

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Embassy, Canberra*

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### **Northern Territory Government Honours 26 Filipino Professionals as the Philippines and Australia Mark 70 Years of Diplomatic Relations**

29 July 2016 – The Northern Territory Government of the Commonwealth of Australia awarded 26 Filipino professionals with a Certificate of Recognition for their meritorious service in their own fields of expertise on 29 July 2016 at the Northern Territory Parliamentary House in Darwin. Hon Peter Styles MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Asian Engagements and Trade of the Northern Territory, led the awarding ceremony. Three of the honourees received their certificates posthumously.

#### **Northern Territory Department of Education:**

1. Emily Mead – Dripstone High School as Master Teacher level 2
2. Elena Ralph – Assistant Principal, Millner Primary School
3. Felicitas Milan, Rapid Creek Primary School
4. Nicanor Pagsanjan – Casuarina Senior College
5. Jose Villanueva – Sanderson High School –(Posthumous)
6. Edna Rivas – Moil Primary School, Master Teacher level 1
7. Levy Sumague – Millner Primary School
8. Samuel Marquez – Anula Primary School
9. Lilia Marquez – Wagaman Primary School
10. Anita Eugenio – Clyde Fynton Primary School
11. Maria Iligan - Clyde Fynton Primary School
12. Arsenio de Guzman – Casuarina Senior College –(Posthumous)
13. John Rivas – Casuarina Senior College – Master Teacher Level 2
14. Meno Ella – Nightcliff High School – Music Teacher

#### **Private Schools:**

15. Celsie Marquez – Holy Spirit Primary School
16. Josefina Brutti – Minyerri School
17. Pollyanna Senga – St. John's College
18. Norman Mangohig – Marrara Christian College
19. Lourdes Albao Valles – Holy Spirit Primary School

#### **Other Professions:**

20. Dr. Cristeta Kabasares Salandanan – MD
21. Dr. Renato Peñaloza – MD
22. Mr Lino Molina – Meteorologist –(Posthumous)
23. Mrs Cynthia Molina – Accountant
24. Mrs Rose Peñaloza – Nutritionist
25. Dr. Pablo Aralar – MD
26. Dr Maria Angeles Aralar - MD

Also present were family members of the honourees, Mr. Ken Davies, CEO of the Northern Territory Department of Education, Mr. Rod McGrath, Ministerial Adviser to Hon Peter Styles MLA, and Philippine Consul General to the Northern Territory Januario John Rivas, a.h.

The Northern Territory holds the earliest and longest recorded history of settlement of Filipino families dating back to 1860. The Filipino professionals awarded were part of the second wave of Filipino migrants who actively promoted their Filipino identity and served with commitment and dedication in their respective professions for 37 years or longer until the time of retirement.

In her message read by Philippine Consul General Rivas a.h., Philippine Ambassador to Australia Minda Calaguian-Cruz said the recognition honours their *“contributions to all facets of Australian society and for demonstrating the very best of Filipino culture – our ability to build strong and lasting connections with people around us no matter where we are in the world.”*

The awarding coincides with the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Australia this year and celebrates the contributions of Filipinos to the development of a dynamic and vibrant Philippines-Australia partnership. END



*Filipino professionals awarded the Certificate of Recognition for meritorious service by Hon Peter Styles MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Asian Engagements and Trade of the Northern Territory (Photo credit: Philippine Consul General Januario John Rivas a.h.)*

