



Pastor Rico Buenaobra of the Faith Community Filipino Christian Ministry while giving an inspirational talk during the Philippine Independence Day Inter-Faith Prayer for the Nation held at the "Ang Bahay" on 2 June 2012.

18 June 2012- As a fitting start to the series of celebrations for the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence in New Zealand, Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez and the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Wellington organized an inter-faith Prayer for the Nation at the "Ang Bahay" (Philippine Embassy Residence) last June 2.

Called the "Day of Prayer in Celebration of the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Philippine Independence Day and Launching of Prayer Request Box", nearly 100 religious leaders and representatives from Filipino organizations attended this first ever gathering to pray for the Philippines and the Filipino people.

The Wellington Filipino Community Choir (WFCC) led the singing of the Philippine national anthem and rendered the opening songs "The Prayer" and "You are My Hiding Place".



Ambassador Virginia H. Benavidez leads the launching of the "Prayer Request Box" to be placed at the Embassy's consular section. Prayer requests from the community that will be distributed to the different church groups in Wellington to pray over may be placed in the box.

Philippine Independence Day Celebrations in New Zealand Start with First Ever Prayer for the Nation
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Pastor Jake Ormsby of the Seventh Day Adventist Church greets Ambassador Benavidez with a traditional Maori greeting called the hongi. It is done by pressing one's nose and forehead at the same time to the other person's during an encounter for a symbolic exchange of the breath of

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Prayer for the Nation Sheikh Mohammad Amir, Chairman of the Board of Scholars' Federation of Islamic Association of New Zealand (FIANZ), says his prayer for the nation during the Philippine Independence Day inter-faith gathering at the "Ang Bahay" on 2 June 2012.

Prayer for the Nation
The prayer for the nation was held at the New Zealand Convention Centre in Auckland on Monday night. The prayer was led by the Rev. Fr. John O'Sullivan, a priest from the Diocese of Auckland. The prayer was a special occasion for the Filipino community in New Zealand, as it was the first time a prayer for the nation was held in the country. The prayer was held in the presence of a large number of people, including members of the Filipino community, as well as people from other communities. The prayer was a beautiful and moving experience for everyone who attended.