

**PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN MANAMA LAUNCHES FREE CLASSES ON FILIPINO LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND HISTORY**



**Philippine Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, H. E. Alfonso A. Ver, delivering his Welcome Remarks**

On 05 October 2018, the Philippine Embassy in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain launched its Wika, Kultura at Kasaysayan sa Embahada (WIKKA) project, an eight-week program on Filipino language, culture and history for Filipino children. The program is free and open to Filipino children from ages 5 to 11 years old. A total of 25 children, most of whom were born and raised in Bahrain, were registered by their parents for the WIKKA program.



H. E. Alfonso A. Ver leading the WIKKA students in singing the National Anthem and the recitation of the Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat.



The opening ceremony started with the singing of the *Lupang Hinirang*, which was followed by the recitation of the *Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat*, as a way to introduce the participants to our Flag and National Anthem. H. E. Ambassador Alfonso A. Ver delivered his welcome remarks to greet the students and parents and to impart to them the importance of introducing the younger generation of Filipinos, including those from mixed heritage, to the Filipino language and culture. Consul Maria Paz G. Cortes also provided the parents with a brief orientation on the WIKKA project.

Classes immediately followed after the opening program. The kids were grouped into two classes - the Mabuhay class, for kids from 5 to 7 years old, and the Bayani class for children from 8 to 11 years old. Both classes are handled by volunteer teachers from the Filipino Community and Embassy personnel. WIKKA sa Embahada will have classes every Friday until 30 November 2018. END.





Volunteer Teacher Ms. Rowena Desierto discussing the PHL Flag and the Alphabetong Filipino to the Bayani Class.





Volunteer Teachers discussing the Alphabetong Filipino to the Mabuhay Class.



WIKKA Volunteer Teachers ( from left Ms. Buenafe Dumoran, Ms. Rowena Desierto, Ms. Doqueza Buyante, Ms. Jewel Oliveros, Ms. Imelda Limsic, Ms. Isabel Lamsis and Ms. Mona Pable)