anticipated Holy Mass dubbed "Misa ng Bayan" at the Parrochia Sant'Agostino Di Milano. The Philippine flag unfurled for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem after the Mass.

On June 7, the Consulate General and the Filipino community organizations from Milan and various parts of Northern Italy held the main event of the Independence Day celebrations at the scenic Idroscalo Park in Milan.

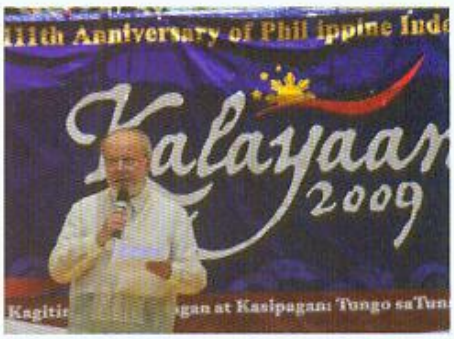


A colorful parade of over 80 Filipino community organizations from various parts of Northern Italy kicked off the day's program at noon. The parade was followed by the solemn singing of the Philippine and Italian national anthems.









Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe J. Lhuillier, joined by Madame Edna Lhuillier, hosted on 12 June the annual *vin d'honneur* for the diplomatic corps in commemoration of the 111th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence. The commemoration started with a flag-raising ceremony and was followed by the diplomatic reception.



Italy Rome



Philippine Embassy in Rome, led by Philippine Ambassador to Italy Philippe J. Lhuillier, and the Associazione Philippine Independence Day composed of Embassy personnel and the different Filipino groups in Rome, celebrated the 111th anniversary of Philippine Independence on 14 June 2009 at the Piazzale Ankara in Rome. Around 10,000 people came to the event.

The festivities started with a Holy Mass held at the Chiesa di San Eugenio on Via Belli Arti with Fr. Romeo Suarez, chaplain of Sentro Pilipino, as celebrant. Then a wreath-laying ceremony at the bust of Jose Rizal was held at the nearby Piazzale Manila.

Ambassador Lhuillier welcomed the Filipino community and their Italian guests to the affair. In his remarks, he stated that "we are commemorating the anniversary of this hard-won political freedom...we moved towards the search for our national identity leading to the appreciation of our culture and our pride in being a Filipino."

Ambassador Lhuillier also encouraged "a close working relationship" with the community stating that "we are both working (toward) the same goal: the improvement of the Filipino situation here in Italy." Under Ambassador Lhuillier's stewardship, the Embassy paved the way for a clear procedure for the recognition of academic degrees earned in the Philippines and the acceptance of these graduates in the Italian professions such as nursing. He has also encouraged continuing education programs for the upgrading of skills of the Filcom in partnership with Philippine-based agencies. Most importantly, he has maintained an "open-door policy" wherein anybody can visit him in the Embassy or elsewhere so that any problem can be addressed promptly and effectively.

Several booths and stalls were also set up selling Filipino foods and delicacies, as well as handicrafts.



Japan Tokyo



Ambassador Domingo L. Siazon sits with members and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, Japan after the 111th Philippine Independence Day celebration.

Jordan Amman



Ambassador Julius D. Torres conveying President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Independence Day message to the Filipino community



Ambassador Julius D. Torres with some Embassy staff preparing for the flag raising ceremony at the Embassy



Ambassador Julius D. Torres with Consul Mark Francis C. Hamoy, Vice Consul Jeffrey P. Salik and Ms. Rebecca Roxas with the champion of the dance contest. The Embassy and the Filipino community organized a barrio fiesta style booth for OFW's and guests. Singers Kitchie Nadal and Nyoy Volante were also featured at the day long affair.



Ambassador Julius D. Torres with Consul Mark Francis C. Hamoy, Vice Consul Jeffrey P. Salik and Ms. Violeta D. Baustista pose with some distressed OFW who were temporarily staying at the Embassy.



Mrs. Medy Ortega, a retired UN officer and longest staying Filipino resident in Nairobi, Kenya, delivers the message of Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



Mr. Roger Gonzales, Administrative Officer, reads the message of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo.

Kenya Nairobi



(L-R) Thai Counsellor Akavuth Chitapatima, Thai First Secretary Prayoon Chatpaisal and Second Secretary Rail Khayrullin of the Russian Federation also graced the occasion.



Thailand Ambassador Apichit Asatthawasi and wife Saisamorn, Indonesian Ambassador Budi Bowoleksono and his wife, Reshanty Bowoleksono and Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. Bernadette Mendoza, listen to the message from the President delivered by Mrs. Ortega.

KSA Riyadh



L-R: Vice Consul Roussel Reyas, Attaches Princesa V. Tabago, Illuminado V. Ponciano and Coyawato M. Arimao.



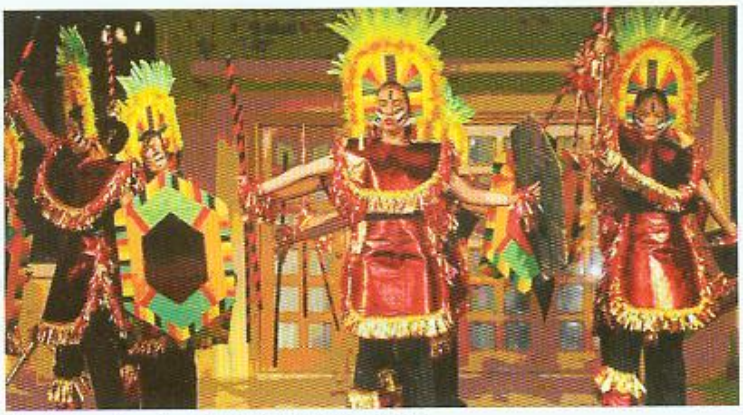
Dr. Mohammad Al-Jerewi, Deputy Governor for Security Affairs



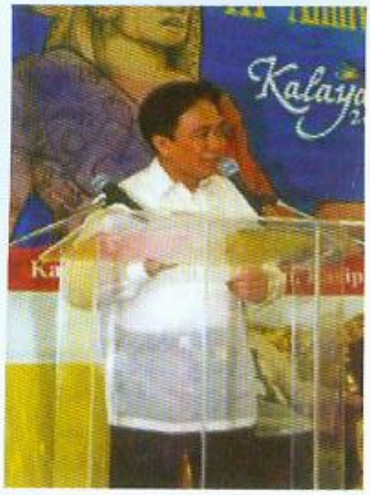
Amb. Antonio P. Villamor presented a certificate of appreciation and boquet of flowers to Ms. Kimberly Molina.



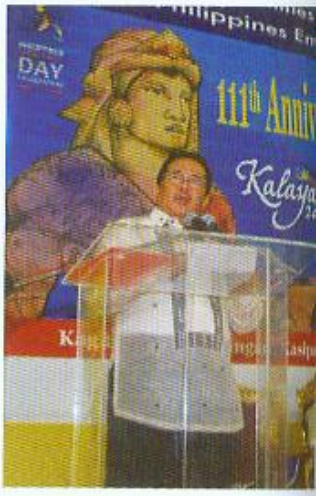
Vice Consul Roussel Reyaes with POLO Officials and sports fest participants



Students performing during the Heritage Night



Ambassador Ricardo Endaya delivers his Independence Day Message 2009



Labor Attaché Josephus Jimenez delivers his Independence Day Message 2009

Kuwait



On stage from left to right: Labatt Josephus Jimenez, Senator Jinggoy Estrada, Ambassador Ricardo Endaya, Former President Joseph Estrada, Senator Loi Estrada and Ms. Lorna Tolentino



Intermission numbers from Filipino communities



Lao Vientaine



Ambassador Alarilla delivered a presentation on the Philippines entitled "The Philippines in an Evolving Global Environment," where she talked about the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy as well as the Philippines' role in the region and bilateral relations with the Lao PDR.



After the singing of the National Anthem and reciting the Oath to the Flag, Ambassador Alarilla read President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Independence Day message while Second Secretary and Consul Christopher Patrick T. Aro read the message of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.



Upon the arrival of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sisoulith, Ambassador Alarilla delivers a short welcoming speech and proposed a toast to the health of Lao President Choummaly Sayasone and President Arroyo.











Lebanon Beirut

The Philippine Embassy in Beirut and the Filipino Community in Lebanon celebrated the 111th Independence Day with a day-long festivity at the auditorium of the UNESCO Palace in Verdun, Beirut, on Sunday, 14 June 2009.

The highlight of the National Day celebration was a cultural show organized by the Filipino Cultural Guild with the participation of OFWs who shared their talents in dance and singing.

