

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Embassy, Canberra*

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### **CONSULAR MISSIONS TO DARWIN AND ADELAIDE SERVICE 650 CLIENTS**

The Philippine Embassy rendered consular services to a total of six hundred fifty (650) consular clients in Darwin, Northern Territory and Adelaide, South Australia from 4 to 5 April and 8 to 9 April 2016, respectively.

Both Consular Missions were headed by Consul Jim B. San Agustin and included Mr. Carlomagno Estole, Mr. Ronaldo Pilapil and the Philippine Labor Attaché, Atty. Rodolfo Sabulao.

The Darwin Mission, with the support of the PH Honorary Consul General, Mr. Januario John Rivas and his wife Edna, attended to two hundred sixty nine (269) Philippine ePassport applicants and administered the oath of allegiance to twenty-two (22) applicants eligible to reacquire their Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225 or the Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003.

A number of Filipino Community leaders had the privilege of meeting Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz, who was in Darwin at that time upon the invitation of Northern Territory Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles to attend the Official Visit of the ASEAN Heads of Mission to Darwin.

On the other hand, with the support of PH Honorary Consul General Mark McBriarty, his wife Lee, and Filipino community volunteers, the Adelaide Consular Team assisted up to three hundred seventy six (376) Philippine ePassport applicants, and welcomed back forty-three (43) former Filipinos to the fold after taking their oath of allegiance to the Philippine flag in front of Consul San Agustin.

For both Missions, Atty. Rodolfo Sabulao was able to assist ninety-two (92) Filipinos under various work permits, other temporary workers, and international students by giving them advice on workers' rights and obligations under Australian law, as well as requirements for permanent residency. He also discussed the core programs and services of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) to OFWs.

During the Adelaide Mission, the Team had the opportunity to congratulate and send off the Philippine Army Dragon Warriors who won four gold medals and one silver at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Dragon Boat Federation Club Crew World Championship 2016 held on 24 March to 7 April 2016 in Adelaide. The team was headed by BGen Joselito Reyes, and manager Lt. Col. Marlowe Patria. Another Philippine team, the Philippine Coastguard Dragon Warriors, hauled five golds, one silver and one bronze.



**Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz (front row, 6<sup>th</sup> from right), Honorary Consul General Januario John Rivas (5<sup>th</sup> from right) and Consul Jim San Agustin (1<sup>st</sup> from left) are flanked by members of the Filipino Community in Darwin and adjacent towns in NT**



**The Consular Mission to Adelaide headed by Consul Jim San Agustin, with Honorary Consul General Mark McBriarty and Filipino Community volunteers**