



Ambassador Constancio R. Vingno, Jr. and his spouse, Mme. Yoko Ramos-Vingno, with members of the Filipino communities in Southern Africa at the flag-raising ceremony *salu-salo* on 17 June 2012.

21 June 2012 - The Philippine Embassy in South Africa, led by Ambassador Constancio R. Vingno, organized an Independence Day *salu-salo* at the Embassy grounds with members of the Filipino communities in Southern Africa on June 17, as part of the Embassy's activities to

commemorate the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence.



Embassy officers, staff, their family members and members communities sing the National Anthem as the flag is raised.

The day-long affair started with a flag-raising ceremony led by the Ambassador and his spouse, Mme. Yoko Ramos-Vingno.

The Independence Day messages of Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and President Benigno S. Aquino III were then read by Second Secretary and Consul Eric R. Aquino

and the Ambassador, respectively, to the nearly 200 members of the Filipino communities in Southern Africa who attended the event.

The flag-raising ceremony was followed by the opening of the Rizal exhibit to commemorate the National Hero's 151st Birth Anniversary.

Ms. Nellie Llaguno of the Filipino community in Pretoria read excerpts of Rizal's *Mi Ultimo Adios* in both English and Spanish to highlight the exhibit. This was followed by the presentation to the communities of the paintings of Filipino artist Rico M. Tompong, who visited South Africa through the joint efforts of the Embassy and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Ambassador Vingno also presented Mr. Tompong with a Certificate of Appreciation for his invaluable contribution to the Embassy's cultural diplomacy efforts and for promoting Philippine art in South Africa.



(Top photos) Ambassador Vingno and Mme. Yoko Ramos-Vingno welcome guests. Llaguno (5th from left) of the Filipino community of Pretoria recites portions of R. Ramos-Vingno, Ambassador Vingno, visiting Filipino artist Rico Tompong and Son. (Bottom photos) Mme. Yoko Ramos-Vingno, Ambassador Vingno and Mr.

Phil Embassy in Pretoria Celebrates Independence Day Salu-Salo with Members of Southern Africa Filipino Community



(Left and center photos) Filipino community members from Botswana entertain the Japorms Band from Germiston, Johannesburg sings a tune.



Left photo: Ladies from the Pretoria Filipino community perform a Muslim dance for the occasion. The young man in the center of the photo leads the crowd in an impromptu group dance of the song "Manila"; Right photo: A young man playing an acoustic guitar during the festivities.