About 1,000 OFWs gathered at the UNESCO Palace for the celebration. Ambassador Gilberto G.B. Asuque led the staff and the Filipino community in singing the National Anthem at the start of the cultural program.

A Holy Mass was celebrated in one of the halls at the UNESCO Palace. The Filipino organizations also put up booths for Filipino food and handicraft.





The Embassy officials led by the Ambassador and Third Secretary and Vice Consul Jennifer Dingal recite the Pledge of Allegiance, together with other Embassy staff and guests during the Flag Raising Ceremony and Program at the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli on Independence Day, 12 June 2009



Ambassador Alejandrino A. Vicente gives his remarks during the Flag Raising Ceremony and Program at the Philippine Embassy, Tripoli, on 12 June 2009.

Lebanon Tripoli



The Ambassador, together with Third Secretary and Vice Consul Mary Jennifer Dingal, Labor Attaché Nasser Mustafa and other Embassy staff, pose with members of the Filipino community during the Flag Raising Ceremony



The Embassy officers led by Charge d' Affaires, a.i. Jennifer Dingal, together with their spouses, form the reception line to welcome the guests during the National Day Diplomatic Reception at the Thobacts Hotel in Tripoli. In photo is the Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman.

Malaysia Kuala Lumpur

The highlight of the Independence Day events was the well-received performances by the national folk dance company of the Philippines, the **Bayanihan**.

Ambassador Victoriano M. Lecaros led the Embassy personnel and representatives of various Filipino community associations in a flag-raising ceremony. This was followed by a program at the Embassy Library where messages of the members of the Cabinet were read by Embassy officials, including the presentation of the video message of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Afterwards, guests were served with breakfast comprising *Filipino* delicacies.

The Bayanihan performance was made more special because Datin Seri Paduka Rosmah Mansor, wife of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, attended along with her two children. In his short message, Malaysia's favorite show host Datuk Mahadzir Lokman told the guests that, although neither the Prime Minister nor his wife normally attends national day celebrations, Datin Seri Rosmah made this an exception. "In 1972, Rosmah was the dance diva in ***Kesuma***, the University of Malays dance troupe, who was instrumental in bringing ***Bayanihan*** to perform in Kuala Lumpur for the first time", he said.



Ambassador Lecaros with Guest of Honor, Dato' Lee Chee Leong, Deputy Foreign Minister of Malaysia



Ambassador Victoriano M. Lecaros led the Embassy personnel and leaders of the Filipino Community in a flag raising ceremony at the Embassy grounds







The Bayanihan performing the dance of the *Kalinga Apayao* tribe, the *Banga*. (Inset from l to r) Ambassador Lecaros, Y.A. Bhg. Datin Seri Paduka Rosmah Mansor and Mrs. Melissa C. Lecaros enjoying the performance.



Anne Louise R. Bautista, daughter of Attachés Ronald O. Bautista and Ma. Romina R. Bautista, presenting a bouquet to Director Melito Vale Cruz of the *Bayanihan*, after the performance for the Filipino community.



Mr. Renante Estrella, Ms. Isabela Borja and Mr. Juan Alfonso Martines represent Mexico PE during the Parade of Colors

Mexico

The Philippine Embassy in Mexico led by Ambassador Francisco M. Ortigas III participated in the *Feria de las Cultural Amigas* which was inaugurated on 06 June 2009 at the *Angel de la Independencia* in Avenida Reforma, one of the most famous landmarks in Mexico City.

Ambassador Ortigas III said the nine-day fair strengthened the links of friendship and solidarity between Mexico and countries represented in Mexico, Philippine

The program began with the parade of colors of 56 nations and four international organizations. Mexico City government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and the public gathered to witness the event, while international and local members of the media covered the inauguration.

The Philippine Embassy exhibited framed posters of tourist destinations. Posters on Philippine colonial churches were also featured.



Visitors seeing at framed posters at the Philippine booth



Officers and staff of Mexico PE with their dependents and friends in front of *Angel de la Independencia*







Moscow

The commemoration kicked off with a flag-raising ceremony led by Ambassador Victor G. Garcia III followed by a mass.

A brief program was held featuring Filipino native dances, signing and a raffle sponsored by the Embassy.

Some 300 members of the Filipino community participated in the event.





Flag raising ceremony led by Charge d' Affaires, a.i. Mr. Joselito Chad N. Jacinto Jr

Myanmar Yangon

The celebration kicked-off with a flag raising ceremony by Embassy officials and members of the Filipino community. This was followed by a holy mass celebrated by Fr. Peter Kim, S.J. Mr. Jacinto then delivered the Independence Day Message of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for Filipinos abroad.

A highlight of the celebration was the induction of the officers of the sole Filipino organization in Myanmar – called *Pilipin@s.mm*.

Entertainment was provided by the members of the Filipino community by way of traditional Filipino dances from Luzon (*La Jota Ilocandia*), Visayas *(Kuratsa)*, and Mindanao *(Singkil)*.



(L-R) Filipino ladies in Yangon dancing the *Singkil*; A pair dancing *Kuratsa*; and Filipino community members dancing La *Jota Ilocandia*

Netherlands The Hague



Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Romeo A. Arguelles leads the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy during the flag-raising rites at the Embassy premises.



Ambassador Arguelles delivers the message of President Arroyo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo.

(Left photo) Ambassador Arguelles (third from left) is joined by Mayor Bruijn (fourth from left) of Haarlemmerliede & Spaarnwoude at the Independence Day Picnic of the Filipino Community in The Netherlands at the Spaarnwoude Park. (Right photo) Ms. Nhelley dela Rosa, celebrated Filipino singer in The Netherlands, serenades Ambassador Arguelles during the Kalayaan Fiesta program











Nigeria Abuja

Charge d' Affaires, a.i. of the Philippine Embassy in Abuja Alex V. Lamadrid led more than 300 guests who attended the reception including members of the Filipino community, Nigerian officials, foreign diplomats, and Nigerian business people and other friends of the Philippines.



The Philippines-Nigeria cultural cooperation was highlighted by the participation of the Abuja Capital International College (ACIC) Orchestra, which rendered the Philippine National Anthem, Nigerian National Anthem and Philippine Folk and contemporary songs. An all-night ballroom dancing capped the program.

A holy mass was officiated by Msgr. Jean-Sylvian Emien Mambé at the Embassy of the Holy See, Apostolic Nunciature. The Filipino community attended the mass, led by CDA Lamadrid and the four nuns working in the Nunciature.





CDA Lamadrid, together with Trade Assistant Rose Akah, gave a live interview with Africa Business Channel at the African International Television (AIT) Network with host Nancy Illoh in her "Money Show" program.



Ambassador Buensuceso is joined by leaders of the different Filipino community organizations in Norway led by their coordinator Ms. Jean Langerud.

Norway Oslo

Ambassador Elizabeth Buensuceso led the parade of the Philippine flag. Participants of the parade were dressed in *barong tagalog*, the Philippine *terno, kimono,* and *Maria Clara*.

In her keynote address, Ambassador Buensuceso hailed freedoms already being enjoyed, such as the three E's (energy, education, and employment) of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and exhorted her *kababayans* to work hard for freedoms still to be won.

Guests were treated to a sumptuous buffet and melodious sounds of classical piano renditions by UP College of Music Dean Mauricia Borromeo and old time original Filipino compositions by singers Joe Valledo and Cora Craven.

The Filipino Cultural Organization of Trondheim, headed by Ms. Marietta Opland, also organized an extravaganza of Philippine cultural dances and songs that entertained the jam-packed crowd at St. Olav's Church Hall. Consul General Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia and Consular Assistant Rita Tan joined in the fun-filled program with their songs and dances that the crowd truly enjoyed.



Ambassador Buensuceso poses with the members of the diplomatic corps and other guests from the Norwegian government and business sector during the Philippine Independence Day Gala Night in Gamle Logen, Oslo



Ambassador Ramoncito S. Mariño leads the flag raising ceremony & oath

Palau Koror

Consul General Vicente Vivencio T. Bandillo read the Independence Day Message of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Fifteen overseas Filipino workers were presented with the Outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers Awards at a ceremony held right after the flag raising ceremony.

A diplomatic reception was held at the Sea Passion Hotel in Malakal. The occasion was attended by Palau President Johnson Toribiong, Palau Vice President Kerai Mariur, State Minister Sandra Pierantozi, Senators and Delegates of the Palau National Congress, businessmen and Filipino community leaders.











Papua New Guinea Port Moresby



Officers and staff of Philippine Embassy in Papua New Guinea host a Diplomatic Night at Holiday Inn Hotel led by Ambassador Shirley Ho-Vicario



Filipino community in Solomon Islands presents cultural shows in celebration of 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence

Romania Bucharest



The members, staff and officials of the Philippine Embassy sing with fervor the National Anthem.



