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PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



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LA PCG AND FASGI CLOSE COTABATO RARE-PRE-COLONIAL LIMESTONE ARTIFACTS EXHIBIT



Los Angeles, 9 January 2024 – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, in collaboration with the Filipino American Service Group, Inc. (FASGI), held a ceremony to mark the end of the exhibit of pre-colonial Cotabato Limestone Artifacts held at FASGI Bayanihan Center. The exhibit, which ran for ten-months (7 March 2023 to 6 January 2024), featured an exceptionally rare collection of pre-colonial limestone artifacts discovered in the caves of the Kulaman Plateau in Cotabato, which is known to be inhabited by the Manobos and other ethnolinguistic groups.

Each artifact on display dates back approximately 2800 to 1000 years old and were mainly used as secondary burial urns. The artifacts are set to be repatriated to the Philippines in the second week of January, under the care of the National Museum of the Philippines.



Consul General Edgar B. Badajos, in his welcome remarks, highlighted how these artifacts showcased our profound connection to our ancestors and symbolized the remarkable progress achieved by our pre-colonial societies and civilization, both in terms of material creation and conceptualizations about life, death, and the afterlife.

Consul General Badajos also thanked the Von dem Hagen family for donating this rare collection of pre-colonial Philippine artifacts for the benefit of the younger Filipino generation, and FASGI for taking the initiative to share this collection to the wider Filipino-American community prior to the collection's repatriation to the Philippines.



Prior to officially closing the exhibit, Dr. Stephen Acabado, Chair of UCLA's Archaeological Interdepartmental Program and Director of its Center for Southeast Asian Studies, delivered a lecture on the results of their studies of these artifacts. He expressed the possibility of conducting a larger exhibit featuring these artifacts at the UCLA museum in 2025.



Dr. Jeremy Barnes, Director of the National Museum of the Philippines, delivered a video message for the event. He emphasized the importance of repatriating these artifacts to preserve our cultural heritage. The National Museum of the Philippines will serve as the custodian and protector of this collection in the Philippines. **END.**