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CONSUL GENERAL BADAJOS SETS POLICY DIRECTION, WORK AGENDA FOR PHLCONGEN IN L.A.



Seen in the photo are Consul General Edgar B. Badajos (center), Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian F. Enciso III (left) and Consul Dyan Kristine B. Miranda-Pastrana (right).

16 April 2021, Los Angeles – In his first full week as Consul General of the Philippines to Los Angeles, Consul General Edgar B. Badajos laid out his policy direction and work agenda to advance the country's foreign policy goals and further enhance services to overseas Filipinos under the LA Consulate's jurisdiction by further strengthening friendly ties and cooperation with the local government and the Filipino-American community.

On 12 April 2021, the Consul General virtually called on Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America, His Excellency Jose Manuel G. Romualdez. During the call, Consul General Badajos committed to take immediate steps to address the overwhelming demand for consular services in Southwest amidst the CoViD-19 pandemic (photo right).



Consul General Badajos also reported that L.A. County is gradually opening up the local economy as it transitions to a less restrictive tier under California's reopening plan. With this positive development, Consul General Badajos informed the Ambassador that the Consulate is seriously considering increasing the number of consular service appointment slots it makes available, as well as conduct more consular outreach missions outside of L.A.

In terms of helping the Philippines mitigate the increasing number of CoViD-19 cases and deaths, he reported to the Ambassador that, *“the Consulate General has already made representations at various levels of the U.S. Government and also urged individuals and Filipino-American Community organizations under its jurisdiction to ask the assistance of local, state, and federal officials in appealing to the Biden Administration to allow the release US-manufactured vaccines to the Philippines.”*

As the Philippines and the United States of America commemorate 75 years of diplomatic ties this year, Consul General Badajos, together with his economic diplomacy team, participated in the virtual economic briefing on 14 April 2021 dubbed, *“PH-US at 75: Strengthening Ties through Sustainable Recovery, a Virtual Economic Briefing.”* The briefing featured high-level panelists from both government and business sectors of the Philippines and the U.S.

“This high-level economic briefing is a way forward for bilateral trade and investments in the context of both countries’ pandemic response and recovery plans with sustainability, convergence of priorities and opportunities for further cooperation as the key operating principles,” he told his team following the conclusion of the briefing. *“We have to be more proactive in supporting this endeavor,”* he added.

Consul General Badajos personally met with representatives of various Philippine Government agencies attached to the Consulate General in the morning of 15 April 2022.



During the meeting, the Consul General emphasized that *“we have to collectively pursue the country’s foreign policy agenda according to the principle of the “One-Country Team Approach” pursuant to Executive Order No. 74 s. 1993... I urge you to submit your*

scheduled activities for the year so we could come up with ‘one comprehensive annual calendar.’ I also encourage you to develop new programs or initiatives, which you may introduce during our virtual meeting with the Filipino community next week” (above photo left).

In the afternoon of the same day, Consul General Badajos received Honorary Consul Audie J. De Castro, Esq. who is based in San Diego, CA, via a virtual courtesy call. He urged Honorary Consul De Castro to help the Consulate in extending consular services to more overseas Filipinos in San Diego and neighboring areas by getting a bigger venue for future consular outreach programs in the area, among other measures.

Consul General Badajos also inquired on the situation of Filipinos in San Diego, particularly if there have been any reports of racial hate incidents targeting communities of color. Honorary Consul De Castro assured the Consul General that he is also closely monitoring the issue and the situation does not yet raise serious concerns for the community.



Capping off of his week, the Consul General convened his first general assembly with Consulate General personnel. He expressed appreciation for their hard work, adding, *“I challenge you to think outside the box as we collectively confront consular challenges. My office is open to recommendations. Continue extending your hands to your colleagues as we embark on further expanding our services, activities, projects and programs.”*

ConGen Badajos is the 18th Consul General of the Philippines in Los Angeles. His official profile can be viewed [here](#).