Panunumpa sa Watawat ng Republika ng Pilipinas is led by Charge d' Affaires T. Daza



Ma. Teresita C. Daza, Charge d' Affaires delivers her June 12 message during the 111th Philippine Independence Day in Bucharest, Romania



Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo and Consul Belinda M. Ante read President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo's messages; The Bayani Association singing "Isang Lahi, Isang Awit"; PCG Saipan group picture

Saipan

The messages of H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo, Labor and Employment Secretary Marianito D. Roque, OWWA Administrator Carmelita S. Dimzon and Philippine Ambassador to US Willy C. Gaa were read by Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, Consul Belinda M. Ante, Labor Representative Joan Lourdes D. Lavilla, Welfare Officer Reynaldo D. Tayag and Ms. Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta, respectively. The Tuloy-Aral sponsors were acknowledged for their contributions for the studies of children of unfortunate OFWs in the Philippines.





OFWs are assisted by two volunteer physicians during the health screening; Consul Belinda M. Ante at the booth of the United Filipino Organizations, Inc. (UFO) during the Pistang Pinoy at Susupe Civic Center

Singapore



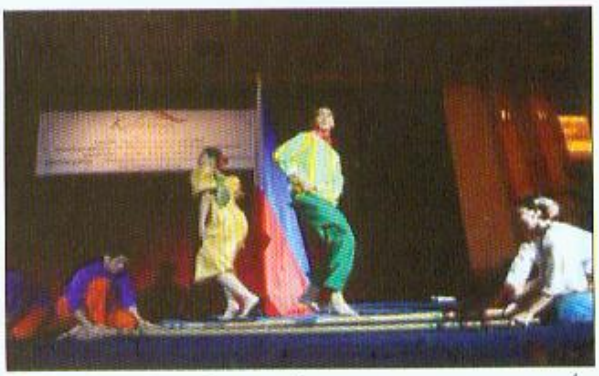
Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Minda Calaguian-Cruz leads the flag raising ceremony



Ambassador Cruz reads the message of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo



Special Guest Congressman Teodoro Locsin, Jr. delivering his Philippine Independence Day Message



The Bayanihan Dance Group performance



Ceremonial toast between the Philippines and Singapore



South Africa Pretoria



The Philippine Embassy in Pretoria commemorated the 111th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence with a reception at the Embassy premises on 12 June attended by members of the Filipino community, diplomatic and business representatives and officials of the South African government.

Ambassador Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. and Deputy Minister Sue van der Merwe toast the governments and leaders of the Philippines and South Africa. In her speech, the Deputy Minister highlighted the burgeoning relationship between the Philippines and South Africa.

South Africa Bloemfontein



Ambassador Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. answers questions on Embassy and government services for overseas Filipinos at the commemoration by the Filipino Association of Free State Africa (FAFSA) of the 111th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence held in Bloemfontein on 20 June 2009.

South Korea Seoul



The Philippine Embassy in Seoul led by Ambassador Seoul Luis T. Cruz held a series of activities at the recently opened Banpo Park on July 5 to celebrate the 111th Philippine Independence Day, the 14th Filipino Migrant Workers Day and the 60th Anniversary of Philippines-Korea Bilateral Relations.

The featured events included the *Panagbenga*, a festival of flowers; *Sinulog*, *Ati-atihan* and *Flores de Mayo*, religious festivals that underline the importance of Christianity in the Philippines; *Masskarra*, a parade of masks; and *Kadayawan*, a popular thanksgiving festival in Southern Philippines. These festivals gave the public a glimpse of the vibrant history, society and culture of the Philippines.

The celebration came after the successful state visit of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Seoul on May 30, 2009, at the heels of the ASEAN-Korea Commemorative Summit in Jeju on June 1-2.



Sinulog dancers during the dress rehearsal on May 24, 2009 at the War Memorial of Korea









Philippine flag raised by Consul General Eduardo de Vega and the President of the Filipino community at Filipino Fiesta, 14 June 2009

Spain Barcelona



Consul de Vega thanked the mayor and the people of Barcelona for its long history of welcoming Filipino expatriates, from the time of Dr. Rizal and other noted patriots in the 19th century up to the great FC Barcelona football star Paulino Alcantara in the earlier part of the 20th century, leading to the large streams of Filipino workers who have been arriving in the past several decades.

Filipino community toasts Philippine Independence Day at dinner with Consulate officials on 12 June 2009



Consul General Eduardo A. de Vega and Filipino community leaders with Barcelona Mayor Jordi Hereu, special guest at the Filipino Fiesta



Spain Madrid

The Philippine Embassy in Spain, led by Philippine Ambassador to Spain Antonio M. Lagdameo, in close coordination with the Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the various Filipino associations in Madrid, hosted the Philippine Independence Day Barrio Fiesta at the Colegio San Agustin in Madrid on June 21.

Other activities included a parade by Filipino community organizations, Philippine dances and songs and a raffle draw with roundtrip tickets to the Philippines as grand prizes. The highlights of the program were the performances of Messrs. Jed Madela and Bayani Agbayani.

The Embassy conducted a consular outreach which included voter registration, passport processing, and other consular services, with some 150 voters registered and 100 notarial services rendered to Filipinos present.





During the *vin d'honneur*, Ambassador Lagdameo read the President's 2009 Independence Day message in front of approximately 100 invitees. Guests were treated to a delightful array of Filipino and Spanish hors d'oeuvres.



Ambassador and Mme. Virgilio A. Reyes, Jr. and Mme. Marie Luarca-Reyes (center) pose with Filipinos in Swaziland during the national day celebration.

Swaziland

With this year's Independence Day theme "*Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan*," as a tribute to the OFWs, the celebration coincided with the first anniversary of the Filipino-Swaziland Association (FSWAA) under the leadership of President Mike Gamba and Vice President Lolita Mohseni



Filipino children dancing *Sakuting* and *Estudiantina*.



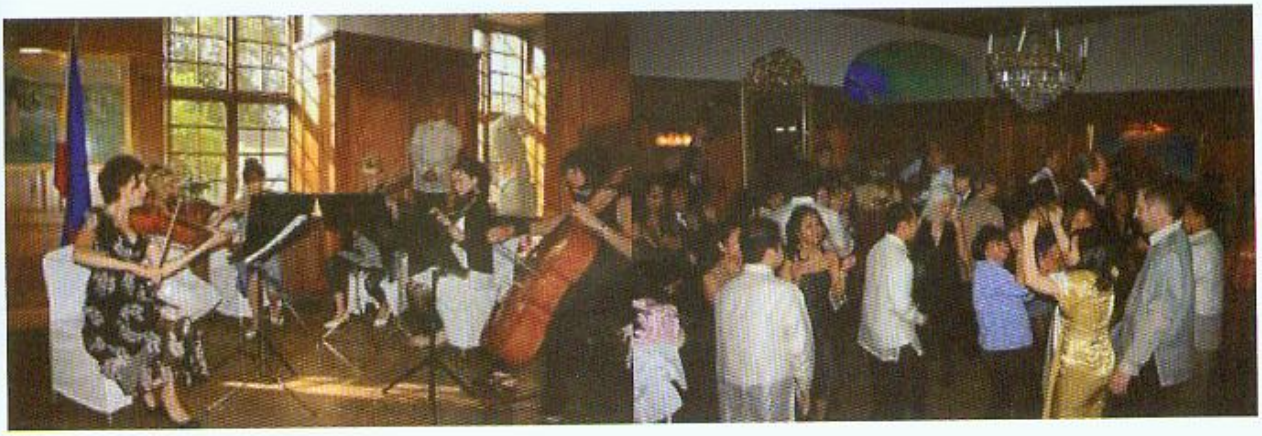
Ambassador Collinson (second from right), Mr. Michael Collinson (third from right), and Consul Gunther Emil Mayo Sales (left) welcome guests at the diplomatic reception. Far right is Mr. Anders Ahnlid, Director-General for Trade, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sweden Stockholm



Ambassador and Mr. Collinson welcome Ambassador Herman af Trolle, Head of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Helsingborg string ensemble played Filipino and classical music during the reception. Guests hit the dance floor and partied all night in the central hall in Villa Pauli designed by Ragnar Östberg (who also designed Stockholm City Hall) and decorated with works by the painter Georg Pauli and sculptor Carl Eldh.



Switzerland Berne



The Philippine Embassy in Berne, led by Philippine Ambassador Maria Theresa P. Lazaro, held a *vin d'honneur* at the Oriental Room of the Historical Museum in Berne. The reception was attended by Swiss Foreign Ministry officials, officers of the Swiss Federal Departments, members of the Diplomatic Corps led by the Papal Nuncio, representatives of the Swiss multinationals doing business in the Philippines, cantonal and city officials and members of the Filipino Swiss community.





