



PRESS RELEASE
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CONSUL GENERAL ADELIO ANGELITO CRUZ SPEAKS AT THE “KALAYAAN, INC.” GRAND BALL



Photo above shows Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz delivers his keynote speech.

Los Angeles, 18 June 2018 – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz was the keynote Speaker at the *Kalayaan* Grand Ball hosted by *Kalayaan* Inc. in its commemoration of the 120th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Philippine Independence.

Kalayaan, Inc., a non-profit umbrella organization of Filipino-American community, is recognized as the foremost organizer of the Philippine Independence Day in Southern California since early 2000. Its Executive Officers and Board Directors are composed of active and distinguished leaders of various Fil-Am Organizations who have been involved in the community in Southern California for many years.

Organized on an annual basis with the support of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, the celebration, which was attended by about 800 Filcom leaders, members of the Filipino-American media, businessmen, entrepreneurs, local celebrities, elected and appointed local government officials, showcased Filipino culture and heritage, drawing attention to the contributions that Filipinos and Filipino-Americans have made to the community.

In his remarks, Consul General Cruz, reflecting on this year's theme, “*Pagbabagong ipinaglaban, alay sa masaganang kinabukasan*”, appealed to the Filipino community to remember and uphold the valor and sacrifices of our heroes by continuing to work towards a bright future of our nation.

He shared the undertakings of the current administration to sustain the rule of law, dismantle terrorist organizations, reduce poverty and achieve inclusive economic growth. He announced the good news about the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, which provides free tuition to students of state universities and colleges; the Tax Reform Program which gives the minimum-and small-wage earners to have a larger take-home pay; the “Build, Build, Build” Program improving our roads, railways, bridges and ports which boosts economic activity by creating jobs, facilitating the movement of people, goods and services and promoting trade; and the opening of the new Mactan-Cebu International Airport Terminal 2, dubbed “the Philippines’ first resort airport” which can serve up to 12.5 million travelers.

He also took the opportunity to thank the community for its valuable support to the programs and projects of the Consulate General and affirmed that the Consulate General in Los Angeles will continue to work hard to improve its services to the public.

“Our freedom is our shared legacy and achievement while our sustained progress and future, our collective accountability. This is a call to all Filipinos, back at home and across the world”, he concluded.

As has been the tradition for many years, Kalayaan Inc.’s celebration has a central motif based on the province where its incumbent Chairman hails from. This year’s motif was focused on the history of Bohol, in particular the “blood compact” marking the first treaty of friendship between the Philippines and a foreign power which was done in the province of Bohol where Chairman Susan Dilkes was born and raised. A video-message from Governor of Bohol Edgar M. Chatto was also featured.

Talents/Artists from the Philippines brought by ABS-CBN the Filipino Network, singers Jona Viray and Sam Milby who attended the annual Independence Day Parade and Festival at the City of Carson, also graced the gala with their presence. END.



Kalayaan, Inc. Executive Officers and Board Directors.



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Ms. Susan Dilkes, 2018 Chairman and President of Kalayaan, Inc. delivers her remarks.



Video-taped message of Bohol Governor Edgar M. Chatto



Cultural Dances by Likas Pilipinas- Paso Doble.



Cultural Dances by Likas Pilipinas- Pandango sa Ilaw.



Likas Pilipinas in their "Maglalatik" dance



Musical Documentary Video "Blood Compact Tableau"



Ms. Susan Dikes presenting the Awards of Recognition to Consul General Cruz witnessed by TFC Artists Sam Milby and Jona Viray together with Madame Cruz (in the middle)



(L-R) Consul General Cruz, Ms. Annie Cuevas-Lim, Kalayaan Inc.'s Vice Chair; Madame Cruz, Ms. Dikes, Jona Viray and Sam Milby.