ADVISORY 12 ON THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 cases in Southern California, Southern Nevada, and Arizona (as of 19 March 2020)
- Southern California has 391 COVID-19 cases with 5 deaths
- Southern Nevada has reported 42 COVID-19 cases with 1 death
- State of Arizona has confirmed 44 COVID-19 cases with 0 deaths

Based on Philippine Presidential Proclamation No. 929 Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019 dated 16 March 2020, and Proclamation No. 922 Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines dated 08 March 2020, all foreign nationals who wish to travel to the Philippines are informed that the issuance of Philippine visas is temporarily suspended.

Even foreign nationals who have already been issued a Philippine visa (primarily 9a Temporary Visitor/Tourist visa) by any Philippine Embassy or Consulate General will not be allowed to enter the Philippines starting 22 March 2020.

With this temporary suspension, all visa-free privileges including those based on Visa Waiver Agreements, those under Executive Order 408, s.1960, and for holders of Hong Kong and Macau SAR passports, Macau-Portuguese passports, and British National Overseas passports, are likewise temporarily suspended, effective 22 March 2020.

The temporary suspension has no impact on the following:
1. Foreign nationals who are already in the Philippines or holders of visas issued by other Philippine government agencies;
2. Foreign spouses and children of Filipino nationals who are traveling with the Filipino national and fall under EO 408 (non-visa required nationals); and
3. Visas previously issued to accredited Foreign Government and International Organization officials and their dependents.

The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles reiterates that it has temporarily suspended all of its consular services beginning 19 Mar 2020, until further notice.

Filipino-Americans in Southern California, Southern Nevada and Arizona are likewise reminded of travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. Government pertaining to the temporary closure of the U.S. border with Canada to non-essential travels; on the Schengen Area, consisting of 26 countries; and on the United Kingdom and Ireland following the issuance of the 3rd and 4th U.S. Presidential proclamations signed on 11 and 14 March, respectively.

On 19 March 2020, the U.S. State Department announced the suspension of its visa services in most countries worldwide and raised its Global Health Advisory Alert to Level 4 – “Do Not Travel” urging U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel.

Existing COVID-19 travel restrictions imposed by the Philippine and U.S. Governments may be accessed through the following links:

- Philippine Bureau of Immigration: http://immigration.gov.ph/
- U.S. State Department: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/COVID-19-Country-Specific-Information.html

The public may call 2-1-1, the central source for providing information and referrals for all health and human services, for emergency health assistance anywhere within the United States of America. Said phone line is open 24 hours, seven days a week, with trained Community Resource Advisors prepared to offer help with any situation, any time. END.