The contemporary works of Filipino sculptor Impy Pilapil were displayed in the Museum to showcase the Filipino artistry in Switzerland.



A flag raising ceremony was held at the Philippine Embassy premises.



Ambassador Antonio V. Rodriguez and Madame Janette A. Rodriguez leads the officer and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Bangkok and its attached agencies in reciting the *Panunumpa sa Watawat* during the Flag Raising Ceremony on 12 June 2009.

Thailand Bangkok

A reception was held at Dusit Thani hotel in Bangkok on June 25. The reception was graced by members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Thai Privy Council, Ministers, Members of the Thai National Assembly, business and private individuals in the host country, and members of the Filipino community in Thailand.

Ambassador Rodriguez highlighted the long- standing relations between the Philippines and Thailand in the diplomatic/political, economic and social aspects, including people-to-people relations. He also gave a toast for the health and happiness of both Her Excellency President Arroyo and His Majesty King Bhumibhol Adulyadej.



The Officers and Staff of the Philipine Embassy in Bangkok headed by Antonio V. Rodriguez and Madame Janette A. Rodriguez (9th and 10th from right, respectively) pose for a photo before the formal start of the National Day Reception at Thani Hotel, 25 June 2009. Also included are two DFA employees who are attending the Thai Language Learning among ASEAN Diplomats.

Timor-Leste Dili



The Five Outstanding Filipinos in Timor Leste for 2009 (L-R) Pastor Fernandez, Mr. Magsakay; Pastor Flores; Sister Mariano and Mr. Oliveros

The *Gabi ng Parangal* honoring the Five Outstanding Filipinos in Timor-Leste for 2009 was the highlight of this Independence Day celebration. Awarded as Outstanding Filipinos this year are:

1. **Pastor Fernando Flores** – A religious missionary who has been serving the poor of Manatuto district, hometown of Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão;
2. **Pastor Nelson Fernandez** – Another religious missionary who runs several small schools catering to preschoolers, the deaf, and those interested in learning English and computer skills;
3. **Mr. Teodoro "Teddy" Magsakay** – Owner of Cool Air Technology, the most reliable electro-mechanical repair shop in Dili;
4. **Sister Marylu Mariano** – Protected young orphans at the height of the 1999 and 2006 crises in Timor-Leste; and
5. **Mr. Ramon "Mon" Oliveros** – Incumbent President of the Association of Filipinos in East Timor (AFET) and Chief Adviser of Finance Minister Emilia Pires



The Timor International Friendship Choir



Selected members of the Filipino community dance to the *Binasuan* and *Bakya Mo Neneng*











Turkey Ankara

The 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Philippine Independence was made doubly special as it also marked the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Friendship on 13 June 1949 which established diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Turkey.

Philippine Ambassador to Turkey Pedro O. Chan led the celebrations. The event was graced by the presence of senior Turkish Foreign Ministry officials including Deputy Undersecretary Unal Cevikoz, Chief of Protocol and former Ambassador to the Philippines, Tanju Sumer, and newly-designated Director General for East Asia, Ambassador Hasan Servet Oktem. Also attended were the Papal Nuncio together with the Ambassadors of the ASEAN Resident Missions in Ankara (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam), OIC-Members Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Syria, Algeria, Yemen, Iran, Palestine, Somalia and Senegal as well as the Ambassadors of Australia, Russia, Israel and several others from EU-member states and South America.

The Embassy commenced its celebration with a flag-raising ceremony at the Chancery grounds followed by the reading of the Independence Day Message of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Secretary Dr. Alberto G. Romulo. Embassy officers, staff, local employees and their dependents, together with members of the Filipino community in Ankara, participated in the flag-raising ceremonies which culminated with a hearty Filipino breakfast of *sinangag, tapa,* chicken tocino, eggs and home-made *tsokolate.* The celebration was capped by a "Filipino fiesta" at the Chancery ground on 14 June 2009 featuring Filipino dishes, dances, games, singing and dancing prepared by the Filipinos in Ankara.

UAE Abu Dhabi



Noel Servigon, *Charge d' Affairs*, a.i. of the Philippine Embassy in Abu Dhabi, reading the Independence Day Message from Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The Abu Dhabi Philippine Embassy, in cooperation with various Filipino community groups, celebrated the 111th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on 12 June 2009.

The celebration in the Philippine Embassy started with a flag-raising ceremony and a pledge of allegiance to the Philippine flag. This was followed by a program where messages to overseas Filipinos from President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alberto G. Romulo were read by the *Charge d'Affaires* of the Philippine Embassy, Minister & Consul-General Noel Servigon, and First Secretary and Consul Adelio Angelito Cruz, respectively. Also in attendance were Commercial Attache Jose Ma. Dinsay and Labor Attache Nasser Munder.

A thanksgiving mass was celebrated thereafter at St. Joseph's Church.

UAE Dubai



PCG Officers and Staff gather at the PCG Grounds for the Flag-raising Ceremony.



Consul General Benito B. Valeriano delivers his message on the 111th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence

H.H. Sheik Jomah bin Maktoum al Maktoum and H.E. Dr. Maitah Al-Shamsi, Minister of State of the United Arab Emirates, joins H.E. Consul General Valeriano in the Cake-cutting Ceremony. Mrs. Jacklyn Valeriano and members of the Consular Corps of Dubai watch the ceremony.





Photo shows Mr. Gene Lee, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Mayor's Office presenting to Consul General Blesila C. Cabrera the Proclamation declaring June 12, 2009 as Philippine Independence Day in Chicago



Filipino World War II Veterans in a group photo with Consul General Blesila C. Cabrera during the breakfast reception at the Kalayaan Hall.



Consul General Blesila C. Cabrera and members of the Filipino community release 111 balloons symbolizing the one hundred eleven years of Philippine Independence. The releasing of the balloons was the highlight of the annual community picnic organized by Kalayaan Chicago and Philippine Week Committee.

USA Chicago

Mayor Daley signed a Proclamation, declaring June 12, 2009, to be Philippine Independence Day in Chicago, and encouraged all residents to appreciate the contributions the Filipino-American community has made to Chicago. The Proclamation cited the Filipino-American community's contributions in business, health, law, education and many other professions.

The Consulate hosted a Breakfast Reception at the *Kalayaan* Hall of the Consulate after the Flag Raising. Highlight of the reception was the Independence Day message of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo which was played on video.





Officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago together with the Filipino World War II Veterans, leaders and members of FilAm communities and FilAm medila listen to the Independence Day Message of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Officers and staff of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago together with the Filipino World War II Veterans, leaders and members of FilAm communities and FilAm medila listen to the Independence Day Message of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

USA New York



Unfurling the Philippine Flag. From left: Filipino Veteran Pacifico L. Timbol, Mr. and Mrs Gerry Austria-PIDCI President, Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong, Vice President Noli de Castro, Permanent Representative Hilario G. Davide, Senator Manny Villar, Mrs. Davide, Sen. Allan Peter Cayetano, Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, Parade Grand Marshall Dra. Fely Malanun-Santos.



VP Noli De Castro, Senator Villar and Parade Grand Marshal Dra. Malanum-Santos open the Independence Day parade with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, 7 June. L-R: Representative Villar, Sen. Cayetano, Sen. Villar, PIDCI Grand Marshall, Sra. Fely Malanum-Santos, VP De Castro, PIDCI President Gerry Austria, Mrs. Austria, Congen Cecilia B. Rebong and Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador



Ambassador Hilario Davide, Consul General Cecilia Rebong, Mrs. Loida Lewis and the representatives of the Filipino Veterans of World War II in New York and New Jersey together open the the exhibit "Sonata for our Heroes", with the artists present, 8 June.





(left) Vice President de Castro with Engineer Rudy and Dra. Connie Quiambao: (right) The Vice President and Consul General Rebong with the artists of the Pan Asian Theater Group during the Reception, 9 June.



The Offices of the Philippine Government in New York salute the Philippine Flag on the morning of 12 June 2009. (Front row, L-R): Trade Representative Elevado, Tourism Director Yulo, Vice Consul Elena Maningat, DCG Melita Sta Maria Thomeczek, Consul General Rebong, Ambassador Hilario Davide Jr., Second Secretary Emma Sarne, Second Secretary Rafael Hermoso, Career Minister Eduardo Menez, Second Secretary Jimmy Blas.

USA New Jersey



Consul General Rebong with Jersey City Councilman candidate Rolando Lavarro and the delegation from the Consulate during the parade, 14 June.



