



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release  
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## **PhilConGen LA Sends Off 49 Filipino Crew of *Grand Princess***



23 April 2020, Los Angeles – The Assistance to Nationals Team of the Philippine Consulate General-LA, assisted and sent off 49 Filipino cruise ship crewmembers employed by Princess Cruises who left for the Philippines in the morning of 23 April 2020 through the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) via a commercial flight.

This brings the total of Filipino seafarers assisted by the Consulate General to 1,199.

The Filipino seafarers were among those who stayed behind onboard the COVID-19 struck cruise ship *M/S Grand Princess* that docked at the Port of Oakland on 09 March 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., as part of the essential crew for minimum manning of the ship.

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. Vice Consul Corrado 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 reminded the seafarers of their rights as OFWs and the services available to returning OFWs that the government could give them. LabAtt Peña also distributed the US\$200 DOLE-AKAP financial assistance to some of the crew members who have earlier submitted complete requirements to qualify.

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 employer, Princess Cruises, as well as the PHL-based manning agency.

Joining the Consulate General's Assistance to Nationals team were Consular Officer Jay Perez and Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Los Angeles Administrative Staff Atty. Miguel Ignacio Maria S. Castriciones. END.