

PRESS RELEASE

Philippine Ambassador Meets Filipino Community Leaders in the Australian Capital Territory



Philippine Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz thanks the Filipino Community Leaders and Members for supporting the *Pasko sa Canberra* and *Simbang Gabi* in 2016 and announced the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017 as well as Embassy's activities for 2017.

25 January 2017 - Philippine Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz hosted the Filipino community leaders and members in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) for a meeting and afternoon tea at the Ambassador's Residence on 25 January 2017. The Ambassador thanked the leaders and members for their full support and assistance for the Embassy's events in 2016, including the year-long celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-Australia diplomatic relations, *Pasko sa Canberra* and *Simbang Gabi*, among others.

Ambassador Cruz shared the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN this year and its significance given the grouping's 50th Anniversary and its growing importance and relevance, and highlights of the Embassy's proposed activities for 2017 was discussed. She welcomed the active involvement of the Filipino Community in all the Embassy's events in 2017.

ACT-based Filipino community organizations present during the event were ACT Filipino-Australian Social & Cultural Association (ACT FASCA), Couples for Christ, El Shaddai Prayer Group, Filipino Council of the ACT, Inc. (FCCACT), Filipino Language School, FilOZ Youth, Health Care Hospital Group, International Students, Legion of Mary, Philippine Australian Association, Philippine Cultural Society, Radyo Filipino Canberra, Rondanihan, Singles for Christ, The Family Rosary Group, Voices for Christ, and Fr. Luis Viovicente, the Filipino parish priest of St. Monica's Church Evatt who organized the celebration of *Simbang Gabi* in the past two years. END



Philippine Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz (6th from right) and Amb. Luis Cruz (retired) with ACT Filcom Leaders and Members at the Ambassador's Residence



Philippine Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz (5th from left) with ACT Filcom Leaders and Members at the Ambassador's Residence