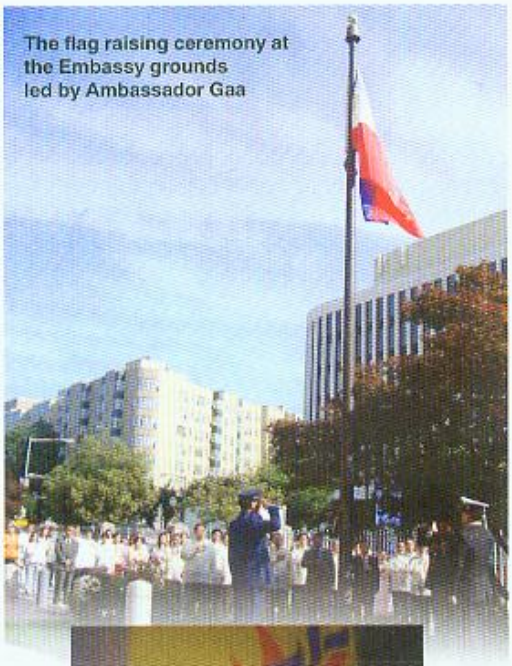
Consul General Cecilia B. Rebong (4th from right) and Mayor Healy (in hat) cut ribbon to start the Friendship Parade, 28 June.



Wreath-laying ceremony at the statue of Dr. Jose Rizal in Jersey City with the Knights of Rizal, 27 June.



The Philippine Consulate General contingent at the Philippine American Friendship Parade, 27 June.



The flag raising ceremony at the Embassy grounds led by Ambassador Gaa



Ambassador Gaa expresses his gratefulness to the global Filipino in his remarks



Undersecretary Manalo addresses Embassy personnel with his Independence Day Message

USA Washington D.C.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa led the flag raising ceremony held at the premises of the Philippine Embassy. The Ambassador was joined by Undersecretary Enrique Manalo of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, who was at the nation's capital for the US-ASEAN Joint Consultation, and other Embassy personnel.

The flag raising was followed by remarks of Ambassador Gaa at the Romulo Hall, where he echoed the President's citation of the global Filipinos' contribution to RP growth and development that have aided in mitigating the impacts of global economic crisis in the Philippines.

Ambassador Gaa welcomes the audience to a concert performance called Simbuyo 2009. Onscreen is the logo for the programme designed by San Francisco-based Emmy nominated graphic artist Zaldy Serrano. Photo taken by Red Alcuaz of the Ateneo Alumni Choir.

Ambassador Gaa, who gave the welcome remarks during the performance said, "We felt Filipino musicality, saw Filipino artistry, heard Filipino lyricism," noting, "the images of historic and modern Philippines showed during the concert underscored how far we have come and how far we will continue to go as a democratic nation."

The Ateneo Alumni Choir, led by Artistic Director and Conductor Paul Hontiveros, gave stirring renditions of the national anthems of the Philippines- arranged by National Artist Lucio San Pedro - and the United States while animated flags of the Philippines and the United States were projected onscreen.



Ambassador Gaa welcomes the audience to a concert performance called Simbuyo 2009. Onscreen is the logo for the programme designed by San Francisco-based Emmy nominated graphic artist Zaldy Serrano. Photo taken by Red Alcuaz of the Ateneo



Dancers from the Effie Nanas School of Ballet from Manila Philippines in their final pose as audience members applaud their performance. Photo taken by Red Alcuaz of the Ateneo Alumni Choir.



Venezuela Aruba

Ambassador Jocelyn Batcon-Garcia thanked the Aruban government for its hospitality and the recognition it gives to the Filipino workers, praised the Filipino workers on the island for their hard work, their excellent work ethic, and their unique adaptability to the local environment. She also commended efforts to support their families and help sustain the Philippine economy despite their distance from their motherland. The audience appreciated President Macapagal Arroyo's Independence Day message.



Venezuela Caracas

Philippine Ambassador to Venezuela Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia, who assumed her post last March, presided over the Independence Day festivities. In her speech, Ambassador Batoon-Garcia noted that Filipinos continue to draw strength and inspiration from the exploits of their heroes in their struggle for freedom.



"Today, we Filipinos are similarly inspired by what our ancestors accomplished to persevere in the noble task of nation-building. For the Philippine Government, under the leadership of the administration of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, the overriding national priority is to promote sustainable development, to reduce poverty, and to enhance the empowerment of the people through education and employment," she said.

Ambassador Batoon-Garcia stated the country will remain an active player in world affairs. "From climate change to peace and security, from the global economic crisis to pandemic disease, from terrorism to nuclear proliferation, we fully realize that so many critical issues today cannot be solved, except through common striving for shared goals in the spirit of multilateralism," she said.







Vietnam Hanoi

The Philippine Embassy in Hanoi, in cooperation with the Filipino community, observed National Heritage Month and the 111th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence with two events that showcased distinct elements of Philippine culture, particularly the "Santacruzan", Filipino music, and the indigenous dance "Pangalay."

.The *Santacruzan* was participated in by children of Filipino community members and other expatriates in Hanoi.

The AlunAlun Dance Circle (ADC) came to Hanoi upon the invitation of the Philippine Embassy and with support from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts. The ADC performed the "Pangalay", an endangered pre-Islamic and pre-Christian dance style indigenous to the Sulu Archipelago - home to the *Tausug, Samal, Badjao,* and *Jama Mapun* groups—in the southern Philippines.

Mr. Joey Ayala, on the other hand, is a popular contemporary artist, performed the mixing the sound of Filipino indigenous instruments, such as the hegalong and the kulintang, with the sound of modern pop music and songs that tell stories about the environment, the travails of the common man, different forms of love, nationalism, among others.

Ambassador Laura Q. Del Rosario informed the audience about important updates from the Embassy, particularly on consular matters, such as the availability of machine-readable passports, continuing registration for Overseas Absentee Voting as well as the exchange visits between Vietnam's Minister of Public Security and the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and the meetings between Philippine and Vietnamese maritime experts.



One of the young reynas with her escort on a cyclo during the Santacruzan



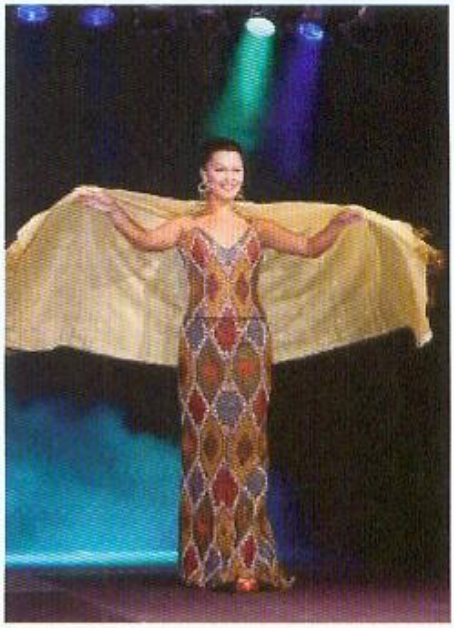
Mr. Joey Ayala with the AlunAlun Dance Circle



Filcom members performing the cariños







Zurich

Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland Maria Theresa P. Lazaro, and the Filipino-Swiss community in Zurich, in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Berne, organized a Dinner Fashion event held at the Swissotel City Ballroom in Zurich in celebration of the 111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence.

The event promoted the ingenuity, creativity and unique artistry of the modern Filipino. It featured Philippine *haute couture* using Philippine indigenous fabrics such as the *patadyong, pina*, *gaddang* and *yakan* through the European inspired designs of Filipino designer, Mr. Nono Palmos.

The main objective in staging said event was to showcase and introduce the Philippine indigenous fabrics to the leading fabric and garment manufacturers in Zurich.





National Ulirang Kabataan Awardees

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus conferred the Fifth Pambansang Gawad sa Ulirang Kabataan to five students from public and private schools during the awarding rites at the Provincial Capitol Gymnasium, Malolos, Bulacan last June 12.

The winners are Zarah Donna Domingo, Agusan National High School of Butuan City, CARAGA; Lorenz Ray Payonga, Marcial O. Ranola Memorial School of Albay, Region 5; Alyssa Tricia Eloise Vintola, Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial High School of Dumaguete City, Region 7; Kevin Catapusan, Agusan National High School of Butuan City, CARAGA; and Isabella Supnet, Muntinlupa Science High School of Muntinlupa City, National Capital Region.

Secretary Lapus and the awardees are all achievers, leaders and active community workers. They have been selected from among 6.5 million secondary students nationwide.

