



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CHICAGO CELEBRATES PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE

The Consulate General of the Philippines celebrated the 119th Anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence on Monday, 12 June 2017.

Consul General Generoso DG Calonge led the officers and staff members of the Consulate and members of the Filipino-American community in the traditional flag raising ceremony held at the Daley Center Plaza at 9:00 am.

After the flag raising ceremony, a reception for the Filipino Community was held at the Consulate General. Proclamations from Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner were read, citing the importance of the event to Filipino-Americans who made significant contributions to the development of their second home. The Mayor and Governor both declared June 12 as a day of celebration of Philippine Independence in the City of Chicago and State of Illinois.

Gracing the occasion was Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr., Asst. Majority Leader of the Philippine House of Representatives and 1AngEdukasyon Party-list Representative. As Guest of Honor, he cited the role of education in facilitating the growth of democracy, quoting U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's assertion that "*democracy is best realized when the people are prepared to accept and safeguard it with a continuing commitment to education.*"

Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. also expressed confidence in the National Economic and Development Authority's (NEDA) assessment that ***Ambisyon 2040 vision***—which represents the aspirations of the modern Filipino seeking a simple but comfortable life - is doable in 25 years.

A cultural show organized by the Philippine Independence Week Committee (PIWC) was presented at the Daley Plaza at 12:00 noon featuring traditional Filipino dresses, folk dances and folk songs interspersed with patriotic Filipino songs.

Congressman Belaro concluded the day with an afternoon call on Deputy Mayor Andrea Zopp at the latter's office in City Hall. They discussed matters of mutual concern focusing on issues of governance and education. **END**





Consul General Generoso DG Calonge (center) leading the flag raising ceremony at the Daley Plaza with Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr., Party list representative of the 17th Congress, as special guest, together with the Consulate General's Officers and Staff members and leaders of the Filipino Community.



(From Left) Ms. Emily Pevnick of the Chicago Mayor's Office, Consul General Generoso DG Calonge, Mr. Thomas Choi of the Governor's Office, Hon. Salvador B. Belaro, Jr. and wife Ms. Bernadette P. Reyes-Belaro at Fil-Com reception held at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General.