

## FILIPINO ARTISTS GROUP GIFT TO CEO OF BAHRAIN LABOUR MARKET REGULATORY AUTHORITY



From left, Ambassador Ver, Ms. Cathy Paje, LMRA CEO Ausamah Al Absi and Aileen Cataneo-Amado

FilCreatives, a Bahrain-based Filipino artists' group turned-over recently two (2) paintings to Hon. Ausamah Al Absi, Chief Executive Officer of the Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of his retirement from his Post on 31 October 2020.

The gift of two paintings are more importantly, in recognition of the many labour and employment reforms initiated by Al Absi during his tenure as LAMRA CEO which have benefitted the Overseas Filipino Workers in Bahrain such as the Flexi Visa and Work Permit, the amnesty for overstaying workers, addressing grievances and complaints of OFW, online processing and streamlining of labour applications, the establishment of an Expat Protection Shelter, repatriation of OFWs, financial assistance and relief from certain payments and charges during the COVID pandemic, among other projects.

For his part, Ambassador Ver noted that Embassy and the LMRA have partnered in pursuing many other programs, not the least of which is the cooperation in advancing workers and migrants rights under the Global Compact for Migration and anti-human trafficking initiatives including the arrest and conviction of a trafficking gang and the grant of financial assistance to the victims in the Philippines.

One painting entitled "Expats" (seen rightmost in the photo above) was made by Aileen Cataneo-Amado, who has been in Bahrain for eleven (11) years and currently a full-time mother. Aileen explained that her painting depicts the different kinds of occupations performed by different nationalities in Bahrain that have thrived and contributed positively to the Kingdom under the administration of Al Absi in the LMRA.

The other painting entitled "Horse" is a work of Rudy Perey a furniture artist and painter who as worked in Bahrain for three (3) years. Al Absi noted that the horse is a prized and noble animal and is highly regarded in many cultures including the Arabs.

Al Absi thanked the Filipino artists and promised that the painting "Expats" shall be proudly displayed at the Bahrain Expat Protection Center as it most appropriately symbolizes Bahrain and the LMRA have made the Kingdom as the model labour-destination in the Gulf for all workers from all countries.