



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release
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PhilConGen LA Sends Off 148 Filipino Crew of Royal Seven Seas Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Holdings, Ltd.



22 April 2020, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General-LA, led by Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz, assisted and sent off a total of 148 Filipino cruise ship crewmembers employed by Regent Seven Seas Cruises (RSSC) and Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) who left for the Philippines in separate batches in the evenings of 16, 18, 19 and 20 April 2020 through the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

This brings the total of Filipino seafarers assisted by the Consulate General to 1,151.

These Filipino seafarers disembarked from the *M/S Regent Seven Seas Mariner* and *M/S Norwegian Joy* both docked at the Port of Los Angeles, after completing more than 14-days of quarantine onboard without exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms.

Consulate General officials accompanied the Filipino crewmembers at the Tom Bradley International Terminal and informed them of what to expect when they arrive in the Philippines, particularly on new quarantine protocols. Consul General Cruz emphasized the Philippine government's efforts to get OFWs like them safely back to their families. The Consulate General also distributed flyers containing Philippine quarantine guidelines, as well as contact details of relevant government agencies.

Labor Attaché Armi Evangel N. Peña, for her part, reminded the seafarers of their rights as OFWs and the services available to returning OFWs that the government could give them.

This repatriation was made possible through the concerted efforts of the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C., DFA-OUMWA, and other key PHL government agencies.

Airfare and other related repatriation costs were borne by the employers, RSSC and NCL, as well as the PHL-based manning agencies.

Completing the Consulate General's Assistance to Nationals team were Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III, Vice Consul Joan Macrise C. Corrado, ATN Officer Judelyn M. Cuaresma, Consular Office Alexander Nelson B. Maestrado, Protocol Officer Fernand Balicoco and Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Los Angeles Administrative Staff Atty. Miguel Ignacio Maria S. Castriciones. END.