

## PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN MANAMA CELEBRATES THE 121<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROCLAMATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE



Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Alfonso A. Ver leading the Flag-Raising Ceremony as the PSB Chorale sings of the National Anthem.

The Philippine Embassy in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain commemorated the 121<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence with a Flag-Raising Ceremony held at the Embassy grounds on 12 June 2019. Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H. E. Alfonso A. Ver, led the flag raising ceremony together with Mme. Caroline Belinda C. Ver, officers and staff of the Embassy and over 100 Filipino community leaders and members. The Philippine School Bahrain Chorale under the guidance

of Mr. Glen Raz led the singing of the National Anthem. The oath of allegiance to the Philippine flag was led by SSS Representative Edre G. Bayno.

The celebration was held under the theme “Kalayaan 2019: Tapang ng Bayan, Malasakit sa Mamayan (Independence 2019: “Courage of the nation, Compassion for the People”). The Philippine Flag was hoisted by Mr. Gerardo C. Tabangin of the Philippine Embassy and Capt. Francis Alexander R. Jose, the Philippine Navy’s Senior National Representative to the Combined Maritime Forces. To demonstrate the openness of Bahrain to other faiths, the invocation was led by representatives of different faiths, namely, Fr. Peter S. Eugenio of Sacred Heart Church, Brother Rene Alviar of Iglesia ni Cristo and Brother Nabiyyil Yusup for our Muslim brothers and sisters.





Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H.E. Alfonso A. Ver, reading the Independence Day message of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte

The Independence Day messages of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr., Secretary of Labor Silvestre Bello III, President & Chief Executive Officer of SSS and Chief Executive Officer of Pag-IBIG fund, were read during the program. Ambassador Ver also delivered his message to the Filipino Community encouraging members of the community to work together for the upliftment and advancement of Filipinos in Bahrain. Special performances during the program included the song number of Ms. Maria Elisha Esmeralda, and the Philippine School Bahrain Chorale group. Certificates of Recognition were also given out to leaders and volunteers who are supporting the Embassy and providing assistance to our less fortunate OFWs sheltered at the OWWA Migrant Workers and other Filipino Workers Center (OFWRC) Shelter.



Ms. Maria Elisha Esmeralda singing “itadyak” and the young members of the Philippine School Chorale group Singing the Visayan folk song “Rosas Pandan”.

The Embassy likewise conducted the soft opening of the Sentro Rizal and took the opportunity to introduce the works of Rizal to the young students from the Philippine School Bahrain who graced the occasion.



Ribbon cutting by H.E. Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver (center) with Mme. Caroline Belinda C. Ver, Consul General Maria Paz G. Cortes and Vice Consul Joaquin Ricardo R. Aragon and Cultural officer Josephine Tabangin marking the opening of the Embassy's Sentro Rizal.



Students from Philippine School Bahrain with the school Principal Mrs. Gydabelle Naval (standing from left and Mr. Glen Raz, inside the Sentro Rizal room.