

Philippine Embassy in Doha hosts Diplomatic Reception in Celebration of 120th PHL Independence Day



Top photo L to R: H.E. Alan Timbayan, Philippine Ambassador to Qatar, is joined by H.E. Dr. Essa Bin Saad Al Jafaly Al-Nuaimi, Minister of Administrative Development and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and MOFA Chief of Protocol H.E. Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro during the ceremonial cake cutting. Among the Filipino food served for the reception is the Beef *sisig* in fried wonton cups (photo by Chef Adrillana). Bottom photo L to R: Soprano, Stefanie Quintin delivers a mesmerizing performance of Filipino classics *Usahay*, *Pobrang Alindahaw* and *Kalesa* as well as *All The Things You Are* (from *Very Warm for May*) and *Les Filles de Cadix*. Doha PE ladies pose with the *Color of Freedom Exhibit* courtesy of NCCA.

13 May 2018 -The Philippine Embassy in Doha hosted a diplomatic reception in celebration of the 120th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in the Westin Doha Hotel & Spa on the 6th of May 2016.

Some 250 guests from the diplomatic corps, government officials, business community, academe, and the Filipino community attended the event. H.E. Dr. Essa Bin Saad Al Jafaly Al-Nuaimi, Minister of Administrative Development and Social Affairs, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Bin Saleh Al-Nuaimi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and MOFA Chief of Protocol, H.E. Ibrahim Yousif Abdullah Fakhro were the guests of honor from the Qatar government side.

In his speech, Ambassador Alan L. Timbayan mentioned that this year's theme, "*Pagbabagong ipinaglaban, alay sa masaganag kinabukasan*", describes how our

"independent foreign policy" has been instrumental in stretching our diplomatic reach and fostering friendship and cooperation with the international community. One such friendship, PH-Qatar relations, is based on mutual respect for cultural diversity and religious tolerance.

Michelle Adrillana, guest from the Philippines, who was in Doha for the Philippine Food Festival in cooperation with National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), also showcased Filipino cuisine during the reception. Among the popular dishes served were Beef *sisig* in fried wonton cups, *Tinola* martini, Chicken *Inasal* Burrito, *Adobo* arancini, Lamb *Kaldereta* Shepherd's Pie and *Babyngka* (mini *bibingka*).

The reception also featured the *Colors of Freedom Exhibit* which was provided by NCCA. The exhibit depicts the history and evolution of the Philippine flag, the meaning of every color and emblem, and the significance of the Philippine flag to the Filipino people.

Another highlight of the event is performance of soprano, Stefanie Quintin and pianist, Jesper Mercado who serenaded guests with Filipino classics *Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko*, *Minamahal Kita*, *Bituing Marikit*, *Usahay*, *Pobreng Alindahaw* and *Kalesa*. They also sang All The Things You Are (from Very Warm for May) and Les Filles de Cadix, a repeat performance from their concert in the Katara Opera House held on May 4. **END**