

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Embassy, Canberra

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The Philippine Embassy in Canberra celebrates 2016 Philippine Independence Day with Bayanihan

17 June 2016 – The Philippine Embassy in Canberra commemorated the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on 17 June 2016 at the National Gallery of Australia.

In her remarks, H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Australia, recalled with gratitude the *“the men and women upon whose conviction and fortitude we founded a nation similarly imbued with a steadfast allegiance to freedom and the responsibilities that come with its upholding.”*

Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz, in recognition of the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Philippine-Australia relations, said that the friendship between the Philippines and Australia has broadened and deepened, matured and expanded into diverse areas of cooperation covering political, economic, socio-cultural and development fields. She assured everyone that the Philippines remains committed to bring Philippine-Australia relations to greater heights in the years to come.

The more than 200 guests were serenaded by Canberra’s own Rondanihan and treated to Filipino spirits including Don Papa Rum, a premium Filipino Rum, during the reception. In addition, each and every guest received a special *“It’s More Fun in the Philippines”* souvenir bag which included Filipino products by Oishi, Mama Sita’s Mixes and Sauces, 7D Mangoes and Cocoa Monster.

To complete the celebration, world-renowned Bayanihan, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, presented an outstanding set of Filipino folkdances at the James O’Fairfax Theater of the National Gallery of Australia. Bayanihan’s first performance in Canberra, Australia, once again made the Philippine proud through its captivating and beautiful rendition of Philippine dance traditions which left the audience captivated and in awe of the rich diversity of Philippine culture and heritage.

Bayanihan’s tour in Australia was made possible by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Philippine Airlines, the Department of Tourism, Victoria International Container Terminal and Philippine Tours. The Philippine Embassy in Canberra also thanks its donors, Oishi, Mama Sita’s Mixes and Sauces, 7D Mangoes, Don Papa Rum and Cocoa Monster. END



Ms. Lyndall Sachs, Chief of Protocol of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia and H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Australia after their respective toasts.



Guests eagerly anticipating the performance of Bayanihan, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, at the James O'Fairfax Theater of the National Gallery of Australia.



Rondanihan, under the tutelage of Mr. Ian Bull, played Philippine Rondalla music as guests entered the National Gallery of Australia.



Bayanihan, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, with Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz, her spouse retired Ambassador Luis Cruz, and Mr. Ian Robinson, Regional Manager of Philippine Airlines for Australia and New Zealand.



H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to Australia, with Mr. Ian Robinson, Regional Manager of Philippine Airlines for Australia and New Zealand. Philippine Airlines is a major sponsor of tour of Bayanihan, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, to Australia.



Each guest of the Philippine Embassy for the reception on the 118th Anniversary of Philippine Independence got a taste of the Philippine with their “It’s more fun in the Philippines” souvenir bags with special gifts from Oishi, Mama Sita’s Mixes and Sauces, 7D Mangoes, and Cocoa Monster.



The Philippine Embassy in Canberra proudly celebrating the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence at the National Gallery in Australia on 17 June 2016.