



Amb. Romualdez Meets with L.A. City Mayor



(left to right) L.A. City Deputy Mayor for International Relations Hachigan, Mayor Garcetti, Ambassador Romualdez, and Consul General Cruz.

Los Angeles, CA – Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel G. Romualdez, was received by L.A. City Mayor Eric Michael Garcetti on 16 September 2019 at the historic City Hall in downtown Los Angeles.

The two affirmed the robust state of relations between the Philippines and the United States rooted in time-tested friendship and mutual trust. The Ambassador spoke about the Filipinos’ enduring perception of the United States as the Philippines’ most trusted ally.

“The United States’ aircraft carrier USS George Washington was the first ship to arrive in Tacloban in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda). I wrote about it in my column entitled, “God Bless America”,” the Ambassador cited as an example of how committed the U.S. is to one of its strongest allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Los Angeles, Filipino-Americans enjoy the confidence of the city government as can be seen from Mayor Garcetti’s appointment of several Fil-Ams to key management portfolios. Ambassador Romualdez thanked the Mayor for his trust in their capabilities.

The Filipino-American community is one of the largest and most dynamic ethnic communities in the City with its population numbering 132,667. Mayor Garcetti mentioned the growing popularity of Filipino food and culture, drawing on the shared Hispanic heritage between Fil-Ams and Angelenos.

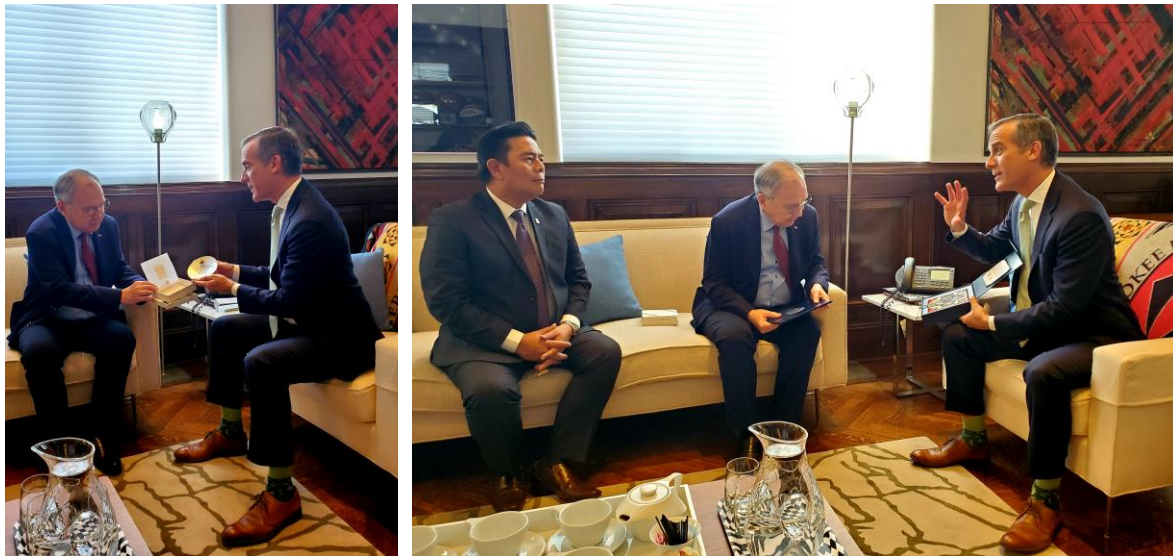


The animated discussion between the Ambassador and Mayor Garcetti delved on issues affecting the Filipino-American community such as immigration, human trafficking, infrastructure development and environmental protection. The two were very optimistic on the prospect of institutionalizing a cooperation framework between the Philippines and Los Angeles focusing on technology exchange, culture, tourism and

sports. (Left photo)

Also present during the call were Deputy Mayor for International Relations Nina Hachigian, Director for Policy and Protocol, Dilpreet Sidhu and some of the Mayor's Filipino-American appointees.

Joining the Ambassador was a delegation from the Philippine Consulate General headed by Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz.



Mayor Garcetti and Ambassador Romualdez presenting a gift to each other.

Mayor Garcetti, in his meetings with Filipino officials, would tell the story of his grandfather who served in the Philippines during World War II. He is the 42nd Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and is known for his modern and hip approach to city management. END.