

H.E. Ambassador Alexander B. Yano delivering his Independence Day Message to members of the Filipino Community.



A Flag-Hoisting ceremony and Prayer for the Nation was held at 7:00 a.m. on 12 June 2010 at the grounds of the Philippine Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam to commemorate the 112th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

H.E. Ambassador Alexander B. Yano with wife Estela and Mrs. Edel Bartholomew, President of the Filipino Association in Brunei, cutting the Independence Day Cake. At right looking on is Archbishop Fernando Capalla, who was the celebrant for the Thanksgiving Mass held the following day.



The program began with Ambassador Alexander B. Yano hoisting the Philippine flag. He was assisted by Defense and Armed Forces Attaché Col. Emmanuel G. Cacdac, T/Sgt. Ernesto F. Guevarra, and representatives from the Filipino Community in Brunei Darussalam led by Ms. Edel Bartholomew, incumbent President of the Filipino Association in Brunei Darussalam (FAB), Mr. Feliciano "Boy" Caringal, Assistant Technical Operations Officer at the Istana Nurul Iman, and Ms. Loida Hernandez Rosas, who has been working in Brunei Darussalam since 1972.

The singing of the national anthem was led by Ms. Melanie Grace B. Sunga with organ accompaniment by Mr. Jojo Lemque.

The invocation was led by Mr. Edgardo Feliciano, Leader, Agape Family Center.

The Panunumpa sa Watawat (Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag) was led by Col. Raymundo M. Lomboy, PA who is currently enrolled as a student at the Executive Development Program in the Bolkiah Institute of Developmental Studies.

The closing song, "Pilipinas kong Mahal," was rendered by Ms. Melanie Grace B. Sunga with organ accompaniment by Mr. Jojo Lemque.

H.E. Ambassador Alexander B. Yano with representatives of the Filipino Community in Brunei Darussalam during the Flag-Hoisting Ceremony.



The second half of the program was marked by the reading of Independence Day Messages of key government officials, namely:

- H.E. Ambassador Alexander B. Yano gave his Independence Day address to members of the Filipino Community;
- H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, as read by Minister and Consul Celeste Vinzon Balatbat;
- The Honorable Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, as read by First Secretary and Consul General Raymond R. Balatbat; and
- The Honorable Marianito D. Roque, Secretary of Labor and Employment, as read by Labor Attaché Elizabeth O. Recio.

The following representatives of various religious denominations in Brunei Darussalam led the prayers for the nation:

- Mr. Henjie San Juan representing the Catholic faith: for the President and for all government officials, including Embassy officials, as well as for the country achieving economic growth and prosperity with the peaceful transition of the new administration;

- Mr. Hataman Noor Paraman, representing the Islamic faith: for the Filipino workers who contribute to the country's economic growth and prosperity, particularly the Overseas Filipino Workers; and
- Mr. Isagani Tumbokon, Leader, representing the Christian faith: for the country as it celebrates the 112th Anniversary of the Proclamation of its Independence, for the Filipino family, for the country's new President, Benigno 'Noy' Aquino III, and for the peace and unity of the Filipino nation.

Members of the Philippine Embassy with representatives of the Filipino Community in Brunei Darussalam attending the Flag-Hoisting Ceremony.



The final community song, "Heal Our Land," was led by Ms. Melanie Grace B. Sunga with organ accompaniment by Mr. Jojo Lemque.

A breakfast/fellowship followed soon afterwards highlighted by the cutting of the Independence Day Cake by H.E. Ambassador Alexander B. Yano and members of the Filipino Community.
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