

# PRESS RELEASE

## Philippine Embassy, Canberra

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### Cebu Pacific Launches Melbourne-Manila Flight



(L-R) Mr. Rick Howell, Chief Operations Adviser at Cebu Pacific, H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Philippine Tourism Attaché Norjamin delos Reyes and Mr. Simon Gandy, Chief of Aviation, Melbourne Airport, cut the cake at the launch of the Melbourne-Manila flight on 14 August 2018.

MELBOURNE, Australia (14 August 2018) – Philippine Ambassador to Australia H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, together with Tourism officials of the Philippines and Victoria, sent off Cebu Pacific's maiden Melbourne to Manila flight on 14 August 2018 at the Melbourne Tullamarine Airport. Starting 14 August, Cebu Pacific flies direct between Melbourne and Manila three times weekly.

Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz of the Philippine Embassy in Canberra said, *"This new travel route is a means for us to expand the social and economic relationship between the Philippines and Victoria. The Philippine Embassy certainly looks forward to building on this partnership with Cebu Pacific, together with the Department of Tourism of the Philippines, to showcase more of our culture and heritage. The expansion of flights between the Philippines and Australia also signals the growing economic ties between our countries."*

Australia is one of the top tourist sources of the Philippines. There are more than 300,000 Filipinos in Australia and Victoria is home to the second largest Filipino community in the country. With Cebu Pacific flying direct between the Philippines and two cities in Australia, it is hoped that more Australians, whether leisure tourists, vacationing families or adventure seekers will visit the Philippines. This new route will contribute to increasing trade, investment and tourism between the Philippines and Australia. END