



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



Press Release
AASC- 082-2020

PHLCONGEN LA, CFO Hold Second *Ugnayan sa Los Angeles*



23 October 2020, Los Angeles – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles successfully held the second *Ugnayan sa Los Angeles*, in partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), via the Zoom online platform on 22 October 2020 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time).

This follows the first *Ugnayan sa Los Angeles* held as an in-person town hall meeting at the Consulate General's Community Hall on 26 November 2019 during a visit to Southern California by a five-member CFO official delegation led by its Secretary, Justice (ret) Francisco C. Acosta on 21-30 November 2019.

In his welcome remarks, Consul General Adelio Angelito S. Cruz commended the CFO for continuing the *Ugnayan* program despite the pandemic given that it is a wonderful platform by which overseas Filipinos can engage with government officials and community partners.

The Consul General mentioned how fitting it is that the event coincides with the celebration of the Filipino American History Month as the goal of the event is to draw government closer to the Filipino diaspora.



Justice Acosta gave the first presentation, giving the viewers an overview of the CFO's programs, the national government's CoVid-19 pandemic response and encouraged the overseas Filipinos in the audience to continue engaging with the country.

Filipino community leaders from Southern California, Arizona, and Southern Nevada made presentations on the impact of the pandemic on their communities and their organizations' programs and projects in response to the pandemic. Among the presenters were Ms. Aquilina Soriano Versoza of the Pilipino Workers Center (PWC) Los Angeles; Ms. Alma de Garriz, President of the Council of Filipino Organizations (CFO) of Arizona; Ms. Gloria Caoile, 1996 CFO Presidential Awardee; and Ms. Amie Belmonte, President of FilAm in Power representing Southern Nevada.

PHL Honorary Consul in San Diego, California, Atty. Audie J. de Castro, and Atty. C. Joe Sayas, Jr., 2018 CFO Presidential Awardee discussed legal concerns of the Filipino-American community while Mr. Eric Lachica discussed the 2020 U.S. Census and its impact on the Filipino-American community.

Mr. Carlo Magno Salazar, PHL Bureau of Immigration, gave a talk on travel restrictions imposed by the Philippine government on foreign nationals, CFO Director Marita del Rosario Apattad reported on the Exchange Visitors Program while Mr. Rodrigo Garcia, Jr. talked about the CFO's Programs and Services such as *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL), YouLead, *Gawad Pangulo* and the Migration Advocacy and Media (MAM) Awards.

An open forum was held after the presentations during which the resource speakers responded to questions taken from the audience via Facebook (FB) Live and via Zoom.

After the forum, CFO Undersecretary Astravel Pimentel-Naik gave a brief synopsis of the presentations and delivered closing remarks.

The event was co-emceed by Ms. Joanna Lyn Rodriguez of CFO and Vice Consul Joan Macrise C. Corrado of the Consulate General.

The online event garnered more than 3,000 views during the livestream, which was live on CFO's FB page and linked on the Consulate General's own FB page. END.