



Philcongen LA Facilitates Reunification of Nanay Fedelina and Family

11 March 2020 – Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz welcomed Nanay Fedelina Lugasan and her Philippine-based relatives who flew in from Manila on 09 March 2020. Nanay Fedelina and her NOKs were accompanied by representatives from the Pilipino Workers Center of Southern California (PWC) namely, Ms. Aquilina S. Versoza, Executive Director, Ms. Malou Villacisneros, Operations Manager and Ms. Hannah De Castro-Abinuman.



Consul General Cruz (center) welcomes Nanay Fedelina Lugasan (4th photo from left), her family members Luz Lugasan Alabado (1st photo from left), Leonila Lugasan Cinco (2nd photo from left) and Aquilina S. Versoza (far right).

During the meeting, Nanay Fedelina and her NOKs conveyed their sincerest gratitude to PHL Ambassador Jose Manuel G. Romualdez for all the assistance extended to them, especially in securing the NOKs' U.S. visas.

On 10 March 2020, Nanay Fedelina and her NOKs were presented to the public during a program arranged by PWC entitled, *"Muling Pagkikita: A Family Reunion"*. A panel discussion on labor and human trafficking was held in conjunction with the reunification, which was attended by various migrants advocates and members of the media.



(L-R) Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III, Chrystine Abcede (granddaughter), Luz Lugasan Alabado (niece), Leonila Lugasan Cinco (sister), Consul General Cruz, Madame Catherine A. Cruz, Nanay Fedelina Lugasan, Aquilina S. Versoza (PWC Executive Director), Malou Villacisneros (PWC Operations Manager), Judelyn M. Cuaresma (PCGLA Assistance-to-Nationals Officer)

In Consul General Cruz' remarks during the program, he expressed his appreciation to PWC for its continued collaboration with the Consulate General, as well as the collective efforts of various advocates in ensuring that Nanay Fedelina be given justice. Consul General Cruz also highlighted the crucial role played by PHL Ambassador Romualdez in making this reunion a reality.

Consul General Cruz added that it takes only one person to identify, suspect and assist a possible human trafficking victim that would change one person's life forever. He calls on the community to continue to report trafficking victims to the authorities and that the Philippine government will extend all possible assistance to them.

To date, Nanay Fedelina has been an active trafficking advocate herself since she was rescued in early 2018 from a slave-like condition of domestic servitude for more than six (6) decades at the hands of a family from Southern California. She shares her story during

meetings and gatherings of migrants advocates to help them in their fight against all forms of trafficking, as well as to inspire other trafficking victims to come into the open to receive justice for themselves. END.



Left photo: Edward Jez Camino, Luz Lugasan Alabado, Nanay Fedelina Lugasan, Leonila Lugasan Cinco, Chrystine Abcede, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz.

Center photo: Panel discussion on labor and human trafficking by various migrants advocates composed of Atty. Juliana Zhu, Immigration Lawyer; Ms. Aquilina S. Versoza, PWC Executive Director; Ms. Cristal Mills, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Mr. Alexander Delgado, U.S. Committee on Refugees and Immigrants; Atty. Ian Seruelo, Immigration Lawyer; and Ms. Aurora Andalajao, PWC Case Manager.

Right photo: Luz Lugasan Alabado, Nanay Fedelina Lugasan, Leonila Lugasan Cinco, Chrystine Abcede.