This annual competition by the Office of Assistant Secretary for Special Projects and Legislative Liaison Jonathan Malaya, through the Special Events Unit headed by Ms. Luz De la Rosa, the Gawad sa Ulirang Kabataan which recognizes the achievements and contributions of the nation's outstanding students in their school and community.

The Gawad affirms its commitment towards the achievement of our nation, keeping its faith in the Filipino youth as "the hope of our future." Since its inception in 2004, the award has been conferred to some 94 regional awardees and 17 national awardees all over the country. Now on its fifth year, the award continues to gain enthusiasm among participating schools as more students demonstrate traits truly deserving of recognition.



Zarah Donna S. Domingo, "A Lawyer for the Poor," Agusan National High School, Butuan City, CARAGA Region.

A high school salutatorian, Arah's motto is 'To be Yourself.' She is currently enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University taking up AB Political Science. She intends to pursue Bachelor of Laws. She sees herself as a great lawyer offering her service to the poor Filipinos nine years from now.



Lorenz Ray B. Payonga, "The boy who believes that he possesses the qualities of an Uliran Awardee," Marcial O. Ranola Memorial School, Albay, Region 5.

A valedictorian from elementary to high school, Enzo describes himself as who is good in persuading people, and an optimist at all times. He is the President of the National Federation of Supreme Student Government and the Director for Bicol Region in the National Secondary Editor's Guild. His most recent awards are the Vice President Noli de Castro Award for Exemplary Leadership and Academic Excellence Award, PGMA Leadership and Academic Excellence Award, PGMA Outstanding Achievement on Student Leadership Award and UP Noli de Castro Leadership Award.

He is currently enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Alyssa Tricia Eloise L. Vintola, "The Sponge Cola Band Lover," Ramon Teves Pastor Memorial High School, Dumaguete City, Region 7.

An excellent student, community leader and dutiful daughter, Alyssa admits to be a very happy person. This all-around girl has also been into ballet, tap, Hawaiian, jazz dancing and guitar lessons. She admits not being good in drawing and painting, though.

Alyssa is enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University and vowed to finish and enjoy her studies.



Kevin C. Catapusan, "The Valedictorian," Agusan National High School, Butuan City, CARAGA Region.

Kevin embodies Filipino traits worth emulating. He actively takes part in social and community services in Butuan City and initiates programs for the good of the youth.

A brilliant young man, he has received citations from numerous award giving bodies and held positions in various organizations.

He is a freshman at the Dela Salle University, Manila taking up Bachelor of Science in Economics.



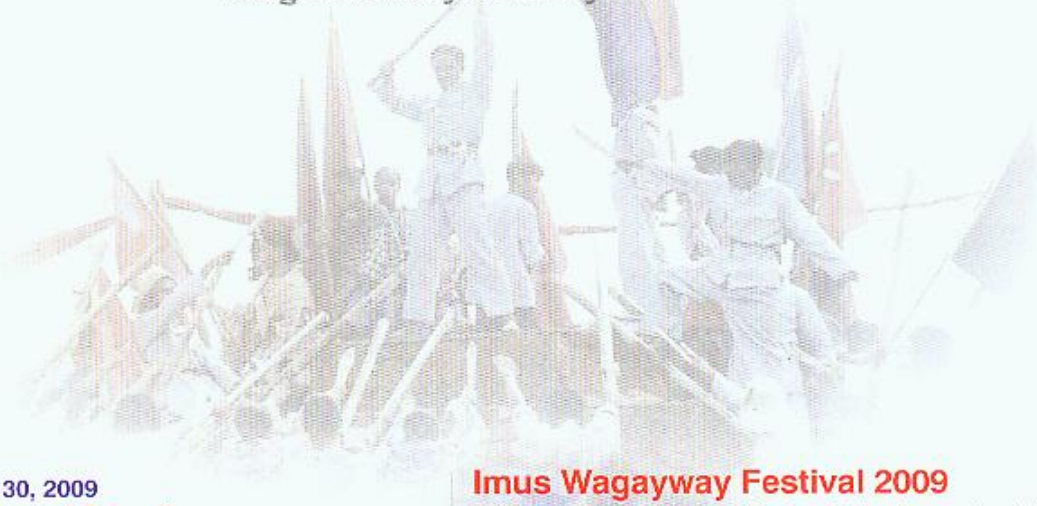
Sabella E. Supnet, "The girl who wants to become somebody for her country," Muntinlupa Science High School, Muntinlupa City, National Capital Region.

This young lady dreams of becoming a physician someday. Her interest to render free health service to the Filipinos someday inspired her take up Medicine at the University of the Philippines, Manila.

NATIONWIDE ACTIVITIES

111th Anniversary of Philippine Independence
12 June 2009

Kagitingan, Kagalingan at Kasipagan:
Tungo sa Tunay na Kalayaan



May 15 - June 30, 2009
Display of Flags and Tarpaulins
Along major thoroughfares
DPWH (Lead Agency) MMDA, DILG, LGUs, DTI, DepEd, MRT, LRT

May 25, 2009
National Flag Day Kick-Off
Quezon City Hall Quadrangle
DENR (Lead Agency), NHI, PIA, MMDA, DILG, DSWD, DepEd, DOLE, DILG, Quezon City Government

May 23 – 28, 2009
"Watawat Ko, Iwagayway ko!"
(A Flag in every home, office, major thoroughfares and Philippine embassies abroad)
DILG (Lead Agency), PIA, NHI, DepEd, DOLE, DFA, LGUs)

Imus Wagayway Festival 2009

This is a 6 days festival that culminates on jovial celebration that dignifies our country's history, specially the Philippine Flag as a national symbol of our freedom and independence
Municipality of Imus (Lead Agency), Province of Cavite

May 23
- Thanksgiving MassInauguration of Gen. Licerio Topacio Park Encuentro (Battle of Alapan Re-enactment)
- Festival Launching
  Wagayway Flag Parade
  (Witness a Skydiving Event)

May 24
- Family Parade
  Parada ng mga Bituin
  Wata what? Game Show

May 25
- Motor Fiesta
- Litrato Museño Photo Contest
- Isang Bansa, Isang Bandila, Isang Wagayway
  (On the Spot Painting Contest)
  The Wagayway Street Party

May 26
- Motor Fiesta
- Birit Hear-It (Singing Contest)
- Galing Kalye (Hip Hop Olympics)
- Awarding of Litrato Museño and Isang Bansa, Isang Bandila

May 27
- Motor Fiesta
- Talakayang Kasaysayan (A Public Debate)
- Film Showing (Free Movies for Imuseños)
- May Disco Po Sa Park (Sayawan sa Musika ng Dekada 50's, 60's & 70's)

May 28
- Encuentro (Battle of Alapan Re-enactment and Flag-Raising Ceremony)
- Kamayan sa Alapan (Longest Boodlefight)
- Rakrakan Hanggang Umaga (Free Rock Concert)

May 28
Musikalayaan by the AFP Band
A concert in celebration of Flag Day
Open-Air Auditorium,
Rizal Park, Manila
AFP (Lead Agency), NPDC

May 28
"Araw ng Watawat ng Pilipinas"
Battle of Alapan Marker Site,
Imus, Cavite

June 3-7, 2009
"AGRARYO" Trade Fair
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
DAR & Philippine Fruits and Vegetables Industries Inc (Lead Agency)

June 8-11, 2009
5th Pambasang Gawad sa Ulirang Kabataan
A search for outstanding students in their achievements and contributions in their school and community.
DepEd (Lead Agency)

June 11, 2009, 10:00 a.m.
National Artist Awards
NCCA & CCP (Lead Agency)

June 11, 2009, 8:00 a.m.
"Parada ng Pag-anyaya"
Association of Volunteers Fire Chiefs & Fire Fighters of the Philippines, Inc.
Hotline: 16016 (Lead Agency)

FREE ADMISSION

June 11-14, 2009
9:00a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Guided tour

June 11, 13 and 14, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tagalog Evening Presentation
" Martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal"
A regular weekly public service project of the NPDC in cooperation with PAGCOR, A Light and Sound Sculptural Tableau, "living" memorial honoring the Philippine's national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. A 30-minute dramatization of the most poignant moments of Rizal's final hours, through 8 monumental sculptural clusters in an interplay of light and sound. A collective obra of Four National Artis (Leandro Locsin, Lamberto Avellana, Lucio San Pedro and Rolando Tinio), numerous talents and experts.
NPDC (Lead Agency), PAGCOR

