

PRESS RELEASE

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AMBASSADOR MINDA CALAGUIAN-CRUZ MEETS WITH THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY OF NORTHERN TERRITORY

Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz met with members of the Filipino Community of Darwin, Northern Territory on Sunday, 3 April 2016 in separate occasions at the Hilton Hotel and the Parliament House of Northern Territory. Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz was in Darwin upon the invitation of the Northern Territory Government to attend the ASEAN Heads of Mission Official Visit to the Northern Territory.

During the meeting with seventeen (17) members of the Filipino Community that was organized by the Philippine Honorary Consul General to NT, Mr. Januario John Rivas, Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz shared that the NT government invited the ASEAN Ambassadors because of its interest in improving the economic, investment and trade relations between Northern Australia and ASEAN, particularly the Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines – East ASEAN Growth AREA (BIMP-EAGA), of which the Philippines is an integral part.

Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz congratulated the Filipino community leaders for contributing to the positive image of the Philippines in their adopted country, and for their continued efforts to promote and be involved in the economic development of the Philippines, through their livelihood programs and fundraising activities. Noting that the first wave of Filipinos in Australia came to Darwin as pearl divers back in the late 19th century, she suggested that the Filipino-Australians of Darwin document their contributions to the community and share the process of how the community is increasingly becoming empowered, in order to inspire future generations of Filipino immigrants to be positive agents of change for both the Philippines and Australia.

She commended Mr. Rivas for his dedicated consular work in NT, and for his economic diplomacy and humanitarian work in the Visayas and Mindanao.

At the reception hosted by Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles for the ASEAN Heads of Mission, Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz met leaders of the Filipino Australian Association of the Northern Territory (FAANT) led by Mr. Oscar Parian. After the reception, Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz joined in the birthday celebration of Fr. Felimon Libot, the Filipino priest of the Holy Family Parish.



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



Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz (3th from right), Deputy Chief Minister Peter Styles (4th from right), and Honorary Consul General John Rivas (1st from right) with officers of the Filipino Australian Association of the Northern Territory (FAANT) led by its President, Mr. Oscar Parian (5th from right).



Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz and Consul Jim San Agustin with Fr. Felimon Libot (standing, fourth from left), Parish Priest of the Holy Family Parish, and members of the Filipino Australian Association of the Northern Territory (FAANT).