



Press Release
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FIL-AM BUSINESSES IN ARIZONA THRIVE AMIDST THE PANDEMIC



(Clockwise) Consul General Edgar B. Badajos visits Heritage Metalworks Inc., Revive Auto, Filipino-American Journal and Travel Agency, and Emerald Computers.

Los Angeles, CA, 14 September 2021 – On the sidelines of the Philippine Consulate General's Consular Outreach Program in Arizona on 11 to 12 September 2021, Consul General Edgar Badajos visited eight (8) Filipino-owned businesses and he was impressed to find out that these businesses are thriving despite the pandemic.

Of the 8 businesses, 4 are restaurants offering Filipino cuisine namely, Flaming Pig, Nanay's Authentic Filipino Homestyle Cuisine, *Lutong Bahay*, and Restaurant & Bakery Casa Filipina. The other 4 included a metalworks (pewter) souvenir shop, a car repair and maintenance shop, a newspaper, and a computer shop.



(Clockwise) Consul General Badajos visits *Lutong Bahay*, Nanay's Authentic Filipino Homestyle Cuisine, Restaurant & Bakery Casa Filipina and Flaming Pig.

According to the shop owners, they all experienced a slowdown in business because of the pandemic. However, they plowed on and are now "seeing the light at the end of the tunnel," thanks to the support of the local government and the continued patronage of members of the Filipino community especially for those of them that are in the food business. Consul General Badajos commended the business owners for their grit and determination. He also lauded them for providing employment to other Filipinos in Arizona and in the Philippines, and for helping promote greater awareness of Filipino culture through their products and services. Consul General Badajos took the opportunity to encourage business owners, particularly non-food enterprises, to set up branches in the Philippines noting the newly enacted law dubbed, "Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises Act, or "CREATE," which reduces corporate income tax to 25%, and 20% for small businesses.

Accompanying the Consul General in these visits were Information Officer Ms. Mary Grace "Joss" D. Leaño, Protocol Officer Mr. Elvis M. Tamayo and Mr. Jun Rivera, President of the Philippine American Chamber Association (PACCA), the Filipino-American community organization partner of the Consulate General in organizing the consular outreach mission to Phoenix. END.