June 11, 2009 6:00 p.m.
Open Air Auditorium

Silang Magigiting by the Gantimpala Theater Foundation (An Independence Day Eve drama with musical and dance Numbers, written by the late Charley Dele Paz. This is the story of two young brothers, Lito and Victor, who miraculously travel back in time and meet the following national heroes – Tandang Sora, Marcelo H. Del Pilar Anders Bonifacio, Gregoria de Jesus, Apolinario Mabini and Emilio Aguinaldo.)
NPDC (Lead Agency), Gantimpala Theatre Foundation

June 11 - 14, 2009
Open Air Auditorium

SINEKALAYAAN

(A nightly film showing of outstanding Filipino films during the Independence Week)
NCCA, NPDC (Lead Agency)

June 11, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
SAKAY
Directed by Raymond Red
Lead Cast: Julio Diaz,
Tetchie Agbayani
Production: CINEFILIPINO/Unitel

June 12, 2009, 8:00 p.m.
BALER
Directed by: Mark Meily
Lead Cast: Jericho Rosales and Anne Curtis
Production: VIVA Films

June 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
CONCERTO
Directed by Paul Morales
Lead Cast: Charmaine Buencamino, Jay Aquitania, Meryl Soriano
Production: Cinemalaya/NCCA

June 14, 2009, 8:00 p.m.
CAREGIVER
Directed by: Chito Roño
Lead Cast: Sharon Cuneta, John Estrada
Production: Star Cinema

June 12 – 14, 2009
Military Demonstration
San Lorenzo Plaza, Rizal Park, Manila.
AFP, DND (Lead Agency)

June 12, 2009

8:00 a.m. AFP Static Display
10:00 a.m. AFP Kinetic Presentation
1:00 p.m. PMC Drum & Bugle Team Exhibition
2:00 p.m. PMA Silent Drill Exhibition

June 13, 2009

8:00 a.m. AFP Static Display
1:00 p.m. AFP Kinetic Presentation

June 14, 2009
8:00 a.m. AFP Static Display
1:00 p.m. AFP Kinetic Presentation

June 12, 8AM
Simultaneous Flag-Raising & Wreath-laying
NHI (Lead Agency)

Rizal Park, Bonifacio Street, City of Koronadal
President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

Rizal National Monument, Rizal Park, Manila
DENR Secretary Jose L. Atienza

Emilio Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite
Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

Mausoleo delos Veteranos de la Revolucion, North Cemetery, Manila
DND Undersecretary Ernesto Carolina

Barasoain Church Historical Landmark, Malolos, Bulacan
DepEd Secretary Jesli A. Lapus

Bonifacio Monument, Caloocan City
Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno

Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine, San Juan City
Senator Pia S. Cayetano

Kalayaan Festival
June 12 – 14
DOT (Lead Agency)

June 12, 3:00 p.m.
- Lakbayan (*Lakandula Dance Troupe*)
- Ozamis-subayan keg (Subanon Festival)
- Orquieta (Inug-og Festival)
- Cagayan de Oro (Kagay-an Festival)
- TUP Kalinangan Dance Troupe
- Sining Bulakeño (Desposorio Festival)
- Manila Brass Band
- MMDA (Beats N'Pieces)

June 12, 4:00 p.m.
Singing Ambassador DOT Region 10

June 12, 5:00 p.m.
Ronald Jaimeer Humarang & Joshua Cadelina Concert

June 12, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Kalayaan Concert with Bayang Barrios, 92 AD, Sadjan "Santino" Jaranilla, Pilita Corrales, Star Magic Kids, Sheryn Regis, Jong Cuenco, Smokey Manaloto, Iza Calzado, Bayanihan Dancers, and a tribute to Francis M. ***Charice Pempengco**, finale number

June 12, 10:00 p.m.
Philippine Army Combo

June 12, 11:00 p.m.
Beats N' Pieces Band

6:30 & 9:00 p.m.
Ilaw at Kalayaan (Fireworks),

June 13, 2009, Tanghalan

4:00 p.m. Philippine Barangay Folk Dance
5:00 p.m. Bungkos Palay (Nueva Ecija)
6:00 p.m. Shirley Halili Cruz School of Ballet
7:00 p.m. Bulacan Kalinangan Foundation (Walang Sugat)
9:00 p.m. Philippine Air Force Combo (all female)

10:00 p.m. Kawangis ng Tribu of Palawan
11:00 p.m. Triple S Band

June 14, 2009, Tanghalan

4:00 p.m. Kawangis ng Tribu of Palawan

5:00 p.m. PETA (Batang Rizal)
6:00 p.m. St. Dominic Savio College Dance Troupe

7:00 p.m. Koro Bulakeño (Pilipinas Kong Mahal)

8:00 p.m. Noel Cabangon/Grace Nono
9:00 p.m. Philippine Navy Combo

June 14, 2009, 6pm
Open Air Auditorium,
Rizal Park, Manila

Concert At The Park
(An hour of our very own songs, celebrating the Filipino way of life, love and tradition) Featuring the Kalayaan Singers, Betty Rivera (alto), Vanessa Ralyel (soprano), Ronnie Santamaria (baritone), Ver Dayap (bass) and Eddie Suarez (guitar/Tenor)

MEGA JOB & LIVELIHOOD FAIRS

June 12 – 14, 2009

- **June 12** - Job Fair for Employment in Government Agencies (permanent position and Comprehensive Livelihood Emergency Employment Program – CLEEP)
- **June 13** - Job Fair for Local Employment
- **June 14** - Job Fair for Overseas Employment

Replication of Awarding of Employment Contracts and Training Vouchers to Worker-Beneficiaries/Jobs and Livelihood Fairs nationwide

DOLE (Lead Agency), NAPC, all CLEEP Stewards nationwide,
All Regional centers nationwide

Region	Date & Venue
NCR	**June 12 – 14** Plaza San Lorenzo, Rizal Park, Manila (infront of Quirino Grandstand) DENR Sec. Jose L. Atienza Jr.
CAR	**June 12 – 14** Baguio Convention Center DSWD Sec. Esperanza I. Cabral
Region 1	**June 12 – 14** CSI City Mall, San Fernando City, La Union DOH Sec. Francisco T. Duque III
Region 2	**June 12 – 14** Cagayan National High School Mamba Gym, Tuguegarao DA Sec. Arthur C. Yap
Region 3	**June 12 – 13** Bulacan Capitol Gymnasium, Malolos City DepEd Sec. Sec. Jesli A. Lapus **June 14** Event Center, SM City, Baliuag City
Region 4A	**June 12 – 14** Calamba City Hall, Laguna DTI Sec. Peter B. Favila **June 12** Kawit Aguinaldo Shrine, Cavite DPWH Sec. Hermogenes E. Ebdane Jr. **June 13 –14** Imus Plaza, Cavite
Region 4B	**June 12** Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro/ Calapan City Rep. Rodolfo G. Valencia
Region 5	**June 12 – 14** Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City DBM Sec. Rolando G. Andaya Jr.
Region 6	**June 12 – 14** Amigo Plaza Mall Activity Center, Iloilo City DOJ Sec. Raul M. Gonzales

Region 7 **June 12 – 14** SM Cebu City
Press Sec. Cerge M. Remonde

June 12 Dumaguete City
DOF Sec. Margarito B. Teves

Region 8 **June 12 – 13** Astrodome, Tacloban City
Sec. Gabriel Claudio

Region 9 **June 12** Summit Center Universidad de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City
Exec. Sec. Eduardo R. Ermita

June 13 Molave Gymnasium, Zamboanga del Sur

June 14 Siay Gymnasium, Zamboanga Sibugay

Region 10 **June 11-12** Provincial Capitol Ground, Cagayan de Oro City
SSS Pres. Romulo L. Neri

June 13 – 14 SM Car Park, Cagayan de Oro City

Region 11 **June 12 – 14** NCC Mall, Matina, Davao City
CPLC Sec. Jesus G. Dureza

Region 12 **June 12 – 14** Rizal Park, Koronadal City
DND Sec. Gilberto Teodoro Jr.

June 13 – 14 KCC Mall Convention Center, General Santos City

CARAGA **June 12 – 14** Almond Inland Hotel, Butuan City
DOT Sec. Joseph Ace Durano

ARMM **June 12** Shariff Aguak
DAR Sec. Nasser C. Pangandaman

Mga Programa't Serbisyo

June 12 – 14, 2009
Rizal Park, Manila

Trade Exhibits/Diskwento Caravan (DTI)

Skills Demonstration (TESDA)

DSWD Kabuhayan Grants

Green Technology/Backyard Livelihood Technology Demo (DENR, DOST, PAGCOR)

NHI Exhibit & Book Sale

Housing Fair/Cliniquing (HUDCC)

Free Medical Services (DOH, PCSO)

Blood Letting (PNRC)

One-Stop-Shop Pre-Employment Services (DFA, DOJ-NBI, NSO, SSS, BIR-TIN, Philhealth)

Free Legal Services (DOLE, NLRC, DOJ)

June 12, 2009
Vin 'D Honneur/Rigodon de Honneur
(cocktail reception to be hosted by the President for the Diplomatic Corps)
Office of the President (Lead Agency)

June 12, 2009,
7:00–9:00 AM & 5:00–7:00 p.m.
FREE LRT & MRT Rides
DOTC (Lead Agency)

June 2009
Replication of KALAYAAN 2009 Activities Nationwide
DILG (Lead Agency)

June 2009
Replication of KALAYAAN 2009 Activities Abroad
DFA (Lead Agency)

Printing of Kalayaan 2009 Souvenir Program
PIA (Lead Agency)

May- June 2009
Presidential Media Coverage
OPS, RTVM, NIB-MARO

National Media/Publicity Committee
PIA, NBN-4, RPN-9, IBC-13,
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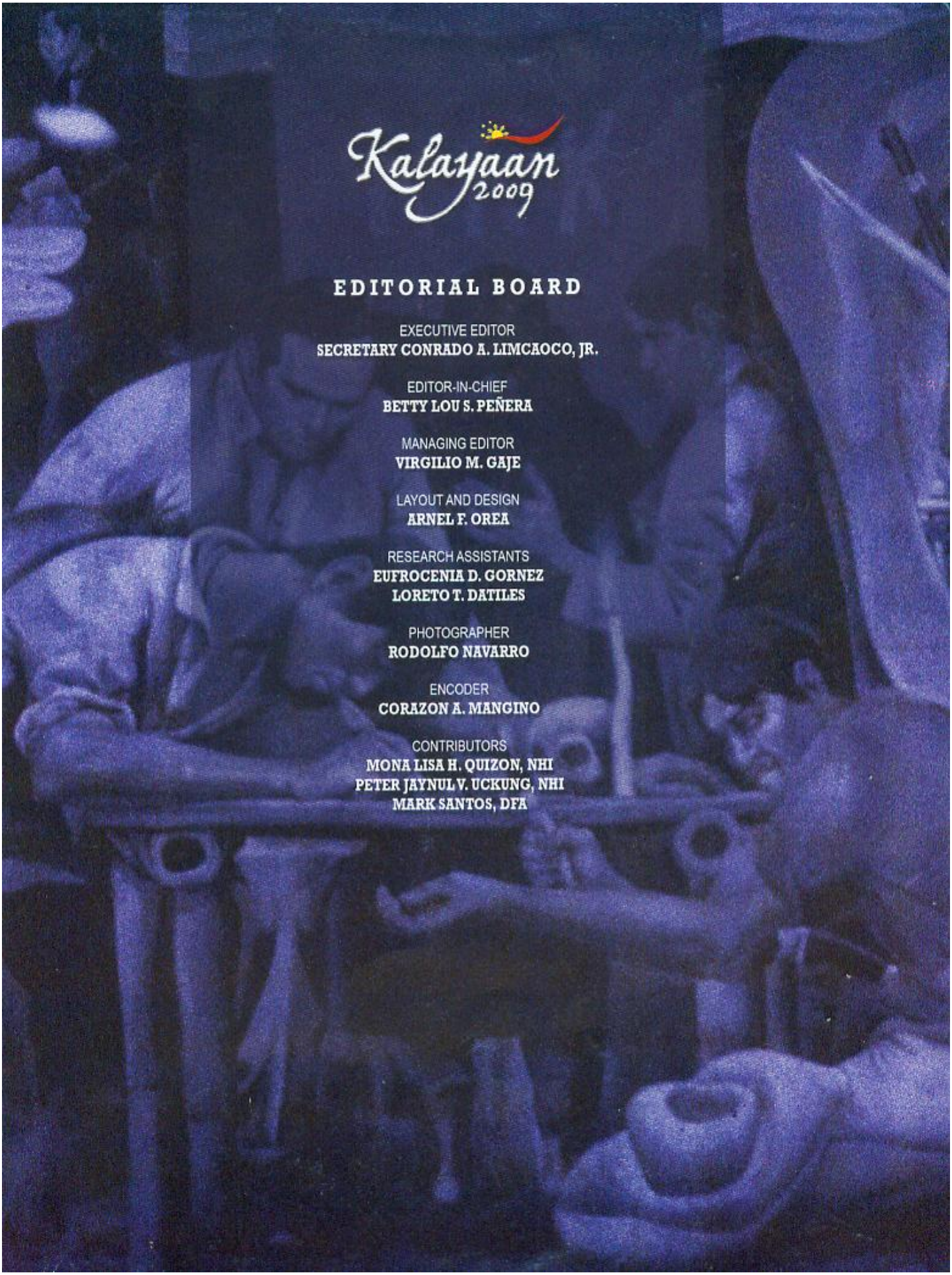

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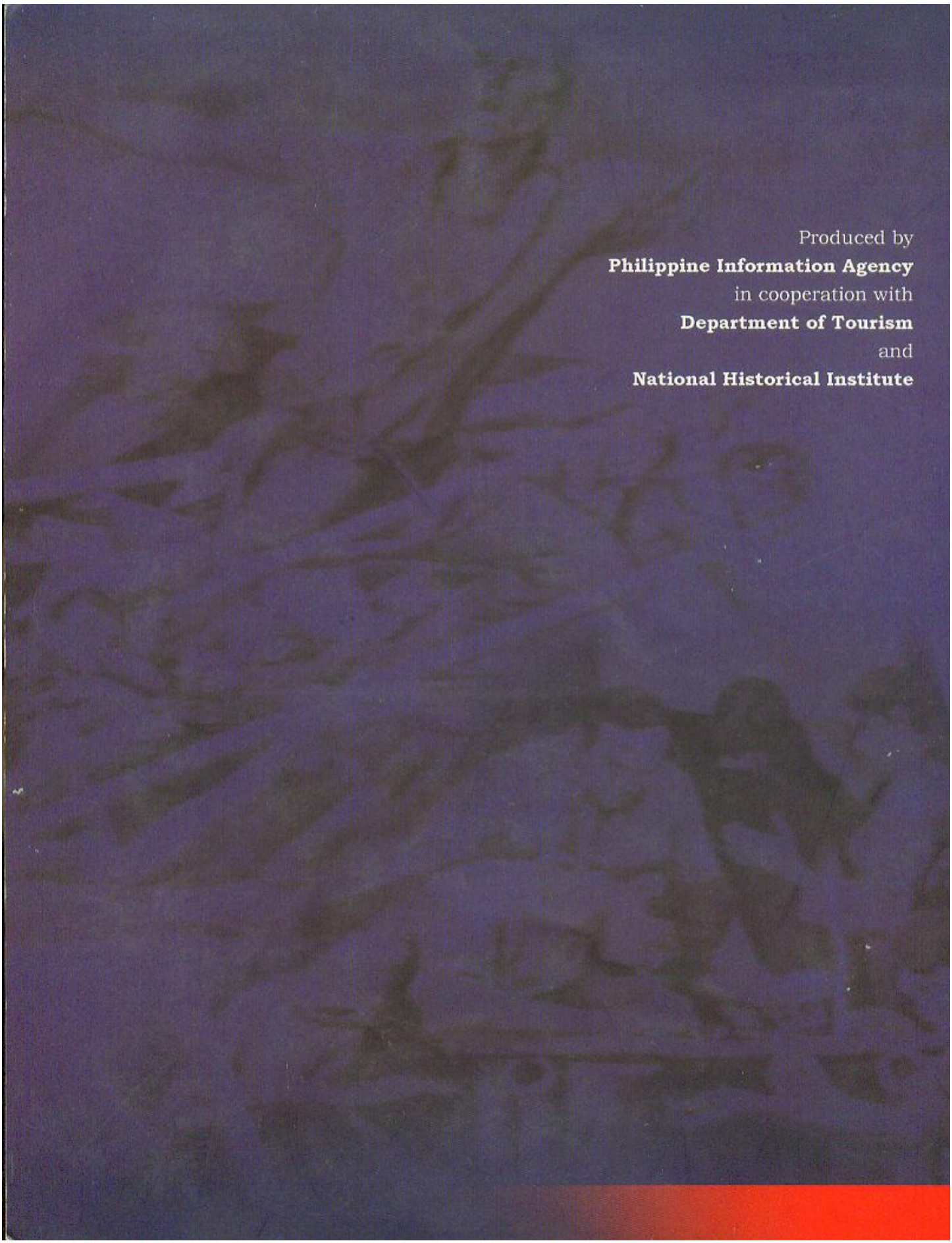

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